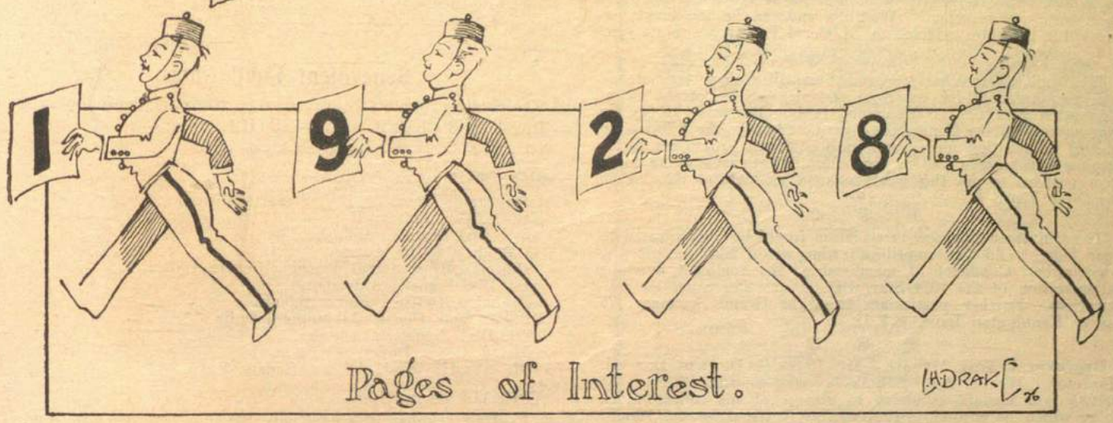
ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE WIRE

January—December, 1928.

THE WIRE.



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

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to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
Telephone: Victoria 2081

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Twelve Months 7/0
Six Months 3/6
Three Months 1/9
Post Free, home or abroad.

THE TREASURER,
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION,
4 BROAD STREET PLACE,
LONDON, E.C. 2.
to whom ALL REMITTANCES *must*, in future, be forwarded.

Bankers: Messrs. LLOYD'S BANK, LIMITED (Cox's and King's Branch) 6, Pall Mall, S.W. 1.

VOL. IX.—No. 95 JANUARY, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

With Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year and Cordial Greetings to our Readers at Home and Abroad.

Editorial Notes.

Numerous letters have lately been received from readers in various parts of the Empire, congratulating us upon the tone and excellence of our Corps Journal. Not the least interesting of these is one from an ex-n.c.o. of Royal Signals now sojourning at Fort Stanley in the Falkland Islands, that little speck on the map off the south coast of South America. That we were instrumental in securing this reader's present situation for him is by the way; but the fact that he is still a regular subscriber to THE WIRE and keen to keep in touch with the welfare and activities of his old comrades is, we think, a matter of greater interest to us all. We thank him for his cheery letter, and take the opportunity of conveying to him our best wishes for his future prosperity and happiness.

Another reader writes as follows: "I would like to congratulate you on the excellence of the Corps Magazine. The present issue (December) is really splendid."

In acknowledging the receipt of these and other glowing testimonials, the Publications Committee desire to thank all who have assisted in the task of production—the unit correspondents and other contributors who have so ably and regularly submitted notes, articles and illustrations for publication; and the regular subscribers and readers who, by their loyal support, have been the means of placing THE WIRE as the magazine with the largest circulation of all Regimental Journals. They further express the hope that 1928 will produce a still larger circulation. Improvements are contemplated which can only be carried into effect by a considerable increase in sales, and the Committee appeal to all unit representatives, both at home and abroad, to co-operate by securing as many new subscribers and readers as possible.

❀ ❀ ❀

In our Editorial Notes for March, 1927, we published details of a Prize Competition open to all regular unit correspondents for the six months ending December last. Particulars of the winning competitors are given below, and in heartily congratulating them upon the success of their efforts, we should like to couple our name with that of our worthy printers, Messrs. Garnett, Mepham and Fisher, Ltd. of Brighton.

First: L/Sergt Barlow R. F., 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford—Unit Notes and "Plain Tales"—Two Guineas.

Second: Unit Correspondent, Kohat District Signals, Kohat, India—Unit Notes—One Guinea.

Third: Signn Whyte D. W., Rhine Signals, British Army of the Rhine—Unit Notes—Half-a-Guinea.

May they all continue to interest and amuse us! Remittances have been duly forwarded.

Unit Notes in this issue from the North China Signal Section, Tientsin, contain a glowing tribute to a young n.c.o. of Royal Signals whose untiring efforts and devotion to duty have earned for him the approbation and esteem of all his officers and comrades. More often than otherwise Royal Signals are called upon to work in obscure corners, far removed from the critical eyes of those who could commend their work; and we are glad to be asked to publish details of a series of incidents which are so "worthy of mention." We fully endorse the sentiments expressed in the notes referred to. L/Corpl Pagett, we salute you!

❀ ❀ ❀

Will unit representatives kindly expedite their estimate of local requirements for copies of the new edition of the Corps Promotion Roster? As explained in our Editorial Notes for November last, the Committee cannot undertake the publication of this information unless and until sufficient orders are forthcoming to cover the cost of production. They would like to be in a position to put this work in hand as early as possible in the New Year.

❀ ❀ ❀

The Old Contemptibles' Association would be very pleased to hear from "Old Contemptibles" who would like to join the Association. Condition of membership: the applicant must be in possession of the 1914 Star with clasp. There are no subscriptions. Further particulars from the Grand Secretary, 76 Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.11.

❀ ❀ ❀

Regimental War Medals.—Mr. Roderick Dow, of Lowood, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk—a well-known collector of British war medals—is about to dispose of his collection, in doing which he is anxious that medals in his possession should go to the Regiments to which the original recipients formerly belonged.

Mr. Dow is preparing lists of the medals in his collection, and these will shortly be ready; but in the meantime he will be glad if any Regiments which have (or propose to raise) collections of medals won by those who served in them, will communicate with him as above, when he will supply all information.

The prices to be paid will in each case be those which Mr. Dow himself originally gave for the medals, plus a small percentage for postage and other expenses.

❀ ❀ ❀

For Sale.—Three teak-wood zinc-lined trunks, 36"×18"×18", suitable for the tropics; two strong locks. Apply in writing to Captain C. R. H. Firth, R.Signals, 44th (H.C.) Divl Signals, Stamford Brook Drill Hall, Stamford Brook, London, W.6.

❀ ❀ ❀

Corps Ties.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2s. 6d. (postage 2d. extra). Cash with order.

Editor.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The following extracts from correspondence recently received are thought to be of interest to Association members:—

"November 24th, 1927.

"The Secretary, Signals Association.

"Dear Sir—I wish from the bottom of my heart to thank the Association, the President, the Committee and everybody concerned for the very kind and considerate treatment meted out to one of their old comrades. I cannot adequately express my thanks in writing, but what I prize most is the spirit in which that assistance has been rendered and the outstretched hand of welcome to an old Association member."

"December 3rd, 1927.

"The Secretary, Signals Association.

"Dear Sir—Having obtained my present situation through your efforts on my behalf, I should like to express my gratitude for all you have done for me. I hardly expected that such good fortune would come my way, and I feel that I have you to thank for the prompt response to my application for employment. May I add that I am more than satisfied and very comfortable in my new situation. Trusting that you will accept my sincere thanks for that, and also for the friendly welcome extended to the writer on his arrival in London."

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:

Wireless Set Tester	1
Clerks	2
P.O. Engineering Department	2
Kitchen Porter	1
Postman	1
Caretaker	1

General Secretary.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from:—
Captain E. H. C. Harris, R.Signals.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.
R. L. G. Lindsay, Esq.
2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.
Captain Graham Adams.
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.
Shanghai Defence Force Signals.
S.T.C. and Depot, Jubbulpore, India.
4th Divl Signals, Colchester.
Mr. J. Grier, Dover.
Mr. W. Hayward, Atbara, Sudan, Egypt.

APPEALS dealt with—

1.—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, Brighton. In domestic difficulties. £5 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/275)
2.—Ex-n.c.o., Royal Signals, Isle of Wight. Domestic and business difficulties. £10 advanced from Association funds as a temporary loan. (SAB/276)
3.—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, down and out. Temporary board and lodging accommodation, also clothing, provided. £1 10s. allocated from Association funds. (SAB/281)
4.—Ex-Driver, Royal Signals, Colchester. In domestic difficulties. £3 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/282)
5.—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals (Indian Signals). Discharged to civil employment in India, and later left stranded in that country through the closing down of the firm by whom he was employed. £8 10s. allocated from 4th Indian Divl Signals Branch funds, and a passage home provided. £3 allocated from Association funds on his arrival in this country. (SAB/283)
6.—Ex-n.c.o., Royal Signals, Durham. In domestic difficulties. £3 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/263)
7.—Ex-Signalman, Royal Signals, London. Employment secured, and £3 allocated from Association funds for travelling expenses, etc. (SAB/286)
8.—Ex-n.c.o., Royal Signals, London. In domestic difficulties. £12 advanced from Association funds as a temporary loan. SAB/295)

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

Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—
Major G. E. Mansergh from Shanghai to Catterick.
Captain G. St. J. Martin from India to Blackdown.
Captain H. L. Lewis-Barclay from India to Aldershot.
Lieut. J. E. S. Walford from Shanghai to Colchester.
Major W. T. Howe from Catterick to India.
Captain D. L. Carnegie from Bulford to Hong Kong.
Lieut. H. E. Talbot from India to Catterick.
2/Lieuts H. D. Mountford, J. E. Longfield, P. R. Hyde, F. R. B. Moore, F. C. Seely, G. W. Roney-Dougal, S. F. Pipe-Wolferstan, E. L. L. Vulliamy, H. O. Pargeter, K. C. O. Bastyan from Catterick to India.
Captain H. W. Hose from Aldershot to Blackdown.
Captain D. D. Bannerman from Aldershot to Spike Island.
Captain W. F. Sugrue from Spike Island to Aldershot.
Captain E. V. F. MacSwiney from Aldershot to London.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 15/11/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
45rd (Wessex) Divl Signals—2/Lieut W. J. L. Cornelius to be Lieut. 10/9/27.

Air Ministry, 15/11/27.

ROYAL AIR FORCE—
John Edmond Montague Bainbridge (late 2/Lieut R.Signals) is granted a permanent commission in the rank of Pilot Officer, 1/11/27.

War Office, 22/11/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Lieuts to be Captains, 23/11/27, with regimental seniority from 29/1/21:—
M. Duncan; R. Sutton-Pratt; E. MacD. Burns; C. T. Hughes, M.C.
(such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay).

The undermentioned Captains from the Indian Army to be Captains, 23/11/27, retaining their present seniority:—
A. J. A. Schofield; F. J. Allen.

War Office, 29/11/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Commands and Staff—
The undermentioned appointment is made:—
Chief Signal Officer (Cl. X). The date of appointment of Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., is 30/9/27, and not as stated in the Gazette of 7/10/27.

Royal Signals—Major R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., is restored to the establishment, 4/11/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut R. J. Brimblecombe to be Lieut. 7/10/27.

REGULAR ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut R. J. Brimblecombe, from Supp. Res. of Officers, to be Lieut. 30/11/27, with seniority 7/10/27 (substituted for notification in the Gazette of 11/11/27).

War Office, 2/12/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt W. H. N. Dent, M.B.E., ceases to be employed with R.A.F. 26/11/27.

(continued on next page)

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

Corps Promotion Roster – Subsequent Amendments.

Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—

2306707 Pearce R. 3/10/27
2306386 Hayter E. 15/10/27
2311815 Smith J. 15/10/27
2307854 Black A. 17/10/27

To be Sergeant—

2311591 Oakes F. 14/8/27
5662168 Priest B. 15/8/27
2309201 Adams E. 22/9/27
2306746 Murray G. 30/9/27
2306534 Betts H. 1/10/27
2306267 Cayley W. 3/10/27
2309683 Webster H. 17/10/27
2311392 Partridge W. 24/10/27
2312225 Smith R. 18/11/27

To be Staff-Sergeant (Farrier)—

2313001 Vanstone W. 21/11/27

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

2306661 Edgeler E. 15/8/27
1850476 Macfarlane R 15/8/27
2308626 Clements G. 10/9/27
2314166 Wells A. 10/9/27
2308194 Johnson P. 11/9/27
1850468 Dodman C. 14/9/27
2306639 Perryman J. 22/9/27
2308475 Solly W. 30/9/27
2311595 Farr F. 1/10/27
2306619 Winstone A. 1/10/27
1016693 Wilkins T. 3/10/27
2307563 Willis T. 17/10/27
2311062 Todd G. 17/10/27
2313670 Johnson A. 18/10/27
2311817 Wicketts W. 24/10/27
2313790 Whittington G. 24/10/27
2308263 Tunnicliffe T. 24/10/27
2307927 Cleary H. 26/10/27
2313033 Fishwick R. 10/11/27
2311602 Moss P. 18/11/27

To be Corporal—

2311100 Crichton J. 21/7/27
2310659 Shiner A. 21/7/27
2306793 Hotchkiss W. 21/7/27
2314837 Bennett H. 15/8/27
2314491 Macdonald H. 1/9/27
2315290 Haines E. 1/9/27
5663391 Joyce F. 1/9/27
2314950 Hall W. 10/9/27
2315258 Saint W. 14/9/27
2310502 Moore J. 21/9/27
2306620 Widgery J. 22/9/27
2314097 Brooke J. 23/9/27
2313842 Coy B. 30/9/27
310195 Jones T. 1/10/27
2312810 Hamilton C. 1/10/27
2306329 Fleet A. 3/10/27
2315226 Collier F. 17/10/27
6134414 Bryant C. 17/10/27
4525909 Abraham J. 17/10/27
1850227 Quinn W. 18/10/27
2314964 Craig C. 24/10/27
2314747 Savage W. 24/10/27
4114783 Jackson L. 26/10/27
2312090 Gulliver C. 1/11/27
312364 Harwood F. 3/11/27

Discharges.

1853229 Q.M.S. Floyd W. 25/9/27
1851563 C.S.M. Smith R. 15/10/27
2306331 C.Q.M.S. Goldman C. 2/10/27
2307802 C.Q.M.S. Hyson H. 14/10/27
2306373 C.Q.M.S. Stevenson W. 16/10/27
2306279 Sergt Link W. 24/9/27
1850363 Sergt Bennett T. 30/9/27
2308309 Sergt Marshall F. 1/10/27
2311229 L/Sergt Battrick H. 25/10/27
2309935 L/Sergt Wright W. 9/11/27
2310583 Corpl Mears A. 24/10/27
2311570 Corpl Glassop A. 21/11/27

Transfers to Army Reserve.

2314210 Corpl Curtis E. 2/10/27
2314248 L/Sergt Lofthouse F. 17/10/27
2314273 Corpl McGowan W. 2/11/27

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—Capt J. McConville, M.C., Res. of Officers, to be Captain and retains appointment of Adjutant 24/11/27.

War Office, 6/12/27.

REGULAR FORCES—School of Signals—
The undermentioned appointment is made:—
Major R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, to be Instructor (Cl. Z) 14/11/27, vice Major W. T. Howe, O.B.E., R.Signals.

REGULAR ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut R. G. Roe, late T.A. Res., to be Captain 6/4/27, with seniority 8/4/26 (substituted for notification in the Gazette of 5/4/27).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals—Capt A. W. Roberts, M.C., Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 14/11/27. Capt G. W. Odell, R.Signals, to be Adjutant, 14/11/27.

War Office, 9/12/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Lieut S. L. Collier retires receiving a gratuity, 10/12/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut H. B. Somerville, late T.A. Infantry, to be 2/Lieut. 10/12/27, and relinquishes the rank of Lieut.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals—Capt A. Grist, M.C., having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commission and retains his rank, 31/10/27.

War Office, 13/12/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Major R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., is seconded whilst employed as Instructor School of Signals, 14/11/27.

The undermentioned Lieuts. to be Captains:—
A. E. L. Brown, 17/10/27, with regimental seniority 29/1/21 and precedence next above M. Duncan.
J. H. Brown, M.M., 23/11/27, with regtl. seniority 31/1/21. (Such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay).

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut Frank Jones, late R. Warwick Regt. (Service Bns.) to be 2/Lieut. 14/12/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Lieut H. F. Boyce, from General List, T.A., to be 2/Lieut. and relinquishes the rank of Lieut. 20/9/27.
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Lieut H. G. P. Taylor resigns his commission, 14/12/27.

Plain Tales.

Dear Everybody!—Just a few lines to wish you "A Happy New Year," hoping this finds you as it leaves me: in the pink pyjamas in bed. It is only eleven o'clock, so as I have had breakfast (confound those crumbs!) I can vegetate here for at least another hour. There! now I've burned another hole in the sheet. Serve 'em right. Beds should be fitted with ash-trays as standard. To-morrow, I will arrange for proper nourishment to be sent up at the usual opening times.

Sitting up in bed makes my back ache. However, I'm having a good time. I set the alarm for 5.45 a.m., and when its frantic tremblings have penetrated my consciousness, I rise on one elbow, laugh at it (the clock, not my elbow), jeer at it, throw a boot at it, and carry on with the good sleep, rashly ignoring the fact that the check parade draws gradually nearer. Well, well! Resurgam (but not yet). Let us see if there is anything else to talk about.

* * * *

The "Pimple."—The progress made on the "Pimple" (or re-creation ground) at Bulford is simply remarkable. Everyone lends a hand whenever possible. Myself, I have usually too much to do, though I permit my staff to take a few hours weekly. I have explained before that the sight of a spade or similar instrument always gives me a terrible shuddering sensation. Furthermore, my wife flatly refuses to clean my boots after an afternoon on the sticky chalky mixture.

The convicts—sorry! I mean the troops—are equipped with a length of light railway and three tip trucks. The latter are appropriately named, as they usually tip 360 deg., and have to be hauled up the ten feet bank. No stationmaster has been appointed yet. Should one be required, I know the very man. There would never be a breakdown with him on the job. If the worst came to the worst, so to speak, he would put his car on the rails, with a label to distinguish it from the trucks.

Where's Driver Fostekew? I have got him to illustrate the latest in "Pimple" wear. Fair Isle jerseys must be worn outside the trousers.

Pimple Crafts No. 1—If you are going to develop a pain in the wrist, wait until the wheel-barrow is loaded.

Pimple Crafts No. 2—If you start work at 2 p.m., arrange for a confederate to dash up at about 3 p.m. to say you are urgently required on the 'phone.

* * * *

A Small Moan.—When I first opened my copy of the December WIRE I was delighted to find it full of good things, especially the section reserved to our inimitable Drake. (By the way, is he a Manchester man?)

Then I turned to the 3rd Divl Signals notes, and the world turned dark, a fretful east wind moaned down the chimney, whilst a north wind went up the water pipes. My face turned first the colour of ashes and then a bright red. A touch of rage ran up one side and down the other. In fact I got into a bit of a "doo-dah," if you know what that is.

The very first paragraph has the wrong heading, but it was the reference to the dance band under "Sergeants' Mess" that brought the hot tears to my eyes. Instead of a paltry dash after the very high-sounding name of the band, I had intended the words "some band or other" to appear in very small print. As it was, the whole point was completely lost. Perhaps the printers had no smaller type. I don't know. I do know, however, that I was bitterly disappointed at the way those notes were treated. B-r-r-r!

* * * *

Poor Jock.—I don't know whether this story is new to you, but I must confess that I had not heard it until Joe told me a few days ago. It was significant that he waited until Jock was present before commencing.

A party of seventeen Scotsmen went on a tour round the world. Fifteen of them were drowned whilst trying to fill their fountain pens in the Black Sea.

Jock disposed of his drink quickly in case it got knocked over, and said that he had a good time on leave. He went to a party in Aberdeen.

"Losh, man," he said; "ye should have seen the whisky flow."

"Ah! like glue, I reckon," said Joe.

When the combatants had been sorted out, we adjourned to the chart showing the numbers allotted for the Christmas draw. Jock selected numbers thirteen and fourteen. "What do you want those two for?" asked Joe. "I'll tell ye," said Jock. "Thirteen fourteen, me lad. Bannockburn, d——n ye!"

I crawled out via the underside of the billiard table, with nothing worse than a pint glass in the neck.

* * * *

A Word to Husbands.—By the time you read this you will have broken all your New Year resolutions, if you made any. At the moment I am only just beginning to think of a few. Those that have occurred to me, I give below. They seem very suitable for people like yourself. As for me—well, here they are:

1. Always give the wife the C.R.A.
2. Introduce the wife to the pay clerk, and leave them talking. (This requires a bit of courage.)
3. Have *all* your letters addressed to your quarters.
4. If a game of billiards lasts until 2 p.m. on Sunday, say so. Don't burble a weak yarn about unexpected duty, etc. Many wives are more intelligent than they look.
5. Never be found out.

There is not the slightest doubt that all of you can think of some resolutions which can be carried through the year with less trouble than the above.

Married men want gingering up all round, and the beginning of 1928 is just the time to start. How many of you get up in the morning, chop the coal, light the breakfast, shave the fire, and take the wife a nice bottle of beer? How many of you scrub the floors and paintwork, and clean the windows? How many of you darn your own socks and mend your own pants? Only one, I say. In my modesty I almost hesitate to tell you who that one is. In fact, if I told you, you would probably call me a liar! You would be quite right.

Nevertheless, you men must join the Self-Help Society which I am thinking of forming. Just bring along your old clothes and sit round the fire and mend them whilst I lecture you on the evils of chewing gum. Beer at the usual rate: sixpence a pint, sevenpence a bottle—and don't throw the empty ones at the cat.

* * * *

A Word to Wives.—This is a job I do not like, but I feel sure that there would be some dissatisfaction were I to omit this paragraph after presenting the foregoing.

I said just now that the men want gingering up. Of that, there can either be some doubt or no doubt at all (sensation).

I now say, with full realisation of the possible consequences, that you wives want electrifying. Why this should be, I am unable to say, but it looks rather nice in print, so it must be true. It is important to note that I did not say "electrocuting." I don't always write what I believe.

Let me ask you a few questions. Do you allow your husband to clean his own buttons, boots and equipment? Think carefully before you tell a lie. Do you permit him to dig the garden? Do you insist on knowing where he has been when he comes home late? No answer. Right! Then you are not worth the paper you are written on.

But just a moment! Don't imagine that I am advocating a soft time for husbands. Far from it. Keep them down gently but with a certain firmness. In return, however, see that you get your just dues. When he hands you your "dough" next week, ask him to look you straight in the face and say that that was all he drew. Watch his eyes wander to the picture of your mother's aunt in the fretwork frame. Watch the blood come up round his ears. Watch his shifting feet. Watch China. Watch France. What will Portsmouth do?

Sorry! Where was I? Remember, wives, that a couple of herrings for tea now and again will produce a box of chocolates some day. Constant repetition is most wearing. Ask yourself, can you stand your husband coming home day after day, and saying, "What! rice pudding again!" Try mixing macaroni with it. He will derive no end of fun from blowing the rice through the macaroni. Besides, it will amuse the baby.

My last is a Grave Warning. Never boil roast cod in an aluminium frying pan. Oh! and I nearly forgot: Get your hair cut. Yours very truly indeed,

BARLEUX.

The Murree Brewery Polo Tournament.

Six teams entered for the tournament, which was played in two halves, each half playing on the American system and thus having to play two matches.

The Signals team was represented by Capt. I. F. G. Hall (No. 1), Mr. C. W. Knight (No. 2), Mr. F. P. L. Gray (No. 3), and Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Heymann (back).

In the first match we met the 12th Cavalry "B" team, each side starting at scratch and having a handicap of four goals.

A very hard-fought match ended in a win for the Cavalry by seven goals to four. The game was even right up to the end of the third chukker, but in the last one the Cavalry scored three goals, and we were very unlucky not to have done likewise. Knight and Hall both played a first-class game.

The second match was against the "Odd Spots," whose handicap was nine, so the Signals received 2½ goals on handicap. The account given below is taken from the reporter's notes.

"First Chukker.—The game started with fast and furious play and was of an up-and-down nature. Eventually the Signals scored, the Odd Spots replying before the end of the chukker. Score: Signals 3½, Odd Spots 1.

"Second Chukker.—From the throw in the Odd Spots made a good run, scoring their second goal with a good shot. After some up-and-down play Knight scored a very fine goal after a Signal run down the whole length of the field. The Odd Spots replied with another goal at the end of the chukker. Score at the interval: Signals 4½, Odd Spots 3.

"Third Chukker.—A very hard and even chukker, resulting in the Signals scoring two goals and the Odd Spots three. Score at the end of the chukker: Signals 6½, Odd Spots 6.

"Fourth Chukker.—There was no score on either side during the first half. The game was played as hard and fast as man and pony could go. In the second half the Odd Spots scored two goals, thus winning the match by 8 goals to 6½."

Knight played a very fine game indeed, and Gray did great work for his side at No. 3. The side received many congratulations from old and experienced polo players on the two games we had played. Last year was the first time we had entered a Corps team, and the improvement shown was most marked. On individual form we were inferior to our opponents, so we had to make up on team work.

A Signals Polo Fund is being started in this Command to help officers in the purchasing of ponies, and I hope all officers of the Corps coming out to India will help to swell our numbers. I can assure all officers who come to this Command that they will receive every possible assistance from the officers commanding their units.

F. A. HEYMANN, Lieut.-Col. R.Signals.

Rawalpindi, November 9th, 1927.

Royal Signals in Canada.

Life on a Radio Station of the North-West Territories.

By Lieut. B. D. DeWitt.

In response to many invitations for the contribution of an article of general Corps interest (for publication in the "Signals Monthly Bulletin") on the activities and interests of a typical R.C.C.S. Detachment engaged in practical Signal work in the north-western portion of this Dominion, the writer has taken much pleasure in preparing and forwarding the subjoined notes, from which, it is trusted, it may be possible to glean some small grains of information bearing on this subject, and which may prove not uninteresting to those of our brother signallers, officers and men of the R.C.C.S. and C.C.S. who may chance to con them over.

It will be generally understood, but perhaps is necessary to say for the benefit of uninformed readers, that the special work of these detachments of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals operating stations of the North-West Territories and Yukon W/T System, does not embrace the broad field of army signalling with which the early training of the personnel was chiefly concerned, and in which they are efficient, but is confined exclusively to the maintenance and operation of a commercial system of wireless communication serving the public of north-western Canada beyond the boundaries of the Provinces, and playing a giant part in the pioneer work of their development.

A word in passing on the unique character of this service, though it has no place in an article designedly purporting to deal with the special interests and social phases of life on these stations, may yet not be amiss if it contributes to a greater dissemination of a very vital truth. Thro gh the organisation and development of her internal systems of radio communication, Canada has most happily combined the sound national principle of preparedness with economic utility. The tragedy of 1914, with all that it comports of chaos and improvisation of special services in the teeth of the emergency, should not be repeated; national lunacy alone would disregard such an object lesson. Perhaps the crisis will never rise again, but should it do so—forth from the cadres of our Corps and Signal Companies, as well as from the highways and byways of the land, will muster the trained personnel, efficient and qualified to ensure the utmost in co-ordination between all arms of the Service. Canada has found a civil "job" for part at least of her limited establishment, and is drawing national dividends on her investment.

Fort Simpson, it may be said, is a typical Corps establishment on the system—a relay and directing station from which traffic is controlled from north and south; differing in the latter respect from other stations, which do not have this function to perform. Established in 1924 with the inauguration of the North-West Territories and Yukon System, with one officer, four n.c.o.s, and a civilian cook, this station has steadily grown in importance with the development of traffic, and to-day is a pivotal station on the system. Its technical equipment includes a standard R.C.C.S. 500-watt transmitter and type 2 receiver, both products of the shops of the Signals Inspection and Test Department of the R.C.C.S., Ottawa, Ontario.

Situated in latitude 61deg. 51mins. 25secs. N. and longitude 121deg. 51mins. 15secs. W., Fort Simpson was originally an exclusive Hudson's Bay Company trading post, erected about 1828, and has remained to this day an important centre of their fur trade in the Mackenzie basin, being their sub-district headquarters, with resident inspector and post manager. The settlement is built upon an island approximately two miles in length by three-quarters of a mile in breadth, and is situated on the left limit of the Mackenzie river immediately below the co f the Liard river with the former stream. Its component parts are scattered along the river front for approximately a mile. Among these establishments may be mentioned, in addition to the buildings of the Hudson's Bay Company, the substantial log quarters of the Northern Traders, Limited; the church and rectory of the Anglican Mission (notable in particular as being the oldest place of worship in the territory, having been constructed in the year 1865); the Sacred Heart R.C. Mission, school and hospital; the red-roofed establishment (so familiar to all northern travellers) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, this being their sub-district headquarters; the buildings of the Indian Agency and residence of the executive in charge, and that of the resident physician of the Indian Department, who, in addition to the duties incumbent on him in his official capacity, also acts as medical officer for the other federal services represented here. There is one hotel boasting a fairly commodious dance floor, and restaurant in connection, and also the buildings of one or two independent traders.

The resident white population is about sixty-four, of which approximately one-half are women and children. The native and half-breed residents total something over a hundred. Both figures are augmented in the summer season by the arrival of numerous white and native trappers from contiguous territory, the native population climbing at this time to approximately 350.

Notwithstanding its sub-Arctic location, Fort Simpson has a reputation for a more than average temperate climate, especially in winter, at which time comparisons of temperature are most often noted. Settlements on either side are frequently observed to register a much lower temperature at given times. However, for the month of January, 1927, the average daily minimum of temperature was slightly under 20 degrees below zero, the coldest recorded being 51 degrees below zero, while the highest minimum was even zero. During the summer months of July and August the temperature very frequently rose above the 90 mark, followed by cool nights with no humidity.

The river freezes up about November 20th and clears of ice at mid-May. Insect life, mosquitoes, bull frogs, sand flies, etc., abound here in myriads and effectively discourage outdoor enterprise or pleasure while they last. September sees the disappearance of all these winged pests, and with the sharp tang of autumn in the air, one feels the urge to be once more afield with gun and pack.

The soil is exceedingly fertile. Vegetables of all kinds attain large growth very rapidly in the long sunlight hours of the sub-Arctic, this early maturity accounting for the exceptional flavour and quality they possess.

The seasons indicate the broad division of the duties and pastimes of our personnel. With the summer season and the advent of the static period, the duties of the operating personnel become extremely onerous. Precluded altogether from regular hours, the movement of traffic over the system is largely confined to the period of time between 03.00 hours and 11.00 hours, when the air is relatively clear, though it should be pointed out that conditions vary greatly from day to day. It sometimes happens that a fairly good condition of the air will be observed through nearly the whole morning period mentioned, and again that static of the heavy crashing type will persist for twenty-four hours, inevitably resulting in congested traffic conditions with the problems arising therefrom. Great credit is unquestionably due to the members of the operating personnel for the effort, perseveringly maintained, to move the public's business at all times. With the approach of autumn and cooler weather, the static appreciably abates, the improved condition manifesting itself much earlier on northern stations than it does at Edmonton, so that in September we have the condition of practically clear air throughout the Mackenzie basin; yet we cannot work Edmonton—our southern terminal—after 18.00 hours because the static still persists there and blots out our transmission. However, with the advent of early winter in the south, the static disappears, and with it all our traffic difficulties.

The clerical work of the station, O.M. and telegraph accounting, preparation of technical and traffic returns, counter service, etc., are divided among the staff. The operators take a regular shift of duty on the set with a weekly rotation of hours, fatigue duties being assigned per daily roster.

Numbered among the duties carried out by our detachment is included the taking, twice daily (at 05.00 and 17.00 hours) of meteorological observations for the Weather Bureau. These consist of readings of barometer, thermometer, wind and precipitation gauges, and the preparation of telegraphic reports embodying this information and compiled from the meteorological code book; these messages being forwarded via wireless to Toronto. A monthly summary of data, with mean averages, is also prepared and posted at the close of calendar months. These daily observations are usually taken by the operator on duty at the time. Messages of a similar character are collected from other stations at these hours, and are given precedence over all other traffic to ensure their early delivery at their destination.

Contingent on the satisfactory performance of all duties, one day per week is allotted the members of the personnel as a holiday, and a short period of leave granted once a year for a more extended trip to the game fields.

Fatigue duties are very light in character and not too numerous, especially with the services of a good cook available. They consist chiefly of general tidying up, the cutting of wood for the kitchen range, and the carrying up of water from the river. This last "chore"—accomplished with the aid of a neck-yoke and buckets—requires only a short time in summer. In winter, however, a hole has to be cut through the ice—usually done in the early part of the season—and kept open daily, and this requires a little more time. With the gradual dropping of the river level it sometimes happens that a hole cut too close to the shore finally goes dry, and this necessitates a new hole further out, with three or four feet of ice to be negotiated. Once last winter this occurred, and it fell to the lot of a certain blonde sergeant to restore the water situation. Manfully he fell to with axe, pick, and shovel, and after labouring all the afternoon in excavating a hole of magnificent proportions, he finally got through to—a sand bar! It was credibly reported later on that the snow had thawed appreciably in the vicinity.

In summer also, with the arrival of the boats, there comes the work of checking and warehousing stores received—a considerable job, but not arduous.

The long winter evenings are spent usually at cards, radio-concert reception, or with the companionship of some good book until mail time draws near, when everyone is busy writing letters. The literature available for perusal in the libraries of Fort Simpson's kindly residents covers practically the whole field of classics in science, prose and verse; embracing in addition nearly all the popular novels of the day. Current periodicals are treasured up during the summer months—when mail matter of this class is received—and stored away against the needs of winter. These, too, achieve a circulation. The chief deprivation noted here is that of recent daily newspapers, none of which—or very few, at least—are carried in the mail during winter. In consequence there exists a dearth of information in regard to nearly all current events. Parcels, similarly, are withheld over winter, and we have the phenomenon of Christmas cheer being "scoffed" in July. This condition is very likely to persist until some improvement is effected in the mail service.

Three mails leave Fort McMurray every winter, via dog-team, and are relayed through to Fort Simpson. The first arrives about the New Year, the second in early February, and the third and last about March 4th. Opportunity is afforded on all these occasions to reply by return trip to letters received, it being necessary as a rule to rest the dogs.

Enjoying a well-deserved reputation for kindly hospitality, the people of Fort Simpson have been quick to welcome the members of our personnel, and a deep sense of gratitude is felt by all ranks for the manner and character of their reception. Dinners, dances, and card parties are numerous in the Fort, and mark every holiday of note.

During the past winter, all personnel have had at least one short trip by dog team into the surrounding territory over trap lines of their own or their friends', and in every case the novelty of the experience was enjoyed to the full. Skating, for a short space of time after freeze-up, was possible on the overflows, and was fully taken advantage of while it lasted. This is a condition that exists every year. Unfortunately the ice becomes too rough or broken up to think of hockey.

Sports come into their own, though, in summer. Golf is a possibility—in a small way—on Hudson's Bay property, and last summer two tennis courts sprang into existence, one at the H.B. Company and the other at the Indian Agency. The long summer evenings—mosquitoes notwithstanding—are fine for the game, which has now been taken up enthusiastically. Hopes are entertained of the establishment of a court, distinctly R.C.C.S., on our new station property when the buildings are completed.

The disciples of Izaak Walton among our personnel will find full scope for their activities on the opposite side of the Mackenzie river, where greyling (locally known as "blue fish") of an unusually large size may be taken with a dry or wet fly, maximum results being realised with a black gnat or grey hackle lure. Swimming is a cool pleasure, also, on the hot days of July and August. For the benefit of any personnel coming to Fort Simpson, it is strongly advised that they should equip themselves with tennis racquet, camera, fishing gear, skates, and a good working knowledge of auction bridge. These should suffice to see them through.

All national holidays are marked, as has been said, by some special social feature or the organisation of field sports and games, or both, as was the case last July.

For the Dominion Day celebration, a field day was arranged with full list of events, the sum of $250 being subscribed for prizes. Association football was slated for the morning, with the Hudson's Bay staff matched against the Fort. This game was most interesting and resulted in a victory for the Fort by a very narrow margin. R.C.C.S. and R.C.M.P. personnel comprised the stalwarts on the winning side.

A tennis match also was arranged—R.C.C.S. v. Hudson's Bay—and this, too, though very closely contested, was captured by our personnel, A/S/Sergt Burt and Corpl Matthews carrying the colours through the fray.

The afternoon was devoted to the running, jumping, and obstacle events, children's races, and a three-round boxing match between local fly weights, this latter event resulting in a draw. Followed a baseball game at 4 p.m. and a dance in the evening, at which the prizes were awarded.

Of the afternoon events, the relay race was captured by our men; the wheelbarrow race also—A/Sergt Yolland and Corporal Matthews ploughing home to victory amidst the plaudits of the crowd. The spoils of the 100 yard dash and running high jump fell to A/S/Sergt Burt.

For the ball game no special identity of teams was made, good material being utilised where available, with the sides balanced up as well as possible. The work of A/Sergt Stroud, R.C.C.S., on the mound for the winning team, in a large way contributed to their victory. Few there were who hit "Casey" safely. The work of Corpl Matthews at the initial station stamped him as a natural first baseman.

Fine weather prevailed, and the day was voted a huge success by all, reflecting much credit on A/S/Sergt Burt, to whom was delegated the details of its management.

A word or two in conclusion on the hunting possibilities of the district will no doubt hold some interest for the Nimrods in the Service, and for all those who love the big woods and smoking camp-fire.

Big game there is aplenty—but not within convenient striking distance. In fact—excluding the off chance, of course—it is necessary to make a trip of at least a hundred miles or more to ensure positive success with moose or bear.

This distance will bring one to either the north or south branch of the Nahanni river, and a short distance up these streams one may be said to be on the threshold of a real game field. The south branch of this river is a tributary of the Liard, while the north branch enters the Mackenzie about seventy-five miles north of Simpson, the forks being located approximately 150 miles from the mouth of these streams.

Rapids in the Liard make the south fork difficult of access, and entail much arduous and dangerous work with pole and line. The north fork is much more easily reached, but there is plenty of "white" water to be negotiated going up.

Moose, black bear (in all colour phases), and woodland or Armstrong caribou may be encountered in the areas mentioned, and above the forks all these, with the addition of Rocky Mountain sheep (ovis stonei). These sheep, peculiar to the Cassiar region of British Columbia and the head waters of the MacMillan river in Yukon Territory, are very beautiful animals—slate grey in colour—but running somewhat smaller in size than their white brothers (ovis dalli) elsewhere, and with the horn curl not quite so pronounced.

A small poling skiff, with detachable outboard motor for use in good water, is about the most practical equipment obtainable for penetrating this country, or failing this, a 20ft. Peterborough canoe fitted with frame or outboard motor of the Elto type. One's personal equipment should, of course, include all such accessories as prism binoculars, Arctic sleeping robe, silk tent, waterproof match case, and rubberized ground sheet, to ensure that trinity of requirements—good health, comfort, and success—on a trip of this nature, wherever undertaken.

The Battle of the Blues.

The annual Oxford and Cambridge signalling competition took place at Cambridge on November 26th, the chief umpire being Major R. E. Barker, R.Signals. The C.U.O.T.C. were victorious by 1963 to 1885. The present score is: Cambridge 7 wins, Oxford 5.

Short-Wave W/T in China.

Prior to the arrival of "Shaforce," the British W/T in China consisted of a 120-watt mark 1 set at Tientsin, working with a similar set at Peking, and four 30-watt No. 1 stations at Hong Kong put to any use found possible for the assistance of coast artillery practice.

At Peking and Tientsin, the W/T stations had necessarily to be housed in the British Legations or Settlements, and the W/T stations of all other nationalities (which could afford them) had also to be accommodated in their respective Legations; but from what has been gleaned from our friends in the north, a trapeze act via adjoining aerials would hardly be considered a stunt.

The natural trend of events was that when A commenced with a power of 100 watts, B (another nationality) found 200 watts necessary to give a readable signal through A's transmission. C, who might be assumed the British station, has 120 watts of very doubtful origin. When C starts off, A finds the increased power of B together with C very troublesome, so A instals one k.w. Up, up, still more up, until amongst the 20 k.w. and 30 k.w. spark, poor C still lingers on 120 watts.

Jambing became such a factor that, as a possible means of eliminating the interference, short-wave lengths were suggested and experiments were put in hand at Hong Kong. With the arrival of Shaforce, short-wave naturally presented itself as the most suitable means of communication between Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Two 120-watt mark 2 sets had already arrived from England to replace the mark 1 type, so that the question of a high tension supply was solved by the provision in the former of the Newton rotary transformer. Coincident with the supply of rotaries to North China, 80-watt rotaries had also arrived in Hong Kong to provide h.t. for the 30-watt No. 2 stations.

Sets could, therefore, be constructed and tested under conditions which would obtain in North China, all high tension anxieties being removed.

Having fixed a wave-length of 30 metres as a point of aim, A.T.25 valves were immediately put out of action, the valve capacity being much too high, and even when the base was removed "flash overs" destroyed the remotest chance.

Naval valves, N.T.1, were therefore obtained, and have given entire satisfaction up to date. Slightly larger than our A.T.100, they have a dissipation of 150 watts, and in addition are without any mounting whatsoever. These valves have functioned quite satisfactorily at 8 metres. Although N.T.1 valves were and still are exclusively used, A.T.100's have been successfully tried at 40 metres. They would possibly function at much higher frequencies, but the removal of the base would be imperative.

The necessary condensers, variable and fixed, L.F. transformers, and all auxiliary gear, were purchased locally from the General Electric Company.

Of the hours spent in numerous calculations and reading, very little will be said, it being left to the reader to draw his own conclusions. No text books were available which dealt with short-wave lengths, but Volume III. of the "Electrical Engineering Data" books by Reyner and the S.E.E. pamphlet on "Aerials" were found extremely useful.

The receiver occupied the first period of experiments, and from the familiar Reinartz circuit of Fig. 1 the instruments now used were founded. The circuit of Fig. 1 was turned down immediately, as the position of the "feed back" capacity was

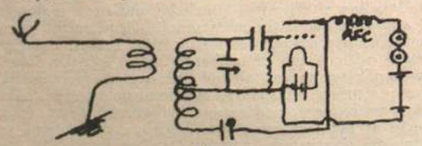


Fig. 1

bound to produce hand-capacity effects. It was thought essential to keep the moving plates of the condensers and the negative L.T. at earth potential, and also, if possible, to keep the plate circuit of the detector at arm's length, so to speak. This was obtained by splitting the tuning coil into two portions, but having as tight a coupling as possible. This is shewn in Fig. 2, together with the arrangement of the aerial circuit. Coils L1 and L2 are each six turns 3 in. diameter No. 10 S.W.G. copper spaced, by ebonite rod, equal to the diameter of the wire. L3 has three turns similarly wound. L1 and L2 are coupled as tightly as possible, whilst L3 is mounted on the same axis, but spaced three inches from L1. It was found possible to receive signals of excellent strength with L3 twelve inches from L1, but the construction of the set would not permit of unlimited space, so that L3 was coupled just sufficiently loose to eliminate "dead spots" over the tuning range. It is quite possible to receive some of the more powerful short-wave stations without an aerial or coupling coil at all.

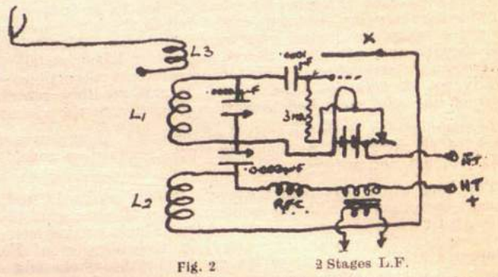


Fig. 2 2 Stages L.F.

Two stages of low-frequency amplification follow the detector valve, these having been provided with grid biasing facilities to conserve the h.t. supply and give tone to the received sign

The position of the radio frequency choke entirely isolates the plate circuit of the detector valve, and functions much better in this position than if it were joined at X. This connection, it must be confessed, was discovered after the set had been wired up, the intention being to connect the choke to the plate direct.

Excellent signal strength was obtained with the receiver, and so constant was the tuning condenser reading that the closed circuit was roughly calibrated against the more familiar transmitting stations. The tuning range is approximately 13 to 50 metres, a very useful range to commence operations on the transmitter.

The transmitter circuit is shewn in Fig. 3 (Fig. 2 redrawn, to omit a series condenser). The R.F.C. had to be shifted to the plate so as to keep the high tension from the R.F. oscillation; and once the correct value of choke was found, the circuit oscillated freely over the entire scale of the receiver. Valves are omitted from this diagram, as they will be given in the full transmitter circuit later.

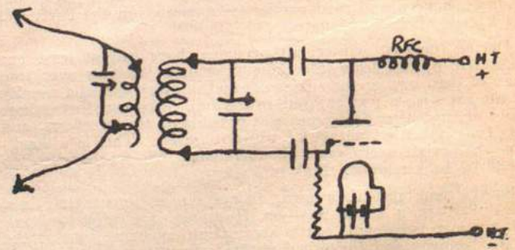


Fig. 3

The oscillating current in the circuit L.C. was found to be so large that the coil of eight turns is now constructed with half-inch copper tube. This circuit will in future be termed the "Drive circuit," its function being to oscillate at a definite frequency and induce into the aerial circuit, it is hoped, some of its oscillatory amps.

In constructing the coil, formulæ were obtained from "Reyner," the information as to the spacing factor and size of conductor being very valuable.

Having a splendid drive circuit, the next consideration was an aerial.

From formulæ to hand, the first calculated aerial would not have reached from the set to the window, and it was at this stage that an absolute blank was drawn.

For 30 metres the ideal length of aerial should have been 30÷4.2=7; say 22 feet; and in that length the coupling coil had to be considered. In desperation a T aerial was erected, 120 feet long, with the lead-in 70 feet in length, four 14 ft. earth mats (on concrete) forming a counterpoise of sorts.

By some chance, the system radiated quite well at 35 metres, but as that was not suitable for other reasons, another attempt had to be made. (Not before sufficient tests and calculations were made to show that the system was the fifth multiple of 35 metres.)

Pieces were gradually and gently cut off the free ends of the aerial until everything seemed to point to good radiation at 31 metres. Difficulties were solved. One had only to arrange the transmitted wave to be an odd harmonic of the calculated length of aerial; so the earth mats were brought in for safe custody.

Tests made on the following day proved absolutely futile until an instrument maker disappeared to restore the earth mats to their original positions; then again radiation—but this time at a different wave-length.

It seemed safe to assume that where an aerial and counterpoise system could be installed, and would remain, the best length of aerial could be obtained by cutting pieces from its length until the desired radiation was obtained.

This state of affairs at Hong Kong was impossible, as the aerial was erected over a space reserved for tennis courts.

An earth was also impossible, as surrounding the scene of operations everything was 12 in. concrete.

The outstanding feature, however, was that for a specific wave-length, a definite aerial system had to be erected; and that, should an alternate wave-length be necessary, a harmonic of the system must be selected.

These arguments led to the development of the twin feeder arrangement shewn in Fig. 4.

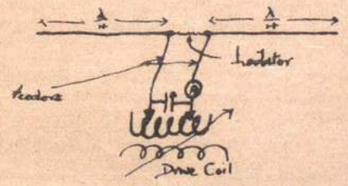


Fig. 4

With this system no earth or counterpoise is necessary, one half of the aerial balancing the other. A is a current-indicating device, preferably a hot wire ammeter, as lamps should be viewed with suspicion. During experiments, a lamp and ammeter were used in series, tuning points being found where A read maximum current, the lamps giving no glow. Conversely, when a good glow of the lamps occurred, A read very little or nothing.

For a desired wave-length, the length of wire for each side of the aerial is $\frac{\lambda}{4}$ metres, but a small tuning range is available about the natural wave-length. (The 40 metre system tunes from 39 to 41 metres without appreciable falling off of radiation)

With this aerial system the losses are what one makes them, or keeps them down to, the principal advantage being the entire elimination of earth resistance losses.

Although the feeder ammeter reads only a small value of current, a very large current will circulate in the aerial arms. At Hong Kong a six-wire cage, 32 ft. 10 in. long, forms each arm of the aerial, the feeders being single 40 lb. bronze wires, and the wave-length at which maximum radiation is observed is 40.5 metres.

This type of aerial has proved itself superior by results to the forms of inverted L, the T, and single wire Hertz, all of which have had a try-out.

It is unfortunate that reception by the twin feeder aerial is not at all good, and in consequence a separate single semi-vertical aerial is used for reception.

Fig. 5 shews the complete transmitting set and aerial now in use at Hong Kong.

Rotary converters require a considerable current to motor, and as sufficient batteries are not available, the town and dockyard supplies are used.

The set may be described as a 2-valve self-rectifying arrangement, the drive circuit being similar to Fig. 3.

Results are very encouraging, R.9 signals being reported from Peking, Tientsin, Singapore and various other stations situated within a thousand miles radius. The results are, of course, during the later part of the afternoon, say 3 p.m., continuing till approximately 10 a.m.

A station at Canton, eighty miles distant, may communicate during the twenty-four hours with Hong Kong. Canton uses as h.t. a rotary transformer 80-watt, with 6 volts input to the motor. The signal strength is rarely less than R.8.

Hong Kong has also received reports of signal strength R.6 from Tasmania, New Zealand and Australia, the time of transmission being 8 to 10 p.m. (Hong Kong time).

For those who read these notes, and are perhaps influenced to join the amateurs and do something themselves, the following suggestions are offered:—

(A) Get as efficient a receiver as possible, and calibrate it.

(B) The transmitter coils should be of adequate gauge and size to deal with the input power.

(C) Keep all losses at an absolute minimum, even to the sacrificing of a pleasing layout to short wiring.

(D) Think of a wave-length, build an aerial system for it, and then stick to it.

(E) Use transmitting valves with a small inter-electrode capacity.

In concluding, the writer wishes to convey his thanks to all of the Hong Kong Signal Section, who most cheerfully put up, and tore down to again put up, the aerial arrangements during the tests; most especially to Sigmn Holland, who made and remade, and helped burn the midnight oil when testing with our friends the amateurs.

"How near and yet how far" were the 65 and 80 metre loop sets!

C. S. Roberts, Q.M.S. (F.of S.),
Hong Kong, 15/6/27. Royal Signals.

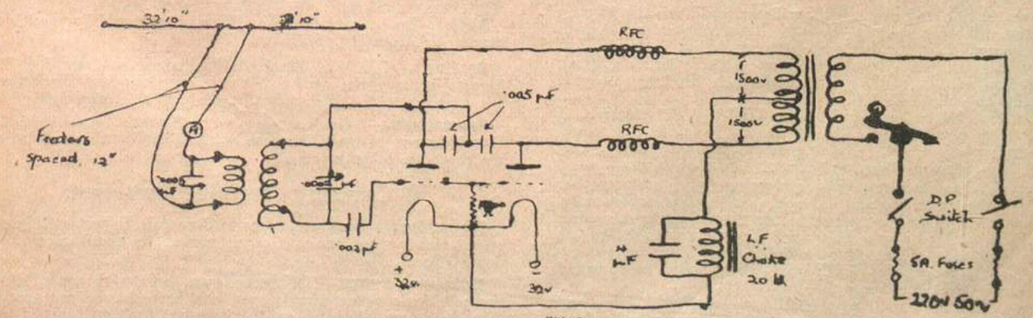
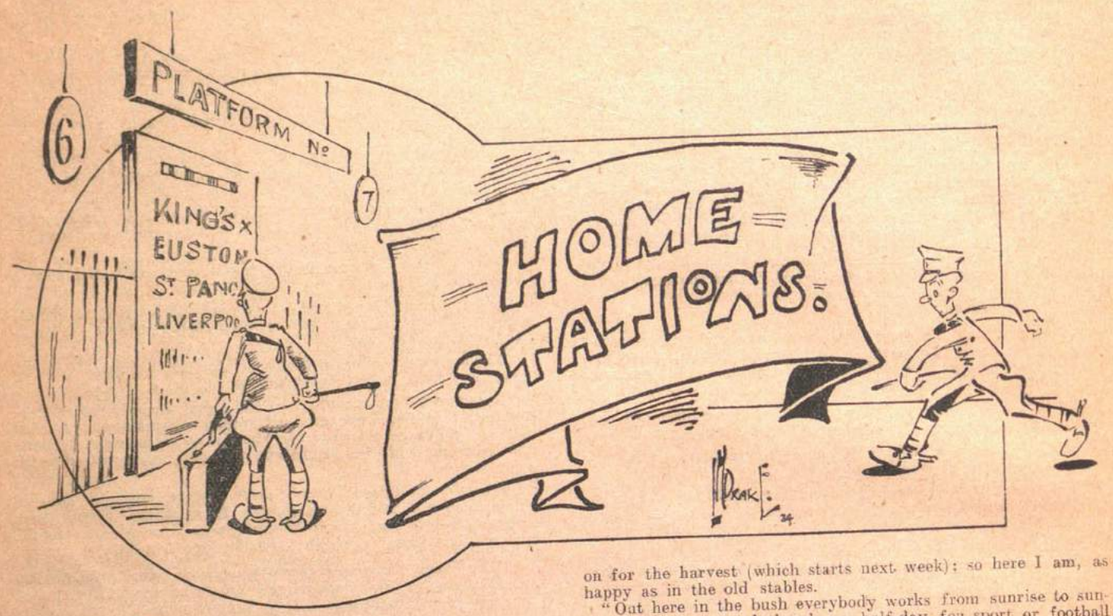


Fig. 5



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—We take this opportunity of wishing all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals at home and abroad "A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

Great preparations are being made by the Christmas entertainments committee, not forgetting the feeding department, whom we hope will exceed all previous records as regards mess room decorations.

News has been received from Dvr Barber, late of this Company, who went to Australia under the Emigration Scheme. The following is an extract from his letter, and it gives proof that there is plenty of employment for those who are willing to take it up and are used to hard work.

"Just a short note to let you know how one of your proteges is getting on in this so-called New World, or 'God's own country.' I arrived here on the 29th April after a very decent voyage, and started work on the 30th. My first job was riding a drill: you know, just helping the seed and super-phosphates through one of the mechanical contrivances. I stuck that until we had put 2000 acres in, and then the lochy (boss) asked me if I could drive a tractor. 'Your humble' said 'Yes.'

"I got the job and stuck it eight days, and then the tragedy happened. She broke down, and Joe Soap tinkered about with her. I managed to bust her completely, took her to pieces, and when I had finished I'd enough spare parts to build a Ford. Needless to say, I got the push. I did not mind, for he paid me right up—£16 18s. 10d.

"I put that in the bank and hit the trail to a clearing job. I cleared after a week, with blisters on my hands as big as old Gunner's capped elbow. Clearing means swinging kelly (axe) and tickling some of these millions of buckshee trees.

"My next performance was a fencing job: with another pommy (bloke from England) I took a contract at £12 a mile. This means chopping your posts, boring them, running six wires through each, digging your holes, and clearing the bush for two feet on each side of the fence. Well, old cobber, we put up two miles in seven weeks. I chucked up once more, as we would have been in debt for our grub.

"From there I came to this small farm of 19,000 acres, and got a job at driving a twelve-horse team. I started ploughing with them, doing 700 acres, and the lochy asked me if I'd stay on for the harvest (which starts next week): so here I am, as happy as in the old stables.

"Out here in the bush everybody works from sunrise to sunset—long hours—and there's no half-day for sport or football matches on a Saturday. But still, you get the good old Sunday and make up for it: creep out of bed for breakfast about 10 a.m., and straight back to it unless a party of you go hunting.

"We did last Sunday. The dingoes started off somewhere about 10 a.m. I was mounted. Well, the beaters made such a h——l of a din that a dog and vixen came out. I banged off with a double-barrelled shot-gun (what did you say? missed: I should think so! did you ever know me to hit the target?) Well, as soon as the first shot went off, the horse tried to go one way and I wanted to go the other. He won. I've still got a bruise.

"We carried on the hunt, and from twenty cartridges I managed to get a kangaroo and a brush (cross-bred karoo)—good shooting! The lochy told me if I had to shoot for my dinner I would starve: he's right.

"I shall grumble by the end of the harvest, as he will have to lob up a pretty big cheque to your humble, but I must club around.

"Remember me to the Company and all old friends.

"Tom Barber."

Marriages.—Corpl Hollis to Elizabeth Jane Parkell, at St. Paul's Church, Battersea, London, 13/11/27. Sigmn Pyke to Jean Armstrong Harding, at Richmond.

Birth.—To L/Corpl Brooke H. a daughter (Florence Margaret), at Aldershot, 6/10/27.

Postings.—C.Q.M.S. Black A. has joined us from 3rd Divl Signals in place of C.Q.M.S. Patrick, who has been discharged. We wish each of them success in his new sphere of life.

Promotions.—L/Sgt Partridge to be Sergeant, w.e.f. 24/10/27. Dvr Heasman to be L/Corporal, w.e.f. 13/7/27. Congratulations are extended to both.

D Company, Training Battalion.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corporals Bryant and Savage on attaining that rank. Getting nearer to that baton every day! (Coué).

Christmas Leave.—Christmas leave, or the chance of it, is the sole topic of conversation in the barrack and mess-rooms. Those who can afford it are thinking out the most tactful way of subsidising the office staff, whilst those who cannot find any money anywhere are advocating the abolition of Christmas holidays. It means too many extra guards for them! Anyway, by the time these notes appear, the season of "fat-heads" and "extensive" will be over, and the Company will settle down for a few more months.

Congratulations.—Congratulations are due to L/Sergt Drake, of E Company, on getting so many pages to himself in the last Wire, and also on producing such excellent material to fill them. Well done, Dickie!

Departures and Arrivals.—Our best wishes go with C.Q.M.S. Ansell on his return to civvy street, on completion of his pontoon. You'll have to find a new slogan now, Abie. "Ain't got none" is no help to the Leeds Corporation.

A hearty welcome is extended to all who arrived from the Dismounted Wing during the month; and our best wishes go with the Indian draft who left us on December 6th, and all who have been posted to Field units. I am afraid we are unable to mention all by name as they are so numerous.

Dox.

F Company, Training Battalion.

By the time these notes are in print, Yuletide will have come and gone, and the digestive organs of our many members will, after the extra work entailed during the festive season, have settled down to a normal flat rate.

Whilst I write, all are looking forward to the day when they can hit the iron trail that leads to home and all that it means at this time. Work is going on as usual, but, as is only natural, little surges of excitement occasioned by the coming advent of the great day are reigning in each boy's brain, even whilst solving the problems of trains of dots and dashes originating from buzzers and sounders.

A few boys, whose passage home would necessitate the loan of a ship for three or four weeks, are remaining behind. Arrangements for their entertainment, both mentally and digestively, will be in the hands of L/Corpl Boy Smith—a most able member of our young community, and one who, I am sure, will make the most of all opportunities.

They will dine in great state in the Boys' Club. The table supports have been tested for strains by our experts, and have not been found wanting in strength, and the forms will be placed at a suitable distance from the tables to allow of abdominal wall expansion. The tables will be fixed up as near the lounges and armchairs as possible, thus avoiding to a great extent any appreciable derangement of the vitamins taken into store by the remaining boys during the periods of mastication. "Fowls" will be claimed at times, but will not be observed as cases of infringement of the rules.

I can be optimistic enough to add that the said "young hopes" will also finish up in a great state.

Before concluding, I wish to extend to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals, both at home and abroad, on behalf of the Boys' Company, the glad hand and wishes for a right merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Agony.—Will ex-Trumpeter Lewin J. A. communicate with L/Sergt Palmer H. A., F Company, S.T.C., Catterick, with reference to education certificates.

Postings.—Signalmen Turrel and Dymond to 2nd Divl Signals, Sigmn Burdes to 1st Divl Signals, Sigmn Scutt to Colchester, and Signalmen Brooks, Brett, Burt and Cooper to the ranks.

Le Cheval Noir.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

A Corps Signals.

Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Ewshott.

December 12th.

Arrivals.—Capt. W. F. Sugrue, R.Signals, arrived (on paper) on December 3rd. When he arrives in the flesh we will salaam and wish him the best.

C.S.M. Stockwell arrived from Shanghai; he has a reputation of being a hero—hence his posting to this Company. Corporal Schofield from Iraq. Signalman Dicky Bird from Spike Island. Signalmen Hogg, Kay and Kerr from the S.T.C.

Departures.—Capt. H. W. Hose, M.C., R.Signals, has left us and taken over the command of the 1st A.A. Signal Company, Blackdown. The Ak-Aks are renowned for their luck.

Change over to
Pratts
instead of changing down!

Sigmn Cooke W. T. to the School of Signals. Signalmen Laker and Raishbrook to the A.R.

Obituary.—News has come to hand that Corpl Stanton (late of No. 1 Construction Section) has died from injuries received whilst playing rugby at Colchester. We extend our deepest sympathy with his family in their sad bereavement.

Re-Musterings.—Congratulations to Lieut W. S. Wasey, Royal Signals. He has obtained his Group E as a benedict already.

Eheu, fugaces labunter anni.—Everybody enjoyed a wonderful Christmas here—or rather, I should say they hope to. Many are busy practising Christmas carols. One named Scruff (so called because of his aversion to dirt) can be heard any night singing in a dolorous voice, "Let's all go to Snakey's house, and have a real fine time."

From New Year's Day onwards to eternity, everybody here has sworn to turn over a new leaf, make new resolutions and stick to them. The first resolution on the new leaf is "Off with the old grips and on with the new" (more expense). The second is that all will pay a jolly old bob for sports each month, pay nine denarii per month for The Wire, and what is more important, read it through from cover to cover. The other resolutions are too numerous to mention, but they include such funny things as schemes, "ops" and the like.

I am of opinion that 1928 will be a wonderful year for the Signals. The activities of the Corps during 1927 prove that this should be so. It is up to all to become publicity agents and tell the world that the Signals are the goods. Good support is the mother of good results.

Congratulations to L/Sergt Drake! All ranks thoroughly enjoyed his cartoons in the December issue and hope he will keep it up. If The Wire improves each year at the same rate as it has done since its first issue, I am afraid there will be a riot in Fleet Street one of these days.

Our Glee Club.—We hired a char-a-banc de-luxe on December 9th, and after waiting half-an-hour for a boulevard sheik to don his glad rags, we set out on the stroke of one-thirty pe-em. At two by my watch (Big Ben is slow) we pulled up outside the

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half-way house for a little bit of business with the Mephistophelian publican. Having oiled our gills with rather mediocre mead, we went aboard again and weighed anchor. Crawling through picturesque Old-English villages at a steady sixty (it may have been eighty) we rather disconcerted the swedes by our omnifarious singing. They crawled out of their hovel-like dwellings to investigate the cause of such blatant conviviality, but of course, when they saw it was "the Corps" and gazed on our Adonis-like countenances, the abyssmal look on their faces at once gave place to radiant smiles.

As our car carried us along the tortuosities of the Portsmouth road, parlance gave place alternately to paroxysms of song. When we had scaled the heights of Butser Hill, our "shuvver" kindly stopped the car and we got out to stretch our legs. We got in again rather hurriedly, and off we went.

Just after three we reached Pompey-Suburbia, through which we rode, leaving a crowd of gaping civvies who seemed to look upon us as if we were archangels—I can quite understand them thinking that, as we looked so sheikish (oh, stop it George). Quite suddenly we stopped and found ourselves outside Woolworth's, in the midst of a traffic jam. Regulating the traffic was a man who by his looks should have been apprenticed to an undertaker—he would have made a fortune in no time. He seemed quite mystified when someone asked him what he was laughing for.

We drove into the Royal Naval Barracks at 3.25 p.m., tearing off the bottom of our petrol tank at the same time (we are hot at killing two birds with one stone). Disembarking, we hit the trail from the barracks (whilst our "shuvver" was watching seventeen gallons of petrol run down the drain) to the heart of this wonderful city. Nipping into Lyon's, we introduced ourselves to the "Nippy's," who in turn introduced us to a mess of pottage.

Sight-seeing in the dark is rather a bake, but at last (when the time arrived) we presented ourselves at the gymnasium of the Royal Naval Barracks. To us the whole town seemed agog because the Navy were boxing the Corps. The Navy fixed us up with seats, and at 8 p.m. the first fight commenced. For results see Sports News.

One of the lads was talking "shop" when to our surprise a civilian behind us said quietly, "Yes, I remember taking you through your cable drill at Maresfield" (what a small world this is). We discovered ex-Sigmn Fiford in the audience, and of course we soon got chatty. R. P. Jones of Signals boxing fame was also unearthed there.

The Navy beat us by six points according to the judges, but I am sorry to say that *everyone* else did not agree with them. When we fought the London Fire Brigade at the Maida Drill Hall, not a sound was heard during the rounds. At Portsmouth I found myself wondering why such huge notices of "Silence during rounds" had been put up. Perhaps the word "rounds" in this case meant "rounds of toast" or "rounds of beer."

Whilst "The King" was being played, a civilian got up and attempted to walk out. One of the Corps anchored him and tore his "lid" from his head. Poor misguided fool!

After making a few discreet inquiries at the Town Hall, we boarded the bus and sped homewards. Butser Hill was the site of our last stop—where we found that a whip is a handy tool for clearing a petrol feeding-pipe that gets clogged.

I went round the bus and awoke the lads when the guard room loomed in sight, and their little game of shut-eye (that patrimonial gift bestowed on all good Signalmen) was interrupted; and we one and all dispersed to a far far better land than we had seen for twenty hours, to whit—dreamland.

This Month's Short Story.—When Sigmn Jones had passed his N.F.R. rating, Captain Robinson took him on as his servant and gave him very strict instructions what to do each day.

The first morning Jones (carrying out his master's instructions to the letter) brought his master a cup of hot tea, saying (as he had been bidden to say) "It is six o'clock, sir; here is a cup of tea, and it is a fine day." His master replied, "I know, I know." This morning dialogue went on for about a month, and Jones began to get browned-off.

One morning, however (after the usual speech) the old chap said the usual "I know, I know," and Jones replied, "You don't know, you old fool; the tea is stone cold; it's eleven o'clock, and it's raining cats and dogs."

Dickybird arrived in civvies on posting from Ireland. Entering No. 40 Hut he laid his suitcase on a spare "beds, McDonald's, one," and opened it. Before he could speak the lads shouted "We don't want any toothpaste!" Dickybird smiled.

SOOFOO.

No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

No. 3 Company A Corps Signals wish all Signal units, Regular or Territorial, at home or abroad, "A happy New Year."

Regret is expressed for the absence of this Company's notes last month. They were all ready, but owing to some misunderstanding did not reach the printers in time.

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to Signalmen Little, Fotherby, Jones-Thomas, Strangwick E. H. and Strangwick R. J., from the S.T.C. May all their guards be pleasant ones!

Departures.—Corpls Mears A. and Westwood F. to civilian life. In them we lose two efficient n.c.o.s, and a good footballer in Westwood. Sigmn Fry W. to 3rd Divl Signals. A change is as good as a rest, eh, Pot?

Drafts.—To Malaya on 22/11/27: Signalmen Addis W. (Micky) and McCann W. To Jubbulpore on 22/11/27: Corpl Clarke C., Signalmen Beardmore T., Flavell R., Foster H., Gale D., Hamer D., Hughes A., Myers A., and Saunders J. To Egypt on 4/11/27: L/Corpls Else S. and Harrison J., Signalmen Bush W., Dale M., Game W., Gibson C., Haggart G., Newton R., and Turner W. Also to Jubbulpore: L/Corpl Yorke A., Signalmen Alldred H., Brophy J., Carter E. A. ("my sweetie went away"), Fouracre C., Harlow W. (far from the Pantiles, now, Bill), Holsey J., Lamb J., Laud C., Leake A., Pelling F., Stanford E., Talbot F., Talbot J., Tutt B. (the wandering bard), Webb A., Williamson H., Wood A. (here's a good ivory-tickler, Jubb), and Whiteway A.

The Company send best wishes to all the above for an enjoyable sojourn in their respective new stations. We hope that they will always hold dear the name of A Corps.

Congratulations to L/Sergt Prior on attaining his 1st class certificate of education; to L/Corpl Phillips on obtaining his 2nd class; and to L/Sergt Todd on his recent promotion to that rank (17/10/27).

Extension of Service.—L/Corpl Yorke A. to complete 12 years with the Colours.

General.—A fresh craze has overtaken the Company now. The Motor-Cycle Club has receded into the background to make room for the Uke Union. Anyone who wishes to become a member has first to visit the adjacent Trust House, come back and walk steadily around the lines at tattoo, playing "Where is my wandering boy to-night?" to the vocal rendering of "Come into the ablution shed, Liza" by other roving revellers.

Furlough is now at its ebb, and there are many long faces in the Company. Prospects of a Christmas guard or picquet, I suppose. Bear up, unfortunates!

By the way, we have inaugurated periodic dances, towards which the footsteps of the neighbouring gentle maidens softly trend. Thanks must be expressed to L/Sergt Todd for the good work he has done, and the interest taken in disposing of dull moments on dark nights.

Agony.—Lulu enquires of Baldy (Hong Kong S.S.) if there is any writing paper in the Orient.

LULU.

A Corps at Intra.

1—And seeing the multitude of rookies wadpunching in the Se-uv-ee, I went in unto them; and when I was set, my "oppoes" came unto me.

2—And I opened my mouth and taught them, saying:

3—"Blessed are they that do eat wads, for they shall enter the Wadpunchers' Paradise.

4—"Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after hot-dogs and char, for they shall be filled.

5—"Blessed are they that do scrounge, for they shall obtain something for nothing.

6—"Blessed are they that do get it on tick, for they shall pay up on Friday.

7—"Blessed are the Roughnecks, for they shall see stars.

8—"Blessed are the Janker-Wallers, for they only shall do Se-be.

9—"Blessed are they that do broadcast, for they shall know some stuff.

10—"Blessed are the Drabbies, for they shall do late feeds.

11—"Blessed are the Em-gees, for they shall do picquets.

12—"Blessed are the Feed-Majors, for they shall have no half-days.

13—"Blessed are the Clerks, for they shall sleep in peace.

14—"Blessed are the Quarterblokes, for they shall become humble.

15—"Blessed are the Corporals, for they shall get the windup.

16—"Blessed are the Sergeants, for they shall sweat on promotion.

17—"Blessed are they that get married, for they shall draw Se-are-ay.

18—"Blessed are they that go on furlough, for they shall become broke.

19—"Blessed are they that moan, for they shall not be comforted.

20—"Verily I say unto you, ye rookies, take heed that ye do not your alms before oldsweats on a Thursday, lest ye be stripped of all your wealth.

21—"Moreover, if ye must fast, be not as other scroungers, of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces that they may appear unto thee to fast. Verily I say unto you, let them fast."

22—And one Rookie spake, saying, "Master, master; I have served for one whole year.

23—"What must I do to become an oldsweat?"

24—And I answered him, saying "Canst thou scrounge; canst thou bumyerchat; canst thou do jankers?"

25—And the Rookie spake, saying "Verily."

26—"Then, if thou wilt be an oldsweat, go and flog thy kit, sell what thou hast and give unto me the shekels; then shalt thou become an oldsweat."

27—And the Rookie went to kip looking sorely troubled, as he had great possessions.

SOOFOO.

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Appreciation.—Our Editor often reminds us that we hold a position ahead of any other Service Journal, and that we are to maintain that position. One is fully in agreement with that sentiment, and on opening the December number it seemed that all doubts—if ever there were any—as to the superiority of THE WIRE over our contemporaries just faded away. It is impossible to pass on without remarking on the excellence of the Christmas Number, with its portrait of our Colonel-Commandant, the honour paid to this unit, and Drake's Supplement. (We suspect that Quarterbloke to be "G." Cardiff, please note!)

Troopin'.—Another little bunch for you, L Company. All jolly good lads, and we are sorry to see 'em go. In fact, there is good reason to believe that they, too, are sorry to be leaving, judging from the innermost thoughts expressed by those who went out on November 22nd.

Embarkation date for Corpls Parsons L., McLachlan P., and Redworth F., Signalmen Harding G., Head G., Jahme W., Jaques R., Millen W., Nunn A., Phillips R., Titt W., Warburton H., and Weston A., has been given as 31/1/28.

On 21/2/28 we send Corpl Langley H., L/Corpl Stapleton N., Signalmen Trevenna H., Cargill W., Adlard S., Fisher G., Gardner W., Hensby D., Midgley H., and Wilson H., as our final contribution this trooping season.

Arrivals.—We welcome Sigmn Benfield from India, Signalman Esson from Sierra Leone, and Sergt Redman from Iraq; also Signalmen Brown and Masters. The Training—Battalion have sent us Sigmn Burdes.

Armistice Day.—No special parade was held on the ninth anniversary, but we all kept the Great Silence in the form now universally adopted.

Mayoral Sunday.—One n.c.o. and four men represented the unit at the annual Mayoral Sunday parade on November 13th. To those who may be at this station next year on a similar occasion, let me say that the parade should not be missed on any account. It makes one other pleasant recollection of days at the 'Shot.

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One Up!—L/Sergt Smith R. M. T., to be Sergeant: L/Corpls Quinn and Gulliver to be Corporals. We congratulate you!

L.S. & G.C. Medal.—It is our pleasure to report that C.Q.M.S. Billy Hoare and Dvr Butcher have received their merited reward *with* gratuity.

Marriages.—Corpl Redworth to Miss Edwards. Corpl Parsons to Miss Sotheran. May their lives be full of happiness!

Birth.—To Sgt Fleming, on being presented with a daughter, our congratulations!

Education Certificates.—L/Cpls Grocott, Carnell and Brown, and Sigmn Reily, were successful at the last examination, and now await the coming of their 1st class certificates.

Continuance.—C.S.M. Keevil and Dvr Sutton W. are remaining within the fold for one more year. The time was growing very short and causing them to wonder "If?"—but the good news came through when they had almost given up hope.

Courses.—Lieut C. C. Danby is undergoing an animal management course. Sigmn Johnson W. took a cycle repair course, but the knowledge he has gained will be to the advantage of the S.T.C., as he has been posted away from this unit. Signalmen Davies, Kay and Wood are now at the Training Battalion on a special course for instrument mechanics and fitters, Signals. You *must* come back to us as class 1.—no other thing will do!

Still "of us" but not "with us."—L/Corpl Cripps, Sigmn Boyle, and Dvrs Hill and Goldingay have left us for the Reserve. We know that the first, third and fourth named have dropped straight into billets. May Sigmn Boyle have early good fortune.

Tail-Piece.—Education Instructor: "What is an epistle?" 3rd class candidate: "The wife of an apostle."

YA.

Sergeants' Mess.

November 12th will ever be remembered as the day on which the mess as a whole made a pleasant excursion to London to see the sights. "Travel by road" being the order of the day, a cheery crowd set off in a bus, not uncomfortably full, at 9.30 a.m. The journey was uneventful except for bad luck at Egham, where we hoped to water and feed. We could not convince the man who kept the pub (otherwise the publican) that we were bona-fide travellers. So on we went, with our joy marred, until a pleasant haven at Hammersmith or somewhere near there was reached.

Parking in the neighbourhood of Regent Street—swell, eh?—the party adjourned to the Clachan Hotel, Kingsley Street, Regent Street, there to enjoy luncheon which was timed for 12.30 p.m. Judge of our surprise when we found that mine host was an old "Signals"—Sergt Watson, late 4th Divl. Signals.

An excellent lunch was served. To our pleasure was added that of the presence of our worthy secretary of the Association, Mr. W. Butler. Old friends were glad to see him again, and newcomers had the opportunity of making his acquaintance.

Lunch concluded, Sergt Blackburn entertained with song and dance—"avec oiseau"—and his pet gags, "The Empties" and "The Babies" amused the company. Sergt Bardoe also supplied musical items which the gathering enjoyed.

Following the entertainment the party broke up, as it was feared movement en masse would cause traffic obstruction. Variety was apparently the desire of the various members, for it transpired that some made their annual visit to the Cenotaph. Some visited the Imperial Services Museum in Whitehall—once you *have* paid a visit, you will long for the next opportunity to arise. Those who became acquainted with Mametz and its environs during July–November, 1917, can see a very wonderful plan of the country, and it is possible to trace out many familiar spots exactly as we knew them. Others of the party did a show, whilst some revelled in the experience of the interior of a Chinese cafe. "You pay for experience," as it is familiarly quoted, and one learns that those who did venture found it rather expensive, even though the Chinks thought they were police engaged on a raid. Are you *quite* sure there was no leg pulling!

Being in London, we could not forget to visit our old friends (the 47th) at Putney. In great spirits we duly reported ourselves at Fulham House, and right welcome were we made. Their drill hall is certainly a spectacle, and we were rather sorry not to have been with them on Armistice Night for their annual ball. We ask for advance notice of this function on future occasions, please.

'Twas 11.30 p.m., and only the thought of the morrow reminded us that it was time to be getting back. We had perforce to cease the disposal of good cheer and prepare to depart. The journey back at so late an hour could have been dull indeed, but when one commences to talk about sabres, staff rides, horses' records and Weedon seats, and at the same time you find Dick B. in the argument, then you are unlucky if you expect to get any peace or sleep. How long did your doze last, Jim?

To conclude, one can say that the outing was an unqualified success, and the only regret is that trips of that sort could not be more frequent.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

Departures.—No. 3 Company have been unfortunate in losing Capt. D. D. Bannerman, R.Signals (to the South Irish Coast Defence) and Lieut. A. E. Latham Brown (who has forsaken the 4th Guards Signals Section for the sunny climes of Catterick).

The other departures are far too numerous to enumerate, but we wish them all the very best of luck in their new stations (how's that for centre, Charlie?)

We trust that a certain elongated ex-member of K Section, who has a weakness for miscalculating furlough periods (sure thing, Lofty!) will give the same another trial in more appropriate surroundings.

Arrivals.—We welcome the undermentioned and trust that their stay in the Company will be a long and pleasant one:—2306287 Sergt Inman, 1855003 L/Sergt Bartlett, and 3521484 Sigmn Browne.

Note.—Marie, of "Fountain Pen" fame, would like to contradict the rumour that his address is Pippingford Park. Moreover, he is not to be mistaken for the "man from the Prudential!"

We Wonder.—Whether a certain signalman who terminated his annual furlough with a M/C walking tour from Shotbag (via Moaning Lane) has decided to enter his S.S. O.H.V. model for the T.T. trials in 1870. There is absolutely no foundation for the rumour that the machine was one of the originals used by the D.R.s at Agincourt.

Who was the n.c.o. who did his best to boost the sale of the N.A.A.F.I. Sports Diary by giving it forth to all and sundry that it was the ideal thing for keeping a record of guards, picquets, feeds, fire picquets, etc., etc.? And did the information have the desired effect?

Does the signalman who asked "how he stood for Christmas leave" when he returned from his 28-days' furlough, realise how long the A/C.S.M. was in a swoon?

Education.—Our hearty congratulations are due to Signalman Belchamber, who has bagged the elusive 1st.

THREECO.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

General.—Great changes are taking place and more are expected according to information to hand. A bass broom could not have been used more effectively to clear out the old hands and sweep in the new. A few months should see an almost complete change. (Loud cheers from the powers that be.)

Drafts.—Corporal Abraham, Signalmen Bone, Shillito and Nicholls to India. The n.c.o.s and men of the Troop wish them the best of luck at their new station.

Appointment.—A/U/L/Corpl Cooper to be L/Corpl (paid), w.e.f. 17/10/27.

Postings.—Sigmn Everett and family from Egypt. Sigmn Myers from Training Battn., S.T.C. Sigmn Parfitt from 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford. The Troop wish them a long and happy stay in this station.

Sigmn Button to 3rd Divl Signals. Sigmn Moorhouse to Training Battalion, S.T.C.

Transfer to Reserve.—Sigmn Robson. We wish him the best of luck in his new sphere of life.

Information Wanted.—A certain member of the Troop requires information as to a blue overcoat versus 10s., and hoping this meets with his wealthy approval.

SANDSMUDGE.

No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company.

Blackdown, December 14th.

A happy New Year to everyone!

General.—It was with regret we had to say farewell to Capt. E. V. F. MacSwiney, who has gone to the Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea. We wish him every success, and hope to see him again during the summer practice camp.

Capt. H. W. Hose, M.C., has taken over command of the Company, and Capt. G. St. J. Martin (from India) has joined us. We hope their stay with the Ack-Acks will be pleasant.

Here beginneth—

Lo, there came unto the land of Sur, to the place which is called Black, a great Tribune from the land of Acor, and there was wind in the land.

Now this Tribune caused all those subject to him to be assembled before him, and when he beheld them he spake unto them, saying, "Certain there be among ye whose appearance pleaseth me not; see ye to it."

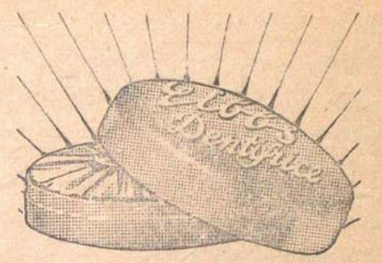
Having spoken thus he caused them to depart, and there was a great stir in their tents.

Now it came to pass that the Tribune did cause it to be noised abroad that there would be a laying out of kit, and there was great woe in the land.

When the appointed day did come, many there were who were found wanting, and others there were who, thinking to save many shekels, did visit the merchant called Wulwurth, and did lay these articles before him.

But the Tribune, being a warrior of great experience in these matters, was not to be deceived.

He came unto one and spake thus unto him, saying, "Where is thy kardigan?" and the man answered, saying, "Lord, it is upon my back." Then spake the Tribune unto him, saying, "Show it unto me," and the man (loosening his coat) did display a garment of many colours, yea, even like unto the coat of Joseph.



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Then did the Tribune speak unto all, saying, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, this practice must cease forthwith."

And it shall come to pass ere many moons that men of the Adeebee shall say of this host, "Truly, Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Shooting.—Owing to annual furlough the usual Monday night practice has ceased, but it is hoped that it will be carried on later, and interest be as keen as before.

Capt. MacSwiney has presented the Company with a splendid cup to be competed for annually. (Rudy will have left us, otherwise he would have a stiff handicap!)

Departures.—Corpl Saul to 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford (try some Cuticura for the "Pimple.")

To India: L/Corpl Adams, Signalmen Mepham (mind that revolver on the range), Ellis, Kendall, Clements and Fairweather. To Egypt: Sigmn Ingle. To Singapore: Sigmn Craddock. To Malta: Sigmn Baker.

B. A. J.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts.

General.—1928! Roll on my——six! Compliments of the season to the Editor and readers from the Southern Command Signal Company. We have no mess, no funds, no hope! So we take this opportunity of thanking senders of Christmas cards (home and abroad) for their kindness.

We regret to note the temporary eclipse of Barleux, but are looking forward to a descriptive article on "Life on a Trooper" from his fluent pen. What "Plain Tales" will be like after he he has received the "tap," we hardly like to contemplate. Don't forget to take your saxo, Barleux; it will be most useful for putting up a barrage against jackals, etc., on an Indian summer's night!

Esprit de Corps.—Just a word of praise for the Signals Association, for the good work they are doing in connection with their Employment Bureau and benevolent activities which help many

of our poor and unfortunate comrades. May its shadow never grow less!

Honours List.—Congratulations to 2306654 Sergt Wyatt C. W. of this unit, on receiving his medal for being a good boy for eighteen years. It is a long time to go without getting found out, Charles!

Sport.—Nil report. We, however, congratulate the Training Battalion on reaching the final of the Rugby cup in the Northern Command, but they have a tough proposition in the South Wales Borderers. But after all they are only fifteen. Up, Signals! Feet! feet!! feet!!! Allee samee like Singals!

Waziristan Signals, please note.—Your kind attention is drawn to this Company's notes in the September and October issues of THE WIRE. If unable to write letters, post cards will do! but not until you have got over the Christmas festivities (had some!) Also keep an eye on the individual who was found in the wood dump at Bannu in 1925, with a log of wood in his arms and a lump of mistletoe over it! Enough said!

Congratulations to Alex on being promoted to sergeant on the Corps roster. Alex was in the Quartermaster's stores in 1925, but since then nothing has been heard of him until his dear name was shown in the Corps magazine last month. (Sergeant Szarkowski, please note).

CLIFF-COIR.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

Obituary.—It is with deepfelt regret that I have to publish the sad news of the death, on December 2nd, of Corporal Arthur James Stanton of this unit, following a slight accident at rugby football.

The late n.c.o. had been selected to play for the Colchester Garrison versus the 11th Field Brigade Royal Artillery, and during the game he gave a really brilliant performance. He had to retire for a few minutes, but almost immediately resumed play and continued until the end of the game. After the match, on reaching his quarters in the sergeants' mess, Corpl Stanton complained of illness and, acting upon advice, retired to bed. An ambulance was summoned from the Military Hospital, but before this arrived, however, the corporal had passed away.

His parents having elected that the funeral should take place at Colchester, this ceremony was duly performed with full military honours on Wednesday, December 7th. There were many floral tributes, including wreaths from the officers 4th Divisional Signals; w.o.s and sergeants' mess; junior n.c.o.s mess; the officers, n.c.o.s and men of the 4th Divl Signals; the Rhine Signal Company (from which the late n.c.o. had only recently been posted); A Corps Signals, Aldershot; and the Garrison team. In addition, many individual tokens were sent.

Thus do I record the passing of one who, although having been with us for a comparatively short while, had become justly popular with one and all, especially his brother n.c.o.s. Moreover, he had always proved himself a true sportsman and a typical soldier, of whom I feel sure we all retain the proudest memories.

Arrivals.—The following have arrived during the month. To each we proffer the glad mitt, and wish him a pleasant stay in this station. Sigmn Bush from Aldershot; Sigmn Miller from Bulford; Sigmn Hinks from India; Signalmen Walker, Kerr, Short, Heald, Dewdney, Dicken, Bunce, Scutt, and Collyns from Catterick; and Signalmen Fellows and Nelson from Iraq (who would gladly have stayed in Mesopotamia had they known it was such a mess-up-at-'ome 'ere).

Departures.—Sigmn Corbett H. F. to Sarafand; Sigmn Fry H. J. to Catterick. Here's wishing them the best of luck.

Promotion.—Congratulations to Sigmn Fry H. J. on being posted to that rank; or does congratulation seem untimely in view of the fact that this unfortunate youth has since been posted to Catterick? Never mind, Badgy; we hope to see you back again ere long. Meanwhile share your sorrows with the Spare Electron.

Entertainment.—The usual weekly dance on Monday, Dec. 8th, was held in aid of the dependants of the late Corporal Stanton A. J.

The following evening, an excellent concert was given in the recreation room by the "Us" concert party, who very kindly gave their services free. This party, although but recently formed, has already made quite a name for itself.

Three of our noble lads comprise the entire male cast, and right well they shine, too. Sigmn Garratt F. has an excellent voice and made a happy choice of suitable songs. Sigmn Morris G., with the aid of his faithful "uke," sang to us in lighter vein (I wonder how many red lips have kissed away your "blues" on a dark night, George?) L/Cpl Vivian Page excelled as the comedian of the show; and his stories, songs, and above all his inimitable facial expressions, caused endless laughter. By the way, Viv., I insist that "My T.P. is perfectly clean!" Ask Chick.

Whilst on the subject of entertainment I would like to say a few words anent our worthy Branch Secretary. Lately I have observed a look of despair in his eyes and the arrival of more than one grey hair. I hasten to assure you that this is not due to the recent addition to that gentleman's family!

His is a hard task, and I am sure we all appreciate the efforts made to provide us with wholesome entertainment on home ground. I can assure you there is plenty more forthcoming in the near future if—and now we come to the root of the evil, so to speak.

The cause of the despair in our B.S. is due, I regret to say, to the lack of support. At a recent whist drive the muster was thirty-five, I believe. Now, that's too bad, my lads! Perhaps it is, as I hope, only a gentle push that is required to bring you all along. Well, anyway, let's see you roll up to that next dance and shake a leg. Do you require lessons? J.H.C. will probably oblige. That's worth a bob, any time.

Well, as I have no doubt aroused loud cries of anger from one and all by the foregoing, I am wondering whether I'll be able to wangle furlough at the period when this appears in print Another snag! I've 'ad it! Ah, well!

Agony.—Dvr (Ginger) Heydon would like to hear from Sigmn Crewe, last heard of in Ireland.

And so to bed!

F. H. E.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

Greetings.—All ranks of this unit send their best wishes for the New Year to all Signals in all parts of the world. Ianto (not Yonto) sends his to all his equine friends (especially "Colonel") of E Troop.

It's surprising how little there is to say when one comes to write notes for a unit of this size. It was remarked that news was required, but if anybody can give me some real live interesting news I shall be very pleased to have it.

Signalmen Tyre and Stevens are at present on a course of sanitation and water, and are therefore expounding most forcibly on microbes, baffle-plates, grease-traps and all the etceteras connected with it. At times one is almost afraid to breathe or eat—but not quite.

Courses seem to be the order of the day, for Sergt Sheale has just returned from a gas course at Porton. He evidently did well, but the tin hat seemed to have caused a great amount of trouble to him.

Someone was recently heard to ask about a course in tram driving. I don't think they have this at the A.V.T.C., but one can apply any week-day between 11 and 12 to the cook-house. There is a splendid instructor there, who requires nothing else but the tram (and the job).

A certain Slimey once held a record of sorts in this unit. I am sorry to say that it has now been beaten by Steve. Since the course, his advice to Sas is always worth noting for future reference. Sas, by the way, is still swimming very strongly, and only lost the Irish championship through hitting the edge of the bath before his time, but with his head.

We welcome the arrival of L/Corpl Mellor from 2nd Divisional Signals and Sigmn Fall from S.T.C.; also seven operator Signals from T.B.—the first in this unit.

Sigmn Manning has now left us for Gib. It is hard to say whether he was sorry or pleased. L/Corpl Barrow has also left us, but to civvy life. Rumour has it that he has gone to work in Scotland, altering the dates and erasing the names on last year's Christmas cards.

On 9th and 10th December a grand bazaar was held in the Garrison gymnasium, including "all the fun of the fair." It was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyable from every point of view. The proceeds were in aid of the Children's Welfare Centre. The way a certain n.c.o. was inveigled into buying chocolates for unknown girls only testifies to the splendid business capabilities of the salespeople. The roulette table was very popular. A book is shortly to be published by Rastus on "How to break the bank."

The Signals stall consisted of dairy produce and confectionery, etc., held by Capt. and Mrs. Hitchcock, and Mesdames Sheale, Huggett and Shirley. Sergt Beverley and L/Corpl Gandey had an exciting time in watching people put the donkey's tail in the wrong place. Visitors were breathless with excitement, expecting every moment "2GnG." to have the tail placed on him—by mistake, of course. Corpl Shirley and L/Corpl Coram were in charge of the spinning wheel. The least said about this the better—we all lost. Sergt Huggett was in charge of the stock, whilst Sergt Sheale was busy as general supervisor.

The band of the Inniskilling Fusiliers was in attendance, playing for the half-hour dances and really making the show more pleasant for both helpers and visitors alike. Numerous other stalls and side-shows were held by various units of the Garrison, and were all greatly appreciated by everyone.

Sigmn O'Brien would very much like to hear from Sigmn Crewe, once of this unit.

All of us would be pleased to have news from India.

C. W. N.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, December 4th.

Compliments of the Season.—"A happy and prosperous New Year" to all units at home and abroad.

General.—Heartfelt sympathy—sorry, I mean thanks—are extended to Barleux and L.H.D. for their articles appearing in this Journal, and especially in the December issue; and as one man we say, "May they continue!"

Christmas is drawing very near, and I can almost see the results of the P.R.I. messing and entertainments committees' efforts—which, if Dame Rumour proves correct, should outclass previous years, but of this more anon!

The officers and o.r.s. of this unit were very sorry to hear of the death of Corpl Stanton J. A., of the 4th Divl Signals. This n.c.o. joined the Rhine Signals on January 26th, and was posted to the 4th Divl Signals on November 1st. During his stay on the Rhine he was very popular with all ranks, and was always ready to assist the unit in all kinds of sport.

Courses.—Sergt (Darkie) Penfold has rejoined us after having gone deeply into the secrets of chemical warfare, and although he reports being gassed on several occasions, we wonder—was it gas?

L/Corpl Roberts S. W. is at present juggling with wireless problems at the School of Signals.

Education.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Sharpley W. O. R. on gaining his 1st class certificate.

Drafts.—Our Foreman-of-Signals (C.Q.M.S. Walker C. F. R.) and Sigmn Walsh are both leaving us on January 5th for Bermuda via Catterick. L/Corpl Wills G. P. has been placed under orders for service in India, but I fancy he will decline the invitation (?).

Changes.—The following proceeded to units as shown, having completed three years or more in Rhineland: Sergt Thomas S. to Aldershot Command Signal Company. Sigmn Gill F. R. to 1st Divl Signals. L/Corpl Emsley C. W., Sigmn Shields, and Dvr Pevy to 2nd Divl Signals. Sigmn Moffitt to 4th Divisional Signals.

At the same time we extend the welcome hand to their reliefs: Sergt Tracey, L/Corpls Wells and Tennant, Signalmen Creig, Myddleton, Warren, and Taylor, and trust that they will settle down quite comfortably in the land of Würst and find it to their liking.

Social.—The fortnightly dances are still very popular and going strong. Two were held during November, on the 8th and 22nd respectively.

The latter, a carnival dance, was voted a huge success by all present. The arrangements were in the capable hands of Signalmen Funnell and Tye, who strive to make everyone feel at home. Not one moan was heard until the interval, and then—well! twenty-four wads (stale) for something like 150 hungry dancers—I ask you? Come on, N.A.A.F.I.! you don't owe us a grudge, do you? Spot prizes were won by Sigmn Perks and Mrs. Wise, and L/Corpl Tiller (Dorset Regt.) and Miss Hohn.

The whist drive held on November 17th proved a stunner, and it is most certain that more interest will be shown should these functions occur more frequently during the winter months.

With a view to discovering new talent for the Company concert party, an impromptu concert and singing competition was held in the regimental institute on December 1st. Songs were rendered by a number of men who were out to win a packet of fags or a supper, and the most determined of all was successful in the person of Dvr (Lofty) Turner. Many thanks are due to members of the wet for their support and contributions.

Imperial Players.—This exceptionally fine and first-rate concert party, under the supervision of the N.A.A.F.I., found its way into Rhineland and gave us a very jolly evening on Dec. 3rd. Leslie Hyde, with his songs, patter and jokes, kept the audience in a fit of laughter from start to finish. Ada Tellier, with her violin, won the hearts of many, as did Norman O. Bolt with his fine voice and a saxophone. Vivienne Tempest's songs were well received, and Jo Cantor as the knowing child was "it." We hope that this party will not forget us when next they have an open date.

Cames Tourney.—A games tourney is in full swing at present, and keen competition is in the air. Having no results to hand, I cannot give the positions in the various sections, but will give a detailed account in the next epistle.

Short Story.—Scene: Sergeants' mess, Saturday, December 3rd; time 1 p.m. A member answers a knock on the door, "Come in." Visitor: "Is Sergt Chick in, please?" Sergeant Chick: "Yes, what do you want?" Visitor: "Er—well—if you please, sergeant, Mr. Christmas has been locked in the orderly room." Much hilarity among the mess members.

Agony.—Will Sigmn McCann, somewhere in India, please put pen to paper for the benefit of Sigmn Owen J. F., of this unit.

Rhine to Nile.—Congratulations to Tubby (No. 3 Coy. Egypt Signals) on getting one up. The promised news is surely coming, although well over-due.—D.W.W.

In conclusion, may I ask all correspondents who have not been contributing regularly in the past, to start afresh with the new year, for the benefit of the many readers who look to this Journal as the only means of obtaining news of their cronies who have been sorted and scattered by Records.

BLANCO.

A Point of Interest from Rhineland.

As one scans these pages from time to time, one's attention is often drawn to a point of interest which occurs either at work or play; and it is for this reason that I should like to report an incident which happened during the recent inter-Brigade training, and for which the 2nd Brigade Signal Section was responsible.

This Section had its signal office established at Hahn Camp, and only those who were or have been there can give an account of the place itself.

One evening Colonel Holmes à Court, a staff officer who had journeyed to the Rhine to perform the arduous duties of chief umpire for the Rhine Army manœuvres, went into the signal office and said that he had received news that his daughter was dangerously ill and was to be operated on, and could he telephone or send a telegram to England. The doctor's telephone number was unknown, but he lived in Beaminster, near Exeter. The answer he got was "I'll get you through, sir!" but whether the speaker thought he could, or not, I don't know. A ten-line portable exchange was the instrument used, and the line to G.H.Q. Wiesbaden at points was in ditches and across ploughed fields.

The call was to London via Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, and Munich, and after forty minutes the London exchange operator replied, "Line to Exeter engaged, sir!"

Later, a second call was made, and again the line was engaged, so the girl on the London Exchange was asked to get through to Beaminster, near Exeter, and get Dr. ——— on the local Post Office telephone.

A third call, which took twenty minutes, was made. The doctor answered, and Colonel Holmes à Court was able to learn what ailed his daughter, also when and where the operation was taking place; and acting on this information he left for England that night.

The speech was very clear and quite audible during the three minutes' conversation.

I think this is an achievement of which the Signals ought to be proud; and in conclusion I ask, "Can anyone beat it?"

D. W. W.

Signal Training Centre, India.

A Company. Jubbulpore, 22/11/27.

Since the notes of this Company last appeared the weather clerk has been very busy issuing out alternate doses of cold and wet weather, occasionally varying it by giving us both at once. We are wondering if the English "summer" has travelled thus far. If so the Blighty-wallahs have our sympathy.

We welcome to our midst the advance party of the trooping season 1927–1928 in the shape of L/Sergt Cowan and fifty-eight B.O.R.s from the S.T.C., Catterick. We trust they will find the weather to their liking. From what I can see they seem to be the only ones who look warm, much less feel it.

Christmas is drawing near, and by the time these lines appear in print and are digested by the personnel out here, the majority of us will have sampled the good things in store. Extensive preparations are well in hand for a bumper time. To mention only one attraction, I would whisper that we have a pantomime of our very own, produced (and dressed) by the theatrical talent (?) of the Centre. We are to sample it on Christmas Eve.

Anent this subject I have just received my first Christmas card, and wish to thank the person responsible. It may be of interest to readers to note that the greeting reads as follows: "With best wishes for a Happy Christmas, 1927-28-29 and 1930." I leave you to guess the nationality of the sender.

Armistice Day was observed in a fitting manner. The Brigade paraded for a short service at 10.45 a.m., the two-minute silence being preceded and ended by the firing of a field gun, after which the Brigade marched past an improvised Cenotaph at which wreaths were laid by representatives of each unit in turn. In the evening a musical programme was given by the massed bands of the 1st Battn. Hampshire Regiment, the 4/6th Rajputana Rifles (Outram's) and the 13th D.C.O. Lancers in the Cantonment gardens, during the course of which community singing was indulged in. His Excellency the Governor of the C.P. District joined in the singing of "Tipperary," "Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag," etc.

On Thursday, November 17th, we received a visit from Major-General the Hon. J. F. Gathorne-Hardy, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C. Deccan District, who expressed himself as being very satisfied with the general turn-out of the unit.

Departures.—Sergt Patheyjohns C. to the 2nd (Madras) Field Brigade R.A. A.F. (I.) as instructor. L/Sgts Coomber E. and Handley F. to B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot. We wish them good luck in their new spheres.

Arrivals.—F/S/Sergt Goodwin and Sergts Swaine and Draper reported on 23/10/27 after their six months holiday in Blighty. It is impossible to print their remarks on the English summer, but it is observed that they are looking fit and well.

Sergt King from A Corps Signals, Karachi. L/Sergt Greed from 4th Indian Divl Signals. We trust they will be happy in their new home.

Promotions.—F/Sergt O'Sullivan T. to be Staff-Sergeant (Farrier) w.e.f. 1/4/27. Good luck, Tim!

Birth.—R.Q.M.S. Earwaker T. was presented with a daughter on 9/10/27. Congratulations.

Casualties.—The "exodus" has commenced, and the first party for home was despatched from here on 24/10/27. It consisted of the following: Sergt Bruce J. and Sigmn Hinks to home establishment. Sigmn Stanley D. to Army Reserve. L/Cpl Hudson E. to discharge.

On 20/11/27 Sigmn O'Brien J. and his family bade farewell to these shores under medical orders. We trust you will benefit by your holiday, Paddy.

Sergeants' Mess.

Entertainments.—After a period of quietness the mess is once more beginning to make merry. Every Thursday evening an impromptu programme is arranged, consisting of dancing, whist, and other social events. Some very pleasant evenings are spent, and our able artistes, especially Spud, with "all the latest," manage to keep the company interested. Our married families honour us with their presence, and I notice that the glowing cinders are a great attraction. Some of us are anxious to know if the bearer put a small tot in that cup of tea ordered by one of the members.

Our practice dances go off with a swing, and our hard-working president sees that we all do our bit.

Billiards.—This week we entertained the Phœnix Club in a billiard match. Some very good games were witnessed, and we came off winners by the small margin of 14 points.

Arrivals.—We welcome Sergt Banger King from A Corps, Karachi, L/Sergt Reggie Greed from 4th Divl., Jubbulpore, and L/Sergt Lanc Cowen from Blighty. We wonder if Lanc enjoys the Indian birthday parties.

SIGTRAIN.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

November 11th, 1927.

Greetings and good wishes for the coming festive season to all members of the Association, past and present, from all members of A Corps Signals Branch.

General.—On Tuesday, November 1st, we were inspected by the Signal Officer-in-Chief (India), accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer Western Command. We turned out in marching order for this inspection. Everything went off well, and we are sure that the S.O.-in-Chief received a good impression of A Corps Signals.

Since our last notes we have said good-bye to a great many of our old comrades who left us for various other stations. They have not only left us singly but also in bulk: No. 4 Pack W/T Section to A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee, and the 4th (Medium) Brigade Signal Section to Muttra.

During the recent Quetta manœuvres we sent a detachment of Signal office personnel and despatch riders, under the command of Capt. R. W. Tobin, to do a bit towards helping to win the war. We are given to understand that they found it a trifle cooler than Karachi.

We have been very busy of late in preparing for numerous big functions such as the Armistice Day parade and the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, who is arriving in Karachi to-day. We shall have more to say of this matter next month, and hope to send some photographs.

Regarding sport we have been very successful of late, as will be seen by reading our Sports Notes.

Sergeants' Mess.—Tennis is still very popular, judging by the numbers who turn up on the courts of an evening. We have recently held two tennis "at homes" and social evenings, entertaining the sergeants' messes of the 13th Heavy Battery R.A., Manora, and the 19th M.T. Company R.A.S.C. On both occasions the tennis at home was followed by a dinner and a social, which went off very well, being much appreciated by the members of the mess and the guests who attended. (The old "dun cow" is apparently not yet done for.)

Births.—To Sigmn Payton A. E., a son (Douglas Arthur) on 12/10/27. To L/Sergt Hobby H. B., a son (Derrick William David), at Quetta, on 19/10/27. We congratulate the proud parents.

Arrivals.—Officers: Captain C. C. Armitage, A.I.R.O., from Jubbulpore. Captain R. H. Wall, R.Signals, from U.K. leave. We extend a hearty welcome to both of them. Other Ranks: C.S.M. Cates and wife, Sergt Wakely and wife, Sergts Hinds, Jones T., Watmore W., Corpl Lee, L/Corpl Robinson from U.K. leave. We are glad to see them all back again safe and sound.

Departures.—Signalmen Webb T., Bates W., Miller L. A., Trenberth W., and Browne W. H. ('Ike) to U.K. per s.s. "Dorsetshire" on 22/10/27. Corpls Hazell, Ayling and Clutterbuck to D.I.K. L/Sergt Crichton to Kohat. Corpl Darnell to Jubbulpore (poor old Biff!)

Agony.—Sigmn Handy wishes to know the exact position of Sigmn Smith (Jock). We gather from this enquiry that the gentleman in question must be from Scotland. You are explicit, Handy; we hope you find him.

Will late No. 17423 Weaving let 17424 know if he is still alive. Heavens! it's getting worse.

Wireless, Zhob.

The weather is now much cooler in this part of the world, and football has once more started in earnest. Loralai and Fort Sandeman teams, up to the present, have an unbeaten record.

The British officers in Fort Sandeman have also started cricket, and have invited the B.O.R.s to play with them; but up to going to press, no future Jack Hobbs has been discovered.

The Loralai Mobile W/T Detachment have just had a rather interesting time, accompanying two six-wheel lorries on an experimental trip to Dera Ismail Khan. The route taken was via Rakni, Dera Ghazi Khan, Retra, Bukhara, and then on to D.I.K. The journey was very rough, half of the distance being over country which an ordinary car could never have managed; but although the "C" sets received a severe shaking up, communication was maintained throughout the whole journey with Zhob and South Waziristan.

Now that both Mobile Detachments are in, all ranks are swotting for higher ratings and preparing things for Christmas. I take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Association and other readers of THE WIRE "A happy Christmas, and many more."

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Cambridge Barracks, Nov. 7th, 1927.

Once again we have arrived at that season of the year when numbers of our people are to be observed walking around with a far-away look in their eyes, or engaged in earnest conversation with others suffering from the same complaint.

The terms used in these conversations cause one to imagine that a new Mercantile Section has been formed in the Signals. But, no, dear reader; such is not the case—it is the commencement of the trooping season. Those noble warriors who have withstood India's burning sun for years and years and years (some with a few more years added) are now about to return to Blighty for discharge or transfer to the Reserve or home establishment. I would confidently bet anyone who would accept an I.O.U. that these dear folk know more about troopers than even the infallible Lloyds.

Quite a number of old hands are leaving us this trooping season, and we shall be very sorry to lose them. The first few are detailed below.

The poor folk who still have a few years to do out here have been getting it right and left from the time-expired people. The same old jokes and references to civvy life, etc., are flung at us. Well, it is only to be expected! They have had them thrown at them for a few years, and now it is their turn to dole them out.

Now we must put on our best behaviour and be prepared to welcome the new arrivals.

Officers.—Capt. T. B. Ferriday has returned from his tour of duty on the Frontier, and is now again with No. 2 Coy.

We extend a hearty welcome to Capt. A. B. Bushby, who has been posted from B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, and to Capt. H. S. Morris, M.C., A.I.R.O., who has joined us from S.T.C., Jubbulpore. The latter has taken over the duties of O.C. No. 1 Company. We trust that their stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Lieut. R. J. N. Solly has left us for B Cavalry Troop, and we hope he will have a good time with them.

Lieut C. T. Hughes, M.C., of Experimental Section fame, has once more taken up residence at Rawalpindi. He returned from his summer station at Cherat during the end of October.

Training Camp.—With effect from to-day a training camp has been formed at Hasan Abdul and will last a fortnight. Most of the unit are on their way there, and the remaining batch will leave to-day. The writer is one of the stay-at-homes; our party much prefer the comforts of a barrack-room. In any case, it is only policy that the people remaining in barracks (to prevent them being stolen, and to administer law and order) should be of high principle and undoubted integrity. I *did* mention that I was staying, did I not?

The weather is getting quite cold at nights now, and I am pleased that I sleep in a barrack-room. One of the camp heroes says, "Look at the fresh air we get." He may have my share also, especially during the hours of 01.00 and 06.00 daily—or I should say, nightly. One of the lads had an idea of taking a bathing costume with him, so that he could enjoy (?) a little bathing in the river. I wonder if he has started yet?

Well! we all hope that they have a good time and come back to us on the 21st, fit and strong.

Arrivals and Departures.—The following have left us for Blighty per H.M.T. "Neuralia": C.S.M. Eldridge to civvy street. L/Sergt Parrack L., Corpls Jarvis W. and Hampton, and L/Corpl Browne E. W. C., to Army Reserve. Our very best wishes go with them. (How goes the old arm chair, Brownie?) L/Sergt Hopkins has left us for T Company, Jubbulpore, and Sigmn Clackett for Peshawar District Signals. May they have a good time at their new stations.

C.S.M Jeffrey B. H. and family have arrived from Egypt. He has been posted to No. 1 Company. We extend to him and his family our very best salaams, and hope they will have a very happy time here.

Gardens.—The other morning, when I arrived at headquarters offices, I observed a vast clearing at one end of the building. I stopped and looked and passed on, wondering what was going to happen.

When next I saw this open space I discovered that once upon a time it had been a garden, but now there were sufficient bricks on the site to build a respectable-sized bungalow. I again passed on, still wondering what was going to happen.

That afternoon I was unable to sleep (possibly on account of the wondering I had done during the day) and walked out to the verandah. I cast a glance towards the vast clearing and almost fell off the verandah: one of the H.Q. clerks was *working*, and with a pick and shovel at that!

I meandered towards this noble youth and politely enquired what was the matter, thinking that probably he had wandered outside without his topi and had stopped too much sun on his curly head. He replied that he was gardening. (Now then, Barleux! This is possibly the effect of your highly educative gardening notes. Stop them!)

Present position of the "garden"—four or five patches of brown earth, well dug and raked. Row upon row of bricks, red, in all manner of designs. Wire fence surrounding the whole. Plants, trees, shrubs, etc., nil. The present staff i/c garden is composed of (1) the aforementioned clerk, (2) a rough rider, (3) another clerk. (Possibly Staff No. 3 is helping out of curiosity as to the ultimate result of this fine display of brickwork.)

Mosquitoes.—The mosquitoes attached to Headquarters and No. 1 Company had an awful shock last week. It appears that the malarial squad have a new brain-wave in fumigating the bungalows with an awful smell (name unknown) which is intended to place all mosquitoes hors de combat. We collected all our goods and chattels and deposited them on the verandah of the bungalow. All doors, windows and other means of ventilation were then sealed up, and the smell released. A few hours later the place was opened up and the dead and wounded removed.

Now comes the aftermath. As a result of the encroachment on their winter sleep, these mossies during the night attacked us by all known means of frontal and outflanking movements until we were one mass of bumps and bites. The smell which was released evidently upset them, so they "got their own back" on us. The smell was not a success. I find the best way to destroy a mosquito is to roll a newspaper and hit it hard.

Sport.—Sport is going strong, but I regret there are no notes to forward this time, as the compiler thereof is at camp at Hasan Abdul. They will be forwarded with my next contribution.

ECHO.

Peshawar District Signals.

November 15th, 1927.

Christmas Greetings.—The whole unit send best wishes to all units at home and abroad for "A merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

General.—After an interminable time, which is regretted, notes will again effuse from my pen to record the happenings in this unit.

During the summer (which, I must say, was rather a hot one) we saw the arrival and departure of many faces, but our greatest regret was when Sergt Jim Clarkson—who had only recently been posted to us from A Corps Signals, Karachi—died on 10th August. It was in the middle of a hockey match, on a warm evening, that he dropped and expired before any assistance could be rendered. A great sportsman, his absence is greatly felt in the unit, and the deepest sympathy is extended to his parents in their loss. The Medical Officer's verdict was that he died through heatstroke.

Trooping.—Again the welcome trooper comes along, for some of us have been saying "Roll on, that boat." Of course, I'm not included in that "some."

The first boat of the trooping season took away three well-known members for the land of the everlasting blizzards! They were L/Corpls Benfield and Waite and Sigmn Stratford. By the time these notes appear the two last mentioned will be either pushing a barrow around the streets or spending all the chips they saved since being abroad. (No, Bob; that part does not affect.) Although glad to see a bit of the old country, they left this unit with many regrets at parting with many old friends. The best of luck to them all in their new spheres!

The Company in General.—Since the arrival of our Commandant from the hills the unit has been greatly re-organised—and it must be acknowledged, to the great credit of all responsible. We can now aptly term ourselves an efficient and well-organised unit.

Dances.—On Wednesday, October 27th, the junior n.c.o.s of the unit gave an invitation dance to all other junior n.c.o.s and the married ranks of the Garrison, commencing at 9 o'clock and finishing at 1 a.m. It was a most enjoyable evening, and it has been said that it was one of the best-conducted dances held in the Garrison.

We must make the most of the youthful Hadfield who was officiating behind the bar. His dexterity at filling up much-needed glasses was a sight for tired eyes. I'm sure that it must be through having long practice at the game!

The catering, band and dancing arrangements were perfect, and we congratulate the organisers on the excellent evening they gave. We hope that more are to follow.

Amalgamation.—Now that the amalgamation of the British portion of the Indian Signal Corps with the Royal Corps of Signals is an accomplished fact, we are settling down to becoming a merry gathering of Signals, instead of hearing (as before) "You are only a foot-slogger, etc." Only two men of this unit declined to transfer to the Royal Corps, which augurs well for its popularity.

Sergeants' Mess, Peshawar District Signals, 1927

Back row (left to right)—L/Sergts Child C., Woolley (attached), Bennett G. F., Stafford T., Brown V., Holland W. and Luff, A.
Centre—Sergt Wyeth E. J., L/Sergt Goodyear W., A/Sergt Grote J. (attached), Sergt Shepherd G., F/Sergt Whitehead C., Sergts Gavey G., Gould J. H., Gamester S., Neal G., Harvey C., and Blunden E. J.
Front—Sergt Storey C., Sergt-Inst. Osborne T. C. (A.E.C.), C.Q.M.S. Stevens T. H., R.S.M. Sutherland J. B., Major L. G. Phillips, M.C. (Commandant), Captain J. A. I. Watts (Adjutant), C.S.M. Wills A. G., C.Q.M.S. Disbrey A., Sergts Penny L. and Parsons S.

Junior N.C.O.s, Peshawar District Signals, 1927.

Back row (left to right)—F/Corpl Scullion, Corpl Butcher, L/Corpls McPherson, Lingard, Johnson, Knight and Douglas, Corpl Hayhoe, F/Corpl Pummell, L/Corpls Clarke A. B., Mawby, Ewers and Moore.
Second row—L/Corpls Hill and Clarke E., Corpl Olley, L/Corpls Grant, M.M., Lacey and Riando, Corpls Hotchkiss and Freemantle, L/Corpls Taylor, Beard and Smith L.
Sitting—Corpls Bell, Smith and Dwyer, R.S.M. Sutherland, Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., Captain J. A. I. Watts, Corpls Pack and M'Cormack, L/Corpl Hadfield
In front—L/Corpls Lawson and Gould

Promotions.—Congratulations are offered to the undermentioned, who have been elevated in the ranks as stated.

L/Corpls Freemantle G. and Olley S. to be Corporals in the I.U.L. 1/6/27. L/Corpl Hotchkiss W. to be Corporal in the Royal Signals, 21/7/27.

The undermentioned to be L/Corporals (unpaid) w.e.f. 24/9/27: Signalmen McPherson D. C., Taylor G., Lawson T., Clarke H. W., Hill A. W., Smith L. H., Ewers A., and Moore J.

The following are appointed L/Corporals (paid) in the Royal Corps of Signals, w.e.f. 12/11/27: U/L/Corpls Smith L. H. and Moore J.

Education.—We are proud of our educational abilities, and the graph displayed in the Commandant's office shews the following:—1st class certificates, 33; 2nd class, 96; 3rd class, 34.

Fourteen candidates are intending to sit for the next special certificate of education, in various subjects, and fifteen for the first class. Judging by the number of candidates who have selected French as one subject for the special certificate, it

Interior of the Corporals' Room.

seems that in the event of another war occurring in France at some future time, these budding linguists will not be behind times when the fair sex are in the neighbourhood.

Family Additions.—Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. J. A. I. Watts on the arrival of a new member in their household. We trust that his hockey abilities in the future will be as great as those of his father.

Sports.—Apropos our sporting activities, mention must be made of the acquisition of a hockey ground at the rear of the barracks. It is an excellent pitch, and already some exciting games have been witnessed. The favourite "stand" is sitting on the sill of the top windows. Although, now and again, we use the pitch for a small parade, it is always in good trim for any match.

At one time during the summer a few bushes were growing on the pitch, but now they have been eradicated, and practically every evening two teams can be seen demonstrating their ability. It is hoped that with all this practice we shall retain the Divl hockey championship next year.

Ultra-General.—As is usually the case, we finish with the following. Corpl Hotchkiss wishes to be remembered to J. Kenneally. Sigmn Carter (Nick) sends his salaams to Signalman Gardner, possibly in Aldershot.

SIGS-PESHDIST.

Waziristan District Signals.

Bannu Detachment.

October 27th, 1927.

The weather here has cooled down considerably, and this will be very nice for the new arrivals—if we get any. The change of weather is very much appreciated by the people who perspired their way through the summer in Bannu.

The detachment is rather smaller than usual just at present, owing to the fact that we have a wireless station away with the Wana Column. We shall undoubtedly hear all about that when they return to the fold.

The Brigade Section are now in the throes of their annual training programme, and it is certainly very nice to be able to look out of the window and see a lot of small flags waving about in the air. They had a route march the other day, and I hear it was a most enjoyable stroll. It was certainly enjoyed by the staff who remained at home and talked over the subject of route marches in general.

The various lists of people who will shortly be visiting this country have been eagerly searched for familiar names. A few are known, but many are not. Never mind! we shall soon be in the position of knowing a fair number of them.

I notice that L/Corpl Sanley E. T. has been posted to China. The scenery out that way should be somewhat different to that of Ghora Dakha. I wonder if he still remembers the "G.D." W/T Station? We have one of the operators of that radio here with us now.

Hello, Coir! Bannu Signals answering. We are still going strong. What is the meaning of it? Have you taken the plunge again?

The amalgamation of the I.U.L. with the Corps has come to pass, and numerous permanent transfers have been seen in Part II. Orders. May their shadows never grow less!

Sigmn Wilson has arrived in relief of Sigmn Russell, who has been posted to Razmak for the time being. Never mind, Ma! Grandma will welcome you back to the fold at some future date.

A Signals jazz band has been formed here—nuff said.

Razmak Brigade Signals.

November 1st, 1927.

General.—"Oo-er, ain't it cold!" Such is the exclamation one hears from the various folk left in Razmak to-day.

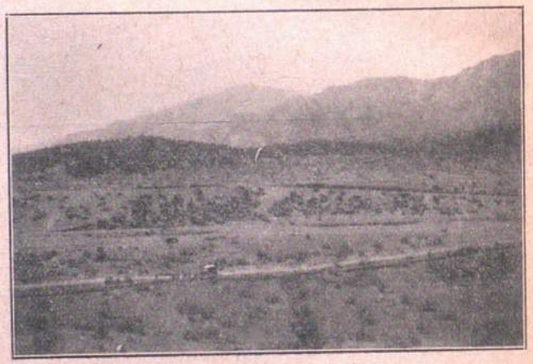
Owing to the fact that I am one of the lucky people due for repatriation I have been very busy, like the remainder, packing my box, etc. I have been sweating this last month on being called down to D.I.Khan, plonked in a train, and away to the boat—but, no! something's gone wrong with the works, and the correspondent who is taking over from me being on column, I am bound to "perform" once more.

At present Razmak Brigade Signals are very conspicuous by their absence on column—never mind where—and only ten of us remain, six of whom are men for duty on the wireless station here: a continuous watch, so their lot is not at all a happy one.

I cannot say anything about the column operations, but I trust that my successor will be able to give an interesting account in next month's issue.

Excitement.—A rather exciting incident happened a few days ago, one of our D.R.s nearly purchasing a "wooden overcoat" without even asking for it. He was proceeding to Dola with a generator for the wireless station there, and when he was five miles out of camp something went wrong with his machine. The generator tied on the pillion was the main cause, it being too heavy—dead weight. The fault was a slipping clutch, and whilst he was adjusting it he was fired at several times, each shot getting nearer the mark, and being unarmed he took cover in a small ditch by the side of the road.

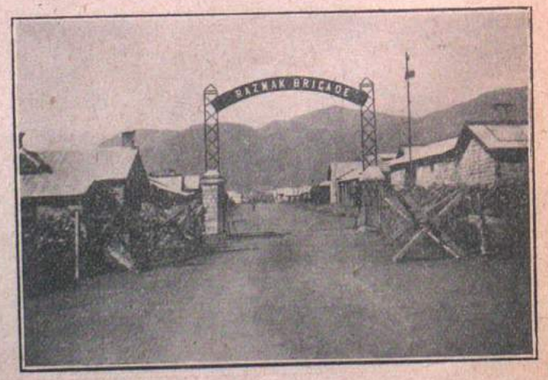
Presently a motor-car came along conveying an officer, who, scenting trouble, hurried off and in a few minutes returned with an escort of Khassadars, who responded to the outlaw's shots threefold. The D.R. was safely brought back to Razmak, and now they are on the tracks of the culprit. When they catch him, it is presumed that he will have to undergo a course of musketry!



Scene of the Excitement.

I hold a very marked opinion of the climatic conditions of this locality. It is wonderful, and I call it wonderful because it is cold. I like the cold weather, and so do most others, and I'll bet my boots that the troops down country envy us. Any diverse opinions?

The lads, on return from column, will be getting their eye down to the annual shoot which takes place on the 14th inst. Who will win the cups this year? I wonder!



The Main Gate.

Meteorological Observations.—Dry bulb, 51.2. Wet bulb, 40.0. Maximum, 70.4. Minimum, 46.8. Weather forecast: Heavy storm, strong sandy winds prevailing north of Razmak. Rain will probably fall at Saidgi any time next week. Snow is expected at Isha Post, and will certainly fall in Razmak during January next. Further outlook unsettled, hence the term "*unbalanced.*"

Ancient and Modern.

Preposterous.—Before commencing these notes I happened to ask my comrades, "Any inspiration for WIRE notes, boys?" This was promptly taken up by one bright individual, who answered, "Yes, you'll get some from 'Jonah's' profile, but don't look at it sideways." Well, I ask you?

Appointment.—Sigmn Ruffalls G. is appointed U/L/Corporal w.e.f. 14/9/27. Congratulations! Look to it, Ruff; your baton, I mean.

F. R. C.

4th Indian Divisional Signals.

Jubbulpore, November 24th.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year, and hope they had a merry Christmas.

The Officers.—Capt. C. A. Murray is now our C.O., having assumed command of the unit on his return from China. Capts Harris and Hurst are back from home, while Mr. Walters has just gone there.

The Sergeants.—George Hinchley (who has since won a billiard cup) and Plum Warner (who has since lost a snooker one), with Packy Macfarlane (who makes his bow in the mess) returned from foreign service in England—as you were, the United Kingdom—looking extremely well and eager to get on manœuvres. Milross left us for Kohat, which place he will find far better suited to his temperament than Shanghai; while Greed has gone across the way to the Depot.

The Corporals.—Two, namely Rogers and Darnell, have joined, but where they came from I have not yet been able to ascertain. They were all present when the sergeants were at home the other evening, and appeared to have enjoyed themselves fairly well. Quite a nice lot of boys, they are.

The Lads.—James and Bell came from Rawalpindi, and Wilce and Nichols are invalided home. We sincerely hope they both get on alright, and if Nichols happens to read this, may he be feeling as well as when he was rushing about with the cable at Jhansi last year.

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Sigmn Rowe, who was a good sportsman and is greatly missed by all of us.

JOSOPE.

Gems of English Verse.

No. 3—H.Q. Personnel.

Now, most of you have many friends
That live both near and far;
And if you want to meet some more,
Well, listen, here they are.

Now, first comes Sergeant Littlefield—
With him we're nicely settled;
We have to dodge his missiles, though,
When some ass gets him nettled.

Then, next, there's Sergeant Potter—
To vex him would be rash;
We worry him for blue-lights
When we run short of cash.

Lance-Corporal Rigden: he's the next—
A man of brawn and muscle;
And when he hears the C.O.'s bell,
He sure gets on *some* hustle.

The next upon my list is Staff—
A chap who's very quiet;
He's twenty inches round the chest
And has a special diet.

Now, Busty Knowles has got a gun—
Out shooting he will roam;
He went to bag a tiger once,
And brought a haggis home.

And then there's Tug—a cheery sort
Who never seems to grieve;
He's always singing "way-back" songs,
Including "Star of Eve."

Our sports storeman is Grocutt—
He never seems to mind,
Or push his way up to the front;
He's quite alright behind.

Our R.S.M.—I've left him out:
To write more I'm not able:
I've got the pen and paper here,
But cannot use the table.

Of course there's me—what's that? My name?
To tell you would be rash;
And so, to save an argument,
I'll sign myself just . . . .

DASH.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Sialkot, November 23rd.

Greetings.—By the time these notes appear in print it will be Christmastide, and on behalf of all members of this Troop I wish all "A merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

Signals Association.—The social activities of the Troop Branch of the Signals Association have been greatly in evidence during the current month, the great event being the Armistice ball held on November 10th.

Last year every endeavour was made to make it the dance of the season so far as Sialkot was concerned. Both socially and financially it *was* successful, and this year the aim of everyone was to go one better. We succeeded to the extent that the dance was voted by all to be far the best Sialkot has seen, and the general arrangements and decorations surprised even those who attended last year's dance and knew what the Signals were capable of producing.

After paying all expenses a profit of Rs.1040 was realised. As the average dance in this station only shows a profit of Rs.200, some idea of the success can be gauged. The dance was held for the joint benefit of the Ex-Service Men's Association (India and Burma Branch) and the Signals Association: 70 per cent. for the former and 30 per cent. for the latter—so the Benevolent Fund can expect a fair-sized cheque in the near future.

As the Branch is only forty-two strong, practically all members were called upon to assist in some way or other on the night of the dance, and all pulled their weight in a fine spirit, and in addition to giving their services the majority paid for admission to assist the fund. The party of workers who spent three days (and practically nights) before the dance in decorating the hall particularly deserve credit for the artistic show they made with 1500 yards of bunting and numerous coloured lights.

The dance was patronised by the Brigade Commander and nearly all the officers commanding regiments in the station, and the attendance was over five hundred.

The bands of the 4/7th Dragoon Guards and 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry kindly gave their services for the evening, and enabled us to hold continuous dancing—forty dances in all. Two ladies and four children from the station assisted

us by selling poppies. They were responsible for raising 106 rupees,' and would have raised more had not the supply of poppies run out quite early.

In concluding, we hope that A Cavalry Signals, when they relieve us, will uphold the reputation we have made by holding a similar event next Armistice Day.

General.—Since our last notes appeared we have been inspected on two occasions—by the Commander-in-Chief in India, Field-Marshal Sir William R. Birdwood, BART., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., LL.D., and by the Deputy-Adjutant-General in India, Major-General A. Solly Flood, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. The former inspected us in review order, and the Troop marched past in sections. The D.A.G. inspected us in F.S.M.O., and afterwards visual and wireless stations were erected for his inspection. Both inspecting officers appeared to be satisfied with what they saw.

Brigade training has commenced in earnest, and schemes are the order of the day. A Wireless Section is at present out with units of the brigade on field firing at Kullawal.

Endeavours are being made to establish wireless communication with A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop at Roorkee, which is some 500 odd miles from here.

The unit won the Scissors musketry cup for the year 1926-27 with a figure of merit of 90. This cup is competed for by all Signal units of the Northern Command.

A small horse show was held on the 17th inst. to decide the winner of the Section competition. It was won by L/Corporal Crawford's Section, who are to be complimented on their splendid turn-out and on obtaining three firsts and one second in the four events.

Sergeants' Mess.—News from this source is very scarce. They appear to have been very busy during the past few weeks in re-decorating their little den. Maybe they have been reading the story of the spider and the fly, and are trying to attract outsiders and increase their bar sales. By the sounds that issue forth at times I should imagine they are succeeding, for we cannot believe that the Signal members are capable of producing such a volume.

Corporals' Mess.—During the past month two changes have taken place. Corpl Nimmo has left us for A Troop, and we were all sorry to lose our he-man. We wish him every success in his new unit, and assure him that he has left a niche in the mess that it will not be easy to fill.

Corpl Spencer has been reposted to C Troop, and to him also we extend every good wish for the future. We trust that his S course at Jubbulpore will produce a "d."

Corpl Hall has rejoined us from Blighty leave, and has put us all in a state of unrest by his reminiscences of home. Of course we don't disbelieve him, but some of them *are* a bit tall. He easily won the cup mentioned some months ago; in fact, he won it outright the first day.

Departures and Arrivals.—In addition to those mentioned above, Sergt Gidney has gone to 3rd Indian Divl Signals.

We extend a hearty welcome to L/Sergt Coomber and his family, and to L/Sergt Handley, who have joined us from Jubbulpore.

Things We Want to Know.—Which was the Visual Station that selected the roof of a syce's quarters for their vantage point and finished up by giving a demonstration of the Corps motto by going "through"?

Which was the Wireless Section that erected near the detention barracks and had to borrow a pencil from the married family there?

Who invented the signal to form half-sections? It was rather novel, but inclined to be misleading.

How long "earsse" has been a part of squadron drill, and if it is signalled by a furious waving of the arm?

When A and C Troops are going to let us know of their activities through the medium of THE WIRE?

W. C. M.

Iraq Signal Section.

General.—With Christmas fast approaching and the cold weather setting in, things have been humming for the last few weeks. Our turkeys have been going through a fattening course under the able tuition of Sigmn McKinlay, and we hope to give a good account of ourselves in the matter of Christmas festivities in a later issue.

Arrivals.—We have welcomed the new draft to Iraq, and although late in appearing, I now publish their names, at the same time hoping their stay in Iraq will be a happy one: Lieut. C. H. Lyddon; Sergt Thomas T.; L/Cpls Fisher N. and Frampton E. H.; Signalmen Connolly L., Dickenson E., Evendon W., Fellows R., Feltham S., Hall C. H., Hudson E. E., Hunt F., Ives H., Jones B. A., Jones F. W., Matthews H., McNair R. H., Morgan A., Pike H., Ratcliffe F., Simmons F., Taylor-Smith S., Walton A., and Whiting A. J.

Departures.—Lieut. C. D. Hinds has left us for U.K. on a period of leave, previous to completing another year in Iraq. We wish him the best of luck.

Musketry.—The annual musketry has now finished, and all details have completed their firing course with fairly good results. At least, we are able to show a good all-round average, although handicapped by a few who would persist in trying to pass shots through the numbers overhead. The following are some of the best scores: Sigmn Phillips 97, Sigmn Tebby 96, Sigmn Richards 95, Sigmn Jerram 94.

Muscle Binding.—L/Cpl Frampton E. H., who before leaving England had passed a physical training course at the muscle factory at Aldershot, has taken upon himself the task of teaching any of the willing the mysteries of the "upstart" and other neck-breaking exercises. With help, he has rigged up a gymnasium in the men' mess room, complete with all the paraphernalia of fencing and bayonet fighting. Don't be bullied! Come and take a course of Frampton's never-failing system of body-building!

Ukelele Plague.—Yes, we have it again! With the advent of the new draft, the disease has broken out afresh, and now assumes alarming proportions. This, again, is a certain gentleman's "long suit," and nightly the bungalow is filled with dying strains—or should I say, discordant tunes. It reminds one of those "round" things you had at school: something like "Three blind mice." One youth elects to tell the world that his sweetie's due at two to two, while the lad at the top of the room will have it that his baby loves him. The resultant effect is something like "Auld Lang Syne" in five sharps.

Replies.—I acknowledge the correction reported by Pat of No. 2 Wireless Section, Baghdad, but am unable to let him into the secret of how this feat was accomplished. The refreshment taken during the trip may have had something to do with it. Anyway, "Humanum est errare," as they say in the Latin.

Agony.—Will 2316322 Sigmn Martin P. E., last heard of in Jubbulpore, please communicate with his brother, whose address is A Squadron, Iraq Aircraft Depot, R.A.F., Baghdad.

"Emes."—Niku would like to know if a fountain pen and a writing case are of any use to you as a present?

TITUS.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Dec. 8th.

General.—With the coming of the cold weather, the Company training for the annual manœuvres is in full swing. Cable and wireless schemes are held almost daily under the direction of section officers. All things denote the usual Egypt Signals success in this desert training.

Arrivals.—This month we again welcome a new draft, and it is quite a change to see pink cheeks and white knees mingled with the dusky skins of us semi-Egyptians. A riot was nearly caused a few mornings ago when one new friend remarked that he was perspiring on check parade. Brrrr! Anyway, whether they feel the heat or cold, we offer them the best wishes for their stay in this mystic country. At last someone will see me go home, for I believe several of them are here for a full tour. Never mind, lads; it's only six years to do, and perhaps a boat will come along and fetch you in 1933. You'll probably have got the marleesh feeling by then.

Promotions.—Our congratulations are offered to L/Sergt Solly and Corpl Moore on attaining those ranks.

Further Congratulations.—I have been hanging out these notes in the hope that I could congratulate the latter on something else, but he has dodged it so far. He says it's the boat that has upset his plans.

Under the congratulations should come L/Corpl Pratt, Signalmen Broad and Mould, Sergt Brett and wife, Sigmn Everatt and family, and Sigmn Jones W. C. and family, who departed this life for a far better land on December 3rd. Yorky wishes

his old friends to know that after nineteen years abroad he will at last spend a Christmas at home, and yet our mutual friend Sporty Richards cannot do two successive summers. Home, Turkey, home, Egypt, home, Egypt—all in five years. Some people have all the luck!

Camera Club.—I am now departing from the usual report. As a C.C. outing was held at the Pyramids for the benefit of our new members, I will ask one of them to present to our readers his impressions of the outing in general:—

"MY FIRST VISIT TO THE PYRAMIDS.—After my first week with the Egypt Signals, others of the new draft and I were invited to join the C.C., with the promise of a visit to the Pyramids on the following Sunday. Naturally we were all anxious for Sunday to come, in order that our curiosity might be satisfied, and we could at last see that which we have talked about and tried to imagine ever since we embarked for Egypt.

"At last the morning for the trip arrived, and when we started we were enveloped in a thick mist which even after an hour had risen but very little. I was lucky to go out in a taxi containing the "grub," consequently arriving a good hour before the main party, who came on by tram. As we were nearing the Pyramids I had my head out of the taxi window to see them as soon as they came into view from the road. The heavy mist, however, obscured them wholly from view, and I had to wait patiently until we were near them.

"Soon we were driving round the base looking for a suitable rendezvous for the main party. After arranging all the necessary articles in order, I was able to sit down and wait for the mist to rise. Gradually, foot by foot, it rose, and in its stead shone the sun—and a very magnificent sight was presented to the onlookers. When the sun's rays completely displaced the mist, I was able to see the whole of these huge mountains of stone towering, as it seemed, into the sky.

"The next interesting sight was to watch someone climb; and knowing that later on my chance would come, there I stood watching this man and wondering if I would have the nerve to venture. After dinner and a rest my chance came with the others, and away we went to commence the climb. As with almost anything else we started off at a great rate, and all were having a good joke with one another. As we ascended the talking stopped and in its place was heard hard breathing, and each man was concentrating wholly upon the climb—all longing for a sight of the top, and a rest.

"After about twenty minutes' climbing we crawled on to the top, one after the other, all very hot and exhausted. The most striking thing on the top is the thousands of names carved in the stone; and many of our party were heard asking for a knife with which they were to add yet other names.

"The next big item was the descent, which in my opinion was far more comfortable than the ascent; yet I had a very uneasy feeling which never left me until I was safely on the ground, much relieved and highly pleased that I had ventured, for it is a unique experience.

"Following the descent we entered the Pyramids, and although I cannot describe much of the inside owing to its being too dark, I must say that everyone found the visit very interesting. We had almost everything explained clearly by Corpl Corbett or L/Corpl Dunn, to whom the new members extend their hearty thanks for a real good day's outing. Roll on, the next!"

Construction.—Work on the sports ground is now progressing at a faster pace. The new members have been fully initiated, and all hope to see it finished in time for next cricket season.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Polygon, Cairo, Dec. 3rd.

Arrivals.—The undermentioned pale-faces from the land of mud and rain arrived in this land of eternal sunshine on 15/11/27, being welcomed with open arms and liberal supplies of Irish stew (at least three were observed to ask for more!): L/Cpl Harrison, Dvr Beard, Signalmen Carver, Brierwood, Chambers, Chidgey, Cordell, Dicker, Edwards, Ellis, Hicks, Hillier, Ingle, Kerr, Lewis, Mains, McKerr, Pople, Rickard, Rose, Sawyers, Turner, Walsh, Webb, White and Wrench.

Departures.—The following old hands left on December 3rd, and our best wishes go with them on their return to civilian life: F/Corpl Donnellan, Signalmen Block, Milsom, Damer and Horne R.

Further light on Don's future intentions was forthcoming when our secret investigator discovered him taking to the incinerator hundreds of pamphlets on subjects such as "Life in Australia," "Wealth in the Klondyke," "Go west, my son," "How to become a sleuth," "Hints on diving for pennies at Malta," etc., etc.; but it was noticed that books on the "Yewnited States" were carefully placed on one side—doubtless for perusal on the sea voyage home. There is still a faint hope that the far-famed fickle mind of our Don will yet be made up before Catterick is reached.

With the departure of Sigmn Block, the mess orderly expert, the never-ceasing repetition of "my travels on leave and sights I've seen abroad" has been stilled for ever. Doubtless he will go on a lecturing tour, or write a book on the subject, when he gets home. In any case, his long-suffering hut occupants hope a copy doesn't reach here, though probably our post and senior mess orderlies will require one to refresh their memories.

Discharges.—The following have taken local discharges, to enter civilian employment in Egypt: Sergt Mann C., Corporal Fleet A., and Sigmn Vipan L.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following, promoted as stated: L/Sergt Kent to be Sergeant. L/Corpls Saint, Parker and Marshall to be Corporals.

Lost, Stolen or Strayed.—A valuable set of false teeth (p.w.). Owner's "million dollar smile" has greatly depreciated in value since loss. Information that will lead to the recovery of the said molars should be given forthwith to L/Corpl Wright, H Section.

Through! (nearly).—Some damage was recently caused to a section of barbed wire fencing close to these barracks, when a magnificent and unselfish effort by one of our D.R.s to uphold the Signals motto of "Through" lost on points (and scratches). He has just been discharged from hospital.

Heard on the Football Field.—"Look here, you men, if you want to *stand* on the touchline, *you must sit down*"!

Rejuvenation.—Our Paddie had a fortnight's change of air (?) last month. He declares it was better than all the Kruschen's that ever covered a sixpence. You should see him dish out the rissoles now!

Notable Events during the past Month.—

1. A mysterious growth appeared on Sigmn Backhouse's upper lip.
2. Don *nearly* made up his mind.
3. An exhibition of football by the Brighton Hebrews' representative.
4. Some goalkeeping by Rudolph.
5. Tiny's future enlarged considerably (three inches, to be precise!)
6. H.Q.'s hole in garden now filled in (late-comers, please note).
7. A haven of rest discovered by Charlie.
8. Buck never spoke a word for *three minutes* one morning (Uckfield papers, please copy).
9. Emanuel's exhibition of bronco-busting one morning close to the incinerator (the best place, too!)

Situations Vacant.—Wanted, immediately, a decipherer of shorthand, to translate weekly letters from an amorous lady shorthand-typist. Receiver cannot read them unaided. Good salary for right man. Strictly confidential. Apply Buck, c/o Signal Troop.

Medical.—One bright member of our fraternity reported sick one morning, and on his return to barracks was asked by his section officer as to the M.O.'s diagnosis of his complaint. Judge of the officer's surprise on being told that our bright youth was suffering from an *obsolete* skin disease! We would suggest that an application for a write-off of all "obsolete" diseases be submitted to the proper quarter.

The New Signal Trade Sheets.—Strong rumours are current in many Signal units that Kruschen's are being put in the daily tea issue, with a view to making "Fitter-Signals."

Value!—Racehorses are valuable animals—so are D.R.s. We have one named after a valuable and famous mount, "Mumtaz" to wit. Our "flying filly" once strayed too far over the desert, and proof of his value was shown when a few thousand of the best were expended in fetching him back. Yes, D.R.s are valuable animals, aren't they, Mumty?

English as she is spoke.—Signalman (to Arab): "Do you speak blinkin' English?" Arab: "Aywa! Anna arref half Englisee—half Arabic." Signalman: "Well, wot blinkin' 'arf do you speak?"

And as she is sometimes written.—One of our Romeos recently had the following passage in a letter from a local damsel: "Why for you no come see me last night? When you do come, your friend he come instead."

Heard in the Mess Room.—"Say, old sweat, at what trade are you being trained—D.R.?" "No, *despatch rider!*"

S.O.S.—If this should catch the eye of Mr. G. Ratledge (late driver of that ilk) we beg to inform him that the medal awarded monthly to the best Channel swimmer is now going green for want of use. Perhaps he can commence a correspondence course and initiate some of the new arrivals into the art of spinning "one of Ratledge's latest"?

Brrrrr!—Dick would like to hear from Sigmn Jones-Thomas (ahem!) last heard of at Aldershot. L/Corpl Tudor wishes to hear from Sigmn Westley, late Sierra Leone Signal Detachment.

ART.

Malaya Signal Section.

Military Headquarters, Fort Canning,
Singapore, November 17th.

Greetings.—We wish all readers of THE WIRE "A merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corpl Hall on his promotion to that rank.

Extensions.—We extend our deepest sympathy to Signalman (A/L/Corpl) Wright on his extending to complete 21 years.

Re-Classifications.—These passed off without incident, and the Section remain as they were.

Attachments.—Sigmn Shaw T. of the S.D.F. is at present attached to the Section, having been landed from the "Karmala" for a sojourn in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery, and hope he will soon be able to resume his journey.

Agony.—Sigmn Barwick of this unit would like to know whether Sigmn Stokes, late of Maresfield Exchange, is still thinking of returning to Pompey to lick the steam from the duff-shop window. What about a smile, Bill? "Seconds out of the ring." "Time."

Will Fanny Fields, at present scrounging in Colombo, please look out for Joe Wright en route for home on the "Dorsetshire."

THE SCRIBE.

North China Signal Section.

Tientsin Detachment.

British Military H.Q., November 23rd.

Arrivals.—The following have joined this Section from Signals, Shanghai: L/Corpl Longhurst E. J., Signalmen Blackham T., Fernyhough E., and Powell S. J.—wireless operators all. We think they will be kept in touch with their trade whilst in North China.

Departures.—The following left us on the 8th inst.: L/Corpl Pagett W. H. to U.K. on promotion; Sigmn Cox D. and Watterton R. for discharge; Sigmn Pearce R. to India. To all we wish the best of luck. We hope the prospective civilians will find congenial and remunerative pastimes, and that Atty will have an opportunity of keeping in touch with short wave w.t.

An Appreciation.—The departure of L/Corpl Pagett, in particular, is a great loss to the Section. It is fortunate indeed that the Corps had the right man in the right place last January. The work done by the Peking Station during the succeeding months is a tribute to his capabilities.

Prior to January, 1927, L/Corpl Pagett's duties—numbering amongst others the supervision of a telegraph office open for ten hours a day—were quite sufficient to keep him fairly busy. With the coming of the short-wave set at a critical moment of British history in China, Peking became a real live wireless station, passing traffic which dare not be delayed. The short-wave set, being in the experimental stage, required constant attention; by hook or crook it had to be kept going.

The staff of the station had to be increased and at times numbered ten or eleven, including regimental signallers called in to do duty as line operators, who naturally required close supervision. For months at a stretch L/Corpl Pagett worked day and night, snatching a few hours' sleep when possible. He deprived himself of recreation, and kept his station "through."

He has greatly enhanced the reputation of the Corps in North China in every respect. He won the golden opinions of both the civil and military staffs at the Legation, and he leaves the country with a reputation that might well be envied by any man. We hope his sterling qualities will be appreciated in his new unit, wherever it may be.

Appointment.—We are pleased to record the appointment of Sigmn Childs A. H. to be A/U/L/Corporal. We hope it will soon become a paying proposition.

W/T.—We are looking forward to the arrival of the November WIRE, with its promised article on "Short-wave W/T in China," by Q.M.S. Roberts. The author is certainly qualified to write on this subject, and he must look back with pride on his work in introducing short-wave sets into the Corps in China. Quite a chain of stations has grown up, and undoubtedly short-wave w/t has come to stay in the Army. We anticipate a drastic scrapping of high-power sets in the near future.

HSING-HAI.

[We regret that severe pressure on space prevented us from keeping our promise, but have pleasure in printing the article in *this* issue.—ED.]

Aden Brigade Signal Section.

November, 1927.

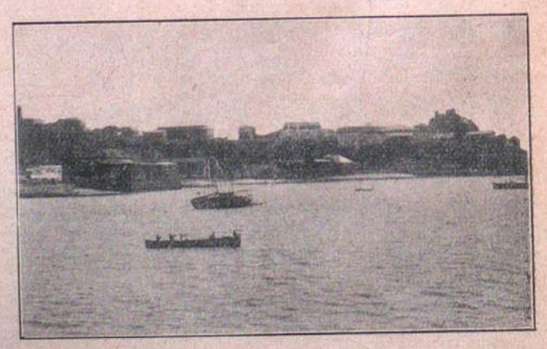
To One and All.—To all Signals at home and abroad, we wish "A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

A View of Aden

General.—We bade farewell to the 1st Battn. Welch Regt., who left us for U.K. after having completed their service abroad. They were relieved by the 2nd Battn. South Wales Borderers, who arrived here from Agra, India. Some may come, and some may go, but we stay here for ever.

Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to 1850707 Sigmn Hawks J. on rising to the dizzy height of A/U/L/Corpl. May he live long and die happy!

Education.—2315809 Sigmn Farrell S. awarded 2nd class certificate of education (well fought for).



Another View of Aden

Departures.—Sergt Nicholls H. to U.K. on six months' leave. Sergt Joiner A. and Sigmn Butler E. to Jubbulpore. Private Searles E. to Allahabad to rejoin his unit.

Musketry.—The outstanding feature of this month was the annual musketry course. After three long months of strenuous efforts to get a regulation aim, we have succeeded in obtaining a fair result—the Section finishing up with an average of 78. This is not due to the markers, the Bombay Sappers and Miners.

Yet another View of Aden

Signals Association.—Owing to the fact that half our Section are Association members, it is hoped to establish before long a Signals Association Branch. With the help of one or two, we will soon be a 100 per cent. Association wallahs.

ADENSIGS.

Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, December 1st.

Outing.—On November 15th all ranks of the R.E. and Royal Signals participated in a very enjoyable picnic and outing to the Crystal Caves and Jungle, under the auspices of the 27th (F) Company R.E. The Prospect party left at noon by brakes and push cycles, meeting the St. George's contingent at the Caves at 1 p.m. Lunch was taken immediately upon arrival, after which the Caves (one of the genuine sights of Bermuda) were explored; some of the party continuing on to the Jungle. Further remarks on this last-mentioned place are needless. The two parties dispersed at 3.30, the Prospect party arriving back at 5 o'clock. Everybody, I hear, had a most enjoyable time (no! I was not there—*somebody* has to do the duty), and our thanks are due to the organisers of the outing, C.S.M. Witham and S/Sergt Stock, R.E., as well as to the ladies who prepared the "eats" for us.

We Observe.—That for the second month in succession an ex-Bermudian has appeared in a photograph in THE WIRE. The "tash" failed to deceive us: we would recognise him in anything. We also notice Stan, complete with ukelele, soft cap and muddy slacks. It has been suggested that he may have walked from Lewes in those slacks. Did you, Stan?

To 4th Coy. C.C. of S., Montreal.—Many thanks for the copy of "Iddy-Umpty," received by the Foreman-of-Signals this month. Yes, we also read the poetry (?). We are delighted to learn that the editor enjoyed his short visit to us. If any members of your Company are on vacation this way, we shall be very pleased if they will call on us.

To Max of Sialkot.—Reference your concluding paragraph in the November WIRE. On an island where food is 1s. 6d. per bottle, your tips would be invaluable. The Section as a whole accept your offer. Our address is at the top of these notes.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

December 13th.

Greetings.—The many greetings and good wishes received from other Signals units at home and abroad (for which we thank them heartily) remind us that there are such things as *the* Corps and *the* Corps Journal. Although taking every interest in the doings of the Corps, we have failed for the past three years to give the Corps the doings of ourselves, but we trust that everybody will have a happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

The following constitute the Section: Capt J. C. McDonald, M.C., Chief Signal Officer and commanding Signal Section; Q.M.S. McIntosh, R.A., Foreman-of-Signals; Sergt Hart C., section sergeant; L/Sergts Diamond G. and Wilkins T. W.; Corporals Warren W. and Hitchin E.; L/Corpls Panting J. S., Webb D. W., and Poulton G.; Signalmen Bone E. W., Burton F. W. H., Collins E. W., Fletcher W. M., Gresham J. W., Hicks F. H., Lee T. V., Lowings C. H., Marsh A. T., McCallum P. J., Parkin J., Parry C., Prater H. E., Smith E. B., Saunders W. H., and Wood J. W.; Dvr O'Keefe P. W.

Those Boats (or ships that pass in the night).—After numerous "sure things" (straight from the War Office and overheard at H.Q., etc.) sailing on various dates between June and September, 1927, we can now definitely state that the undermentioned leave us for the U.K. on or about February 5th next: Corpl Hitchin E., L/Corpl Poulton G. and Signalmen Gresham W. J. and Wood J. W., tour expired: Signalmen Fletcher W. M. and Lee T. V., for transfer to the Reserve.

Appointment.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Wilkins T. W. on attaining that rank.

Birth.—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Wilkins, a son (Peter Thomas William) on 23/11/27.

Certificates of Education.—Congratulations to the undermentioned on obtaining the certificates shown: 1st, Signalman Fletcher W. M. (distinguished in English and mathematics) and L/Sergt Diamond G. (distinguished in map reading and geography); 2nd, Signalmen Burton F. W. H. and Lowings C. H.

Medals.—Congratulations to Sergt Hart C. on being awarded the long service and good conduct medal.

CALPE.

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta,
December 11th.

General.—I am sorry to say that we are very short of notes this month, owing to everything being so quiet. Herewith, however, a few items—which is better than nothing at all.

Education.—Congratulations to Corpl Davies C. M. on obtaining his special. Well done, Marmaduke.

The Football Team

Arrivals.—We welcome the following from the U.K.: Signalmen Dunn, Baker, Green and Stretch, on November 29th. May their stay among us be a long and enjoyable one. They have already been shown round the most interesting places.

Departures.—We shall say farewell to the undermentioned on their departure for the United Kingdom, per H.M.T. "Somersetshire," on December 17th: Signalmen Alexander, Burgess and Crowe (at last that ukelele has gone). We trust that they will arrive safely in that land of snow and rain (nothing said about Catterick).

NUTTY.

2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1.

As Christmas will have been passed and the New Year entered on before we make our next contribution, it is incumbent on us to wish all our friends "A very happy Christmas and the very best possible of New Years"—which we hereby do, and trust that all readers of THE WIRE will take these wishes as personal to themselves.

I was about to write that little or nothing of note has taken place since our last effort, but this sweeping statement would have been wide of the truth.

After having been with the regiment since it was re-formed in 1920, our adjutant Major Gay, having more than completed the allotted span of time, has left us. The task of making what might be described as a real yeomanry regiment into an efficient unit of the Royal Corps of Signals was somewhat of a herculean task, and one requiring the greatest possible exercise of tact and diplomacy. The reports obtained by the regiment and the practical results show how thoroughly this difficult job was done, and we were more than fortunate in being able to retain the good services of Major Gay for so long. We all join in wishing him the best that life can give in his future activities, and trust that he will be able to spare a little time to come and look at us now and again. That he will always be a welcome visitor goes without saying. (The sergeants' mess is always open, and there is "Welcome" on the mat.)

To Major Gay's successor, Capt E. V. F. MacSwiney, we offer both a welcome and hearty congratulations. We welcome him as our adjutant; and we congratulate him heartily on the birth of a son (Hugh Francis) as recently as December 6th.

To follow in the footsteps of a highly successful man is always a difficult task, and our adjutant will not, we are sure, underrate the task that lies ahead of him. In that task he will have the absolute and undivided support of the n.c.o.s and men of the regiment. We are one and all out to see that the present unit is in every way worthy of the splendid reputation for efficiency and keenness won by our forbears, and to ensure that the famous traditions of the Middlesex Yeomanry are properly observed by their successors, the 2nd Cavalry Divl Signals—and actuated with this spirit, we can face the future with complete confidence. Deeds always speak louder than words, and here again we can with complete security leave the future to take care of itself.

26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1.

This monthly "Epistle to the Heathens" (or is it Ephesians?—I never was up in that stuff) is getting me down. Yes, dears, your uncle has to confess that the strain of present-day affairs is telling upon him, and there will soon be silver hairs among the gold, to say nothing of the nervous strain upon the system. But enough of this tomfoolery—I have just thought of something which might interest you.

The other Sunday we had an air-line competition between the two Companies for the air-line cup (a truly handsome trophy). Perhaps I had better say that we had *two* competitions, one on Wimbledon Common and another in the sergeants' mess when we returned. I understand that the second was far more exciting than the first.

You know what these post-mortem affairs are! Everybody has his own opinion of everyone else's efforts, and they go over the thing bay by bay, beer by beer. They put up thirteen poles and put down thirteen pints. The conversation goes something like this: "That's all very well, but if so-and-so hadn't shifted the flag," and "If No. 1 had been No. 10, and Nos. 2 and 3 had been Nos. 6 and 7, No. 5 would have to be No. 4, and *that* would have been alright."

The weather was fair for the time of the year, and there was no rain. The 27th Company turned out two men short, and had to recruit an officer and a sergeant to complete their number—not at all a bad idea! But in spite of this very distinguished assistance they lost! It was a very close thing, and the standard of efficiency was very high.

These notes would not be complete without a word of congratulation to Capt Rogers, our adjutant, who joined the band of harassed fathers on November 28th. The young lady, tipping the scales at 7lbs. 12oz., is said to be the image of her father, but she will no doubt soon grow out of that! We shall be pleased to welcome Elizabeth Dawn Dundas to our children's party in January.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

The prize distribution was a tremendous success, and all who assisted in its organisation are to be congratulated.

A perambulator wheel and some clock springs leave the majority of us cold, but to Sergeants Kingman and Whittington they represent the crowning touch of a perfect prize giving. From these they manufactured a rotary switch to control the illumination of their much-admired Corps badge mounted on the balcony. Unfortunately the switch was not quite rotary enough, but our two artistes have not given up hope. If the lights in the district grow dim to the accompaniment of rasping noises, we shall know that Sergeants Kingman and Whittington are perfecting their infernal machine for next year.

Trade training begins in January, and it is to be hoped that the classes will be well supported, so that when the Trade Boards begin they will be overwhelmed by the crowds wishing to secure higher ratings.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

It is not easy to settle down to WIRE notes with so much Christmassy feeling about! Fortunately, however, for my friends' sake, I haven't the feelings of Old Scrooge when he said, "If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."

Christmas cards from other units are beginning to roll in at our headquarters, and the messages from our many friends—especially from those in the Royal Corps—always give us pleasant thoughts. No, there's no Scrooge about us!

By the time these odds and ends of notes see daylight in the January WIRE, we shall be full of the old greeting, "A happy New Year," and I don't think the greeting could be better conveyed than in these words of Dickens—"So may the New Year be a happy one to you, and happy to many more whose happiness depends on you!" I like the latter portion, because we do not, perhaps, at all times realise the position of those whose happiness depends upon ourselves. However, I suppose we shall do our best!

The best thanks of the unit are again accorded to our Honorary Colonel (Col. H. T. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O.) for his kindly thought and message at Christmas, as well as to our C.O., Lieut.-Col. W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C.

We are extremely glad to learn that Lieut.-Col. Michelmore's period of command has been extended by the War Office until February, 1929. He can count on our loyal support being continued.

During the present month (December) No. 3 Company have held their sectional dinners. On the 3rd, at Plymouth, a good company under Capt. P. A. Harris (officer in charge Plymouth Section) "did themselves proud," whilst on the following Saturday, the 10th, the Topsham boys followed Plymouth's example and spent a down-right good evening under the chairmanship of that excellent host, Capt R. C. A. Cummings, O.B.E. (O.C. No. 3 Company).

I wonder why Topsham followed Plymouth? Surely the ancient port should lead the way, as it has always done! Topsham men—*some* men they are, and tough nuts to argue with—proudly assert that Topsham was a going concern, a hive of industry with a busy jetty, long before Drake went west, and long before he played his famous game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe preparatory to mopping up the Spaniards. I must not, however, say anything which would lead the rival towns to mobilize and declare a state of war—I am all for peace!

Both functions were successful. Last year the whole Company dined at Topsham; and no doubt it was a wise plan to have the Company dinner in two parts this year. You see, several had two dinners! Apart from this, it saved the Plymouth men a long journey, and it's not nice to lose one's way on a dark December night!

Change of Command.—Capt. A. Grist, M.C., O.C. No. 2 Coy. (Southampton) who has retired on reaching the age limit, has been succeeded by Capt R. A. E. Blake. Capt Grist, who has skippered No. 2 since its formation, departs with our kindliest wishes.

OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

During this period of the year events slacken in the life of the T.A. soldier; hence the lack of notes last month. (Thanks to No. 2 Company for filling the breach!)

Notes for this month are chiefly devoted to entertainments. Although it is rather late (we have all been so busy), perhaps No. 2 Company would like to know what we have been doing in the way of amusing ourselves.

The first dance of the season took place on October 22nd, and although it was a success socially, we should have liked to have seen a few more unit members present.

On November 5th the usual Armistice carnival was held, which to all was a very enjoyable evening.

Annual Dinner.—This was held on December 3rd, and (like most of the things we do) was a great success. Capt Coleman was in the chair, supported by Capt. Firth, Major Keogh, Capt Hoare, Lieuts Thomas, List, Gilbert and Harris.

The rations went like magic, especially the cheese and biscuits (now then, Charlie, what about haversack rations? By the way, did he really appreciate the presentation?)

Capt Coleman proposed the loyal toast, whilst Major Keogh gave the toast of the unit in a very witty speech. In reply, C.S.M. Geere made free to say that he was nervous, though this is the first time we have noticed such symptoms. Sergt Hosbach (Con) then rose and proposed the health of the P.S., which was replied to by Capt Firth as adjutant.

The C.O. then took the opportunity to present the medals for the Justices' shield and the Crump cup, the recipients being greeted with much applause. A very enjoyable evening came to a close with a show by the Four Aces concert party.

Next month I hope to give a report of the children's Christmas party.

Sergeants' Mess.—On Saturday, December 10th, a social evening was held in the mess, a very enjoyable evening being spent. Our friends in No. 2 Company will be pleased to hear that Con did not give "The Green Eye," etc., but he had a good try; at any rate, the people at the back did not keep moving up and down.

It is hoped that a few more of these evenings will be held, as there is no doubt that everybody has a good time.

We take this opportunity of wishing Bob and all our friends in No. 2 Company all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Heard in the Sergeants' Mess: "Hi! what do you think of this, Bill?" Bill: "Did you get one as well?"

G. E. W.

47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, S.W., Dec. 13th.

We wish all members of the Corps all that they wish themselves for the New Year, and trust they all had a very merry Christmas.

General.—We started our training season with an n.c.o.s course. This was fairly well attended, but several found it difficult to turn up twice a week owing to shift work at the Post Office. We have just gone through the first part of "spring cleaning" the unit. All ranks who have not fulfilled their obligations are being dismissed under various paras. of T.A. Regulations. We are of opinion in this unit that if a man volunteers to do a job, he has to see it through or get out.

Attestations!—We welcome Major H. L. Howard, M.C., as second-in-command vice Major H. King, T.D., who has gone on the Reserve. Major Howard will be better known to many members of the Corps as the late commanding officer of the 56th Divl Signals. When his tenure of command expired he immediately joined the Artist Rifles as a private, was later promoted sergeant of the signalling section, and has now come to us. We hope that all ranks copy this spirit and keenness.

We welcome Mr. J. Campbell as our new R.Q.M.S. and caretaker. He will be known to many of the Corps as late C.Q.M.S. 3rd Divl Signals. We hope he will be with us for a long time, and that his stay will be happy.

Lastly we welcome Sergt Peachey R. M. (late 4th Divisional Signals) who has joined our P.S. We sincerely hope that he will have a good time whilst with us, and that he will eventually look back on his time with the Terriers as one of the most pleasant of his life.

Adieu!—C.S.M. Dormon T. leaves us on the 14th inst. for civvy street. He has been with this unit for many years as a Territorial, and later came on the P.S. We are very sorry to lose his cheery face, and all ranks wish him the very best of luck. I understand that he thinks of becoming a motor magnate or a detective, or else going to the dogs. We know that whichever he decides, he will do well at it. He always was thorough (read this how you like)! Anyway, we hope to see him from time to time at these headquarters.

1st Divisional Signals.—A party of n.c.o.s came to London on November 12th and visited our w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess. The latter wish to apologise for the absence of many of our members, which was due to short notice of the visit. Many of our n.c.o.s are Post Office men on shift work, and in consequence could not get off. However, we are going to camp at Aldershot in July, so we shall endeavour to compensate you then. The Bishop will require all his spare clothing.

New Building.—Since the year dot, we have talked about the new building. In other words, we have been told that some day a fairy god-mother or father was going to enlarge and rebuild a part of our headquarters. We understand that this is about to take place, early in the spring. We will say nothing

more about it at the moment, but if it happens, we are going to be "some" unit.

LEMJAY.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Darlington.

Annual Dinner.—The annual dinner of the unit was held at the Hotel Imperial, Darlington, on Wednesday, December 7th, and all officers of the unit attended.

The chief guests of the evening were Major-General Sir G. N. Cory, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., commanding 50th (N.) Div. T.A., and Colonel H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Commandant Signal Training Centre, Catterick. Other guests present included Col. D. Hey, M.C., T.D. (Deputy-C.S.O. Northern Command), Lieut.-Colonel H. Bowes, T.D., D.L. (secretary, Durham County Territorial Army Association), Majors F. C. Bedwell, M.C., and Calderwood, M.C. (late R.E.), Captains F. W. Hird, M.C., Stevenson Wright, D. A. L. Wade, M.C., R.Signals, and Lieuts K. E. Holmes, R.Signals, and R. H. Copeland, R.Signals. The two latter officers, from Catterick Camp, were attached to the unit for manœuvres at Shorncliffe during this year's summer training.

Annual Training at Shorncliffe, Kent.

Continued from December issue.

G.O.C.-in-C.'s Inspection.—Thursday, September 15th, was a red-letter day in the history of the unit, for in the morning we were inspected on parade by the G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert D. Whigham, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who was accompanied by Lieut.-General Sir Percy Radcliffe, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. 4th Division, and members of the staff, including Colonel H. A. Vernon, D.S.O.

In the evening we had a guest night in the officers' mess, when we had the honour of entertaining to dinner the Divl. Commander, Lieut.-General Sir Percy Radcliffe and eight members of his staff, including the C.R.A. (Colonel A. B. Forman, C.M.G. D.S.O.), the A.Q.M.G. (Colonel E. G. L. Thurlow, D.S.O.), Major A. G. J. Copeland, R.Signals, and Major H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., R.Signals (G.S.O. 2).

We were very proud of our mess secretary, Lieut. Middleton, that night, for he put up an eight-course dinner, excellently cooked, all of which had been prepared in an open-air kitchen in the rain.

Brevet-Colonel D. Hey, M.C., T.D. (Assistant C.S.O. Northern Command) came to visit us on Thursday and stayed with us overnight in camp.

Night Operations.—At mid-day on Friday we left camp for the "pièce de resistance" of our first week's training, a night operation extending into Saturday morning, and this operation was the most complicated the unit has yet undertaken.

The exercise consisted of a "peace march" out to a bivouac about seventeen miles from camp, at which place the main column arrived about 8 p.m.

The bivouac was to be struck at 1 a.m., and the column assembled in the road in specified order, ready to move off at 1.45 a.m.

The idea was that we were the "Signals" of a force marching on Shorncliffe, which was advancing prior to deployment down two parallel roads. The unit was divided into two columns—a main column marching down the principal road, and a subsidiary column on a parallel road on the left flank.

The C.O. acted as G.S.O.1, marching at the head of No. 1 (the main) Column. Communication for No. 1 Column was provided by Signal centres whilst the column was on the move, messages being passed back by means of cyclists.

The only means No. 2 Column had of communicating with these Signal centres was by mounted D.R.s, attached to the column. These D.R.s had to find their way across country (which they had never seen before) from the parallel road in the dark and deliver any messages they had to the Signal centres.

The Adjutant acted as G.S.O.2 with imaginary forward troops, handing in tactical messages which the C.O. (as G.S.O.1) acted upon.

Each column found its way without mishap down its respective appointed route. At 5 a.m. No. 1 Column reached the most forward Signal centre, and at this stage deployment orders were given. The forward Signal centre became advanced Divisional Headquarters, and a Report centre was to be opened at a point six miles ahead. Lines were laid to this point by alternate routes, and wireless communication was speedily established.

A heavy downpour of rain had commenced at dawn, and orders to reel in and return to camp were given at 10 o'clock. The unit arrived back in camp about 2 p.m., wet through, to learn with regret that owing to the persistence of the extremely inclement weather, the 4th Division manœuvres for the following week had been cancelled.

Manœuvres Cancelled.—This was a great disappointment to us, in view of all the work which had been put in during the summer in preparation; but considering the appalling weather which we continually experienced in the succeeding week, it was perhaps just as well. This stage of the unit's training was further commented on in *The Times* of September 19th.

The next day, Sunday, September 18th, we moved into huts belonging to the War Office School of Education at Shorncliffe, where very comfortable quarters were found for us, and our thanks are due to them.

The second week was usefully spent in inter-Company schemes, inspection parades, conferences, etc.

On Tuesday, September 20th, the unit was again visited by Colonel H. A. Vernon, D.S.O., C.S.O. Eastern Command, who witnessed two Company schemes.

The following day we were honoured by a visit from Colonel E. V. Turner, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., senior Signal Officer at the War Office, accompanied by Colonel Vernon.

On Thursday, September 22nd, we received a visit from Lieut.-Colonel H. A. B. Salmond, R.Signals, C.S.O. Northern Command.

We entrained the 4th Division horses and wagons on Friday, and checked stores. On Saturday evening we entrained for home.

* * * * *

Our camp, to which we had all looked forward so much, was over, and we had unfortunately not been put to the vital test we had hoped for. Nevertheless, the experience we gained was invaluable, and we hope we did a little not only to maintain but to ennance the reputation of the Territorial Army with the Regulars. Such, at any rate, was the "objective" of the unit. Whether it was attained or not is for the senior officers, who inspected us and watched our work, to say. That their verdict may be favourable, and further, that circumstances may give us a similar opportunity in 1928, is the sincere wish of all officers, n.c.o.s and men of the unit.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

Fonthill Barracks, December 13th.

"A merry Christmas" to everyone in general and to the 1st Divl Signals in particular. We hope they will spend a pleasant Christmas and have lots of nuts. Should this greeting happen to catch the eye of the immortal Jimmy Hadfield, it will perhaps give him pleasure to know that we in Aberdeen often think about him at Christmas-time. He was such a good sort at the children's party. We will drink your health at the "Holburn," Jimmy; and by the way, James, "Oh, blimey, ain't it cold!"

A shooting competition was held on December 24th (sergeants versus officers) and I intend giving the scores herewith. . . . what's that! . . . Oh sorry, as bad as that. . . . pity: as I intended filling up quite a decent space with the scores, but if you say. . . . anyhow, the sergeants won. A smoking concert was held afterwards in the sergeants' mess, which was attended by Lieut.-Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C. and all officers. Old Bill actually got leave to tell his story without accompaniments, which was a great pity, as he will never tell it again; and it is feared that Dod may get out of practice with his blower.

It is with sincere regret that we learn of C.S.M. Haines' retirement. It is now a matter of six years since he first came amongst us, and during that time he has won the greatest respect from all who came in contact with him. However, Jack, you know there is no truth in the song re the old soldiers never dying. We trust his retirement will only be a temporary one, and that some other T.A. unit will get the benefit of his long experience. Besides, Jack, you could swear at the Sussex lads in Scotch and they would be no wiser, which would be to the advantage of all parties. This is worthy of long consideration, J. H. H.

Everything is now more or less fixed up for the kiddies' treat, which takes place on the 17th of this month. Full details will be given in the next issue.

Our first dance of the season took place on the 9th inst., and was a huge success. Capt. T. P. E. Murray and all officers were present, and it is hoped they spent a pleasant evening. The arrangements were in the hands of a very capable committee under Sergt Cummings. The music supplied by the Academy band, under the baton of Mr. C. Farquhar, contributed largely to the dance going off in such a splendid manner.

SMUDGE.

No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

General.—Our social season has commenced, and the first whist drive was an unqualified success. We don't intend flying too high this season, however, as numerous counter-attractions force us to curtail our activities in this direction.

The rifle team has made a good beginning, winning their first match handsomely. More wins like this will warm the heart of the father of the team. Sergt Turnbull G. R. is to be congratulated on the efficiency of the team. He puts in a tremendous amount of hard work.

Congratulations to R.S.M. Andrews on his having been granted a year's extension. It is very pleasant to know that he will be with the Company at our next camp.

This pleasure is, however, mingled with regret. Our P.S. instructor, C.S.M. Haines, leaves us on January 23rd, and to say his departure will be regretted by all ranks is to say the least. During his service with us Jack has made hosts of friends, and the Company as a whole will deplore his retirement. The best wishes of all and sundry go with him. The best of luck, old man! and to burlesque, "They love him most who know him best." The Company will be hardly recognisable at our next camp if the threatened departure is carried out.

Training.—Our paid courses are going ahead full speed, and a great endeavour is being made to rope in some likely youths to bring the Company up to strength.

ROCK.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, December 13th.

By the time these notes appear, Christmas will be over and Santa Claus will have once more paid his annual visit to the drill hall to delight the children, who are already anxiously enquiring about him. Next month there will be more to say about him.

The annual dinner of the w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess—"*the* event of the year," as one speaker put it—was held at the "Carlton," Queen Street, on December 10th, under the chairmanship of R.S.M. Pease B., D.C.M. After an excellent dinner, the usual toasts were proposed and responded to. The C.O. and Adjutant, despite the handicaps of heads and eyes, and the presence of the waitresses who would *not* go out, kept us amused; and the C.O.'s last story was excellent. The speech of our guest, Major Holt (Inspecting Quartermaster of the Territorial Association), in replying to the toast of "Our Guests," was greatly appreciated by everyone present. Modesty forbids our repeating the nice things he said of us.

A presentation to ex-C.Q.M.S. Williams, one of the old stalwarts, was made by C.S.M. Middleton on behalf of the n.c.o.s mess; and on the principle that all quarter-blokes have earned "time," it took the form of a clock!

With January will come the revival of training. No. 3 Coy. have a progressive 36-hour course spread over January and February, whilst all three Companies will have week-end courses at intervals. Also, under an instructor from the Western Command Signal Company, a course in wireless telegraphy for n.c.o.s will be held from 14th to 23rd January.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

We took part in the local inter-unit boxing competition at the headquarters of the 6th Battn. Essex Regiment on November 18th, and after a hard tussle we managed to win the cup for the second year in succession. The competition was between the R.A. Stratford, 54th (E.A.) Divl Signals, 6th Battn. Essex Regt. and 17th Battn. London Regt. Our finalists are to be congratulated on their magnificent show. It is hoped that they will keep it up and bring more pots to us in the near future. Results of this competition will be found under Sports Notes.

A regimental dance was held at the Town Hall, Stratford, on November 30th, at which about 250 were present. Among the guests we were pleased to see Colonel H. Jolly, T.D., R.A., Col. A. S. Angwin, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. (D.C.S.O. Eastern Command), Captain E. A. E. Tremlett, R.A., Lieut. C. F. Masters, 5th Battn. East Surrey Regt., and the Mayor and Mayoress of West Ham, Alderman and Mrs. Streimer. An exceptionally pleasant evening was spent. That old favourite the Grand March and Lancers was danced, and the officers in their mess kits added a very pleasant touch of colour, which made all the difference. Many thanks are due to C.S.M. Hooper and his committee for producing such a grand affair.

A whist drive was held at headquarters on November 24th. The numbers attending were not quite up to expectation, but this was probably due to the bad weather. However, a comfortable little party sat down and enjoyed themselves. The prize-winners were Miss Parker, Mrs. Hayden, Sigmn Daly, Mrs. E. Lilley, Miss N. Jay, Mr. W. Coffey, and Mrs. G. Torrington. Miss Jay pulled off a double, as she also won the bottle of port which was raffled at the end of the drive.

Our next drive will be held this evening (15th Dec.), the profits to be given in aid of the children's Christmas party.

The Stratford Companies have each held their annual dinner—No. 2 at the Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate Street, on Nov. 19th, and No. 1 at the Princess Alice Hotel, Forest Gate, on December 10th. Both were very pleasant affairs and thoroughly enjoyed.

We have heard on good authority that we are to be tried out as to our ability to function in the field as Divl Signals. The Divisional Commander is to hold a skeleton Division exercise during Whitsun, and we are to provide and maintain all communications. This will be a supreme test of our efficiency, and it behoves all ranks, from the last-joined boys to the seniors, to put their backs into it and soak up all the instruction they can during the few months before Whitsun, and thus maintain the good reputation of the unit. Much is expected of us, but the 54th have always been there on the word "fix."

Y. E. D.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

Calthorpe Street, London, W.C.1.

By the time these notes appear in print the Christmas season will be but a memory. When writing my last notes I omitted to extend to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals, at home and abroad, our best wishes for their happiness, so I take this opportunity of expressing the hope that Christmas 1927 has proved an enjoyable one, and that the coming year will be a prosperous one for the Signals both individually and as a Corps.

On Tuesday, November 22nd, the unit held its first annual regimental dinner at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge. After the dinner, our commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. H. F. Fox, T.D., A.M.I.M.E., A.M.I.C.E., presented the cups and prizes which had been won during the year. The trophies presented an imposing sight as they stood on a table awaiting distribution, and were voted by all a fitting reward for success gained in what was undoubtedly a very keen competition.

The general efficiency cup was won by No. 2 Company, who also won the football cup—this for the third successive year. No. 3 Company were presented with a cup which had been won by them in 1925: the Waley-Cohen cup, presented for the highest percentage of successes in the trade board examinations.

At the conclusion of the prize distribution, we enjoyed an excellent musical programme which brought to a close a memorable evening—one which we hope will prove the forerunner of many others like it.

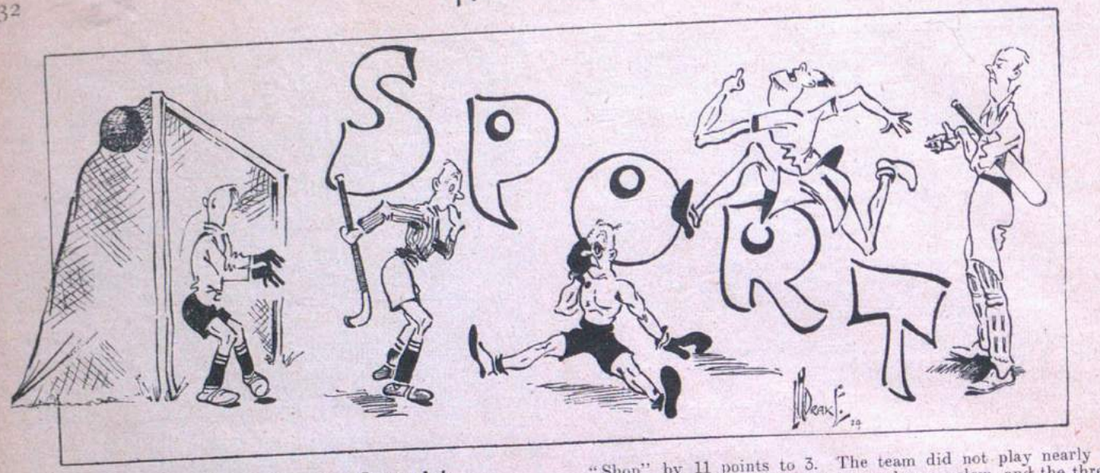
Headquarters will close from December 15th until February, when it is hoped that members will attend in good numbers. Don't forget that drills count towards the efficiency cup!

The unit will be divided at annual training, as No. 2 Company are due to join the Divl Artillery. Now then, No. 2, roll up regularly to drills, so that we can demonstrate to the Gunners what a really efficient arm of the Service the Signals are.

Football.—The unit football team is competing in the Clapton and District League, and it is whispered that to win the league championship is by no means an impossible task. We are at present highly optimistic.

Billiards.—In the first round of the inter-Company billiards tournament, No. 2 Company beat No. 1. C.S.M. Campbell (No. 2) beat C.Q.M.S. Smiles (No. 1), and L/Corpl Rokes (No. 2) beat Sergt Lloyd (No. 1).

This Month's Query.—Who is the composer of the "Cable Section's Anthem," and will he allow me to publish that most brilliant work in a future number of THE WIRE? ADSUM.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Rugby Notes.

Signals (Catterick) v. 9th Battalion D.L.I.—Played on Nov. 12th on Scotton ground. The D.L.I. had only been beaten (8—5) by Gateshead Fell, with whom we had drawn at the beginning of the season, so a good game was expected; but greatly improved form by the whole team enabled us to win by 27 points to nil. The forwards, after a poor beginning, controlled the scrums, and so our backs were able to get going. One try was a beauty, scored after inter-passing between Lieuts Good and Bradford. Boy Kerr, who is only just 16 years of age, played splendidly at scrum half and got the ball out well to his three-quarters; for his first appearance in an important match, he put up a very impressive performance.

Signals (Catterick) "A" XV. lost on the same day to the 4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps by 17 points to nil. The ground was very heavy,and consequently the game was of a scrambling nature. The Tanks were better forward and at centre three-quarter. Corpl Jones and Sigmn Barnett alone shone for Signals.

The "Imps" (Boys and ex-Boys) v. R.A.F. Catterick.—Played on Scotton ground, resulting in a win for the R.A.F. by one try to nil. The return match was played a fortnight later on the R.A.F. ground, and this time the Imps won by 12—0.

The "Imps" v. Richmond Crammar School.—Played on Scotton ground, which was very heavy. There was no score at half-time. However, with the threat of no tea and no Christmas leave, etc., the Imps made a splendid forward rush and scored a try in the first minute of the second half, and this being the only score, they won by 3 points to nil.

Signals (Catterick) v. Darlington.—Played at Darlington on November 19th, two days before the Corps match v. the R.E. Consequently ten Corps players and reserves were not included in the team, which lost by 8 points to 9. This more or less second fifteen put up a very good game.

Royal Engineers v. Royal Corps of Signals.—Played at Aldershot on November 21st. Our forwards took the ball straight away to the R.E. line and 2/Lieut Wintle very nearly scored in the first minute. Gradually, however, the R.E. forwards controlled the scrums and heeled the ball five times out of six. The tackling of our outsides was splendid, and the Engineer three-quafters could not make much headway. There was no score at half-time.

A slight re-arrangement in the scrum in the second half enabled our forwards to heel the ball very often. We kept the game in the R.E. half, and one run by the halves and three-quarters should have resulted in a try, but (with only the full back to beat) one of our outsides elected to kick over the back's head instead of diving for the line. Unfortunately, directly afterwards, Lieut G. J. Bryan scored for the R.E., which proved to be the only score of the match, so the R.E. won a splendid and well-contested game by one try to nil.

Royal Corps of Signals v. The R.M.A. (Woolwich).—Played at Woolwich on November 23rd, and resulted in a win for the "Shop" by 11 points to 3. The team did not play nearly so well as against the R.E.; the forwards were slow, and the three-quarters took their passes standing still. The Shop scored after twenty-three minutes' play by a centre three-quarter cutting in. Soon afterwards they scored again in the corner, and led at half-time by 8 points to nil.

Lieut Hardy ended up a brilliant run by scoring a try ten minutes on in the second half. The R.M.A. pressed after this, and as one of our forwards got offside, they scored a penalty goal. The Corps team rallied and looked like scoring on several occasions towards the end of the game, but the Shop defence was good and they won as stated above.

Small Boys' XV. v. Richmond Crammar School.—The School pressed and led at half-time by 9 points to 3. The boys, however, got going, and Kerr scored a try which was not converted. The School continued to press and nearly scored on three or four occasions. Just half-a-minute from time Boy Hilliar (wing three-quarter) secured the ball in his own "25" and, side-stepping several opponents, put on real pace to score behind the posts, amid frantic cheers from the spectators. Unfortunately the place kick hit the post, but a forlorn hope was pulled out of the fire, the result being 9 points each.

The match will long be remembered as "Hilliar's match," as his run was a really magnificent effort for a boy who has only just started to play rugby.

Training Battalion v. Darlington Railway.—Played at Darlington, and won by Darlington Railway by 8 points to 4. The T.B. played their worst game of the season, and for some reason or other never got going. Unfortunately, Boy Kerr was badly kicked above the eye during the first five minutes and took no further part in the game, two stitches being necessary. In the second half the forwards improved, but not one of the outsides could hold a pass or give one. Lieut Tucker dropped a good goal, and several times we looked like scoring, but it was always a case of "so near and yet so far."

Training Battalion v. Northallerton.—Played at Catterick, resulting in a win for T.B. by 53 points to nil. Northallerton arrived three short and were lent Boys Horne, Marchant and Barlow, who were by no means the worst players on their side.

The T.B. team, determined to wipe out their display of the previous week, played brilliant football and scored at the rate of a point a minute, twenty-five minutes only being played each way. After this display our spirits revived, and we again hoped to reach the fourth round of the Army cup by defeating the West Yorkshire Regiment.

3rd Round Army Cup.—Training Battalion v. 1st Battn. West Yorkshire Regiment.—The West Yorks came over from Holywood (N. Ireland) on December 8th, and after one of the best games ever seen at Catterick, the Training Battalion won by a goal and a try (8 points) to a try (3 points).

Play had only been in progress for about three minutes when L/Corpl Murphy, with a determined run, scored in the corner. Shortly afterwards the West Yorks pressed and scored a very good try, and the teams crossed over with three points each.

The T.B. pressed practically the whole of the second half. Boy Sadler, with a very clever dribble, took the ball from about half way; the West Yorks full back went down on the ball, which became loose; and Corpl Jones dived over with a try, which Lieut Lewis converted with an excellent kick.

The T.B. forward line, which included four Corps players (Capt Owens, Lieut Lewis, Sergt Squirrell, and Boy Sadler) was splendid, and more than held the fine pack which the West Yorks were known to possess.

The T.B. now try conclusions, after Christmas, with the South Wales Borderers, the winners of the Army cup for the last three seasons. Victory we can hardly hope for, but one thing we can promise is that the S.W.B.s will be given a jolly hard game and will know that they have been playing rugby—and miracles *have* happened!

Rugby players in Catterick are delighted with the excellent performances of Aldershot Signals and 3rd Divl Signals in the Army cup. Slowly and surely rugby is being built up in the Corps, and it only requires real keenness in all ranks in all units to ensure that the name of the Corps at rugger will be as famous as it is in boxing, athletics, cross-country, etc.

The results of the matches played by the Corps team—bearing in mind the strength of the opposition—were most satisfactory. In the absence of trial matches the composition of the Corps team must always be open to criticism. The policy adopted this season was to draw only from Aldershot and Catterick (except in the case of Sigmn Harbury, of Rhine Signals), where the known best players are stationed, instead of from Bulford, York, Edinburgh, Colchester, etc., etc. Consequently we had more or less a "team" to represent the Corps. The policy was certainly justified by results. Perhaps in the future it may be possible to arrange one or two trial matches which can be attended by a small selection committee.

Cross-Country.—Cross-country running still holds its place among the sports at the Signal Training Centre, and although we have lost several of last year's team—among them L/Corporals Richardson and Ivison—we have found several promising runners to fill the gap, of whom Sergt Curtis (of the Rifle Brigade, now attached to the School of Signals) is our greatest acquisition. We also have some promising young runners in Signalmen Stirk, Handley, and Fraser, and the team is quite up to the high standard of former years.

At Darlington, on Saturday, November 19th, Darlington Harriers entertained the Signals in an inter-club run, starting and finishing at the Darlington Club headquarters. Sergt Cotterell, L/Corpl Broadley, Sergt Curtis, and H. Wilson (Darlington) set a fast pace, and these four, running abreast, soon opened a gap. At the half distance Sergt Cotterell and L/Corpl Broadley broke away from the field and won as they liked. Sergt Curtis was third, and the result was: Royal Signals (Catterick) 37 points; Darlington Harriers, 41.

We entered a team for the Clive Cookson cup (which we won in 1925) at North Shields on November 26th. The course was one of 5½ miles and in excellent condition, whilst the weather was cold and dry. Our first three, Sergt Cotterell, L/Corporal Broadley, and Sergt Curtis, ran excellently, but a large gap occurred after this, into which the winners were able to put their six men. The first three men home were inside the previous record time for the race, 26mins. 45secs.

Thirteen teams, toalling 135 runners, took part, and the times and order were as follows: 1, Sergt Cotterell (R.Signals), 26min. 15 2/5secs.; 2, H. Burns (Elswick Harriers) 26min. 35secs.; 3, L/Corpl Broadley (R.Signals) 26min. 43secs.

Team placings: 1, Heaton Harriers "A," 94 points; 2, Saltwell Harriers, 133; 3, Royal Signals (Catterick) 144 (1, 3, 9, 36, 47, 48).

Inter-Company League.—F Company remains undefeated, but there is strong competition for second place. The big turn-outs and the high percentage of finishes speak well for the keenness displayed by all, and I feel sure that we are going to have a big say in the Command and Army championships. Results:—

3rd Inter-Company Run.—15th November. Four miles on the road. 1, F Coy. 373 points; 2, Mounted Wing 484; 3, School of Signals 606; 4, E Coy. 677; 5, D Coy. 688; 6, Dismounted Wing 878.

4th Inter-Company Run.—29th November. Five miles cross-country. 1, F Coy. 374 points; 2, Mounted Wing 442; 3, School of Signals 474; 4, D Coy. 571; 5, E Coy. 654.

Present positions: 1, F Coy. 24 points; 2, School of Signals 15; 3, D Coy. and Mounted Wing 14; 5, E Coy. 10; 6, Dismounted Wing 6.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Hockey.—Loud cheers! The Wing has won a match! Ordinarily this would not be a matter for swank, but our opponents were from the redoubtable F Company.

The ground was in a very heavy condition, which might to a certain extent have accounted for the win. The opposition, led by Major Cobb, could not keep their feet in the ring, though the boys played remarkably well. F opened the score. Then the Wing came to its senses, and Dvr Conroy retaliated with a goal which was disallowed. This was somewhat disheartening, but two more goals by the same player shed a more rosy light on the game from our point of view. The second half proved much the same as the first, except that our score was added to by only one goal from the stick of Sigmn Staples. Final score: Mounted Wing 3; F Company 1.

Wanted.—Any player who knows, or thinks he knows, how to referee a hockey match. Non-player preferred.

Rugby.—We played E Company on November 30th, and beat them by 9—3. The juniors beat E Company juniors by 23—0. Our second string is coming along in leaps and bounds, and we hope to see them near the top of the league at the close of the season.

Boxing.—In the juniors we are not exactly holding our own, and young members are not progressing as hoped for. We still have very good men among them, but the extra experience required is not forthcoming at this time of the year. By the next novices' championships they will be better prepared to beat all comers in that competition.

The seniors are looking forward to their league commencing. L/Corpl Howard has been fighting for the Army at Cardiff and Aldershot. We are unable at present to say how he fared. At Cardiff he was fighting against the Welsh boxers. We hope he will keep in training and bring back to the Wing one of the Army championships.

Running.—In the fourth run we were second to F Company, with the School third. In the fifth run we fared badly, owing to some of the team being ill and others away. Dvr Gaston is still our leading light and has been placed in the first three each time. Corpl Morris, Dvr Gaston and Sigmn Rushmere ran for the Corps in the Clive Cookson cup contest.

Shooting.—We have been holding our own in this line, and in our return match with the Dismounted Wing we beat them by one point. The shoot was very even, and good scores were registered throughout. The Dismounted Wing are at present leaders in the league.

Sport.—One office to another: "What about the 230? (B.230)." "One moment, let's see what's running."

Training Battalion, Catterick.

Soccer.—The following have represented the Battalion in all Army cup and friendly games to date: Sigmn Gibbons; L/Corpl Murphy and Sigmn Davies; Sigmn Driscoll, C.S.M. McGregor and Sergt Laing; Sigmn Brown, 2/Lieut Carpenter, Signalmen Hooper, Bott and Payne.

So far we have had a very successful season, playing seven games and winning every one. Goals for 24, against 7.

Results.—Versus R.E.s 3—2; v. Depot Battalion 3—1; v. 4th Royal Tank Corps 6—1; v. 14/20th Hussars 6—1 (first round Army cup); v. 2nd King's Regt. 2—1 (second round Army cup); v. Wensleydale League 1—0; v. 4th Royal Tank Corps 3—1 (third round Army cup)

The first round of the Army cup was played in a rain storm, and the Battalion ran out easy winners. The second round found us drawn against the 2nd King.'s Regt, a well-balanced team containing five Army-in-India players. A keen even game resulted in a Battalion win.

A local Derby in the third round and Northern Command final brought together the Training Battalion and the 4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps. In the first minute the Battalion missed a golden opportunity from the right wing, and from the goal kick the Tanks pressed for a few minutes. A splendid run by Hooper, who beat five men to open the scoring, put the Signals in a happy mood. Within ten minutes Payne was brought down just outside the box, and the free kick resulted in a goal from 2/Lieut Carpenter. The Tanks tried hard but could not overcome the middle line of the Battalion. A loose ball went out to Payne, and a fine run ended in his being kicked off the ball in the area. From the penalty spot Hooper added number three.

The Tanks right wing proved dangerous with several runs. L/Corpl Murphy was a constant source of trouble to the Tanks left wing, who were subdued. Half-time arrived with the Tanks pressing.

The Tanks pressed strongly on the resumption, but failed in front of goal, the state of the ground being against them. Following midfield play the Tanks scored a good goal, the inside right being responsible. Payne got well clear and cut in towards goal. The goal-keeper, however, just managed to get the tips of his fingers to the ball and sent it out for a corner. It was now all Tanks, but they could not find the net. Five minutes from time Brown hit the Tanks upright. Result: Training Battalion 3; 4th Battalion Royal Tank Corps 1.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Soccer.—Considering that the team maintains its position near the top of the league, it is surprising how few of our supporters put in an appearance on the field.

Results for November are:—v. 55th Field Coy. R.E., won by 7—2; v. R.A.O.C., drew at 3—3; v. Dismounted Wing, won by 1—0; v. Mounted Wing, lost by 1—3; v. E Coy. won by 3—2.

Boxing.—Owing to several of our team thinking that the Y.M.C.A. was the boxing ring, we lost to the Dismounted Wing on November 10th; but on showing these people where the ring is situated, the Company pulled off the match against E Coy. on December 1st.

Shooting.—Recent results in the shoot for the Mackworth trophy show D Company just losing to the Dismounted Wing and gaining a victory over F Company. At present the Company holds fourth place, but added keenness will bring us nearer the top by the end of the competition. Results of the Company November pool are:—

N.C.O.s.—1, C.S.M. Hughes S. N., 98; 2, Sergt Squirrell A., 98; 3, L/Corpl Javens J., 94.
Men.—1, Sigmn Chilvers, 140; 2, Sigmn Allen, 136; 3, Sigmn Jessop, 132.

The tie for the first place in the n.c.o.s pool was shot off, C.S.M. Hughes carrying off the prize.

Hockey.—The Company has not played many games this month. On November 2nd we defeated the Mounted Wing by 4—2. The match against E Coy. will be played in December.

Cross-Country.—The results of the inter-Company runs appear elsewhere.

The result of the three-mile inter-platoon run on November 23rd was: 1, No. 3 Platoon, 13 points; 2, No. 2, 44; 3, Nos. 4 and 5, 52. 1, Sigmn Morgan; 2, Sigmn Reid; 3, Sgmn Jarratt.

On the same day the result of the five-mile run was: 1, No. 1 Platoon, 37 points; 2, No. 2, 47. 1, Sigmn Meadows; 2, Sigmn Hornsey; 3, Sigmn Robinson.

For the run on November 30th the result was: 1, No. 3 Platoon, 20 points; 2, No. 5, 42; 3, No. 2, 51. 1, Sigmn Meadows; 2, Sigmn Robertson; 3, Sigmn Perryman.

Billiards.—We are getting together a useful team. So far we have done nothing of note, but in December we hope to lay a pretty cue or two.

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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F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Cross-Country.—Heartiest congratulations to the Company team on winning the S.T.C. cross-country championship for the fifth successive year. The team this year has consisted of six or seven cadre and thirteen or fourteen boys, and in every race from two to six miles they have won with plenty of points to spare.

L/Corpls Broadley, Ayres and Stibbs, Sergt Palmer, Sigmn Beale, and Boys Dobson, Humby and Weeks have been our mainstays, but they have been well backed up by the younger boys, particularly Roderick, who is only just 16 years of age. As we are ten points ahead and cannot be beaten, we shall not run a team in the seven miles but only enter individuals. This will save unnecessary strain on the younger members of the team. The excellent result is entirely due to keenness and team spirit, and we are very proud of the team.

School of Signals, Catterick.

Rugby.—The requirement that each Company in the league should place two fifteens in the field has made a severe strain on our man-power. Our first league games of the season found us one short in our first team and two in the second.

Our first team suffered heavily from the Mounted Wing's strong side, and unfortunately during the encounter some casualties were recorded on both sides.

The majority of our second team were absolutely new to the game, although most of them had a certain experience of football and hockey. The knowledge of these games evidently came in useful, for they gained a fairly easy victory.

A practice game, and a match against the Regimental Courses in which the School scored six points to nil, prepared us for our next league match. This took place on December 8th, our opponents being the Dismounted Wing. Both teams showed improved form, and the forwards and outsides worked well together. The heeling and packing of the scrum showed satisfactory results, and the outsides handled the ball well—but the latter would have scored more if they had run straight and passed sooner. Although the Dismounted Wing were unfortunate in having some of their strongest players away on duty, they gave us a very good game, fast and well contested to the end. The scores in both matches were well in our favour: 1st XV. 21—0, and the 2nd XV. 24—0.

I refrain from mentioning any individuals for the reason that the teams played well together. Every man did his fair share, the scores being obtained by team work, which is as it should be in all games of a team nature. Certainly a few in each team were outstanding in their efforts, but these were well satisfied in knowing that they did valuable work in gaining victory for their respective teams.

Soccer.—Soccer activities have so far been confined to the Catterick Garrison League. In this competition we are able to call upon the candidates on courses of instruction, who have provided us with three excellent players in Corpl Brown (2nd Leics. Regt.), Corpl Delloway (2nd Worcs.), and Corpl Fellowes (1st Durham L.I.)

Results to date.—v. R.A.M.C., won by 11—1; v. F Coy. T.B., S.T.C., won by 4—1; v. A Coy. R.T.C., drew at 0—0; v. R.A.O.C., won by 11—0; v. B Coy. R.T.C., won by 8—0; v. Battn. H.Q. R.T.C., drew at 2—2; v. 59th Field Coy. R.E., won by 7—0; v. Dismounted Wing, D.B., won by 8—0; v. 19th M.T. Coy. R.A.S.C., won by 7—0; v. 55th Field Coy. R.E., won by 9—0; v. 4th H.T. Coy. R.A.S.C., won by 16—1.

As will be seen from the foregoing results, we have quite a sound all-round team, and although we have three hard matches to complete our programme, we hope to pass through the competition without defeat.

Hockey.—Company League: School versus Mounted Wing. Played at Scotton recreation ground on Wednesday, Oct. 12th. The first half was very fast and interesting. The School pressed for the greater part, but the Mounted Wing goal-keeper played magnificently and prevented any score. The second half saw a different complexion on the game. The School wing forwards centred well at the right time, the inside forwards shot frequently and followed up in the circle, with the result that the School won by 6—0 (Major Drayson 4, Lieut Hatfield, Lt. Boyd)

Company League: School versus F Coy. Played at Scotton recreation ground on Thursday, October 17th. An enjoyable game, in which the School showed marked superiority throughout and won by 10—0. F Coy. suffered from complete lack of combination, and their halves hit without regard to passing, so that their forwards had very few opportunities. Scorers: Major Drayson 3, Lieut Hatfield 5, Lieut Boyd 2.

Aldershot Signals.

Rugby.—Well, the Army rugby cup, as far as we are concerned, is a thing of the past. However, it is some satisfaction that, for the first time in the history of the Corps, we have a team which has passed into the fourth round.

I refer to the Training Battalion at Catterick, who are drawn against the cup holders, the 1st Battn. S.W. Borderers at Lichfield. This match is to be played before January 28th at Lichfield. You are up against a stiff proposition, T.B., but all Aldershot Signals join in wishing you the best of luck. I was going to write something about Waterloo, but Major Cobb would never forgive me, so I will refrain.

I was disappointed at the result of our match in the second round against the 1st King's Own. We lost by 23 points to 5. The K.O.s were well supported, as the match was played near their barracks. They had their full team out, too, with Lieut Aslett (the International three-quarter) in control of the backs; and he quietly informed me the other day that the biggest shock they have had this season was from our team. In passing, let me say that the K.O.s have been winning regularly, with something like 30 to 50 points to spare in each match.

To return to the match itself. Within ten minutes of the start, Upton of the Signals, after a beautiful round of passing, scored near the post, Lieut Thuillier successfully converting. First blood to the Signals! My word, it was a ding-dong struggle up to half-time, when the score was 11 points to 5 against us.

Training and combination told in the second period, and we were practically confined to our side of the half-way line. Valiant efforts were made by all concerned to keep the K.O.s out, but the remainder of the scoring was due entirely to the bad marking of our threes.

It was very amusing to see two well-known players endeavouring to intercept instead of going for their man, to finally finish up by looking at one another sheepishly, with neither man nor ball. Needless to say, the little fellow who slipped between them scored.

We lost to a better-trained team, and I offer my congratulations to Capt Mathew and his stalwarts in doing so well under handicap. Facilities for training and securing talent in the various units will be easier when we settle down at Smallshot.

Exit the Army cup. Now, T.B., it is up to you!

I made copious notes for inclusion in this WIRE when I witnessed the Corps match against the R.E.s, but I understand a short account is being published by the Catterick correspondent. We deserved to win, and that score of Bryan's was from a—Ah, well, I must not say anything detrimental of a fellow-referee: I make mistakes myself.

For the benefit of the splendid crowd of Signals who were in support, that voice which continually shouted "Sapper'r'r'r's" belonged to a sergeant-major who sat behind me. I left it to you to retaliate, and you completely put him under the stand. Well done!

Hard luck, Major Cobb! You fielded a very fine team, and next year we hope to see you have your revenge.

To come back to Aldershot Signals, we have beaten the R.A.O.C. in the second round of the Aldershot Command cup. Something tells me we shall meet the K.O.s again. They are doing too much and getting stale, so keep yourselves fit, Signals.

The following are the results of matches played since my last notes:

v. Thorneycrofts A.C., won by 12—0.
v. Berkshire Wanderers, won by 18—0.
v. R.A.O.C. Bramley (second round Command cup), won by 15—3.

Congratulations to Lieut Hardy on scoring for Hampshire in their match against Kent. This is the third occasion on which he has played for his county.

Finally, from Aldershot Signals Rugby Club to all ruggerites in the Corps, "Good wishes and a successful New Year."

Boxing.—The Aldershot Signals met the London Fire Brigade at the Maida Drill Hall on Wednesday, November 23rd. This is the fourth time we have met the L.F.B., and honours were even when this match commenced.

Welter—Dvr Benjafield got k.o.ed in the second round (after having been saved by the first gong) by Fireman W. L. Humphries.

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Middle—Lieut Cole (of soccer fame) beat Fireman A. W. Coleman on points after a very fine fight. Sigmn Moore beat Fireman T. P. Murphy on points in fine style; he is a boxer worth watching. L/Corpl Pinkney lost in the third round to Fireman T. A. Hesketh, the referee intervening. Sigmn Taylor was k.o.ed in the second round by a right to the solar plexus by Fireman Basham, a leading London amateur.

Welter—Corpl Langley met our old pal Charlie (L/Corpl) Bibbs—now known as a Fireman. This was a fine contest, although these two are old pals. Charlie Dibbs has swotted up some civvie stuff, and proved too good for Curly.

Light—Dvr Grainger beat Fireman S. Bluck on points, after one of the best fights of the night. Sigmn McCarthy had a stroke of hard luck; he was piling up the points well when he received a cut over the eye and was told to retire, Fireman V. W. Bolten being awarded the verdict.

Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat Fireman McRoberts on points after the latter had given a game display.

Light—Sigmn Morris beat Sigmn Taylor on points, and Sigmn Thomas beat Sigmn Fountain in the second round. These were two special contests.

The London Fire Brigade beat us by just the odd point. We meet them at the Holborn Stadium in January, and we will be able to turn the tables on them, I am sure. In any case, we are sure of some fine sport.

The Aldershot Signals met the Royal Navy (Portsmouth) at Portsmouth on Friday, December 9th.

Bantam—Sigmn Hogg beat O.S. Parr.
Light—O.S. Kelly beat the substitute for Sigmn Fountain.
Light—A.B. Jenkins beat Sigmn Morris.
Welter—Stoker Vaughan beat Sigmn Wather.
Welter—Stoker Godden beat Dvr Benjafield.
Middle—L/Corpl Pinkney beat A.B. Sanders.
Light-heavy—The renowned Dusty Miller k.o.ed the substitute for Dvr Emblem.
Middle—Sigmn Moore beat A.B. Whyte.

The sensation of the evening which caused so much argument was the bout between the famous Corpl Trinder (R.M.) and L/Corpl Rodda. Trinder got a surprise, and an extra round

was fought, Trinder getting the verdict. Rodda is not an I.S.B.A. champion for nowt, and he sure showed Trinder some stuff.
Light—A.B. Pledger beat Dvr Baker.
Heavy—Stoker Kennedy beat the substitute for Sigmn Stuart, who was suffering from a poisoned hand.
Middle—Sigmn Taylor beat A.B. Flewin (this was a grand fight)
Feather—A.B. Flower beat Sigmn Thompson.
Welter—L.S. Turner beat Corpl Langley. Curly received a bad cut over the eye, and Capt. Spencer very rightly ordered him to stop.
Welter—Stoker Day beat Sigmn Wheeler.
Light—Dvr Grainger beat A.B. Boon.

The Signals team upheld their reputation and fought like real gentlemen, being far superior to the Navy as regards boxing. They made the Navy look like tyros, and how we lost is a mystery. Those who did not see this match should endeavour to see the return fixture, which will be staged at Aldershot in January or February, and then judge for themselves.

But for all this we took our defeat in the same spirit as we always do—no grousing, and all praise for the winners. But, mark you, we had a real good team, and the right person in charge of it.

Signals Open Competition.—On 1st and 2nd December the Aldershot Signals held a competition, open to the 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Battalion K.R.R.C., and the Aldershot Signals. Prizes were presented to winners and runners-up in seven weights, and of these the Signals secured four winners and three runners-up.
Bantam-weight—Corpl Mackay (K.R.R.C.) beat Sigmn Nicklen (A Corps)
Light-weight—Dvr Baker (1st Divl Signals) beat Sigmn Govier (2nd Divl Signals)
Welter-weight—Corpl Langley (1st Divl Signals) beat Rifleman Sly (K.R.R.C.)
Light-heavy-weight—L/Corpl Rodda (2nd Divl Signals) beat Dvr Emblem (1st Divl Signals)
Heavy-weight—Sigmn Stuart (2nd Divl Signals) beat Private Madley (Buffs.)

Only those results are given in which the Signals participated. Space is unfortunately not available to detail those in the eliminating bouts and the semi-finals, etc.

Army v. British Police.—L/Corpl Rodda (2nd Divl Signals) was representative in his weight for the Army against the British Police at the Stadium Club, London, on November 22nd. In this competition he fought P.C. Pitcher, of F Division Metropolitan Police, and beat him on points after a very strenuous struggle.

Army v. Wales.—At this competition, which took place in the drill hall, Cardiff, on December 12th, the Signals provided a light heavy-weight representative for the Army in L/Corporal Howard, who was beaten on points by Jack Mellin of Caerphilly (runner-up, Welsh light-heavy-weight champion, 1927). Mellin was taller and heavier, and had a longer reach, but Howard boxed quite well despite his disadvantage.

Coming Fixtures.—We are due to meet the R.N. and R.M. at Chatham on January 10th. This competition will be fully described in the next issue.

Next month's WIRE will not contain so much detail regarding boxing, as most of the boxers are taking a well-earned holiday.

A Corps Signals, Ewshott.

No. 1 Company.

Soccer.—I concluded my "Aldershot Signals" notes last month by saying "Thus we enter the third round of the Army cup."

This month I shall conclude thus: "Hence we drop out of the Army cup."

Signals met the King's Shropshire Light Infantry at Aldershot on December 3rd in the third round. It will be a long time before this match is forgotten. It was a wonderful match. I have never seen such excitement, or such wonderful play. It was a match worth seeing.

We lost for one reason only: the "Shrops" were trained to a hair, but we were not. Lack of facilities for training lost us the game. Next year the Signals will walk straight into the final. Why? Because we shall be congregated in Smallshot, where facilities *will* exist.

Sigmn Parsons (A Corps), in goal, played a wonderful game, considering his lack of football experience, and he should be an Army player in time.

Corpl Tavnor (A Corps) at right back and L/Corpl McLelland (2nd Divl Signals) at left back, played a game that is very rarely seen anywhere. They seemed to be playing for their lives.

Sigmn Caple at right half, Sergt Chumbley at centre half, and Sigmn Marsh at left half (all of A Corps) worked like niggers in stemming the rushes of the Shropshires (the "Shrops" are the Rhine champions).

Our wonderful forward line (names as before) could not get going, as in the two previous matches. The ball seemed to find the uprights of the goal every time. Most of the play was round our goal, but every now and again we would make a sally to the enemy's goal. The "Shrops" forced about twenty corners during the match, but failed to score once from them. Less than two minutes from time we were leading by 3—2, when the "Shrops" scored with a very lucky goal and time was blown with the score at three all.

Huge long dark shadows were rapidly lengthening across the field when extra time was commenced. Handicapped by the light it was so easy to lose! The game finished at 5—3 against us after two hours' very fast football.

The goal-keeper and the two backs deserve special credit, but the whole team were heroes, and it was heartbreaking to see them lose to a very good team like the K.S.L.I. Hence we drop out of the Army cup!

Rugby.—A Corps met and beat the R.A.F. (Farnborough) by 9 points to 3 in the first round of the Command cup. Support did a lot to win this exciting match. We meet the 2nd Gordons in the next round. Come on, the Corps!

Rifle Club.—Sergt Chumbley won the monthly silver spoon for the highest score made during December. This took place at Cæsar's Camp on December 5th.

Miniature.—A competition which is in full swing at present is attracting a few "snakes," but not so many as it should. R.S.M. Craig tops the list so far, with Sergt Chumbley only one point behind him. Dvr Theobald (a real snake) won the "pull bull" when the pool contained a fabulous amount. Needless to say, the bank benefited.

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 3 Company.

Boxing.—Once again our congratulations are due to L/Corpl Rodda on winning the 5th Infantry Brigade open light-heavy after a rare dust-up with the renowned Jimmy.

L/Corpl Rodda has also successfully represented the Army versus Wales and the London Police. Others chosen to represent the Corps are L/Corpls Pinkney and Bishop, Signalmen Fielding and Figg, and Dvr Fountain.

Sigmn Huggins won the welters at the first competition, but was unfortunately too old to represent us in the team championships.

Keep it up, Threeco, and do not let us make any mistakes over the trophy this year.

Football.—Lieut. E. S. Cole and Sigmn Holmes played in the third round of the Army cup, and judging by the reports it was no fault of theirs that the Corps failed to win after extra time.

Hockey and Rugby.—If we fail to put up a good show at either of these games it will not be the fault of Lieut. Burridge, whose work should surely bring him good results in the new year. Lieut Burridge represents the Corps at hockey and rugby.

C.S.M. Bayliss, L/Corpl Bishop and Sigmn Richardson are also Corps representatives at rugby.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Football.—Our team is still doing exceedingly well, in that they have not yet lost a match. Considering the strength of our Company at the opening of the season, since when there has been but little change in the composition of the team, this is really a fine performance.

The team is entered in several cup competitions, and as I write an air of expectancy prevails over our forthcoming match in the semi-final of the Stokes charity cup.

In our next issue I shall have much pleasure in telling you how all these cups were won. I am tempted to quote that old adage: "He who expects nothing shall never be disappointed."

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

A Company.

Football, Hockey, etc.—This being the close season for these sports, we are keeping our hands in—or should it be feet?—by playing friendlies with the neighbouring units. Practice for the inter-Platoon competition, which commences in a week or two, is in full swing, and we hope to find some unknown talent to further strengthen the ranks of the elevens who have so nobly upheld the tradition of the Corps in the sporting line.

Boxing.—The 1st Battalion Hampshire Regt. held a novices' boxing tournament in their barracks, and though our men were of unknown quality they ably acquitted themselves, and our congratulations are due to them on the excellent results obtained. The Signals won three weights, the victors, in the persons of L/Sergt MacFarlane G., Sigmn Crowley W., and L/Corporal Bigg E., all winning by the short route of the knock-out.

Sergeants' Mess.

Mess Sports.—A series of matches has been arranged between the officers' mess and ourselves, consisting of football, hockey, cricket, tennis and shooting, the winners to receive a handsome cup.

The first of these, football, took place in the presence of thousands. The game opened fast and both sides went all out, but owing to an accident in the first five minutes Lieut.-Colonel Paulson, who was "keeping" for the officers, had to retire. Major Pocock then officiated between the sticks with great credit. During the first half there was very little to choose between the teams, although we were leading by two goals to nil on the change over.

In the second half we more or less took over command, and Kitchen and Wee Mac kept the officers' goal-keeper busy. The officers had several runs through, and their three inside forwards made our goal-keeper sit up and take notice on several occasions.

Kitchen, R.Q.M.S. Earwaker and Mac added to our score, and later, after a really smart bit of play, Kitchen (by the aid of Wee Mac) once more left their goal-keeper gazing in wonderment. With the score at 6—0 the officers seemed determined to score, and after a fine run through Lieut Rodman put in a low corner shot which caught our goal-keeper guessing. With the score at 6—1 the final whistle brought to an end a really good game, and one which was deserving of a more even result.

Our next encounter, at hockey, takes place on December 10th, and as the teams will on that occasion be more evenly matched, we are looking forward to a more strenuous fight for the points. I believe I heard some of our team say "Thank goodness there is no charging allowed in hockey."

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Athletics.—At the Sherwood Foresters' "Alma Day" sports, Sergt Taylor A. won the open quarter-mile in 56 secs., beating the Air Force crack Aarans in a very good race. Sigmn Browne A. W., who was tripped up at the start, finished third.

Football.—We have had quite a successful run of wins since our last report. Results:—
v. H.Q. R.A.F., lost by 2—4.
v. 13th Battery R.A., won by 5—1.
v. H.Q. Sherwoods, won by 6—1.
v. H.M.S. "Enterprise," drew at 2—2.
v. A Company Sherwoods, won by 2—1.
v. A.R.S. Air Force, drew at 1—1.
v. B Company Sherwoods, won by 6—1.

Rugby.—Under the able tuition of Major E. de W. H. Bradley we have had several practice games between two representative sides from the unit. We selected a team and accepted the challenge of H.M.S. "Enterprise," and after a hard game we won by 11 points to 8. We should go far in the future with the present team.

Boxing.—Our team is in strict training for the Sind Rajputana health culture tournament, which comes off on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd November. As we have the feather and bantam-weight champions of the district in the unit, we are hoping to report something successful in our next notes.

Hockey.—In this sport we have also been very successful. We entered our team in the Yusafali hockey tournament, open to the Sind Rajputana District. We were given a bye in the first round, and in the second we disposed of the Sind Police to the extent of 5—1. In the third round we met Hyderabad, and after a good game won by the same score (5—1).

In the semi-final we met Karachi Port Trust, the crack team of the district. They played a very hard hitting game, and proved too good for us. The game was very even until Sigmn Gordon, our inside right, retired with a split head. This disorganised the team, and we eventually lost an excellent game by 1—4. The Port Trust team went on to win the tournament by 2—0 against St. Patrick's.

Results of other matches:—
v. Islamia Sports Club, won by 4—3.
v. St. Patrick's, lost by 1—4.
v. E.R.S., R.A.F., won by 12—2.
v. St. Patrick's, won by 5—3.
v. A.R.S., R.A.F., won by 4—0.
v. H.Q., R.S., R.A.F., won by 8—0
v. H.Q., R.S., Sherwoods, won by 13—0.
v. W.I.R.S., R.A.F., won by 3—2.

Waziristan District Signals.

Bannu Detachment.

Several correspondents make a habit of starting their Sports Notes with the subject of tennis. I am unable to follow suit, as the game is never played in Bannu these days. Several rackets are to be seen hanging around, but they are sadly out of practice now.

Our best game of hockey in Bannu for some considerable time was played the other evening versus the battalion team of the 2/14th Punjab Regiment. The final score was three goals to one against us. It was an excellent game all through, and I think our team put up a very good show indeed when our strength is compared with that of a battalion. This detachment is roughly about thirty in all.

Our goal was scored by L/Corpl Harris. One amusing incident was when the Battalion centre-forward took a shot. He aimed at the right-hand corner of our goal, and when our keeper moved to defend that corner, he pulled the ball back with his stick and shot the ball into the left-hand corner. Our keeper was highly amused at this unusual proceeding.

At the beginning of the month chess was the recognised pastime in the evenings. One could hardly move in the canteen for couples armed with chessmen and boards. This craze has now died a natural death, and the latest takes the form of a gentle stroll around the cantonment.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

Sport.—Several non-subscribers to THE WIRE have complained to me that there is too little regarding sport published in this unit's notes. I say non-subscribers advisedly, as everyone in the unit seems to know what has appeared in the magazine, but the number of commentators far exceeds that shown on the meagre roll of subscribers in the secretary's possession. However, let us not be hasty with them, although one did threaten to "extinguish my lamp" the other night.

Now, a newspaper reporter has always been an object of wonder to me. To transform a football match or a game of tennis into columns of readable matter is something which rouses my admiration, and I might say envy too. It was in a spirit of emulation, and with a keen sense of my obligations to WIRE readers (whether subscribers or not), that I set out to record the various sporting events which took place recently. I accordingly possessed myself (à la penny-a-liner) of a pencil and a few leaves from an A.B. 153B (gratis), and compiled what —though I sez it as shouldn't—was an admirable series of reports on football, hockey, boxing and tennis matches, and even degraded myself so far as to witness a game of golf.

Alas! alack! I was nearly reduced to tears when I discovered that my beautiful notes had been "dhobied" with my tunic. Now, this is a common enough occurrence, and one not attended with any serious consequences if one has not used an indelible pencil. I had! But even then patches here and there were decipherable, and rather than disappoint our readers the patches are submitted for their delectation.

"The kick-off was fixed for half-past four, and promptly at twenty-five minutes to six the contending wing three-quarters crossed sticks and bullied off. The first incident of note was the remarkable manner in which Benzies eluded the police and forced a corner which ultimately proved abortive. Lemon then returned the ball to the base line with a smashing stymie shot, which shaved the crossbar (without soap). An elusive running flush by the visiting stand-offish half was nullified by Draper at silly point touching down in his opponents' "25," whilst Milton coming round the first lap was pinched for exceeding the speed limit. Lamkin next essayed a red loser, but a lovely swerving yorker found him bunkered in the rough. Rigden centred, but DeCourcy drew him off a neat short-arm jab, followed by three swift drives past fifth slip which appeared to shift his centre of gravity, as he wobbled for some moments in a state of unstable equilibrium. No. 1 Section's goal-keeper now put himself on to bat and took seven wickets, all run, in his first over. This is not the same record that Warner broke when Steed huffed him in baulk at snooker. The interval arrived with the washing—6-2, 7-8 to one ball (dropped).

"They resumed at the sound of the whistle. This half was characterised by a brilliant exposition of the art of custodianship by Marshall. He would have touched brilliant heights had some one loaned him a ladder. Harper endeavoured to screw back, but a rising volley from Lyon found touch. Calladine conceded a penalty, which was strange, as he invariably pays it, and Knowles holed in one. Murphy converted a pass (I remember another fellow doing this once, and getting seven days for it), and Grocutt tested Maguire, but he failed on the seven plus three. Potter was given very little to stop, which he enjoyed, and the game ended with Hinchley running to his points by the k.o. route. Result: Topers, 51 for 12; Rechabites, dormie four and two to play."

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Boxing.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Matthews on the fine display he put up against the Command feather-weight champion in a recent special contest. Corpl Burnett, the holder of the title, only won by a narrow margin of points.

Dvr Abbott appears to be as unlucky as ever in Command competitions. In the first series of the Command novices boxing he injured his hand so badly that he was compelled to withdraw.

Cross-Country Running.—The second of the inter-Section runs, held on November 11th, resulted in a win for K Section, with H.Q. and Signal Troop second, thus reversing the previous result. Sigmn Beeton was again first man home, being followed by Sigmn Collins, Dvr Hammond, Signalmen Cooper, Shepherd and Backhouse, L/Sergt Solly, Sigmn Oldale, Corpl Collins, and Sigmn Andrews (tenth). Altogether fifty-five completed the course.

The Corps championship was held over a five-mile course on Nov. 25th, Sigmn Beeton winning the individual race for the fourth year, with Sigmn Collins again runner-up. Dvr Hammond was third; then came Dvr Stillwell, Sigmn Oldale, Cpl Collins, Signalmen Shepherd, Backhouse, Bazley, Cooper, Chambers, Brice, Andrews, Powell and Gratwicke. Fifty-seven finished the course. The team race resulted in a fine win for K Section, who by really wonderful team packing ran in their five all together, in the fifth to ninth placings. That's what may win us the Command championship on Dec. 22nd! Keep that up, K!

On November 30th a team race against the R.E.s took place, and though neither team was at full strength, the result was a very easy win for the Corps runners, the whole team of seventeen being in the first twenty placings out of about sixty runners. Signalmen Beeton, Collins, Hammond and Stillwell, and Sergt Solly, did not run for the Corps. Sigmn Cooper ran a well-judged race to win easily by about 150 yards from an R.E. runner, and then along came the Corps pack to occupy sixteen out of the next eighteen placings.

It's a pity we aren't in a position to run the Depot team. If enthusiasm counted for anything in the teams, we feel sure we'd take the honours!

Iraq Signal Section.

Army Team Championships.—These were held at Hinaidi on the 21st and 22nd November, under the patronage of Air Vice-Marshal Ellington, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E.

Teams were entered by the 63rd Q.V.O. S. and M., the Royal Corps of Signals, the 3/5th Mahratta Regt., and the 4/19th Hyderabad Regiment.

The events were keenly contested throughout, and some good running was witnessed, especially between the Signals and the Hyderabads.

We were beaten by the Sappers by two pulls to one in the tug-of-war, and were second to the Hyderabad Regt. in practically every other event with the exception of the shot putting, in which we took first place.

The final points were: Hyderabad Regt. 24, Royal Signals 16, Sappers and Miners 9, and the Mahratta Regt. 5. Taking into consideration the size of these units and the training these Indians receive, we appear to have done very well indeed.

A very amusing event in which we participated was the drivers' mule race. Signalmen Deradour and Kenneally were detailed for this, but were unfortunately thrown inside two minutes, each describing a beautiful arc in his descent—amid great applause!

In the transportation race Sigmn Wyman, mounted on a mule, had the task of bringing ten other men back to the starting point (a distance of about 100 yards) by relays. The Indians proved masters in the art of squeezing on a mule's back, and their animal only made two trips, so we had to be content with second place.

Football.—Up to the time of writing our football team have been but mediocre in their performances, but we hope (same old yarn!) to do better in the near future. Appended are some of the results: Versus Station H.Q., won by 1—0; v. C Squadron, lost by 1—4; v. No. 55 Squadron, drew at 1 all; v. B Squadron, won by 1—0; v. Armoured Car Wing, lost by 0—1; v. No. 2 Wireless Section, lost by 1—2.

Aden Signal Section.

Sport.—Owing to the Section being too small, we can only indulge in hockey, the results to date being:—
Brigade H.Q. and Signals—v. B Coy. S.W.B.s, won by 1—0; v. E.T. Coy. won by 3—2; v. R.A.M.C., won by 4—1; v. R.A.F. lost by 0—7.

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WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

Send in as many recipes as you like, not exceeding 150 words in length, for any of the following dishes, viz. Soups, Fish and Meats, Vegetables, Salads, Pies, Cakes, Ice Cream or Sweets, in which either "Hollandia" or "Dykeland" Unsweetened, Condensed or Evaporated Milks have been used as an ingredient.

CONDITIONS.

Each recipe sent in must be accompanied by—

(1) One Entry Coupon signed with your name and address, cut from the foot of this advertisement (or from the issue of this Magazine dated December, 1927, in which an additional coupon will be found), and

(2) Four Labels taken from 1-lb. Tins of either "Hollandia" or "Dykeland" Milk obtainable from your Service Institute or local Grocer.

THE WINNERS.

The best 25 selected recipes will be first chosen by Messrs. R. Lehmann & Co. Ltd. of 28 Monument Street, London, E.C. 3, and these will then be forwarded to Mrs. Cottington Taylor, N.P.SC. LOND., A.R.S.I., etc. the Director of "Good Housekeeping" Institute, who has kindly consented to act as final Judge for placing in order of merit.

The names and addresses of the Winners and the Winning Recipes will be published in the *Daily Mail* on June 30th.

There is no limit to the number of recipes which may be sent in by any one competitor, provided each is accompanied by a Coupon and Four Labels.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR ATTEMPTS.

The last issue of Entry Coupons will be made in the April No. of this Magazine. Recipes must be received by Messrs. R. Lehmann & Co. Ltd. not later than June 15th, 1928. Any attempts received after that date cannot be admitted.

"HOLLANDIA" MILK RECIPE PRIZE COMPETITION.
Entry Coupon

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I enclose a Recipe for..... (state name of Dish), which includes "Hollandia" or "Dykeland" Milk as one of its ingredients. I agree to the decision of the Judges being absolutely final, and that no correspondence thereon can be entertained.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

THE WIRE *Date*.....

Malaya Signal Section.

Sport.—Great enthusiasm has marked the inauguration of the Signal Section and R.A.O.C. Sports Club. Several friendly games of soccer have been played during the past few weeks, the results of which are as follows:—

v. Native XI., lost by 2—3 and 2—3.
v. R.A. Scratch XI., won by 6—0 and 8—2.
v. 22nd Battery R.A. (2nd XI.), won by 5—1 and 5—2.
v. Malays, lost by 3—4.
v. H.Q. and D.E., R.A., won by 5—3 and 5—1.
v. 22nd Battery R.A. (1st XI.), lost by 3—5 and won 4—0.
v. No. 32 Company R.A.M.C., won by 6—1.
v. Singapore Cold Storage, won by 3—0.
v. Master Attendants, won by 3—0.
v. 41st Company R.E., won by 2—0.
v. Fort Canning, drew at 0—0.
v. Pulau Bukum, drew at 1—1.

It will be noticed that three of our defeats were inflicted by native teams, and Pulau Bukum (another native team) forced a draw.

Our chief goal-getters are Sigmn Anderson (45) and Pte Greatrix, R.A.O.C. (14). Well done!

With the commencement of the Garrison Hockey League we are looking forward to our first fixture on November 18th; and although we are not very strong in this sphere of sport, we hope to have some favourable results for publication next month.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

Sports.—Although our strength is so insignificant, we manage to hold our own where sport and work are concerned, both in winter and summer. We sincerely hope that the new members for this Section, due to arrive in January, are all good on the field of sport, as we shall be losing much talent in February. The following will show how we have managed to hold up our end on the Rock in recent competitions:—

Cricket.—Inter-Company cup: knocked out in the third round.
Water Polo.—Inter-regimental league: finished third.
Aquatic Sports.—Inter-unit events: finished third.
Annual Regatta.—Emergency race: winners (also won in 1926)
Gig races: we entered crews for all gig events, but failed to win a trophy.
Football.—We are still keeping up our end as in previous years, although injuries have ruined our prospects of being in the running for the B League.

The inter-Company cup competition commences in January, and we hope to report good results in the February issue.

Hockey League.—We are unable to enter a team wholly comprised of Signals personnel, so we are amalgamated with the R.A.S.C. for the current season. We hope to finish somewhere near the top.

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

Boxing.—The annual inter-unit boxing competition amongst the local units was held on Friday, November 18th, at the headquarters of the 6th Battalion Essex Regiment. Representatives of the R.A., 54th Divl Signals, 6th Battn. Essex Regiment, and 17th Battn. London Regiment took part.

Medals were presented to the winners of bouts, but the main issue at stake was the winning of the handsome silver cup to be held for a year by the unit securing most points in the competition.

The contests were fought with great keenness, and after a thoroughly interesting evening's boxing the 54th Divl Signals retained possession of the trophy by the narrow margin of one point. The cup was received on behalf of Signals by R.S.M. Adams H. L., M.M., from the hands of Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Edwards, commanding 54th (E.A.) Divl Signals, who was asked to make the presentation to the winners.

The points secured by units were: 54th Signals 10, R.A. 9, 17th Battn. London 9, 6th Battn. Essex 7. Two points were given for a win and one for a loss. The Signals team gained their points as follows: Dvr Thomas 1, Sigmn Detenon 2, Sigmn Langley 2, Sigmn Carty 1, Sigmn Sawford 2, Sigmn Coffey 2.

Training is continuing under the able direction of Mr. Banyard, an ex-Army champion, and we are looking forward to bringing off something in the young soldiers' competition for Essex, and in the annual competition with our friends the 17th London (in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind).

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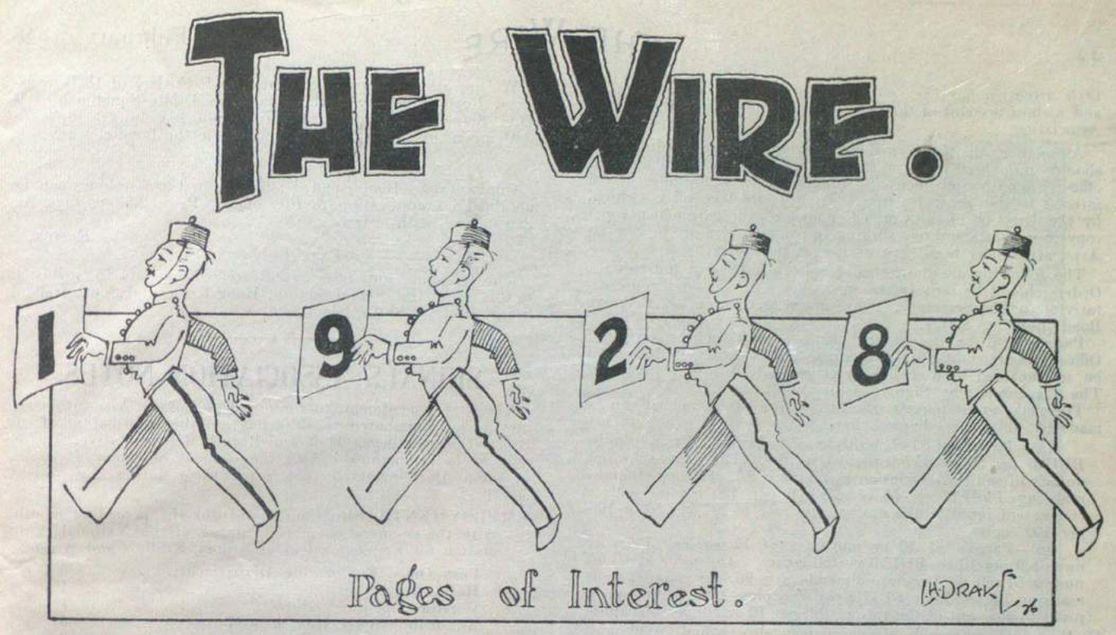

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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. IX.—NO. 96 FEBRUARY, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

"A Short History of Signals in the Army."—The Committee of the Association announce the publication, on behalf of the Corps Committee, of a small volume under the above title.

The book, which is of handy size and runs to about sixty pages, has been prepared with a view to placing in the hands of all ranks of the Corps, and particularly of young soldiers on joining the Corps, a brief story of the work done by their predecessors in Army Signals and of the steps which have led eventually to the creation of the Royal Corps of Signals. The book is also intended to be used as the textbook of Corps History for the examination for the 3rd class certificate of army education.

A number of officers have assisted in the production, among them being Brigadier-General E. G. Godfrey-Faussett, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., Major R. E. Priestley, and Captain C. C. S. White, M.B.E. Finally, the Corps is indebted to Captain E. I. G. Richards, A.E.C., who undertook the task of editing the work.

The book covers an astonishingly long period of history considering its small size, for the introductory chapter treats of the primitive form of signalling lamp and heliograph in use twenty-two centuries ago, while the final chapter treats of the organisation of the Corps in 1927.

The early historical records of Mercury "the messenger of the Gods," of Pheidippides the famous Marathon runner, and the like, are followed by a brief review of the beginnings of "Signals" as we understand the term to-day.

Then follow sketches of the various campaigns in Africa between 1882 and 1895 and of the South African War of 1899–1902. The fact is well brought out in these chapters that the South African War marked a revolution in the history of communications, and that by the end of it "Telegraphs" were realised to be indispensable to a modern army for tactical purposes.

The section of the book dealing with the Great War is well arranged, being divided into chapters dealing respectively with the organisation of Signals in 1914 and the mobile operations in Belgium and France in 1914, the trench warfare period, and the final mobile operations in France and Flanders, followed in turn by a chapter on the campaigns in Gallipoli, Salonika and Palestine, and another on Mesopotamia and the other theatres of war.

The book closes, as has been said, with a chapter on the organisation of Signals in 1927. In this chapter will be found interesting notes on the creation of the Corps of Signals as a separate corps in 1920; the addition of the distinction "Royal" in the same year; the amalgamation of Indian Signals with the Royal Corps of Signals in 1927—a happening to which far too

little attention has been paid in view of its great importance; and a short account of the formation and objects of the Signals Association.

Altogether the book makes very interesting reading, and should undoubtedly be in the hands of all past and present officers, n.c.o.s and men of "Signals." It should also be of interest to the general public. To this end, the price—which, by the direction of the Corps Committee, will be ninepence per copy to members and one shilling to non-members of the Signals Association—has been kept as low as possible.

The following are the terms of sale to units and individuals. Orders should be sent (where necessary, through unit representatives) to The Secretary, The Signals Association, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Parcels will be despatched carriage paid on the order of Officers Commanding units at home and abroad. Orders must be accompanied by a cheque or other draft drawn in favour of The Treasurer, The Signals Association.

The make-up of parcels, the prices, and profits which can be made by units, are shown below.

(A)—Parcels of 50 or multiples of 50 copies. Price to units £1/12/6 per 50 or £3/5/0 per 100 copies. The price at which units will sell to Association members is 9d. per copy, thereby realising £1/17/6 per 50 or £3/15/0 per 100 copies—with a consequent profit to the unit at the rate of 5/- per 50 or 10/- per 100 copies.

(B)—Parcels of 10 or multiples of 10 copies. Price to units 6/9 per 10 or £1/13/9 per 50 copies. The price at which units will sell to Association members is 9d. per copy, thereby realising 7/6 per 10 or £1/17/6 per 50 copies—with a consequent profit to the unit at the rate of 9d. per 10 or 3/9 per 50 copies.

Single copies, or parcels of copies, may also be had (post paid) on application, cash at the following rates being sent with order: Members, 9d. for the first copy and 1/- for each additional copy; non-Members, 1/- per copy.

❀ ❀ ❀

The following letter has been received from the Sergeants' Mess, 12th (Mixed) Brigade Signals, Australian Military Forces, Hobart, Tasmania, dated 10/12/1927:—

"Dear Sir—I have much pleasure in sending you the enclosed Christmas card from members of the warrant and n.c.o.s mess of this unit, who desire me to convey, through you, hearty Christmas and New Year's greetings to fellow-members of the Royal Corps of Signals stationed in England and abroad. Wishing you the compliments of the season,

"I am, yours faithfully,
(Signed) "GEO. E. EVERY, Warrant Officer,
"President 12th (Mixed) Brigade Signals Sergeants' Mess."

We have duly acknowledged the receipt of this letter, heartily reciprocating the cordial greetings conveyed, and expressing the hope that we may be favoured with illustrated notes and articles from Tasmania which would be of interest to our readers.

We are asked to announce that Mr. J. Cutler, of 18 Brownswood Road, Finsbury Park, London, N.4 (late Signalman of B Divl Signals, Rawalpindi, India), would like to get in touch with any of his old friends also resident in the London area.

❀ ❀ ❀

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order.

EDITOR.

[LATE EDITORIAL.]

The following unit notes were received too late for inclusion in this issue: Iraq Signal Section, Hong Kong, and South Ireland Signal Section, Spike Island.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The first Amendments to the new Rules of the Association are now being distributed to Branches for the information of all Association members. Unit and Branch Representatives are requested to communicate with the General Secretary if copies of these Amendments do not reach them during the present month.

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
Hotel Porter	1
Wireless Operator (abroad)	1
Automobile Association Road Patrols	6
Labourers	2

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from:—
Captain J. C. Deedes, M.B.E.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

APPEALS dealt with—
1—Ex-Signalman, R.Signals, Preston, Lancs. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/278)
2—Ex-C.Q.M.S., R.Signals, Worthing. Business and domestic difficulties. £12/10/0 allocated from Association funds. (SAB/267)

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

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. Class II. (C.S.M.)—

2308029 O'Connor J. 28/11/27

To be C.Q.M.-Sergeant—

2313007 Elkington F. 28/11/27
2306232 Squirrell J. 10/12/27

To be Staff-Sergeant (Farrier)—

2308079 O'Sullivan T. 1/4/27

To be Sergeant—

2303470 Withers W. 15/8/27
2309185 Dunn A. 10/9/27
2306247 Kent W. 17/10/27
312003 McMahon E. 28/11/27
2306514 Brunton C. 10/12/27

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

1850322 Wheeler F. 1/10/27
1857249 Maynard, A. 1/10/27
2314016 Montgomery K. 28/11/27
2314360 Wilmot H. 10/12/27

To be Corporal—

2313691 Channell F. 11/9/27
2307177 Hamilton J. 11/9/27
2315644 Pagett W. 11/9/27
2314376 Gould A. 14/9/27
2309252 Longwill J. 21/9/27
2306276 Frost H. 1/10/27
2316259 Marshall G. 25/10/27
2200975 Parker S. 1/11/27
2314276 Baulkham H. 10/11/27
2313556 Brown F. 12/11/27
2315015 Baker S. 12/11/27
2309334 Murphy S. 18/11/27
4525419 Sunderland H. 18/11/27
2310962 Field E. 28/11/27
2314088 Pratt P. 10/12/27

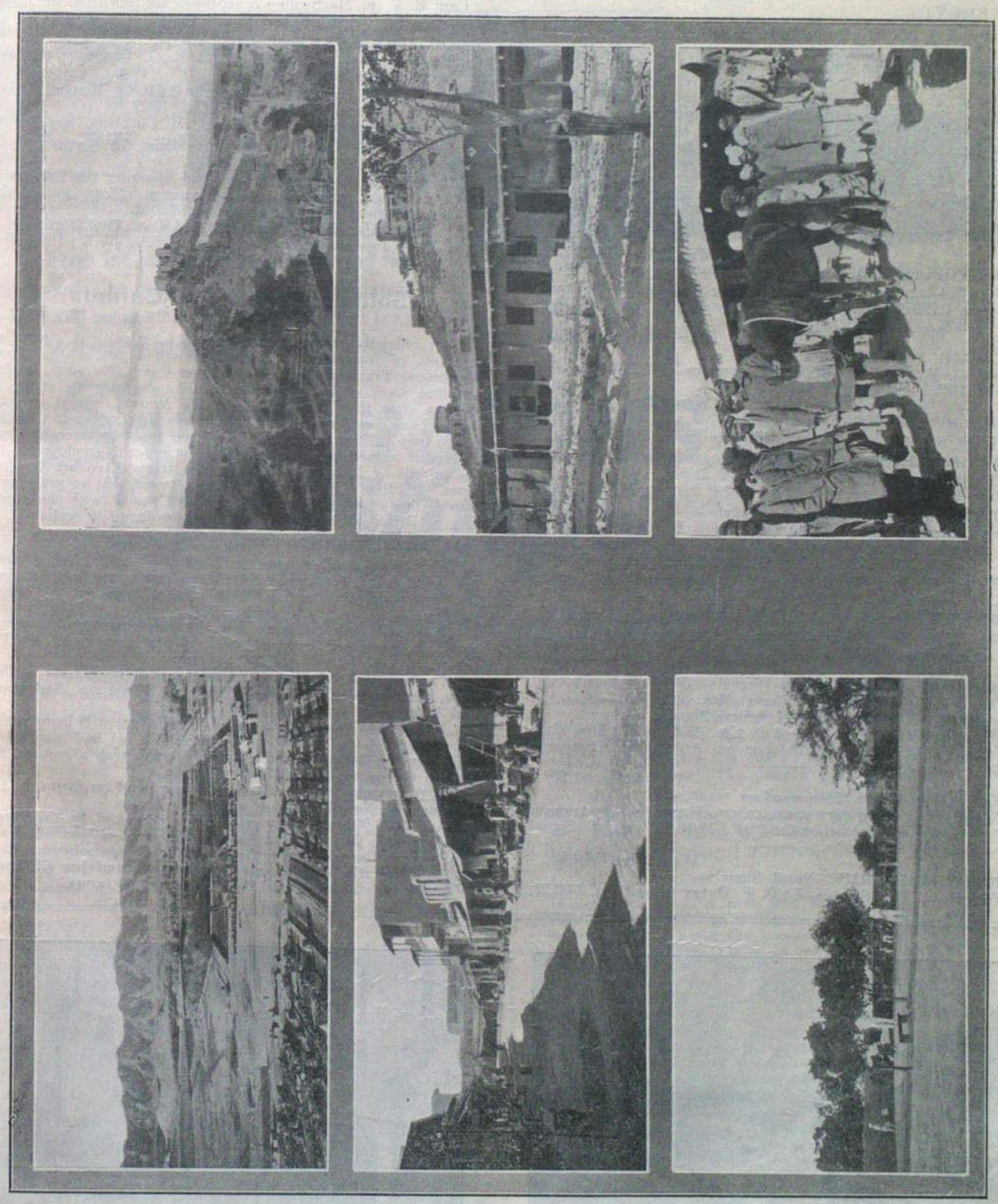
Discharges.

2306151 C.S.M. Eldridge J. 19/11/27
2306439 C.S.M. Hudson C. 27/11/27
2307830 C.Q.M.S. Ansell F. 9/12/27
2310354 Sergt Mann C. 24/11/27
2306225 Sergt Brown F. 30/11/27
2554269 Sergt Dormon T. 14/12/27
2307857 Sergt Crompton V. 1/1/28
6908088 F/Sgt Whitehead C. 20/11/27
1854168 F/Sergt Ind W. 30/11/27
2312256 Corpl Bishop A. 17/11/27
2306329 Corpl Fleet A. 1/12/27
2306722 Corpl Westwood F. 20/12/27
1853688 Corpl Drew G. 24/12/27

Transfers to Army Reserve.

730768 L/Sergt Parrack L. 3/12/27
733106 Corpl Kirby S. 30/11/27
2314365 Corpl Parish A. 18/12/27

Views in The Zhob Independent Brigade Area



Left-hand Column—Loralai
Loralai Bazaar
B.O.R.'s Tennis Courts, Loralai

Right-hand Column—The "Castle," Fort Sandeman
B.O.R.'s Quarters, Fort Sandeman
Selling Ponies

Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Major J. P. G. Worlledge from Palestine to Senior Officers School (for Aldershot).
Capt H. N. Brown from India to Belfast.
Capt A. Beatson Bell from Edinburgh to London.
Capt R. F. H. Nalder from Camberley to Aldershot.
Capt G. Rooker from Bulford to Liverpool.
Capt H. M. Sylvester from Manchester to Aldershot.
Capt C. E. Sketch from Aldershot to Manchester.
2/Lieut W. M. Ponsonby from Catterick to Aldershot.
2/Lieut H. R. V. Cooke from Catterick to Aldershot.
2/Lieut E. B. Wallace from Catterick to Bulford.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 16/12/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—Officer Cadet G. E. Forward, from Oxford Univ. Contgt. Sen. Div. O.T.C., to be 2/Lieut. 17/12/27.

War Office, 20/12/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt G. W. Odell is seconded for service as T.A. Adjutant, 14/11/27.

War Office, 30/12/27.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut K. G. C. Hay resigns his commission 31/12/27.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut H. E. Shrimpton to be Lieut. 21/8/27.
2/Lieut G. T. Evans, late R.E., to be 2/Lieut. 31/12/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2nd Cav. Divl Signals—Capt (Bt.-Major) H. W. Gay vacates the appointment of Adjutant 3/12/27.
Capt E. V. F. MacSwiney, R.Signals, to be Adjt. 3/12/27.
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Lieut W. Stanworth, M.C., resigns his commission 31/12/27.
49th (W.R.) Divl Signals—Lt J. Demaine to be Capt. 16/11/27.
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. W. Atkins resigns his commission 31/12/27.

War Office, 3/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned to be Brevet-Majors, 1/1/28:—
Capt E. F. Smith, 52nd (L.) Divl Signals.
Capt H. McLaren, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., 49th (W.R.) Divl Sigs.
Capt G. C. Wickens, 27th (London) A.A. Signal Company.

War Office 6/1/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Memorandum.
Colonel H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O., is granted the temporary rank of Colonel-on-the-Staff, 11/10/27, whilst Signal Officer-in-Chief, India.

War Office, 10/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Lt C. F. Davey to be Capt. 14/8/27.

War Office, 13/1/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt E. V. F. MacSwiney is seconded for service as an Adjutant, T.A., 3/12/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
46th (N.M.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut E. G. Chapman to have precedence as from 4/7/26.
47th (2nd L.) Divl Signals—L/Corpl C. P. B. Hodgson, from H.A.C. Infantry, to be 2/Lieut. 30/12/27.
56th (1st London) Divl Signals—M. M. Cuthbert, late Proby. Flight Officer R.N.A.S., to be 2/Lieut. 15/11/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—
The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Territorial Decoration upon the undermentioned officers under the terms of the Royal Warrant dated 13/10/20:—
Major Alan Lionel Brodrick, 2nd Cav. Divl Signals.
Capt Joseph Gordon Lauder, M.C., 55th (W.L.) Divl Sigs.

Soldier Settlers in Canada.

War Office, December 29th, 1927.

It is officially stated that a special Agricultural course of training, of four months' duration, will begin at the Army Vocational Training Centre, Chisledon Camp, Swindon, during the first week of January, for soldiers desiring to settle in Canada after their discharge from the Army. Special arrangements have been made with the Canadian authorities under which they will undertake to place approximately three hundred Chisledon-trained men in suitable agricultural employment in the middle of 1928, and to guarantee them after-care for five years. Soldiers thus accepted for settlement will be given reasonable latitude in selecting the part of Canada (with the exception of British Columbia) in which they desire to settle.

Extract from "The People" dated Sunday, 8/1/1928.

"War Office sending men to Canada.—Hundreds of soldiers now in their last few months of Colour service are being trained in farm work at Chisledon, Wilts, and will go out to Canada in May.

"They will then be Army reservists for the next five years, and are guaranteed constant work during the whole of that period.

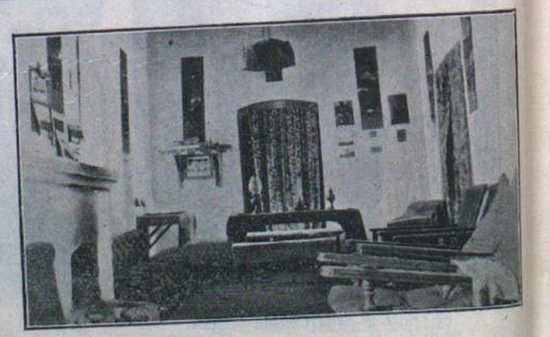
"The men will be grouped in parties of fifty to sixty at Calgary, Prince Albert, Regina, Toronto, Edmonton, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg.

"This scheme is an extension of the Settlement Scheme which began in 1924, and which up to June 30th last had resulted in 2500 families being settled in the Dominion at a cost to the British Government of £300 per family.

"A thousand or more men are to be placed on farms in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

"A £1,000,000 scheme is also being promoted by the Home and Dominion Governments for the settlement of boys who have gone out to Canada under the assisted passage scheme. Each lad who has attained the age of twenty-one and has £100 will be entitled to a substantial loan on generous terms."

The Wireless Station and B.O.R.'s Quarters [Fort Sandeman, N.W. India] The B.O.R.'s Institute



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
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

Plain Tales.

In a camp where one continually finds something to grouse at, it is pleasant to be able to enthuse over at least one blessing. Don't fidget! Once upon a time the ashes from the married quarters were bundled roughly into a G.S. wagon two or three times a week. Nothing was left; not even a stray cabbage stalk. I am glad to say that this intolerable state of affairs has been remedied. A thoroughly well organised party now patrols the camp with a six-wheeler. They gather the ashes very gently (some of them) and place them carefully in the lorry, only spilling a few sheets of paper and some potato peelings, which are pushed back in the yard. They are, I believe, very efficient workers, and only in a comparatively few cases have people found dirty old dustbins left in their yards in place of their new ones. What I like about them is their unfailing cheerfulness and happy-go-lucky outlook. Stout fellows. I wish they would call at my house, though. We have a few ashes, etc.: about nine cwt., I think.

* * * *

I expect you have noticed that I am not using any headings to my paragraphs this month. Do you know why? No! Then I will tell you. A lot of people look at the heading first, and if they don't like the subject they do not bother to look any further. See? You didn't know, for instance, that I was going to tell you about Bogey. Well, I am. He stood up on his hind legs in the sergeants' mess one evening and delivered himself thusly. "Once upon a time there was a young lady named *Milli Ampere* who fell off a *Wheatstone bridge* into a *magnetic field*. She asked for assistance to her *Ohm*, and a French lad offered to act in that *capacity*. He said, 'Ze *Copper* will be after you, I *zinc*, but it is your own *colt*.'" At this point, someone very rightly stunned him with a N.A.A.F.I. cake, and he was carried out wondering watt was watt.

Next week I am to apply for leave to go to Chatham. I am not giving any special reasons, but I am taking with me a Mills bomb in each hand and a pint of nitro-glycerine in each other. I will let you know the whys and the wherefores of this apparently bloodthirsty business in due course. I am hoping that it will not be necessary, because I could utilise the nitro-glycerine for another purpose. This beastly cold, for instance. If any of you care to entrust me with a bombing commission whilst I am in the district, I shall be happy to sling about destruction for a small fee. I feel that way just at present. Perhaps I shall pull round later. I'll let you know.

* * * *

I am very sorry to learn that several gardens are suffering from too much unskilled attention. I think you will find that in the majority of cases the gardeners have not taken my full course of horticulture. It is no use starting in the middle of a subject of that sort. I mean, you take a man who rears a sickly-looking asparagus bush, and after struggling through the summer trying to make it burst into bloom, he discovers that it should have been planted in a flower pot and reared in a greenhouse. Serve him right. Asparagus bushes do not bloom in the summer, anyway. What would you think of a man who tried to grow spaghetti in sandy soil? There are such people. If only they would pay more attention to my authoritative notes, they would never commit such errors of judgment. I shall be pleased to assist any gardener in difficulty—with advice. No local gardener need apply, however, as the last one I advised struck me rather forcibly with a rake, just because I told him what to do with his rhubarb.

* * * *

Well, folks, I shall have some news for you next month. It will be either good or bad. Time will show. I hope the children are all well. Yours in great suspense,

BARLEUX.

Found it!

It does'nt matter how dark it is, the light of one orange wax candle, made by WILKIE & SOAMES will pierce the deepest gloom.

WILKIE & SOAMES' orange wax candles will not splutter, will burn evenly without guttering or smoking They represent the brightest possible standard of quality in wax candles.

WILKIE & SOAMES' ORANGE WAX CANDLES

WILKIE & SOAMES LTD GREENWICH, LONDON, S.E.10.

Egypt—The Land of the Pharaohs.

A Work of "Art."

Egypt is noted for its romance, magic, charms, perfumes, glamour, sights, thrills, mysteries, sheiks, relics, lure, blue waters of the Nile, dreamy nights, colours, and many other attractions that exist only in the imagination of readers of the modern authors' versions of this land of milk and honey. Where they get the "colour" for their novels, it is hard to guess; certainly, the average soldier in Egypt has failed to find this country anywhere approaching it as depicted in the novels written around this romantic land. Doubtless, it is easy for the modern flapper to picture Cairo as a place of handsome swarthy sheiks, with delightful cooling breezes blowing o'er a sweet scented city, whose golden domes and minarets glisten in the evening twilight, etc.

The average soldier in Egypt usually has between three and six years at his disposal in which to seek all these thrilling attractions, and I will give you a brief description of those found to date, in the order as mentioned above.

Romance.—The "romance of the East" is often referred to by the novelist, but I don't think that the troops in Egypt have found it yet. There are not many places round about Cairo they have not visited, but there is just a chance that they will tramp enough miles over the burning desert sands on next manœuvres to discover some; and if they should do so, I will render a report immediately.

Magic.—The only "magic" seen to date is that produced by the gulla-gulla man, who finds *modern* billiard balls in his ears, etc., and does tricks with *modern* playing cards—the kind of magic that can be seen any day in a fifth-rate music-hall at home.

Charms.—This word covers a wide area. The average Egyptian does his best to charm the piastres from your pockets into his own. As for the charms of the Egyptian flappers, well! there aren't any—neither charms nor flappers. Music is said to have charms, though if anyone has listened to an Egyptian military band he will have cause to wonder where the "charm" is.

Perfumes.—The novelists are right when they refer to perfume, as there is any amount of that in Egypt. I should say that garlic easily tops the list, as one meets this delightful perfume everywhere. For the benefit of anyone who hasn't, try getting shaved by an Egyptian hairdresser, for with every breath exhaled he'll give you all the "perfume" you wish for. Perfume, as pictured by the novel readers, *is* here alright, but safe in stoppered bottles. Walk through any native village near Cairo in midsummer and sample the perfume given off by the dead donkeys, cats, dogs, etc., left lying outside the front doors of the villagers. I think you will agree with me that there are perfumes *and* perfumes!

Glamour.—On looking in the dictionary for the true meaning of this word, I find it gives "illusion"; and in my humble opinion, it just about fits the case—it is an illusion.

Sights.—Leaving out old man Sphinx, the pyramids, etc., one meets countless numbers every day who look as though they have one foot on the edge of the grave, and only need to sneeze to drop both in. They certainly come under the category of "sights."

Mysteries.—One meets these in any cafe or foreign restaurant, and also in the N.A.A.F.I. at times; but then, "mysteries" are also obtainable in cookshops and cookhouses in England as well as here. The variety hinted at by the novelist is non-existent.

Thrills.—Obtainable when looking down from the top of the Great Pyramid, when taking a trip on the Nile in a leaky felucca, or a ride in a gharry. Also experienced when listening to the ever-present fortune teller, who informs you that you are to marry a beautiful maiden and will come into millions, etc. The latter is told to married and single alike, doubtless owing to the large number of American tourists, in the hope that some come from Salt Lake City.

Sheiks.—Plenty in Cairo and district, but *not* of the type depicted on the films and in the novels, i.e., tall, young, sunburnt and handsome, in flowing robes, with his hawk eyes ever watchful for some white maiden to seize to his breast and fly away to his desert kingdom. Nothing of the sort: the average sheik is very modern. You should see him any Saturday and Sunday afternoon at the races at Gezira and Heliopolis, trying to spot the winners, with the aid of his beads, chants and prayers to Allah. He might just as well get the racing edition of the Egyptian Mail and save all the bother. The sheik in real life is as utterly unlike the screen version as he can possibly be.

Relics.—May be seen in large numbers in Cairo Museum; a good one may be seen as a building once occupied by Signals at Abbassia. The term is also applicable to the old johnnies one meets at the pyramids, who talk about Pharaoh as though he was a half-section of theirs, and judging by the face and appearance and dress of some, one is inclined to believe them.

Lure.—The "lure of the East" seems to be very prevalent in home stations, judging by what one hears from the deluded ones there. The lure of the East is quickly forgotten on arrival here, and they usually find there is a greater "lure" about the place they have recently left.

Blue Waters of the Nile.—Absolutely non-existent. The Nile is always thick and muddy, with never a hint of blue about it. Dead donkeys, water buffaloes, etc., are often to be seen floating along in the river, and their "niff," if not making the water blue, certainly tends to give the air in the vicinity that description.

Dreamy Nights.—Easily obtainable anywhere, at home or abroad, after a heavy supper. What the novelists see in a "dreamy night" in Cairo is hard to guess. Doubtless, when in a romantic mood, one can be obtained as follows: Sport five piastres on a rissole, mash and onion supper at the canteen, and if not satisfied, sport another five piastres, and so on, until feeling comfortable and at peace with the world. Then make your way to a patch of palm trees, seat yourself beneath them, and feel the cooling breezes on your heated brow, after the hot blazing day just departing. Study the twinkling stars, and hearken to the twittering of the kite hawks as they gracefully flit from twig to twig overhead. It's as good as any obtainable under the conditions. Of course, Cairo could supply a real "dreamer" if necessary, and not of the type depicted by the novelist.

Colours.—There are no more here than there are in any other country. Probably, after sampling some of the native concoctions at a cafe, one could see a few more whilst the effects lasted. Some of the natives endeavour to have a little of all colours worked in their scanty clothing, and in this case they actually beat the film version of the Eastern dress, which only shows it in cold black and white.

Other Attractions.—These may be hinted at by merely enquiring the use of mosquito nets, fly poisons, bug destroyers, etc. The need is there.

ART.

A Shanghai Lament.

I'm sick of the Mongol and Tartar,
I'm sick of the Jap and Malay,
And far away spots on the chart are
No place for yours truly to stay.
I've had enough undersized chicken
And milk that comes out of a can;
The East is no place to stick in
For this one particular man.

I'm weary of curry and rice and all
Commingled with high spiced dope;
I'm weary of bathing with Lysol
And washing with carbolic soap.
I'm tired of itch skin diseases,
Mosquitoes, vermin and lice;
I'm fed up with tropical breezes
And sunshine that dazzles my eyes.

Oh, Lord, for a breeze with a tingle,
And atmosphere zestful and keen!
Oh, Lord, once more just to mingle
With crowds that are white folks and clean!
To eat without fear of infection,
To sleep without using a net,
And throw away all my collection
Of iodine, quinine, et cet.

To know all the noise and the clamour,
The hurry and fret of the West,
I'd trade all the Orient glamour
That damned lying poets suggest.
They sing of the East as enthralling,
And that's why I started to roam.
But, I hear the Occident calling—
Oh, Lord, I want to go home!

—With kind permission of "The Globe and Laurel."

At the Orderly Room.

BY SIGMN T. H. SPETCH.

I was "on the mat" the other morning, for nothing really serious, and while there it entered my head that a good deal could be done to enliven a culprit's time while receiving his punishment. For instance, this conversation is my ideal for an affair of this kind:—

Officer: Good morning, Mr. Soldier; and to what do I owe the pleasure of this visit?

Soldier: May I see you privately, Mr. Officer? the sergeant-major is distracting my attention.

Officer: Certainly, Mr. Soldier. Come into my private office and tell me everything.

Soldier: The n.c.o. in charge of our platoon told me that I needed my hair cut, Mr. Officer. You will see that this is a gross exaggeration.

Officer: I am inclined to agree with him, Mr. Soldier. You are granted fourteen days during which you will be confined to barracks.

Soldier: May I do three days now, Mr. Officer, and the balance at two days a month?

Officer: Most decidedly, Mr. Soldier. That is a very fair offer, and I shall be pleased to accept it.

Soldier: That is most kind of you, Mr. Officer.

Officer: Don't mention it, Mr. Soldier. It has given me the greatest pleasure. Good morning.

Wilkie & Soames

A Soap making experience of over 100 years has produced Wilkie & Soames' Pale Bars. Always ask for "Household Pale." ..... It's Good.

HOUSEHOLD PALE BAR SOAP

SEE THAT THE NAME WILKIE & SOAMES IS STAMPED ON THE BAR AND ENSURE VALUE FOR MONEY

WILKIE & SOAMES LTD GREENWICH, LONDON, S.E.10

Re-union of the 182nd Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Section R.E.

The ninth annual re-union dinner was held at the White Horse Hotel, Birmingham, on November 19th.

The gathering numbered thirty-seven, and included (as on previous occasions) several of the old R.E. Signals who had served with the Brigade. Capt Chovil (late Royal Warwickshire Regt.) was in the chair, supported by Capt L. Norris Rogers, R.Signals. A telegram was received from Brig.-Gen. Daubeney saying he was too ill to attend, but his thoughts would be with the members of his old Brigade on the occasion. Brigadier-General Evans was also unable to be present.

An excellent menu card was provided as a souvenir of the occasion, and in proposing the toast "Silent Friends" the chairman spoke of the glorious character of those splendid fellows who live for evermore in a world beyond ours. He commended to his listeners those words of Lawrence Binyon inscribed on the card and which have now become so well known. He also mentioned that he was delighted to say that the 182nd Brigade H.Q.—a Brigade H.Q. which no longer existed except in spirit—had been able to raise £50 or thereabouts from those who served in it towards the 61st Divisional Memorial, which it is proposed should take the form of endowment of beds in hospitals in the Divisional Area.

Following dinner, entertainment was provided by a ventriloquist. With his audience surrounding him, his sleight-of-hand tricks were performed without discovery, which does credit to his ability. A jazz band and a raconteur provided further diversion just when you wanted to say "Do you remember, etc.," and the time for breaking up came far too soon.

Great credit is due to Sergt Thompson for his "Q" work in connection with the re-union, which was the best so far. Each year finds this function more alive and enthusiastic than ever.

To the Editor of THE WIRE our most grateful thanks in advance for finding space in the excellent Journal of the Royal Corps of Signals. (We hope he will find a corner for the R.E. Signals who affectionately remember their old Section.)

Z. R. B.

Random Reflections on an Indian Holiday.

To many, leave is a mere matter of routine; to others, a "day off" forms an event almost epoch-making in its importance. To the writer, the prospect of four days' freedom in the fastnesses of the Khyber savoured somewhat of the latter order. One is so apt to become the slave of routine that after a time it requires quite an appreciable effort to jump out of the rut for even a few

Landi-Khana from Michni Kandao, with Afghanistan in the distance.

days. However, the opportunity arose: a hospitable invitation had been received, and a mass meeting (consisting of the writer, the senior partner and the "Lady-dog") decided unanimously that we should leave the safety of the barbed wire defences of Peshawar and betake ourselves to the mountain sanatarium of Landi-Kotal.

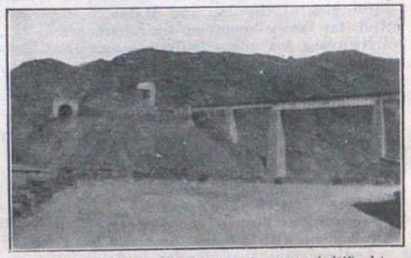
After discussion it was decided that the journey should be performed by rail, because, although familiar with the Pass, a trip on the Khyber railway had not yet been added to our list of experiences.

Landi-Khana Railway Station, with Bagh Springs behind.

Someone has said that fifty per cent. of the enjoyment of any holiday is lost if one does not have a look at the engine before getting in the train. As this examination costs nothing, and our nationality being what it is, the senior partner was deputed to book seats for selves and Lady-dog whilst the remainder of the party inspected the leviathan of the iron road.

Booking seats for a train journey in India is something of a ritual, but the senior partner really managed to get us good seats without making a complaint to anybody. He refuses to divulge the secret, but it is quite certain that he did not pay anything extra. Lady-dog's ticket for the single journey cost twice as much as the return tickets for two mere humans—another of the many advantages of service in the East carefully omitted from recruiting posters. Still, we really ought to count our blessings, I suppose.

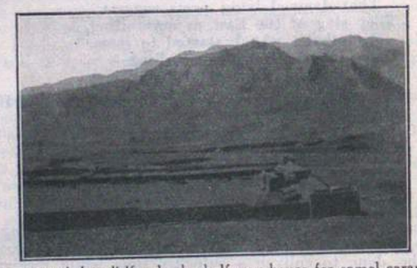
The Fates being kind, we steamed out of the station to scheduled time. The train was curiously empty as we left, but the passengers gradually increased in numbers as the journey progressed. It was interesting to note that the additions to our numbers usually took place between stations. The procedure was noted, and we intend to experiment when we return to the "lone shieling on the misty island."



Section of Khyber Railway, illustrating the natural difficulties which the engineers had to overcome.

The journey to Jamrud was uneventful. As we passed Islamia College the thought occurred to us that such dignified buildings, perfectly proportioned in design, were worthy of better surroundings.

At Jamrud we were entertained to chota hazri (for nothing) by an Indian friend to whom we had been able to render some slight assistance at an earlier date. Quite a crowd had assembled at the station—whether to see us or the train is uncertain, but in either case they had excellent value for their money.



Caravanserai, Landi-Kotal: the half-way house for camel caravans between Dacca and Peshawar.

After a brief delay, we left Jamrud and headed for the Pass. In India, three things have left indelible impressions on the mind of the writer. One was the first glimpse we had of the flag floating over the battered Residency at Lucknow; another was the cross on the spire of the Cathedral at Sardhana as it was caught by the first rays of the rising sun one December morning some years since; the third was the flag on the Fort at Jamrud. On our first visit to the Fort, as we approached it from Peshawar, we had been thinking of what the present Chancellor of the Exchequer has written of his experiences within its walls in the days before he forsook the sword for the pen. We stopped to look at the white tomb of Hari Singh, and then our gaze travelled upwards; as we looked, a passing breeze caught the flag, which had previously been hanging listlessly on its staff, and its broad folds unfurled proudly against the majestic background of the hills. Do we in these days think enough of what our flag stands for? Do we remember the price that we have paid for Empire? Sometimes I think not!

There is an abiding fascination about the Khyber. The white ribbon of road, as it disappears in the grim forbidding opening

Bagh Fort and Springs from Michni Kandao: the battle-field of 1919.

which is the mouth of the Pass, seems to speak of high adventure in the unseen beyond. In imagination one sees the soldiers of other years—true missionaries of Empire—as they disappeared amongst the hills, going forward to accomplish the impossible in the face of implacable foes and in spite of Nature herself, who here assumes her most unkind aspect.

To-day, the journey through the Pass is easily and comfortably accomplished by train. The broad-gauge railway runs from Jamrud to Landi-Khana, and its construction has added in no small degree to the interest of a region already steeped in historical associations. The natural obstacles to be overcome in the building of the railway would appear unsurmountable to the ordinary layman. As embankment follows bridge, and that again in turn is succeeded by cutting and tunnel, one can only look and marvel. In the section between Jamrud and Ali-Masjid Gorge there are no fewer than eighteen tunnels, with two reversing stations.

The journey to Landi-Kotal took roughly four hours. Our hosts had made all necessary arrangements for us, so we speedily settled down and worked out an itinerary. Strange as it may seem, we wanted to climb hills. There was no lack of variety from which to choose, but, as time was limited, we had to select

Native Villages, Landi-Kotal, showing typical frontier architecture.

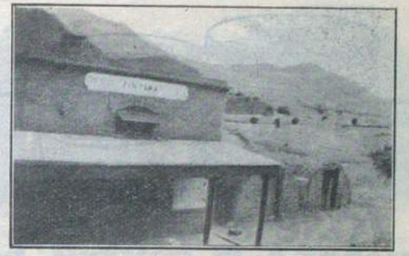
those from which the best views could be obtained. We therefore allotted Sunday to Landi-Khana and its neighbourhood, Monday to the area south of the Camp, and Tuesday morning to the north of the Camp.

In the Landi-Khana area we were on ground which was the scene of operations during the third Afghan war. In this district water is of course of paramount value, and in the event of a local argument the springs at Bagh must always form a tempting tit-bit to the side which does not happen to be in possession of them.

By the end of the first week of May, 1919, the Afghans were in possession of the springs at Bagh and were perched on the heights, menacing the small garrison at Landi-Kotal. The situ-

The Mail arrives on the Frontier: Landi-Kotal Railway Station.

ation at this time could not have been very pleasant for those on the spot, but it might have been much worse had the enemy decided to push down the Pass. However, he didn't, and steps were taken to adjust matters. Troops were brought from Peshawar and the position at Landi-Kotal strengthened. The first battle of Bagh took place on May 9th. Owing to the paucity of the troops engaged the action was somewhat circumscribed, but the springs at Tangi were taken and the water supply thereby augmented.



Zintara: an average example of a wayside Railway Station on the Frontier.

The next move was to assist the enemy on his homeward journey, and with that object in view the second battle of Bagh took place on May 11th. The action was completely successful. The enemy resistance was broken and the dispersal was so rapid and complete that the pursuit had to be left to the R.A.F., whose bombs and machine guns were put to effective use.

The ground has to be seen in order that the difficulties which faced the troops may be fully appreciated. From a well-chosen coign of vantage, reached after much endeavour, we looked down upon the battle-fields and tried in imagination to follow the various units from starting-point to objective, whilst with the aid of a small camera we tried to obtain more lasting souvenirs of a pleasant day well spent. A few of the results are forwarded in illustration of these remarks.

Shahgai Railway Station, complete with Buffet.

In closing, may we offer a suggestion to those who feel in doubt as to where to go and what to do when on leave in India. This vast country has been the scene of many conflicts in its chequered history, and the sites of many of the battles are easy of access. Let the would-be holiday-maker select an area; let him obtain a book by an authoritative writer dealing with the campaigns fought in the selected district, and then get on the ground and follow out the operations in detail. The writer has been privileged to go over many of India's battle-fields in this manner, and he knows of no better way of learning history, and certainly of no better way of spending a profitable holiday.

The accompanying photographs were taken by A. P. B. (the senior partner).

A. G.

"Lady-dog" looks round after an arduous climb.

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Beyond the Border.

When twelve-year-old Mumtaz regained her senses, she found herself staring up into two deep blue eyes. The sun-tanned face which framed them was that of a sahib whom she had never seen before and who was carrying her somewhere in a pair of strong reassuring arms. She felt cold and sick and strangely inclined to cry, but something in those compelling blue eyes kept her mute, and she could only stare back in silent bewilderment.

But a few minutes before she had been happily seated at the end of one of the great barges which supported the boat-bridge spanning the fast-flowing river, munching the luscious seeds of a pomegranate. The barge deck was a favourite playground. From there she could watch the blood-red sun sink behind the distant North-West Frontier ranges, and revel in the giant golden flame which, once the sun was low enough, shot up from behind the lofty mountains. Lit by the ruddy glow along their ridges those dark barriers loomed high and mighty, shrouded in isolated mystery, and were to her ignorant childish mind the very edge of the whole wide world.

Often and long she sat wondering what lay beyond. Her father had spoken of a beautiful Paradise where the faithful would find happiness after death. Certainly it must be very beautiful behind those mountains. Nothing she knew of in her limited sphere offered more beauty for the happy Present—greater promise for the shadowy Future. . .

Eagerly her dreamy eyes followed the streaks of pink and gold and silver which seemingly stole from the sword of flame to tint the tiny puffs of white cloud that gambolled across the blue, blue sky. These, to her, were the fairy spirits of Paradise at play. And when the wealth of glowing colour greyed to the mauve shades of evening, she guessed the parent flame had called them back e'er it sank away to the land of mystery.

That evening she had come out earlier than usual, for the sun was still high in the west. Perched on the very prow of the barge she awaited its setting, regardless of the swirling waters which rushed beneath the bridge with an angry murmur as though resenting the man-made obstruction of barges. Possibly through long acquaintance with the danger she grew careless, for suddenly and without warning she had lost her precarious balance and fallen screaming into the river, to be caught up and swept swiftly away by the merciless current.

Somerville, of the 30th Light Horse, happened at the same moment to be riding over the creaking boat-bridge. His horse, already nervously alert, was startled by the scream, and as the frightened animal swung round Somerville caught a fleeting glimpse of the falling child.

Vaulting out of his saddle and tearing off boots and coat, he plunged in to the rescue. As he rose to the surface the surge of the rushing waters challenged him to a grim duel. Glancing quickly round he could see nothing of the drowning child. Ahead was the railway bridge, around the supporting pillars of which the river churned and boiled ominously. Towards one of these he was being swiftly borne, and he braced himself for the struggle which lay ahead.

The roar of the waters as they swirled under the mighty bridge grew louder and louder in his drumming ears, and almost before he was prepared for it he found himself sucked under the eddying surface, twisted and turned as he fought in the churning maelstrom, while his lungs felt like bursting with the awful suffocating pressure. Then, with his endurance almost exhausted, he was shot again to the surface, and exerting every ounce of his remaining strength he succeeded in fighting clear of the looming pillar.

His thoughts, concentrated for the past moment on his own danger, reverted to the child. Little chance of finding her now, he told himself regretfully, but as though to reward him for his gallant effort his foot at that moment kicked something soft. Turning as quickly as his hampered condition allowed, he grabbed in the direction of the kick and his hand closed on the body of the girl.

Thereafter he allowed the current to carry them along while he steered with his free hand towards the bank. On reaching shallow water he stood up to rest, and lifting his limp burden in his arms he looked anxiously for signs of life. Not till later, when wading slowly shoreward, was he relieved and not a little surprised to see the great dark-lashed eyes open and look up at him. A pretty little creature, despite the pallor of her dusky skin and the bedraggled state of her wet clinging ebony hair.

A number of agitated natives had rushed down the river bank till abreast of the swimming Englishman, and many willing hands were now extended to aid him. One, in the uniform of a police subordinate, eagerly relieved him of the child. Somerville remained only long enough to be told that this man was the girl's father, and then hurriedly departed to recover his discarded clothing and find his horse.

Sub-Inspector Ajaib Ali Shah carried his daughter home to such comforts as an Indian home knows, but the shock sustained was considerable, and little Mumtaz cried far into the long night. Occasionally the influence of the compelling blue eyes returned to restrain her tears, but the vision would always fade and the sobbing start afresh.

The following morning the Sub-Assistant Surgeon was summoned, and after pronouncing a verdict of fever following on exposure and severe shock, he ordered complete rest.

Recovery was long and slow. Again and again Mumtaz lived through that terrifying experience in her dreams, and for many days a high temperature persisted.

At length she recovered and, all fears forgotten, returned to her playground to scan with oriental patience the face of each passing sahib. Day after day she sat and waited for his coming—but in vain.

Then, prompted by a secret longing, a new thought crept into her mind. Perhaps, when her life in this world was over, she would find what she sought awaiting her in Paradise!

The sunsets then had a new and greater interest for her, for far beyond that great earthly border of the mountains lay not only Paradise, but the promise of what Paradise might hold!

. . . .

A squadron of Indian cavalry felt its way cautiously through the darkness across open country. The treading of hoofs on the hard sun-baked ground and the occasional clank of arms alone disturbed the night. Occasionally an owl screeched resentment at the nocturnal trespassers, or a jackal, disturbed at its eerie activities, would slink away to cover temporarily.

For its direction the squadron depended on the proficiency of its British leader, and for safety from murky pitfalls on the unerring instinct of the horses.

The night was warm, for it was midsummer and the day temperature had been high. A cool fanning breeze from across the distant Frontier ranges was welcomed by the silent riders.

The services of the 30th Light Horse had been hastily requisitioned. A fierce and notorious gang of border raiders, bent on loot and women, had laid siege to a village some seventeen miles away. Police-Inspector Ajaib Ali Shah—late of the Boat-Bridge Post and now in charge of the Village Post—had sent a messenger in hot haste to the tiny railway station not far distant from the village, where telegraphic communication existed, to call for help.

There, a drowsy telegraphist suddenly found himself confronted by an agitated and breathless constable, and, urged to immediate action by the terrifying news imparted, rapped out the "S.O.S." with trembling fingers.

The call gathered energy as it left its path of wire and passed rapidly through the necessary transition stages of civil and military administration to finally send a squadron of men hurrying from their beds to the stables, whence they rode out into the darkness to answer the summons.

The squadron leader addressed the Indian officer who rode beside him in subdued tones. To them the game was no new experience, and well they knew what little chance they had of success. Too well the border raider knows his fate if caught at the ignominious trade in which he is a past master.

"I am afraid, Risaldar Sahib, that we shall not get there in time to be of much use." "True, sir. Bordermen do not linger over their work."

"Which means that they'll clear off well before daybreak?"

"Yes, sir. Unless—perhaps—"

"Perhaps what?" "They quarrel."

"Over the loot?" "No, sir; the women!"

The leader was silent for many minutes. Women and cattle, he reflected; always these two objectives! He shuddered at the thought of what the scene in the village might be at that very moment, and inwardly cursed the ravagers. How came these creatures to be lower than even the very beasts of the forest? Alas! that he could not be in time to save the suffering of the women; all he could do was to try to cut off the marauders and save the cattle.

The river crossed, he would send Somerville, his subaltern, to push along as fast as possible in an attempt to intercept the raiders on their line of retreat to the Frontier. He himself would take two troops and follow in support, while the Risaldar took the remaining troop to investigate at the village and afterwards rejoin him at a rendezvous.

. . . .

Somerville, on high ground, scanned the surrounding country through his field glasses in the grey light of dawn.

Far away a sudden movement arrested his searching eyes. He focussed on the spot and watched. Two figures appeared to be struggling with something—a load—with which they were having considerable difficulty. He decided to investigate, rode down the incline to his waiting troops, and led the men forward at a gallop.

Suddenly, rounding a hillock, they came upon two men, one of whom carried the burden. The arrival of the horsemen heralded a precipitous retreat, to facilitate which the burden was promptly dropped. The troops gave chase. Both fugitives were armed and one, putting his rifle over his shoulder, fired at random. Somerville, close behind, heard the bullet whizz past him, and whipping out his revolver, he shot the man dead. His accomplice was soon overtaken by the mounted pursuers and captured alive.

Riding back to the abandoned burden, Somerville was astonished to find himself looking down at the still figure of a young Indian woman. Dismounting, he untied the coarse rope which bound her hands behind her back and gently moved her into a comfortable position.

Her face was cut and bleeding, and a mass of jet black hair lay in confusion about her slim shoulders. Her clothes were torn and splashed with blood from her wounds, and the soles of her tiny neat brown feet were raw from forced marching over stony ground. Somerville's anger raged as he noted each fresh sign of brutality on the part of the unfortunate girl's captors. She had evidently put up a hard fight for freedom before kindly oblivion came to the relief of her agonies. He rejoiced at having killed one of the ruffians, and was only restrained from meting out similar treatment to the other by the duty he owed to his squadron leader.

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He bathed the victim's face with water from his water-bottle. Signs of life were slow in returning, and he was on the point of arranging to have her carried back to the rendezvous when two large dark-fringed black eyes opened and stared up at him. He paused in his movements. How vaguely familiar her face was! Where could he have seen it before?

The familiarity puzzled him considerably, for never before had he confronted an Indian girl—yet—ah yes! she reminded him of the pretty child he had pulled out of the river some three years before. A strange coincidence that they should be so much alike!

The Indian girl matures at a much earlier age than her Western sister, and in the three intervening years Mumtaz—for it *was* she—had grown to womanhood.

With the return of consciousness came the memory of her captivity, and she clutched wildly at Somerville in an attempt to rise. The tax was too great on her little remaining strength, and she sank down with exhaustion. Somerville watched the feeble effort pityingly and caught the expression of terror in her eyes. Suddenly it gave place to one of puzzled bewilderment; he noticed that she was staring at his hands. . .

White hands! Instinctively Mumtaz sought the face of their owner and transferred her questioning stare. Then, very gradually, her features relaxed and about her lips there hovered a smile of dawning joy.

Memories were stirring within her; memories of two blue eyes for which she had searched in vain and given up as lost. Here they were close above her, just as they had been when the sahib of the river had held her in his strong arms, and just as she had seen them in a hundred happy dreams since.

But this was no dream, surely? She put up her hands and took the face between her soft palms. . . Had she reached her Paradise? Yes, there, far away behind the face she could see that golden flame. As the pink and gold spirits came rushing towards her, she tightened her clasp as though afraid that they would take away the eyes she loved so well.

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No! The spirits had come for her, and now they were leading her right into the heart of the rising glow. At last, at last she had reached her Paradise, and the cherished promise thereof was perfectly fulfilled. . .

The frail hands fluttered down as the body grew limp. Somerville, who had not attempted to move while they framed his face, looked up at his silent men who stood apart, and gave orders in a voice strangely unfamiliar for them to prepare a stretcher.

But life was already extinct. The soul of Mumtaz had passed beyond the border into the Great Unknown. Whatever the tortures suffered during her last earthly hours, the reward beyond was plainly revealed in the expression of happy content lingering on the face of the lifeless girl.

E. J. M.

The Swimming Pool, Fort Sandeman, N.W. India.

Correspondence.

8 Evans Street, Willenhall, Staffs.

SIR,—I crave a few inches in THE WIRE. What's in a name? There is a romance of words, I am told, from the time some gorilla grunted "goblio jee" right through the scale to the exquisite tones of "Cleo—"; but I anticipate.

Listen, some of you Philistines in India! I am in the mood to tell you a story. There is no point in it; it is merely true. Just a spark; a phonetic poem; sounds on a telephone line—and such sounds that were they to connect intimately with your grizzly old lines in Waziristan, the jolly old eons and electrons would purr with pleasure!

Comes a ring on my phone this morning. "Willenhall Post Office speaking," ses I; and then it happened. "Cleobury Mortimer speaking" sang the voice of a fairy, very sweetly. "Who speaking?" I asked softly. I was in a dream—startled!

"Cleobury Mortimer," said the voice again. "I have a message for you; will you take it?"

I did take it, and I persuaded the voice to spell out. You see this was really a fairy, not merely one of the female staff as found in ordinary Post Offices. I could not connect the name (or as some soulless blighter would call it, the "O.O.") with anything else. It has been with me all the day. There is a small compartment in my brain, and I file them through down the years that are past. They are crude, angular; some bustlers, and some brainless; some, so so. Belgooly, Chagmalai, Kotkai, Bannu, Bughaila, and so on. I nod curtly and they wait outside.

Finally she comes; she smiles: she is all beautiful—"Cleobury Mortimer" . . . Say it slowly, all ye who are homesick, and some who *ought* to be homesick; ye watchers in Waziristan, in a country rougher and harsher than the Riff country (but with not the same publicity), as you gaze at the skyline.

Whisper it gently, all ye Indian wallahs, and let it slowly "fade out" as ye sleep. Whisper it fiercely to Germany on November 11th if you like! What does she stand for? What's in a name?

Cleobury Mortimer . . . She is not Scotland, nor Wales, nor Ireland; not even Great Britain. She is music; she is gentle; she is strong. She has bonnie babies. She is England!

MEA CULPA.

Signals Experimental Establishment,
Woolwich Common, S.E.,
January 7th, 1928.

To the Editor of THE WIRE.

Dear Sir—In your January number, under Rhine Signal Company notes, "D.W.W." narrates a remarkable effort in getting a telephone call through from a field exchange on manœuvres in Rhineland to a place near Exeter, and asks "Can anyone beat it?" I very much doubt if they can.

However, this recalls to my memory an incident of a somewhat similar nature that may be of interest.

In October, 1914, Signals Cavalry Corps at Berthen, near Bailleul in France, had a field cable line to somewhere which used a portion of a derelict railway telephone wire on the Abeele–Godewaersvelde Railway.

One day the operator told me a French girl was speaking. She told me she was "Poperinghe Exchange," that this line had just been repaired, and asked who did I want. I replied, "Put me through to London." In a few seconds we were through, and I was speaking to a London telephone girl. It happened that there was a north-east wind, and the noise of gun fire from the Ypres salient was very distinct and could be heard by the London operator.

At that moment our commanding officer came into the office. He took the phone and asked for his own house via Paddington Exchange. He was able to have a few minutes talk with his wife, who also heard the gun fire quite clearly.

At the time we had been in France since August, 1914, and such a thing as leave had not then occurred, so that an unexpected talk to one's wife was rather a remarkable incident.

Yours faithfully, C. J. A.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Nothing of note has happened during the last month. Our Christmas celebrations are now but a memory, and even that after-leave feeling has almost evaporated in the warmth induced by the "flag, Army, signalling, small."

Those whom the call of duty or difficulties with the Pay Corporal kept behind did not lack for Christmas cheer, and the committee under Sergt Nicholson worked wonders in our mess room. The men were visited in the traditional manner at dinner time by the C.O. and the officers of the Training Battalion, and heartiest greetings were exchanged.

Owing to the bad weather there has been very little sport, but it is hoped that now the snow has cleared and allowed us to see what little grass there is, we may be able to indulge, providing the rain keeps off.

Arrivals.—We welcome to our fold Corpl Swatton from the Scottish Command Signal Company, brimming with knowledge from the School of Signals; also twelve other ranks from the Rhine Signal Company who are detailed for India.

Departures.—Sigmn Jones J. P. (Jonah) to the Army Reserve. Our good wishes go to all ranks who have departed to better lands. I am afraid they are too numerous to mention individually, but they can rest assured that they are not forgotten.

Promotions.—Congratulations are extended to L/Corporals Lay and Burton on their recent promotion to that rank. Stick to it, Tubby.

We Want to Know.—Who was the n.c.o. who, on returning from the M.O., was found to have been "excused speaking" and was ordered to report to his wife?

Heard this one?—O.C. to Signalman up on the mat for being late on parade after dismounting guard: "Why were you late?" Signalman: "Please sir, there were two Scottish sergeants relieving one another."

Christmas Tree.—The annual Christmas tree party given by the officers of the Battalion was held in the Newbigging Hall on Thursday, January 5th. A real good spread was provided. After tea, a splendid entertainment was given by a conjuror, who amused the parents every bit as much as the children.

Then came the most exciting part of the evening for the children. Major R. E. Barker, R.Signals, made an excellent Father Christmas, and in the absence of the proverbial chimney he entered the hall though a hole made in the wall near the roof. After the distribution of the toys, R.S.M. Hepburn spoke a few words on behalf of the parents, and the commanding officer replied on behalf of the officers.

The very enjoyable evening was ended by the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow," in which everybody present joined heartily.

DON.

The "Dots and Dashes."

During the evenings of December 14th and 15th last, a number of very bright Dots and Dashes were broadcast to appreciative audiences listening-in at the Newbigging Hall, St. Quentin Lines, Catterick Camp.

And all those shallow and secondary depressions which find their way to the British Isles were non-existent in the Catterick weather forecast on those two evenings.

When the "Dots and Dashes," the Signals concert party, are broadcasting their mirth and melody, the further outlook is exceptionally bright, with considerable laughter periods.

The variety of their last programme was excellent, and the large houses on both evenings enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

I will not attempt to differentiate between the many items of the programme, each one being in itself a "star."

The sketches "Not Lost" and "The Test" produced big laughs, as did the clever cross-talk between Lieut T. A. R. Scott and Corpl Cox—always a popular item.

The whole company have the gift of holding their audience, and are one and all to be congratulated and thanked for doing so much toward a "Brighter Catterick" movement.

We look forward with pleasurable anticipation to their next appearance in March.

Watch Posters and Handbills for particulars of the "Dots and Dashes" next Show

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L. H. D.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

A Corps Signals.

Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Ewshott.

Arrivals.—Major C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, has rejoined from Sheerness and taken over (pro tempore) the command of this unit. Now we can settle down to some real soldiering. He has been away just over a year, and being greatly missed, his return was greatly welcomed. Thus "redeunt saturnia regna."

Capt. W. V. G. Fuge, M.B.E., R.Signals, has taken over the command of No. 1 Company, and has filled the gap left by Capt. H. W. Hose. Salaam, sahib!

Cpl Schofield from Iraq. Come into the loose-box, Jehiochim.

Departures.—Corpl Tavner, L/Corpls Read and Green W., Signalmen Yates, Jones L. G., Martin G. H., Midson, Jones G., Page, Wilson W., Newson and Holden, to the Army Reserve. Corpl Corbett, discharged after 21 years.

Marriage.—Sigmn Edwards. Egypt Signals, please note and relay to other stations, and add that Ginger can *still* play football.

General.—Now that the New Year is growing up our fancy lightly turns to thoughts of, not love, but training. We have had quite a fair amount of gas training already, and the chamber (going through of) is drawing near.

On one gas-drill parade, the officer passed the message, "Enemy in sight; send reinforcements." The last man in the rear rank received this message in a slightly altered form from the man next to him, as follows:—"Strike a light; I've lost fourpence."

The privilege of wearing plain clothes when not on duty, extended to junior n.c.o.s and men, has brought to light some queer glad-rags. So far no one has made the mistake of wearing a lanyard on his double-breaster. I am asked to state that the man seen in Fleet in civvies, wearing corduroys with straps round his knees, was not of the Corps.

Lost.—A "dandylion," from No. 40 Hut. Oh, where, oh where can it be?

Phenomenon.—"A point of interest," by D. W. W., which appeared in the January issue of The Wire, shows what Signals *can* do. But the following shows what Signals experience:—

"I went to Tai-kok-sui one morning to test the submarine cable which ran to Stonecutters. Putting one side of the C. Mk.1 to one strand of the armouring of the cable, I put the other side to a spare leg of the cable.

"At the pre-arranged time I received a ring from the man on Stonecutters, and after testing the cable with the megger, I got back on the spare leg and told him to change on to a junction line. This he did, and whilst talking to him I was tightening up the terminals of the phone, when one lead dropped off.

"According to Signal Training, test books, etc., speech should have stopped. But no such thing happened. I told the other chap what had happened, and he took off one lead of his phone—yet still he heard me speaking. Then I rang, but he got nothing. The circuit was broken at both phones and one side of each phone was earthed, yet speech was possible.

"I found out the reason after a few minutes, but I am not going to give it here. Those interested should send their theories for publication in The Wire."

Christmas.—Christmas at Ewshott was a great success, and this was due in no small degree to the Messing Officer, whose forethought made a Christmas away from home as happy as possible.

A light lunch at mid-day was followed by the Ramsammy at five o'clock, with a concert immediately after, which lasted up to 9.30. Practically every other man gave a turn, and the star turns were Sergt McDonald, 2/Lieut Hoysted, and the Hayes Sextet. "Farmer" as a fairy sent ninety per cent. into hysterics, whilst Mr. Hoysted's voice made one dream of the poem, "I wandered lonely as a cloud." At half-past nine the curtain dropped, and all except the stable picquet crept between the sheets to dream of the umpteen Christmases to come.

Imbroglio.—The snow which commenced on Christmas Day brought disorder, chaos, burst pipes, K. 1306's, and kit inspections in its trail.

The New Year impersonated an English summer; plumbers and their mates were not at home, and as yet are still away. Punch suggests that the local pipe bashers are wintering at Cannes whilst we take the can back.

The ground for a few days was too dangerous to turn out the horses, so a Daniel arose among us and hitched some poor slaves to a G.S. wagon. These poor slaves were more than Groopee, I could see. They were harnessed to a G.S. wagon, pulling a load of coal, and singing beautifully, as they pulled, the "Song of the Volga Boatmen." And they looked the part, whilst their long-faced chums hid their countenances in shame.

Congratulations.—Well done, Barleux! You certainly deserve the Printers' prize.

Chapeau bas to No. 2 M.T. They have won the clock for the first time.

All the lads here wish the best to the big boy in the corner of the photograph (in the January issue) of the junior n.c.o.s, Peshawar Signals. Keep smiling, James.

Q.M.S. Roberts.—Your notes on short-wave W/T in China were very interesting and appreciated by the radio-hams here. The burner of midnight oil has arrived here to show us how it was done.

Lieut DeWitt's article on the Corps in Canada has made some of our he-men look small, but quite a number have now decided to go to the N.W. Territories to soldier.

This Month's Short Stories.—Sigmn Brown was transferred to the A.R., and after a good rest he obtained a job as a sawdust sorter in a large factory. One day he applied for time off so that he could go and bury his grandmother, and as a result the following notice was put up for all employees to read:—"All employees wishing to attend the funeral of their relatives should notify their foreman by 10 a.m. on the day before the match."

* * * *

Giddy was a native of Essex and was born in the village of Hoo. On arrival in No. 1 Company he reported to the C.Q.M.S.

C.Q.M.S.: "Who are you?" Giddy: "Giddy."

C.Q.M.S.: "Where do you come from?" Giddy: "Hoo."

C.Q.M.S.: "I said, where do you come from?" Giddy: "Hoo."

C.Q.M.S.: "Get to h——! out of it!"

* * * *

Three I.C. drivers arrived on posting from the S.T.C. and were ordered to report to the garage. The n.c.o. i/c had a slight cast in both eyes which handicapped him occasionally.

Sergeant to first Signalman: "What is your name, me lad?" Second Signalman: "Crowley."

Sergeant: "Shut up, I was not talking to you." Third Signalman: "I never said a word."

* * * *

Our only Scotsman received a pair of spats as a birthday present. He sent them to the regimental bootmaker to be soled and heeled.

* * * *

The Signalman who (after being awarded seven days C.B.) said to the O.C., "Why can't we be sweethearts again?" is progressing favourably.

* * * *

Scene: Signals boxing tournament. Two gallant lads are walloping each other for all they are worth. Suddenly the referee shouts "Stop!" Everyone holds his breath and listens. The boxers look at the referee, amazed. The referee points with an accusing finger at one of them, who flushes to the roots of his hair. The spectators gaze at him, not knowing what he has done, and strain their eyes to see if they can discover evidence of any foul deed. But the evidence is conspicuous by its absence. The strain is reaching breaking point when suddenly the referee says in a still small voice, "Hair cut. Box on."

* * * *

Sigmn White had been married about six months, and seeing an old pal one day, the following conversation took place.

White: "How she go, Black?" Black: "Fine; how are you?"

White: "Rough." Black: "What's up, old chap?"

White: "I don't get on very well with my wife; she bosses me about too much." Black: "You should not allow that. But I will tell you how to set things right."

White: "I am listening." Black: "Get gloriously drunk; then go home and smash everything that you can lay hands on. Just show her you are master of your own home."

White: "Right! I'm off." A week elapsed and these two met again.

Black: "Say, did you try my remedy?" White: "Yes, I did."

Black: "What happened?" White: "My wife feinted."

Black: "Fainted?" White: "Yes; but she nearly killed me with her left."

A kit inspection was ordered, and everyone was asked to be present as soon as he had counted his pay and finished wad-punching in the Ce-uv-ee.

Jehiochim just had seventeen wads and eleven chars, and then went up to his apartments and laid his kit. This kit included a serviceable jacket, S.D., into one of the pockets of which he poured all his shekels. Locking his box of treasures he dropped the key thereof into another pocket of the said jacket, and with a self-satisfied smile departed to pet his string of thoroughbreds who were munching carrots in the stables.

After petting the aforementioned thoroughbreds for three hours he returned to his stately apartments, there to rest his weary bones. But alas! he found his jacket, S.D., in the possession of Clutch, who would not give it up except on payment of one penny. This seemed easy enough until it suddenly dawned on Jehiochim that all his worldly possessions were in the said jacket.

But stay! he had a piece of eight in his box. He dashed up in a manly style, but discovered that the key thereof was in the said jacket. He dashed back again; he dashed hither and thither, but he could not raise a sausage.

Whilst he was dashing thus, Ollis double-crossed Clutch by extracting the necessary coin from the jacket and giving it to the bewildered Jehiochim.

Moral: A stitch in time is worth two in a bush.

Soofoo.

A Corps at Intra.

1—Now there came unto the land of Ushot one Yap-yap, from a place called Do-vur.

2—And when he had arrived there was great rejoicing amongst the multitude, as he was looked upon as a great man.

3—And his fame went unto the four corners of the land within one hour. And the wise men who laboured in the stables and on picquet rejoiced, saying "He has come."

4—And the Captain of the Hosts did release all prisoners in honour of Yap-yap. Yea, even one called Haze gave unto the multitude buckshee connor.

5—And Yap-yap was made a great man in Ushot. Yea, he was appointed to the right hand of one called Ole and did work in the "Cumpny" office.

6—And the multitude did he-he Yap-yap because of his position. And Yap-yap was pleased because of this.

7—But before a moon had passed the great Ole did look on Yap-yap with a troubled brow, saying unto himself, "Verily, thou art a queer hawk."

8—And the great Ole communed with his master, and Yap-yap departed to To-el-oh and tarried there one moon, and he was known there as a boulevard sheik.

9—And whilst Yap-yap was sheiking, the great Ole appointed one called Punch to reign in Yap-yap's stead. And there was peace in the land.

10—And when Yap-yap returned unto Ushot he was picked out of thousands to perform the duty of guard, which was a great honour.

11—And Yap-yap with three other disciples appeared before the Lord of the Host, who did practise them in the art of guarding.

12—And Yap-yap said unto the Lord of the Host, "Master, master, why should I be so favoured? Am I better than my brothers?"

13—And the Lord of the Host spake, saying "Be of good cheer; they also shall be so favoured."

14—And when the multitude (which included the Drabbies) heard this, they were exceeding glad to have such an honour bestowed upon them.

15—And they one and all vowed to honour Yap-yap in a way befitting to so great a man.

16—And on the day appointed the multitude did assemble before the Lord of the Host in their best raiment and mar-chin-or-der.

17—And the Lord of the Host was pleased and told the multitude to put on their masks, which was an ancient custom in this land.

18—And they did run and dance about in masks to please their Lord. And Yap-yap also did enjoy this honour.

19—Now it came to pass that Yap-yap did look with favour upon the tribe which is called "The Pack." And he went unto Esem, saying "Pray take me unto my master that I may commune with him."

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20—And Esem replied, "Kwikmarch; halt-leftturn."

21—And Yap-yap did look upon his master and felt sore afraid. But Esem did hold his hand and stroke his brow so that he was cured.

22—And he spake, saying "Master, I wish to pitch my tent yonder and live with the tribe which is called 'The Pack.'"

23—And his master said "Whyfor this thusness?" And Yap-yap said "I crave to be a muleteer."

24—And his master said "I will send to Rome and ask Cæsar; he shall decide.

25—"Meanwhile, go and prepare thy kit, keep my commandments, and I will see thee anon."

26—And Yap-yap did prepare his kit and became a still greater man in the land.

27—And it came to pass that Yap-yap did do feeds and picquets and guards, so greatly was he honoured amongst all others.

28—And he became known throughout the land as a great sooth-sayer. He did tell yarns, both tall ones and short ones.

29—And the multitude marvelled and shouted "Soc, Soc." This was the way in which this tribe showed their admiration and appreciation of good yarns.

30—And the multitude, being browned-off, went unto Yap-yap, and one named Ambone spake to him, saying "Thou art a great man; thou canst tell a good yarn; thou art better than we; thou art on Oddfellow. Here, take this medal."

31—And Yap-yap replied, saying "Verily, I am an Oddfellow, a Buff, and a better man than you are, Gunga-ambone. Thou hast given me this medal as a mark of respect?"

32—And Ambone replied, saying "Yea, verily."

33—And when Yap-yap examined the medal, he found that he had been taken in. On the reverse side of it was the following inscription: "Highest score, Section B, miniature range, 1928."

Soofoo.

Aldershot Signals' Christmas Fare.

All roads led to the R.E. theatre on Thursday, January 5th, when the officers and their wives entertained the families of the Aldershot Signals (excluding A Corps Signals) to a Christmas party.

There were about 250 children and parents present when tea commenced. This was followed by an excellent marionette show, and Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O. (C.S.O. Aldershot Command) afterwards expressed best wishes for the New Year. Considerable amusement was caused when carnival novelties were distributed, especially when a well-known officer entered into the fun by suddenly cultivating a six-inch nose.

Great delight was expressed by the kiddies when the curtain went up to display a decorated Christmas tree. Father Christmas (Q.M.S. Fegan) then presented the gifts, and the happy smiles of the children (which were reflected on the parents' faces) were well worth seeing.

Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. (O.C. 1st Divisional Signals), Lieut.-Colonel E. N. F. Hitchin, D.S.O., M.C. (O.C. 2nd Divl. Signals), and many other officers of the Corps and their wives were present, and great credit is due to Mrs. Willan and her hard-working committee for making the party such a success.

1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

We are delighted to open our notes with the news that our Colonel-Commandant has sent us his good wishes for 1928; and those wishes we heartily reciprocate.

Christmas festivities are now at an end, but the passing of Christmas remains a pleasant memory. Mess rooms were gaily decorated, and the fare was of the highest order and abundant. Our commanding officer, with other officers of the unit, visited us at our mid-day meal and wished us a very happy time. Through the medium of our Corps Magazine we would like to say how greatly we value his good wishes. To the officer i/c messing and his staff, our grateful thanks for such an excellent dinner.

Reviewing progress made during the past month in the varied fields of knowledge, we are able to report that Lieut C. C. Danby successfully passed his animal management course. L/Cpl Greig was awarded a diploma on completing his boxing course. Signalmen Holt and Edward Cecil passed their respective sanitary and water duty courses. We would like to add that such successes are gratifying to the unit to which they belong, and we hope they find encouragement in them.

During the winter one's thoughts turn to educational and technical training. Successful in the educational field are Sigmn Brown, Dvrs Crowder C., Spargo W., and Ogden J., who have been awarded 3rd class certificates. To these candidates we offer congratulations, and we recommend them to make an earnest endeavour to obtain a 2nd class certificate which (for the last three mentioned) means higher pay. L/Corpl Robinson has qualified in English "C" towards the award of a special certificate.

Turning to the trade qualifications of the unit, we find that Sigmn Head has qualified as an operator, visual, class iii, Sigmn Lovett as an operator, wireless, class iii, and Sigmn McCreeth as a lineman, class iii. Sergt Blackburn and Signalmen Winter and Bryan are now drivers, I.C., class ii. This news will undoubtedly be welcome to them and to their friends.

In these days, when so few extensions of service are permitted, it is worthy of note that Corpls Walsh and McLoughlin and L/Corpls Carnell and Meldrum have been accepted for a further six years' Colour service.

At this time of the year it is often a problem to fill in the long winter evenings to the best advantage. One special feature provided by the Educational authorities is a series of lectures on commerce, etc. These lectures take place in the Percy Illingworth Institute, Gun Hill, generally on Thursday evenings, and entrance is free. They are well worth attending, and are especially instructive and interesting. The organisers welcome the attendance of the wives of married soldiers. Watch for details in your mess rooms!

The question of "How best to prepare for civilian life" must often perplex those who are nearing the termination of their service with the Colours. Corpl Atkinson and Drivers Burke and Blackburn are endeavouring to solve the question, as they have accepted a course of vocational training.

In reporting the advance to paid rank of U/L/Corpls Mortimor, Allston, Greig, and Wardley; the appointment as U/L/Corporals of Signalmen Bastin and Whitehead; and the marriage of Sigmn Harris to Miss Nora Weller and of Sigmn Kay to Miss Susan Macknay, it is our desire to tender our heartiest congratulations.

New faces in the unit are C.Q.M.S. Pearce and Sigmn Gill from the Rhine, Sigmn Lay from the Training Battalion, Signalmen Staples and Friend from the Depot Battalion.

We miss Sigmn Clayton F., who is now with the Training Battalion, and Signalmen Turner and Hollands and Dvr. Coulson, with the Depot Battalion. Sigmn Jackson has left us for Wiesbaden.

The Reserve has again done well at our expense, and we have lost Corpl Parish, Signalmen Squire, Duff, Beaver, Garside and Brook, together with Drivers Winch and Dobbs. In passing we should like to record our thanks to the Signals Association for so quickly finding employment for Dvr Dobbs.

We are now able to report the names of those who will complete our total drafts for this trooping season. On February 21st, Corpl Langley, L/Corpl Stapleton, Signalmen Trevenna, Wilson F., Fisher E., Mullard R., Marshall F., Gardner W., Adlard S., Cargill W., and Hensby D., will leave us for India. To Sarafand, at a date yet to be made known, we still have to send Sergt Buttle and Sigmn Moylan.

In closing our notes we dedicate this slogan to pay corporals: "Give credit where credit is due."

YA.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Owing to the departure to sunny climes of our renowned reporter "Hamo," it has fallen to our lot to carry on the good work, and we sincerely hope that we may be as successful as our predecessor.

Greetings.—Although very late we wish, on behalf of the Company, to extend to all members of the Corps at home and abroad "A happy and prosperous New Year."

One of the 2nd Divl. Signals' methods of going on furlough, 1927

Departures.—During the last two months we have said au revoir to a large number of old hands, including our O.C. (Capt C. E. Sketch, R.Signals), who has gone to the 42nd Divisional Signals, T.A., as adjutant. We wish him the best of luck in his new sphere. The other departures are too numerous to mention individually, but we hope to see something about them in THE WIRE at some future date.

Lieut. S. L. Collier, R.Signals, has left us also, to return to civil life. The wishes of the Company for every success in his new job go with him.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following to our flock, and hope that their stay with us will be a pleasant and a long one:—L/Corpl Emsley and Sigmn Shields from the Rhine Signal Company; Signalmen Dymond and Turrell from S.T.C., Catterick.

Education.—Congratulations are extended to the following on gaining that much needed "second": Signalmen Simpson A., Wood, Salkeld, Mountney, Rumble, Underwood and Waters; also to Sigmn Wilson L. W., who qualified at Catterick.

Courses.—Sigmn Woodgate has returned to our fold after attending a course at the Military College of Science in the repair of "bikes, push, G.S. Mk.IV*," having obtained a good report. The rumour that he has been mending punctures in his sleep has not yet been confirmed.

Individual Training.—The individual training season has begun, and the Company is at present in the throes of procedure and "brass-pounding," among other congenial occupations. The echoes of the snap of rifle bolts can also be heard across our tame Sahara.

We never knew till recently that a whistle could perform such wonders:—

Act 1: Scene, A lines, squads innocently listening to the requests of their various instructors—"Be so good as to assume the standing load position—thank you." All of a sudden the shrill blast of a whistle breaks in on the silence of the balmy morn; clouds of dust appear, and crowds of soldiers disappear as if by magic.

Act 2: Scene, the same, ten seconds later.—Enter the Company, carrying books, sucking pencils, and dreaming of "C" sets and "hammers, telegraph, sledge." The scene fades as they move off in various directions. Total time, fifteen seconds. Can you beat it?

Run.—The Company held a run on Wednesday, January 4th, the result of which will be found elsewhere. The event brought to light several dark horses. We participated in the run, and we would like to know the individual who elected to run in number nines! We think the boots were Bent a bit too Broad for him. Another "breath waster" elected to have a cheap drink on the way, and also a lift, but he was out of luck—they hadn't been tapped.

Query.—What was the end of the story about the young lady who went into a chemist's shop?

THE WATCHER.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The Company, having returned from annual furlough, are now in the throes of individual training.

We have been fortunate in securing as our new O.C., Captain F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C., who has relinquished the command of No. 2 Company to look after the interests of No. 3. We take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome, and trust that his tenure will be a long and happy one. Watch that trophy, No. 2 Company.

Courses.—Corpl Askew has departed on a long course at the Muscle Factory, and L/Corpl Pearsall is broadcasting on a short wave from the School of Signals.

A.F.B. 171.—Judging by the intense look of worry on the faces of the operators in general, one can only come to the conclusion that they are suffering from winditis. Still, it is some consolation to know that, whatever happens, Three Company invariably works the oracle.

For the information of all concerned, we publish the following in order that the culprits may read, mark, and inwardly digest: "Applicants for special week-end passes are requested to note that it is quite unnecessary to quote details of family history (dating from the time of William the Conqueror in some cases) when submitting applications."

Marie is unable to perform for THE WIRE this month. The shock of reading last month's publication—so far as the personal reference was concerned—has proved too great for him. There are whispers that he intends to commence an action for libel (when he can sell the oat-crusher).

Arrivals.—We welcome the undernamed to the Company, and trust their stay will be a long and pleasant one: No. 2315520 Sigmn Ferrier F. J. from the S.T.C., Catterick; No. 2315503 Dvr Pevy L. J. from the Rhine Signals.

Departures.—Our best wishes go with Sigmn Collins, who has left us to bask in the sunshine of civvy street.

Foreword.—Marie has sufficiently recovered to enable him to pen the following: "We believe that there is something coming off. Perhaps the London-Brighton Pram-pushing Association are holding another endurance test, for, following on the heels of Robbo's achievement in pushing his decrepit 1870 Triumph model from Shotbag, comes the report of another signalman (Marie dare not mention names)—the proud (?) possessor of an ancient Douglas reputed to be Elizabethan—who was seen pushing his acquisition round the square for two solid hours. He must have been getting into training for something, because he immediately afterwards went home on leave by train." [Note: The above goes to show that professional jealousy is still in existence among the Scribes and Pharisees of No. 3 Company.]

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot.

Congratulations to our O.C., Capt. R. Sutton-Pratt, Royal Signals, on his promotion to that rank.

Drafts.—On December 5th last the following left us for the Burning Plains per H.M.T. "Nevassa," and our best wishes went with them: Signalmen Hubbard, Clark, Macey, Farrington and Ellis.

Departures.—Sigmn Tilcock V. R., discharged on 21/1/28, owing to ill-health. The Troop wish him the best of luck and a speedy recovery. Corpl Ives P. J., transferred to the Army Reserve on 27/12/27, and now happily settled in civvy life.

Arrivals.—To the following we extend the hand of welcome, and hope that their stay with us will be a long and pleasant one: Signalmen Lough and Clark from the Training Battalion; Sigmn Jones W. C. and family from Egypt Signals.

Extension of Service.—Sigmn Grafton J. E. to complete 12 years with the Colours. Well done, Paddy!

Why Schoolmasters go Grey.—Instructor: "Who was Napoleon?" 2nd Class Candidate: "Napoleon was the great French Admiral."

Likewise Troop Sergeants.—Budding Trooper: "What time do we put the horses on the long ropes?" Orderly Sergeant: "What the —— for?" B.T.: "So that they can lie down."

Query.—"What is the rarest thing in the Army?" "A quarter-bloke's funeral."

Agony.—Will Corpl Shaw, ex-Tope-Khana, please communicate with Sigmn Swan C. G., ex-Tope, now with this unit.

General.—Owing to furlough very little has been done in the way of training, but when all have returned we are expecting to have rather a busy time. For the same reason we have only been able to turn out a soccer team on two occasions, and incidentally suffered defeat. However, we hope to redeem ourselves when our friendly enemies of E Troop pay us their annual visit. (What about it, E Troop?)

J. O. B.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

General.—To those who sent us the season's greetings, many thanks. We duly received our portion of the Arctic weather around Christmas time, and although it was not quite so bad as our Bulford neighbours experienced (we did not have to bring the milk in by tanks), we managed to notch a couple of casualties. One was a genuine accident—Dvr Jackson sustained a broken arm; but though the other—Tiny, a sprained ankle—was put down to the slippery state of the roads, there are strong rumours of carol singing and the caressing of railway lines having something to do with it.

One other episode of the cold weather was that owing to the taps having been left turned on, when the thaw eventually set in our barrack-rooms suffered a severe flooding. It is interesting to note that exactly a year ago our office was set on fire. As Ginger has left us, however, he could not be blamed for this annual attempt to exterminate the Troop.

The Carol Singers would like to know if they were *really* appreciated at No. 34.

Ere these notes appear in print all leave in the Troop will be but a memory, and everyone will be getting his eye down to training. Incidentally we are wondering whether we shall be chasing six-wheelers with our limbers or be lucky enough to do this year's manœuvres in gin palaces.

Third Division, please note we have not given up hopes of capturing the Blanco cup. We have already rebuilt our jumping course in preparation for training (loud cheers—or was it moans?). Our Rough has also been observed polishing the whips, remount.

A word also to D Troop: Keep your footer team in training; they'll need it when we visit you in the near future—and *don't forget* the food, Molly.

Association Notes.—It is regretted that at present less than half of our Troop are members of the Signal Association. Now, what about packing up that jew's course and joining up? Sergt Adcock will do the necessary for you. Contributions to the notes would also be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks, Ianto, for greetings. Colonel *will* be pleased!

Arrivals and Departures.—Signalmen Myers and Brooks from Training Battalion. Corpl Chalmers, L/Corpls Hill and Stevens, Signalmen Costello and Gosling to India, about February 21st.

SANDSMUDGE.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts.

General.—In reply to Bannu Signals notes of January, their correspondent is under some misapprehension. Coir, though not serving in the Signals as a soldier, is acting in the capacity of a clerical merchant in the Southern Command Signal Company, which is on mainly a civilian basis, the majority being ex-Signals. Will the correspondent accept my best wishes and thanks for his enquiries? It is good to know that Coir still lingers in the memory of his comrades out East. May we meet again some day!

From information received the Wazirdist Signals have lost two of their famous hockey players, Corpl Parsons (Padre) and L/Corpl H. Smith (Smudger). The Wazirdist Signals' loss is No. 1 Company A Corps Signals' gain. May their service in A Corps be a long and happy one.

By the Way.—When are we going to receive another instalment of Mac's his(s)tory? Does he find licking stamps a thirsty job?

Randomites.—The O.C. went to Switzerland on leave. Why? Wasn't Beacon Hill just as good? *A propos* weather: During the Christmas sample it was found that a good method of discovering Austin Sevens was to trail a magnet over the drift! Which reminds me: the owner of an Austen Three (four having died) parked in the Market Square and put his fur coat over the car. On his return he found five greyhounds waltzing around it! The snow was very severe in this district, and horrible rumours were flying round of a body with a fur coat on being found in a snowdrift. It turned out to be only a rabbit, luckily.

"The Wire" Competition.—Congratulations to Barleux on being awarded the first prize for his yearly endeavour: "Plain Tales" and Unit Notes. Well done, ye good and faithful servant; carry on with the good work for 1928! We also congratulate the winners of the second and third prizes.

Query.—What is New Procedure? Have we had it, or is it to come?

Weather Clerk, please note.—Much has been said about the weather, and much more will be said before the year is out. The rough wind of late has been playing havoc with H.Q.

During a storm the other afternoon (when the slates decided to take to flying) an excited passer-by rushed into a certain hut and after wiping the beads of beer—sorry, perspiration—from his noble brow, exclaimed to a pale-faced agitated clerk, "The slates are falling off. What are you going to do about it?" The clerk placed his pen on the table, removed his glasses, and confronted the blustering fellow before him and enquired "What did you say?" "The slates are falling off!" repeated the man. The clerk hesitated for a moment; then in a meek voice replied, "We'd better turn off the wind!"

CLIFF-COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Bulford Camp.

Sorry!—I knew you would accept my apology, so that's all right. Thanks! It was just a coincidence that the lads who usually drag these notes together should all be away at one time.

The Big Eat.—Once again the great day was celebrated in the time-honoured style. Hut No. 12 was skilfully converted into a combination of American film studio and Japanese garden by Corpl Strickland, Signalmen Jarvis and Woods, and a few enthusiastic helpers.

The result was distinctly pleasing. There were about a hundred men present, and they did full justice to the excellent dinner provided. A large portion of cheer must be handed to the culinary artists under Corpl Strickland and L/Corpl Clubb. They turned out a real masterpiece.

Well! Look at this while you sharpen your knives. The menu, so far as my informant's hazy memory goes, was this shape: Tomato soup. Roast pork and roast turkey (sage and onion stuffing). Brussel sprouts, potatoes, parsnips. Duff à la Noel. Pies de mince. Beer. Cigarettes. Nuts. Bed. What more do you want?

The musical side of the business was in the hands of Twig Hawthorne of the Bulford Orpheans. He was ably supported by Sigmn Saunders. I understand the band distinguished itself again in the cookhouse *after* the dinner.

A very successful turnout, and one that should be arranged monthly at least, according to the majority.

Sergeants' Mess.—December 23rd was notable for the great draw. "Joe's" draw, they called it. C.Q.M.S. Sweeting to you, if you didn't get a prize. I didn't.

Well, no matter; there was a great deal of excitement as the names were drawn out. I don't know where all the prizes went, but I believe there were all kinds of poultry struggling to get out of baulk in the billiard room. Bottles of everything, from Johnny Walker to castor oil, were in abundance.

The billiard room was decorated in fine style by Sergt Hailes. It was very wrong of someone to go and transfer the cotton-wool "Jimmy's" hind leg to the front, thus converting him into a Charleston fiend. That was *after* Christmas, though.

The proceedings developed into a very enjoyable musical evening.

The annual dinner takes place on Friday, January 20th, and the ball on January 27th, but of these important functions more later.

Special note: Annie told me a good one on his return from leave.

The Old-fashioned Touch.—Yes! you can keep your old-fashioned Christmas. No doubt you have read all about Bulford in the papers. It is one of our few claims to fame that we were thoroughly snowed up. No milk, no water, no food, and nearly no beer (tragic thought). Many cars were snowed up. Some were buried so long that they were out of date when the great thaw uncovered them.

The Digger's Paradise.—I'm using a lot of space, I believe, so I will not weary you with a talk about the Pimple. Just let me say that the weather is holding up progress. That is why the R.S.M. won't smile. He springs out of bed at—s-sh, and dashes to the window to inspect the weather. "Blow it," he says, or something similar; "raining again."

The Annual Cram.—Here we are, all back from furlough and hard at work for the various ratings. Individual training is in full swing, and a number of intelligent youths are sweating on the top line.

Even the rugger team are back. Poor old rugger team! They really do so well, yet they go unsung.

Congratulations.—And many of 'em, to C.S.M. Jack O'Connor on having pushed the crown a little further down his sleeve. How many pints of old did you say? Phew!

Appointment.—C.Q.M.S. Sweeting J. to be Acting U/L Santa Claus for the annual Christmas tree scramble on Saturday, Jan. 14th, without pay and allowances. Uniform provided, including initial issue of whiskers. Full details later.

Good-bye!—Also good luck to C.Q.M.S. Alf Black and his wife, who have left us for the frozen (?) north. We trust the Catterick air will agree with him, and also that he will spare a thought for the 3rd Divl. Signals, who are not likely to forget him and his useful smoking concert repertoire.

R. F. B.

Arrivals.—From Catterick: Corpl Tapley, L/Corpl Bloye, Signalmen Knox R., Cockrell, Wolsey, Slack, Lambird, Trivett, Barnecutt, Larkin, Mays, Ward W., Scott and Thomson. From Malta: Signalmen Alexander and Burgess. From E Troop: Sigmn Button.

Departures.—To India on 6/11/27: L/Sergt Pye, Corpl Taylor, Signalmen Macauley, Jenks, Court L., Richardson T., Donogue S., Easton S., Hall R., Haskell, Reddick, Arnold L., Tovell H., Tucker T., Newberry, Pickles, Praegar, Sinclair, Shone, Coles, Merritt, Patterson, Richardson G., Porter, Lloyd, Moss B., Bisby K., Nicholls, Phyall and Seward. To Malaya Signal Section: Sigmn Adkins. To Catterick: C.Q.M.S. Black A., Corpl Andrews, Signalmen Stowers G. and Bellinger, and Dvr Fostekew. Transferred to the Depot R.A.M.C.: Sigmn Cooke. To E Troop: Sigmn Parfitt.

Discharges.—Sigmn Burton M. on completion of 21 years' service. Sigmn Woods A. R., medically unfit. Sigmn Rankin, by purchase. Corpl Percy and Sigmn Ridding to Army Reserve.

Marriages.—Corpl Crummey B. to Cecilia Anne Smith, at Warwick, 5/11/27. L/Corporal Norcup J. to Mildred Catherine Wainwright, at Newcastle, 19/11/27. Sigmn Jackson to Violet Madge Wooley, at Wyberton, Boston, 26/11/27. Sigmn Cowan A. to Lizzie Breadon, at Kilmarnock, 28/11/27. Dvr Lee E. to Marion Homons, at Kensington, 28/11/27. L/Corpl Walby to Ivy Young, at Ipswich, 24/12/27.

Births.—To Sigmn Heath E., a son. To Corpl Crabtree N., a son (Allan Frederick), 27/11/27.

Promotions and Appointments.—C.Q.M.S. O'Connor J., to be W.O. Class II. (C.S.M.). L/Corpl Baker to be Corporal.

Extension of Service.—Corpls Crummey B. and McBride, L/Cpl Norcup, and Sigmn Atkins R., to complete twelve years. Corpl Lemon to complete 21 years.

Special Certificate of Education.—Sigmn Day passed in mathematics ("B") and physics ("E" and "M").

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, Jan. 17th.

Nothing of note occurred last month, the majority of the unit having departed to better 'oles for the Christmas festivities. However, there were about eighty or so of all ranks who remained for Christmas, and a good programme of entertainment on Christmas Day was provided.

The dinner took place at 6.30 p.m. and was voted a huge success. Subsequently a smoking concert *should* have taken place, but owing to the excellence of the dinner, etc., I am afraid the lads were far too full for words or songs.

The whole of the arrangements for Christmas Day were admirably carried out, and great praise is due to the committee and all who assisted to make it the success it was.

The annual exodus and return has been accomplished, and now all ranks are settling down to work on individual training.

We must congratulate the following on attaining the first step: U/L/Corpls Gourlay G., Anderson G., Gilbert F., Dye T. R., Culver F. H., Geere W. H., Watson J. and Garratt F.

To L/Corpl Higginson L. and Signalmen West G. R., Hind A. S., and Forbes R., we offer our condolences on facing the great unknown, viz., Civvy Street. May they all get fat jobs and keep them!

A draft left us on December 17th for India: L/Corpl Smith M. A. K. and Signalmen Banister E., Chapman C., Colston C. D., Cosgrave G., Coxon A., Clowes E., Dart A. R., Hart W. H., Hazzard R., Howland S., and Ross W. S. We hope they do not make too early an acquaintance with the Frontier.

To the following arrivals we offer a hearty welcome: Signalman Moffett, from Rhine Signal Company; Dvr Lynch, from No. 1 Company Egypt Signals; Signalmen Avis, Belcham and Pease, from the Depot Battalion; Signalmen Martin and Ryan from the Training Battalion; Sigmn Bridges from Hong Kong; Sigmn O'Brien, from No. 3 Company Egypt Signals.

L/Corpl Langham G. has at last returned to the fold after an absence of about six months, during which time his muscles have been under the tender ministrations of the instructors at the Army School of Physical Training. He must have been extremely good material, for he returned to us a fully fledged 1st class assistant instructor. I won't say any more, for maybe, if I do, he has ways and means unknown to the lay mind whereby he can "take it out of me."

In my hour of need my friends have all deserted me, and I have no one upon whom to call for "stuffing" for these notes. I apologise most sincerely, and promise faithfully that next month will see an improvement.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, January 1st.

General.—Everyone has got over the effects of Christmas, and I'm sure that those responsible for the arrangements deserve great praise for the way in which things were carried out. "An improvement on previous years" seems to be the general opinion. The social arrangements were excellent.

A Christmas carnival dance was held on December 20th, and was very enjoyable; it was gratifying to see the old spirit show itself once more.

Two children's Christmas tree parties were held on December 22nd and 28th respectively. The former, given by the officers of the Company, was voted a great success, as was the latter, provided by the n.c.o.s mess. Presents were distributed by Father Christmas on both occasions. The toys were well chosen, and that they suited the recipients was obvious.

A smoking concert was held on December 26th, and on the following evening a whist drive provided a very enjoyable time.

As a result of very cold weather with snow and rain, Wiesbaden, Dotzheim and district on the morning of December 22nd resembled a vast skating rink. The many humorous and acrobatic stunts (quite unintentional) that were witnessed are too numerous to mention, but I have to smile when I think of a certain married n.c.o. who engaged a corporation employee to throw sand under his feet while he made an awkward passage from the pavement to the nearest tram stop (he had already missed one car).

The social evening for the married personnel was thoroughly enjoyed by those present; songs and selected items were well received, especially "Twinkle, twinkle, little star," given by a prominent member of the local vat.

A farewell in the form of a whist drive and dance, to mark the departure of C.Q.M.S. Walker and Corporals Finney and Marcham to foreign climes, was held on January 2nd in the sergeants' mess. Suitable replies to speeches were made by the two former, but the last named had floated when his turn came. Oh! Ernie; fancy you being branded a blackleg.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Biggins and Wilson, the latter to the C.S.O.'s establishment. A daughter to Sigmn and Mrs. Smith (congratulations, Smudger).

Erratum.—For the reliefs from U.K. as reported last month, read as follows: Sergts Tracey and Smith H., L/Corpl Wilcock, Signalmen Taylor, Warren and Wollcott. We trust that the above arrivals have thoroughly made up their minds either to like or dislike this famous country. It ain't too bad, you know. (No! this does *not* apply to you, Smudge.)

Departures.—The following have left us for stations as shown, and our best wishes go with them: To India: Corporals Finney and Marcham. L/Corpl Wills G. P., Signalmen Adams F. S., Attrill S. R., Beadle A., Crewe G. A., Gifford P., Hooper C. G., Le Cocq E. T., Morris H., Perks W. A., Price W. C., and Topliss S. J. To 3rd Divl. Signals: L/Corpl Bloye L. C. To civvy street: Corpl McDowell, Signalmen Ashby H. and Homewood J. T., and Dvr Lampert W.

The Plunge.—L/Sergt Waldron D., L/Corpl Knight R. D., and Sigmn Shaw W., to complete twelve years with the Colours.

Courses.—Sergt Gordon has returned from a refresher at the School of Signals, simply bursting with knowledge which he is now blowing into the ears of those unfortunate visual ops who have just commenced training.

Corpl Salmon G. is at the School on an A.I. visual course, and Dvr Spooner is learning the art of farriery at Aldershot.

This Month's Best.—O.C.: "Put me through to G.H.Q." Operator: "Sorry, sir; one line engaged, and I'm not *allowed* to use the other."

O.C.: "Why?" Operator: "It's dis."

Query.—Should the question of gramophone playing whilst on guard be included in the Orders for the Guard Commander?

Agony.—Sigmn Cain J. would like to know the whereabouts of Sigmn Robinson R. W., last heard of in the Mounted Wing, S.T.C.

Will T. T., believed to be somewhere in China, kindly quit fooling and communicate with Wink of this Company?

BLANCO.

Whales have lived as long as 1000 years.

* * * *

Luck is ever waiting for something to turn up; Labour, with keen eyes and strong will, will turn up something. Luck relies on chance; Labour on character.

* * * *

There are 150 Post Offices in Birmingham, 128 in Manchester, 98 in Glasgow, and 77 in Edinburgh.

* * * *

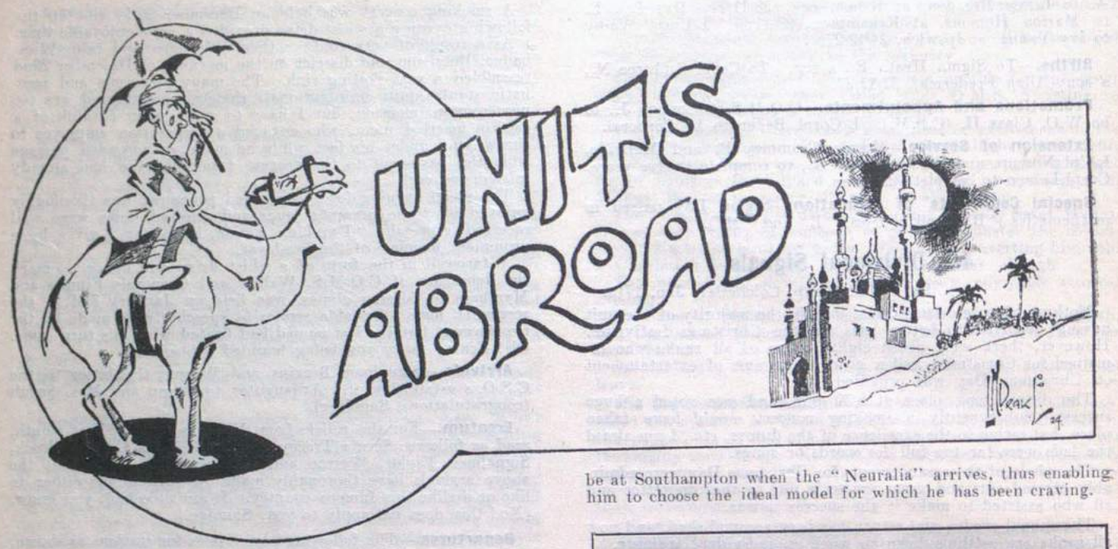
Silver paper collected for hospitals should be folded in bundles, and not rolled into a ball.

* * * *

The common cold costs Approved Insurance Societies approximately £2,600,000 a year.

* * * *

The world's record for shorthand writing is 280 words a minute.



A Corps Signals, Karachi.

December 14th.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of Sergt Wakley D., M.M., at the British Military Hospital, Karachi, on the 27th November, as the result of a motor-cycle accident. All ranks express their deepest sympathy with the bereaved.

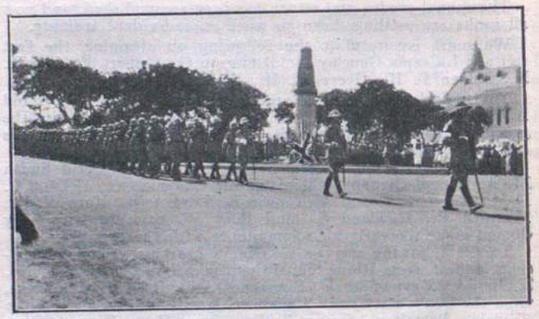
General.—The Armistice Day commemoration parade took place at Frere Hall on November 11th, and was attended by His Excellency the Viceroy. On November 12th His Excellency opened the Chamber of Commerce, and the unit had to line part of Bunder Road.

A Section of Frere Hall Gardens.
A Corps Signals lined up for the arrival of His Excellency the Viceroy on November 11th, 1927

Our annual Charity dance was held at the G.P.A. Hall on November 16th. This was very well attended, and thanks to the splendid and untiring efforts of the committee it proved a huge success in every way.

On December 29th we are losing quite a lot of the old hands of the Corps, and we shall miss them very much. We wish them every success in their new abodes.

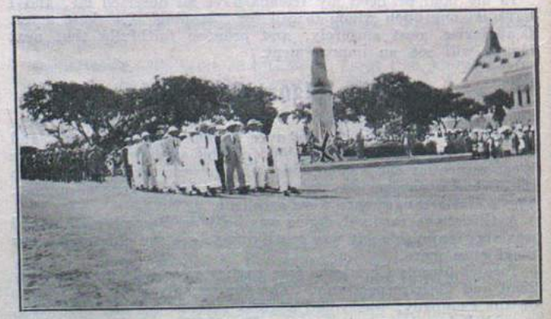
Many old hands will be interested to hear that Sergt Thomas J. is at last being sent home on leave, and to ensure his safety he has been consigned under "medical arrangements." It is anticipated that all the leading manufacturers of bath chairs will be at Southampton when the "Neuralia" arrives, thus enabling him to choose the ideal model for which he has been craving.



A Corps Signals marching past the Cenotaph
on November 11th, 1927

One of the accompanying photographs shows one of the R.A.F. sea-planes which are touring round the world and are at present in Karachi Harbour.

On December 11th the King of Afghanistan arrived in Karachi by a special train which was escorted by the four sea-planes and two squadrons of aeroplanes.



Karachi's ex-Service men marching past the Cenotaph
on November 11th, 1927

Royal Signals lining Bunder Road, Karachi
with the Viceroy's car passing.

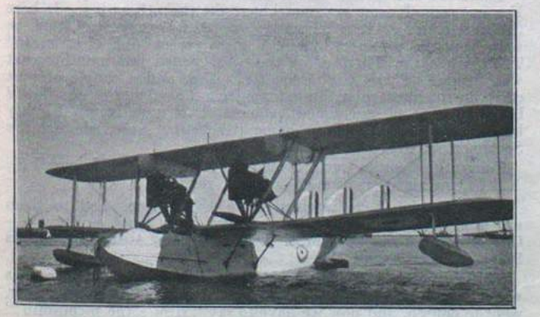
Arrivals.—Capt. J. Butcher, D.C.M., and Lieut. R. H. Gem. We extend a hearty welcome to these officers on their return from U.K. leave.

Sergt Shardlow from S.T.C., Jubbulpore. Corpls Williams and Henshaw from 2nd Indian Divl Signals. We hope their stay will be a long and pleasant one.

His Excellency the Viceroy (in centre)
Preceded by Major-General M. R. W. Nightingale, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., and the Commissioner, and followed by Civil Officials.

Departures.—Sergt Jones (of Waterloo fame), L/Sergt Conyers and Corpl Hayes to Peshawar District Signals. L/Sergt Hobby to B Corps Signals. Corpl Ford to Waziristan District Signals. L/Sergt Barnes to 4th Indian Divl. Signals.

Appointment.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Dadswell on his appointment to that rank.



One of the four Seaplanes stationed in Karachi Harbour.

Birth.—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Stevens, a son. Congratulations, Steve! This nearly brings the unit up to establishment of O.V.S.

Home-Sick.—Sigmn Knight, now serving in this unit, is longing to hear from Sigmn Ellis F., late of the Mounted Wing. One wonders whether a cinema star is being secretly advertised, or whether Sigmn Knight is going to produce this copy of THE WIRE in years to come to prove that he served in India.

League Notes.—No! Sergt Watmore has not qualified to become an affiliated member of the League. AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

December 5th.

"A very happy Christmas and everything that can be desired during 1928." We broadcast this message from our unit to all others at home and abroad.

Preparations are now being made for a real good Christmas (modified for India) this year. The people selected to organise the various functions are all experienced and able-bodied men, and we have great hopes of a sumptuous time. A full account will be sent with next month's notes, with a list of casualties and a report on their progress.

Up to the time of writing no account has been received of any Frothblowing rehearsals. Evidently all are in good training. Well! we shall see in due course. Perhaps the lads are mossing up in the meantime.

The weather is cold, and fires have been sanctioned; the Yuletide spirit is making itself felt.

Officers.—We extend a hearty welcome to Capt R. F. Holwill, A.I.R.O., who joined us during the month from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore. May he have a happy time here.

According to the latest report from Blighty, Cupid has been busy with those arrows of his. We shower our congratulations upon Capt. J. C. Coates, of this unit, who is at present on home leave. He has been mortally wounded by one of those arrows, and will shortly be placed on the married roll.

Training and Manœuvres.—The training camp at Hasan Abdul came to a successful conclusion on November 21st, and the majority of the personnel proceeded to Lahore and Ferozepore in connection with the Lahore manœuvres. All have now returned to Rawalpindi and are enjoying a well-earned rest.

A message of congratulation has been received from the Brigade Commander, Lahore, in respect of the work of the unit during the manœuvres.

Condolence.—It was with much regret that we heard of the accidental death of Sergt Wakley D., of A Corps Signals, Karachi. He was with this unit until his departure to the United Kingdom on leave, prior to being posted to Karachi. The deepest sympathy of the officers and B.O.R.s of the unit are extended to Mrs. Wakley in her sad bereavement.

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome the following into our fold: L/Sergt Hobby from Karachi. Corpls Clarke R. and Wilson E. from Waziristan District. Signalmen Lovatt H. and Donkin C. from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore.

The following have left us for pastures new: Sergt Ellerbeck to Waziristan District. Corpls Sprunt R. and Stapleton E. to Kohat. We are very sorry to lose them, and our best wishes for the future go with them.

General.—Very little of interest has happened during the camp and manœuvres, as the barracks were practically deserted.

A few green shoots were reported in the Headquarters garden, and doubts were expressed as to their origin. It has now been definitely decidedly that they are sweet peas (?). I have heard of Christmas roses, etc., but I have very grave doubts in respect of sweet peas connected with Christmas. We live and learn, however. I shall not be surprised to hear that this "not-too-particular-in-respect-to-season" garden suddenly shoots up snowdrops, crocuses, etc., during June or July. Yes, Barleux, old dear. I've got some learnin' about gardening, I 'ave.

Much sadness has been brought about by the new Indian Army Order prohibiting the use of blue-lights. No more may the gallant though financially embarrassed soldier obtain relief during the lean days of the week, i.e., between pay-days. Once again must one endeavour to go on the book when annas run out. Long faces are again to be seen at mid-week.

Agony.—L/Corpl Felstead G. F., of this unit, would be very glad to hear from Sigmn Lewis J., last heard of in Mespot.

ECHO.

Peshawar District Signals.

December 6th.

General.—Having returned from a week at the Artillery Practice Camp at Akora, I hoped to have a rest prior to putting pen to paper to record the happenings of this unit. But, alas! the Editor is inexorable in his demand for punctuality with notes, so here goes for a little burning of the midnight oil. To my idea, our Editor appears in the light of a great furnace capable of devouring all material that is placed in it.

Well, on November 24th there were signs of packing up stores, loading up A.T. carts, and much cleaning of equipment owing to practically the whole of the unit being due to start for Akora, about thirty-four miles away, on the following day.

The morning of the 25th dawned, and without the slightest hustle or bustle the unit moved off punctually at 8.30 a.m. by way of the dusty Grand Trunk road to Pabbi, our first halt. We arrived there at 2 p.m. after marching fourteen miles, and then encamped for the night.

Pabbi, it must be recorded, is a notorious hotbed of thieves and "loosewallahs," and adequate precautions were taken to protect all Government property there. The char-wallah (tea vendor) must have thought that he was immune from robbery. Alas! he was suffering under a delusion. About 3 o'clock in the morning he was rudely awakened by his blankets being stripped from him, and the last he saw of them was in the arms of a native disappearing towards Pabbi village. That was our only casualty.

The following morning our camp was struck, and again we set off along that dusty road, this time for our Mecca: Akora, twenty long miles away. After endless marching we arrived and found to our great delight that tents had been pitched, so we only had to unload, put our bedding in the tent, and rest our weary feet.

We stayed at Akora for four days and took part in two exercises—one with the Royal Artillery and the other with the Peshawar Brigade machine gunners. These were successfully completed, and on the following day the march back to camp commenced. We arrived here without incident, thankful that the Akora exercises are held only once a year.

By the time these notes appear the Christmas festivities will be a thing of the past. At the time of writing we are wondering if our poultry on the gun-ramp will survive this cold spell until the grand day. But we shall not hurt the feelings of the poor poultry by mentioning their impending doom, because in another three weeks they will all have disappeared from their haunts, and no doubt some enterprising youth will be cherishing the feather pillow that he had the courage to make.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following to the unit: L/Corporal Hall R. and Signalmen McCullough and Pavey from the Signal Training Battalion, Jubbulpore. L/Sergt Conyers and Corpora. Hayes from A Corps Signals, Karachi. Sigmn Legg from Dera Ismail Khan.

Enquiries.—A certain individual has been making enquiries for someone to act as best man at an approaching wedding, but I fear that no one has the heart to say "I will accompany you up the aisle." Why are all of us so bashful of gaining a little limelight?

Appointments.—Congratulations are offered to the undermentioned: Signalmen Varley H. A., Smith W. A., and Simpson C., appointed L/Corporals (unpaid) w.e.f. 22/11/27.

Marriage.—Congratulations are also offered to Sigmn Harris on his marriage to Miss E. M. Holyoak at Langley, Birmingham, on April 30th last. (Why do these people go on leave to tie the knot?)

Rumours.—During the exercise at Akora mentioned above, a few troops were left in Peshawar in case of any emergency. It was rumoured that our orderly room sergeant would be in charge of the mobile column composed of the above, but surely that must have been a mistake, as both side-cars were engaged at the time.

Finis.—As a closing note, our best wishes for a happy New Year are offered to all ranks of the Corps at home and abroad.

PESHDISTSIGS.

Kohat District Signals.

December, 1927.

Another month gone. It is time for *the* notes again. Now, what on earth can a scribe find to write about? I really think I must pay friend Barleux a visit and ask him how he does it. But here goes!

Kohat is still as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. (And I hear the people for the next boat echo "Amen.") After months of drought the powers-that-be permitted rain—"a gentle dew from heaven" would be a more apt description; and for the benefit of all old Kohatites, I might add that the mud is thicker and thicker. That's the weather topic finished! No, there is snow to be seen on the surrounding hills. I thought I would put that in, as it might have a cooling effect on those unfortunates sweltering in the heat of an English winter at Catterick!

Since the return of the Parachinar detachment, training has been going on apace. Section schemes have been worked out, fought out, and re-fought out. We have had P.T. in abundance, or rather, to be more precise, gyms. Ah, what wouldn't some of those fellows in fishermen's jerseys give to see the scene on the Maidan most mornings of the week. I'd give a lot to see them weep and gnash their teeth!

Dances have been numerous, and whist drives as well. Judging by reports and the clamour for more, everybody enjoys them. We are indebted for their success to C.S.M. and Mrs. T. Jones: to the former for the organisation, and to the latter for the feeding of the inner man. Any more lemon cheese or cocoanut, Mrs. J.?

With Christmas in the offing, "a soldier's fancy turns to thoughts of——" (no prize for the missing word). The holiday programme suggests that one and all are in for a bumper. But of that more anon—after the fog has cleared away, in fact.

The enclosed snap was taken at random in the lines. It suggests a new evangelical movement, but it wasn't that. Some wag in the Operating Section painted a set of letters to mark his section store; then, in hanging them up to dry, he got them mixed up.

There are one or two things that have caught my eye of late. For instance, I came across a blue-light the other day. It bore this inscription: "It is Thursday, and this is my last; God be with you till we meet again." Now, what did that mean? Then, when the Thrift Club box was opened last month, what was inside? Thrift Club requests? Yes, and a couple of post cards in the vernacular, an extract from *The News of the World* bearing a list of unclaimed balances, two undelivered Blighty letters, and a pice (with no name attached). Now, who are the Scotsmen in this unit?

Congratulations to our schoolmaster, Sergt Instr. Hopewell S., A.E.C., on his promotion to warrant rank.

The following have rejoined from U.K. leave (and to them we might add, "You ought to have been here in July"):—C.Q.M.S. Smithies, C.Q.M.S. Barnett (from Australia), Sergts Stevens, Keepen and Wall.

Sergts Keepen and Wall bade farewell to their bachelor days while on leave. You know the sort of thing. Bought a ring, went to church, and now we have to say "How's the memsahib?" Sergt Lydemore is just off to Bombay to go through the same

performance, in order to join that very select band in India, the married quarters! Still, they might have done worse than that; and to all of them we offer our very best wishes for the future.

Before closing I must add that once again Kohat Signals upheld the reputation of the Corps by winning the District football shield. This is open to Indian teams, and our representatives (captained by Capt. H. D. Orr) brought off a great win over the 3/18th Royal Garhwal Rifles in the final, and so brought the shield to us for the third year in succession.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

December 23rd.

Part II. Orders.—Precedence must be given to the addition to the unit strength of a young Miss Bennett and a young Master Haigh. I think the proud father of the former would have been still more proud had a young Rough been taken on the roster, but he must console himself with the knowledge that the young lady will probably vote Blue at the next General Election. Congratulations are not usually tendered in Part II. Orders, but the Editor of THE WIRE does not mind, so to L/Sergt and Mrs. Bennett, and to C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Haigh, "Hip, hip, hurrah!"

Arrivals and departures have been very few. Capt. J. Millar and Lieut. Oatts have joined us from Quetta and the S.T.C. respectively. Sergt Hales from Kohat, L/Sergt Barnes from Karachi, and Signalmen Nix and Carlton from the Depot have added to our strength; while Signalmen Chart, Coe and McLean have gone to Karachi, and Sigmn Connelly has returned to his battery at Lucknow.

Tittle-Tattle.—Great things are expected of our newly-formed jazz band. Deighton's saxophone, after a year or more of coaxing, now condescends to harmonise with the other instruments; and a first-class pianist in the person of Sigmn Carlton having arrived from the Depot, nothing remains to be done except to play. It is pleasing to note that the band is under no delusion as regards dress, and has not adopted the Spanish Toreador-cum-Australian Beachcomber suits sported by another jazz band we wot of.

Able assistance was given by the aforementioned band at the highly successful dance organised by the Esses Ack, held at Jackson's Hotel on December 2nd. All the unit was there and all the unit enjoyed itself immensely, thanks you! So did the secretary when he was compiling the balance sheet. The writer had the temerity to enter for the waltz competition, but was hanked off the floor before getting in the steps by which he hoped to induce the judges to let him be last on. To all who helped so willingly to make the dance the jolly affair it proved to be—our best thanks!

Corporals' Mess.—Never has the mess looked so well as it does now. I hope nobody has lost any pictures. The "queer feller" now has gardens all round the mess, and we should be alright for bananas in the sweet bye-and-bye. Spider Webb, displaying a taste one could scarcely credit, has superintended the decorations for Christmas. The committee is fortunate in finding some one to do its work.

We entertained the sergeants at tennis and a dance last month, and a very enjoyable time was spent by all.

Greater Love.—There was once an ex-rat who, realising that standing room was limited, volunteered to go on picquet whilst a practice dance took place. This gives effect to the theory that a tender heart beats above a pair of thirteens.

Typewriters.—The following note, received from a local firm, is self-explanatory:—

"Sir,—With ref. to your R/L regarding the repairing your Oliver typewriter, fixing letter 'O,' we are willing to repairing it, twise, thrise, but the point is this that my mansays this, that he was insulted there very badly and he dont want to go there. Though I have told him, but a/c this he is refusing. Therefore, I am requesting your honour, that kindly send your typewriter here, and I myself will do that work, firstly that place is too far and tangawalas is also refusing, in this case I am very sorry to give you trouble, kindly refuse me and send it immediate. Thanking you for the trouble, ——."

The following notice, which appeared in the sergeants' mess, is also self-explanatory:—

"For Sale.—One grand brand new second-hand typewriter. Top and bottom action; hall marked on every link; o.h.v.; h. and c.; w.c.; plush windscreen to keep draughts from the carburreter; crankshaft and dot from the 'i' missing and needs a silencer, otherwise believed sound; acrobatic spacer and anti-sceptic buffers enabling it to beat Major Segrave for speed; detachable parts which can be used as potato scrapers and sock darners respectively; amuses children for hours; complete with cover which is very handy for use as a footbath or for drumming up; can, and has been used as a jazz drum; ball bearing chassis wheels which rotate; price negligible if buyer can afford to hire the transport necessary to cart the machine away. Do it the Stage way. Pay before you type. Apply in first instance with cash, references and civility (no dealers, promissory notes or offers) at the Editorial sanctum, South-West corner of No. 12 Bungalow (tradesmen's entrance).

JOSOPE.

Gems of English Verse.

No. 4.—Some "Sell."

As things were rather quiet down here
(What some folks would call easy)
We've had a good "dig out," because
Some silly ass got "breezy."

You'll find the following things for sale,
And most of them are new;
In fact, we do not want your cash—
We'll give them all to you.

Lot number one. . . a banjo—
For this we have paid double;
We'd like to rid ourselves of this—
It's causing lots of trouble.

Lot number two. . . .cane tables—
Of these we have a score;
They're useless, 'cause we love to write
Our letters on the floor.

Lot number three. . . .a load of lamps—
We're selling these: some lark!
You see, we're having lots of fun
By reading in the dark.

Lot number four. . . .our sports gear—
Of this we have some "show";
But football boots and tooth paste
Do not go well, you know.

Lot number five. . . .towels, civvy, hand—
We've heaps of these galore;
But as we're using bath bricks,
We want them now no more.

Lot number six. . . .a polished box,
And rifle rack as well;
But stay, we will not part with these—
We've worked on them like. . . .

With all these things we have to part,
To give our barracks "tone";
The fact is, if we kept them all,
'Twould be too much like home!

DASH.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee.

General.—The curtain rises, disclosing the boys of "lazy A," resplendent in chaps, checked shirts, and horse-breaking attire.

Our absence from these columns is regretted, but as we were teaching manners and good behaviour to fifty of India's wildest mustangs, our leisure moments at the bunk-house were temporarily a minus quantity.

Much interest is centred round the cup, which is changing hands hourly, "Dingleberry Day" being our star performer with his "8 *%@' (*) 7–, *%*, hold the baby, madam?"

Arrivals.—During the month of October the unit extended its hearty welcome to thirty-six pairs of very welcome hands in the form of the n.c.o.s and men of finesse and leisure of No. 4 Pack W/T Section, late of Karachi.

The grooming strength "ek-dum" assumed rosy proportions, and "Dempsey" was heard to whisper in his groom's ear: "At last the gentlemen of the wireless are 'ere."

In addition, a hearty welcome is also extended to the following: L/Sergt Babbage from Waziristan District Signals. Sergts Wickham, Hinds and Turland from leave ex-India. Corporal Nimmo from B Cavsigs.

Departure.—Sigmn Baxter R. to U.K. The best of luck, Charlie!

Sergeants' Mess.—As this Palace of Arts is still in the making, we offer our apologies for the absence of data.

News.—Owing to an unfortunate accident to our C.O. (Capt. V. P. Roberts) necessitating his sojourn in B.S.H., Meerut, the reins of command are now in the hands of Lieut. E. J. H. Moppett. We heartily wish our C.O. a speedy recovery from his broken arm, and hope his absence from us will not be a long one.

Congratulations to Lieut. E. J. H. Moppett on being gazetted to the Royal Corps of Signals. To T.Q.M.S. Newport on attaining Government recognition of eighteen years "undetected." To Sergeant Shiner and L/Corpl Punter on gaining the much-coveted decoration of the I.G.S. medal with clasp (Waziristan).

Entertainments.—With the gracious permission of our neighbours the R.E.s, who lend us their ballroom, we spend a hectic evening once fortnightly, thus sacrificing one of Roorkee's many other social functions. Our one regret is the impossibility of holding more than one set of Lancers on the floor at one time; the other two couples meanwhile admiring the works of art on the wall dating back from '08.

Barrack-Room Ballads.—We do not ask for competition, but these anecdotes are worthy of record.

Heard of, but not seen: the combined A.T. cart, polo, pack, light draught, and hunting pony (No. 11)—From a Wireless correspondent.

Officer (inspecting revolver target): "Your score is ten, sergeant." Sergeant (to officer): "Pardon me, sir; it's thirty. Three shots have gone through that hole." (Sure, some shooting, "Shoey").

Agony.—L/Corpl Hall salaams to Bill Boyd, late of this unit, and to Sigmn Easling F. How about some news, Freddie?

L/Corpl Gow to Walter Tattam, of Egypt Signals: News required of George Pinson.

A CAV.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

December 22nd.

General.—News of interest from this part of the globe is very scarce this month. With manœuvres taking place next month, schemes are a daily occurrence and, besides proving very instructive, provide some amusing incidents. To wit, one person ordered a message to be sent in quadruped; another wondered why he could not send a message by wireless to a visual terminal. Then again, when a query cropped up as to whether a piece of ground was negotiable by wheeled transport, one n.c.o. (renowned for his exploits in Blighty) remarked that it must be, for he had once pulled an A.T. cart single-handed up a gradient of one in two.

During the early part of the month we received a visit from the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, and he carried out his annual technical inspection of the unit. Since he did not say he was dissatisfied with what he saw, we take it he was pleased; anyway, the horses appeared to win his approval. The Brigade Commander came and inspected the horses, and expressed himself as entirely satisfied with the turnout. The D.A.D.O.S. Lahore District also gave us a call this month.

Departure.—We regret to lose the renowned Paddy (Sigmn Gildea), who has been transferred to T Company for employment with Peshawar Radio.

Sergeants' Mess.—There is still no news from this quarter, so we assume that "no news is good news" and leave it at that.

Corporals' Mess.—We cannot say there's nothing doing in this hive of industry, for from the noises that issue forth at times one could imagine all sorts of things taking place behind its doors. Our "loud speaker" has mastered the Charleston; so much so, in fact, that if the producer of that dance could see him, he would weep tears of envy. It must be his daily order of six eggs for breakfast that accounts for his contortions.

Men's Mess.—We must mention the billiard match arranged by the men. The n.c.o.s played them in a six-a-side game, and sad to relate the former did not win a single game. The final scores were 900—613. We are told by one of the losers that it was just for encouragement, and that next time a different tale will be told.

Topical Tales.—The following yarn was told by one of our n.c.o.s (of course, there is no need to doubt its truth). He maintains that whilst walking in the vicinity of Sialkot he came across an old man, wearing a very old and tattered red coat, who was digging a trench. Being rather curious, he stopped and asked him the reason of his activity. The reply was to the effect that if the questioner knew his duty, he would do something instead of asking questions. This puzzled him still further, and asking another question he got this reply: "I was detailed for trench digging fatigue during the Mutiny, and no one has been sent to relieve me yet."

W. C. M.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Cairo.

General.—This heading usually covers the preceding month's news from each Company, and the main item of interest during that period was the Christmas dinner and the few holidays which surrounded it.

Our enjoyment was greatly enhanced by winning the Command cross-country championships and successfully passing through the second round of the Command rugby championship.

For a few days prior to Christmas, a hard-working few were engaged in turning our usually drab mess room into a place more in tone with the festive season. On the great day a hundred men sat down to a dinner which reflected great credit on those responsible for its preparation. During the dinner, our O.C. (Major G. E. Sampson, D.S.O.) gave a witty and very interesting talk on our progress in work and sport during the past year. The duties of M.C. were taken over by C.S.M. Burgess, who has made himself very popular with all ranks during his short period with us. I think that all the junior n.c.o.s and men will join me in a vote of thanks to all concerned, and repeat the time-honoured saying, "Roll on, the next one."

Support Your Corps.—The notice below was published in Company Orders a few days ago, and although it is composed by an unknown authority, all ranks agree that it contains just that appeal necessary, and the rugby and running spectators took it to heart even though we did lose to the 1st Battalion D.L.I. by 31 points to nil.

SUPPORT YOUR CORPS.

A gratifying feature of the last Corps rugby and hockey Command cup matches has been the splendid support accorded the teams by the remainder of the Corps in general.

The Corps in Egypt, apart from being well to the fore in all branches of sport, is also noted for the splendid support accorded its various teams, not (as is the case with most units) at one particular sport but all games. This, considering our small numbers, is a fact to be proud of.

The value of a good crowd of supporters has been proved time and again. Many instances can be given where the Corps players have been up against a stiff proposition but, with the support of loyal members of the Corps, have overcome their opponents and turned what might have been a defeat into a victory.

A weakly-supported team is greatly handicapped before it commences playing against a team that has a crowd of its own there to encourage it.

There is nothing that "bucks up" a tired player, runner, boxer or swimmer so much as a good-hearted "Come along, the Corps!" just at the moment when it is most needed. The knowledge that there is a crowd of his own comrades watching him will spur on a tired player to greater efforts.

It has been proved that a well-supported team's winning propensities increase in value to the extent of 25 per cent. This fact should not be passed over lightly.

The players do their bit with the aid of their limbs. The supporters do theirs with the aid of their *lungs!*

Royal Signals have a really good chance of winning the best all-round sporting unit trophy this season. In 1924, 1925 and 1926 the Corps was placed second. In 1927 the Corps was placed third (two points only behind the winners).

For the 1928 competition, tennis, cricket, and swimming have already taken place. No points were secured for tennis or cricket, but the Corps were runners-up by a very narrow margin in the swimming, thereby securing sixteen valuable points towards the trophy. On the occasion of the *swimming*, a huge crowd of Signal supporters attended (the moral is obvious).

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(30th June, 1927.)

Deposits, &c.	£353,934,406
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The Bank has over 1,700 Offices in England and Wales, and several in India and Burmah. It also has Correspondents and Agents throughout the British Isles, and a large number of Colonial and Foreign Agents.

At the last two Command cup competitions in which the Corps teams were concerned, it was noticed that about half the Signals personnel stationed at Polygon attended. But what of the remaining half? Cannot our supporters' numbers reach 90 per cent.? It is up to *you*.

The teams are training to develop their playing powers. You need no training to develop your vocal powers. Come and support the Corps teams and give your lungs good practice, with the certain knowledge that, should the Corps win, *you* can claim a share in the victory.

The players are keeping up the reputation of THE Corps as a famous sporting unit. *You* also, as a supporter of those teams, have a reputation to keep up.

You can't all play, but you can help those who do.

SUPPORT YOUR CORPS.

Training.—Company training is now at its height, and manœuvres are looming dangerously near. "Please put me on the old staff job." Schemes are held daily, and are again proving that we shall emerge from the final climax with flying colours.

S.O.S.—Sigmn Bowden wishes for news of Sigmn Booker, last known to be in India. Sigmn Andrews E. S. L. reminds Sigmn Aisher (late of Aldershot) that the Egyptian Post Office have lost his last two letters.

C. & D.

Sergeants' Mess.—Christmas came and went, brackets on tips, brackets off—but oh! what lingering memories it left us.

First mention is due to our 100 per cent. Choral Society which, led by the inimitable Bishop of Ash in a house-to-house wait-crawl, churned the atmosphere with a few bars of "Good King Wenceslas" (B-flat). They were as welcome as the flowers in May, and the hospitality of those "waited" upon left 'em stiff and stark (or clinging to anything clingable).

The morning after the night before should now read: "The afternoon after the day before."

Children's Christmas Tree.—All the kiddies (enlisted and otherwise) thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas party held on Thursday, December 29th, and we had a real good time (same like at Mary's House). Our friend Vee made an excellent Walad, but perhaps long experience in the country made him look just a little too real, for one lady was heard to remark, "Oh, look at that Walad's ticky galabieh!"

Tosh clowned admirably, but we are afraid his get-up rather frightened some of the youngsters. Try some soft stuff next time, Jack. Young Peter cried bitterly every time he spotted your clock. Roll on, Christmas next year!

On December 14th we fixed up the R.E.'s Mess at football to the tune of 4—4. Of course, the draw was all a wangle! We had 'em beaten from the moment we swopped to a rugby ball and rugby tactics! This match was followed in the evening by a games tournament, and the result of this was also declared a draw. More wangling!

The Corporals.—At home, "Meat." Away, "Meatier" (still, nuff said).

R. H. P. T.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, January 5th.

Departures.—Corpls Jones and Hill, Signalmen O'Brien, Bray and Coleman left for the U.K. on the 19th of last month. The Corps in Egypt lose a good footballer in Corpl Hill, and a staunch supporter of all Corps games in Corpl Jones. The Kingstonians football team should certainly strike a winning vein now that Sigmn Coleman has left for that little village on the Thames. Doubtless Bertie Bray heaved a big sigh of relief when he stepped aboard the troopship at Port Said, as he had already been on one draft and taken off at the last minute, and missed altogether on another one. Still, you'll be there to see Essex win at Leyton next summer, Bertie!

Arrivals.—Corpl White A. F. (Blanco the second) returned from the U.K. on December 10th, having completed a course at the School of Signals, Catterick.

Also, a son (Harold Leslie) to L/Sergt and Mrs. Williams, on December 29th.

Buckshee Years.—It has again been decreed that soldiers serving in Egypt whose period of Colour service expires after 1st November next, must remain until the following trooping season. The lucky ones so affected *are* grateful for this kindly consideration. Especially was there rejoicing among the M.T. drivers (Yemkin).

Local Transfer to A.R.—Sigmn Matthews M. took a local transfer to the A.R. on 14/12/27, having obtained civil employment at Alexandria.

Rise, Soldiers, Rise.—Congratulations to the following, who heard the call and arose as stated below: L/Corpl Sunderland to be Corporal w.e.f. 18/11/27. Signalmen Gratwicke and Stone J. to be L/Corporals (paid) w.e.f. 14/9/27 and 3/10/27 respectively. Signalmen Osborne and Cousins to be A/U/L/Corporals.

Wisdom.—Hats are raised to the following on having obtained 1st class education certificates at the October examination: Signalmen Jones H., Beach C., and Horn T. The first-named two also obtained "distinguished" in mathematics.

Entertainments.—A delightful evening pastime has been invented by someone or other, consisting of each hut taking a turn in reporting to the cook-house after tea each day, for the diverting pastime of peeling spuds. It is easy to note the married men on these evening outings; they easily manage five to the bachelor's one.

Records.—Though sport should not be mentioned in this particular section, we wish to congratulate the Corps cross-country team on their splendid record in getting nine men in the first fourteen placings (out of over two hundred runners) in the recent Command championship. This is about the finest performance the Corps has ever put up, and the other competing units were no duds, either! Wouldn't there have been a collection of Army colours if this performance had been at Aldershot?

Though no more congratulations are offered, we believe the corporals' mess have broken quite a few records recently, "Crazy words—crazy tunes" and "Horsey, keep your tail up" being the first to go. Nuff sed!

The Christmas "Do."—Christmas was well and truly celebrated on the 25th, and there were no complaints of the dinner that was served, though one or two individuals were noted to eve the small glasses with disdain. However, the jugs used for dishing out the "stuff that cheers" made good substitutes, and the scene was reminiscent of the "Chequers" at Maresfield on a pay night.

Another "do" took place two days prior to this, when the Corps celebrated the winning of the Command individual and team challenge trophies. The canteen was nigh exhausted of its stock of life-giving fluid. One well-known runner (and bantam-weight boxer) enjoyed it so much that, though carried to bed three or four times, he insisted on returning to join the lads. I have been threatened with dire penalties if I divulge his name, and (as already stated, he being a boxer) I give him best.

Famous Landmarks.—The "Bar Wilson" in the renowned Sharia Wagh el Berka has been placed out of bounds. This is probably very uninteresting news to most people, though not to a lately-departed clerk of the same name as the naughty bar if he should happen to read this. Isn't that so, Jock? All the famous landmarks are gradually disappearing, together with the men who made them famous.

Arm Jabs.—They were jabs, too! A large number of the Company enjoyed the thrills of inoculation on a Wednesday during last month. Thoughts of "wangle" were created when it was noticed that the forty-eight hours "E.D." left the afflicted ones o.k. for a nice drill order on the Saturday morning following.

Two can live as cheaply as one (?)—At least, L/Corporal Charles Phillips believes so, being well and truly made a benedict in Cairo during the past month.

Send it down, David.—That rarest of rare happenings in Egypt—rain—occurred twice during the month of December. Not a lot, to be sure, but enough to lay the dust. The geography books tell us that Cairo is one of the driest spots on the earth, with the least rainfall of any, yet during the past year we actually had three separate rainfalls, each lasting about five or ten minutes. Don't you Catterick readers feel envious as you stir the fire and button up your greatcoats?

Going to the Dogs.—We read in the papers that England is going to the dogs over its enthusiasm for greyhound racing. Though no dog racing has begun here, quite a few of the faithful camp defenders have had a rousing time lately, through the efforts of our C.I.D. experts in endeavouring to entice the said dogs into the dog-cart. Higher authority has decreed that all unregistered dogs are to go, though some of the dogs think otherwise. You should see 'em peep around a corner keeping a look-out for arms with the hated letters "R.P." thereon. "Spindle" has been quite off her food lately through worry in trying to keep out of sight, whilst "Mick's" hair is going grey with anxiety, and "Jim" only went on a change of air just in time. "Bonzo" and "Toby" were slow on the draw, and are doubtless in their happy hunting grounds by now.

"Jimmies," collections of.—This paragraph is really for the eyes of Mr. William Hyde, late of the Signal Troop. Buck is keen on outdoing the former's collection of Jimmies, and is picking them up on all sides. He took one (with a cup) in the final of the Corps bantam-weight boxing last month, and another (with a gold medal, William!) when the Corps won the Command cross-country. Don't you feel just a little bit green with envy, Bill?

Optimism.—Shown by the man who knocked on the door of the Company office at three in the afternoon and waited for an answer.

The Call.—When Sigmn Freddie Thorne has a few moments to spare, will he kindly lay down his sword for a pen and remember his old pal Sigmn Bill Hanke, of this unit? The former is believed to be not more than a thousand miles from the Taj Mahal.

Sigmn McKerr is going quite grey with anxiety at not having had a line from Sigmn Charlie Crowder, believed to be in the land of the 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot. What about it, Charles?

Corpl Marshall, of this unit, would like to have further details as to how Sam, of G Section, 2nd Divl. Signals, won the matrimonial stakes recently. He says he's surprised at you, Sam, after all his good advice!

Somewhere in the land of India, two wanderers (Ben Faulkner and G. Matthews) are requested to tarry a few minutes whilst they remember an old comrade in Sigmn George Shepherd. He is, by the way, collecting postage stamps; so what about it,

ART.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

January 14th.

General.—We hope that all old "Gib." Signals were pleased to see notes from this Section in the January issue. The notes this month will be very brief, as nothing of much consequence has happened.

"BLANCO"

Used by H.M. Forces for over 50 years for equipment cleaning. Still acknowledged as the one and only for its purpose.

Old Campaigner

Departures.—We much regret to record the departure to India of No. 2307911 L/Sergt Diamond G. He will be very much missed, both at work and sport.

Education.—Congratulations to Signalmen Bone, Prater, Smith and Wood on attaining their 2nd class certificates of education.

Troopers.—There seem to be further hitches in the trooping programme. Those hoping to get away from here during February look like having to wait until the following trooping season. Needless to say, several other troopers are due to call here during this and next month. But there is only one o.r. who really knows the names of them.

Agonies.—We have recently been experimenting with new blood for the football team, in consequence of the expected departure of several present members. After coaching L/Sergt Diamond as a goal-keeper and bringing him up to International standard, Records have posted him to Jubbulpore. We hope to hear good reports of his prowess through the medium of THE WIRE, and shall always consider that he was brought out in the "Gib." Signal Section.

Our new goal-keeper is still in the elementary stage, but we hope he will develop in time for next football season. He seems very keen (training on cocoa), and will probably stay here for further seasons. The Rock seems to suit him!

Ear-phones for theatre-goers is a suggestion that might catch on.

* * * *

There have been only nine serious railway accidents in England since the war.

* * * *

No sum is recoverable for the loss of a registered letter unless it is enclosed in an *official* Post Office registered envelope.

* * * *

The first suggestion for a Channel tunnel was made in 1874.

* * * *

In New York, children are not allowed in the streets unless accompanied by their parents.

2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1,
January 17th.

While Christmas and the advent of the New Year present scenes of unparallelled activity in domestic, family and theatrical circles, it is an unfortunate fact that the so-called festive season is a period of absolute and complete stagnation in so far as the Territorial Army is concerned.

From about two weeks before Christmas until at least three weeks after the New Year, everyone is too busy thinking about what he is going to do, and talking about what he has done, to pay any attention to matters of training.

The Permanent Staff—who, all said and done, and whatever they may look and behave like (on parade), are human beings just like the rest of us—cannot be expected to display an engrossing interest in Procedure, etc., when on one hand they are wondering on the extent of their Christmas leave, and on the other Mrs. P.S. is repeatedly enquiring as to when they propose doing their Christmas shopping.

However, now that Christmas is a feast that is passed and the New Year is well under way, we are again getting into our stride, which we trust will not be interrupted until Easter training. Recruits are coming along and are eminently satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality—the latter the far more important matter.

The chief event of the last period was the regimental prize giving and dance held at Harrod's on Friday, January 13th. As is always the case on such occasions, everything went with a swing, and all present certainly seemed to have a good time.

Congratulations are hereby accorded to S.S.M. Girdlestone, S.Q.M.S. Cundy, and Sergt Thirkell on having been awarded a bar to the Territorial efficiency medal.

Sergts Windridge and Montgomery are also to be congratulated on having attained a distinguished old age without seriously blotting their copy books, and having accordingly been awarded that token of esteem which a grateful country delights to present to its aged heroes: the Territorial efficiency medal. (Dear Wu, please forgive me for calling you an aged hero; remember grey hairs are dignified, and Chelsea Hospital is yet a long way off.)

26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1.

Annual Dinner.—Our fourth annual dinner and concert, held at the central mess, Duke of York's Headquarters, on December 17th last (just too late for last month's notes) was a great success. We were fortunate in having as guests Colonels Thomson and Buckle, the Brigade Commanders, and Lieut.-Col. Pryce-Jones, the secretary of the T.A. At another table we noticed our old friend Mr. Holliday, as young and blooming as ever, Tich Adams, and that fat fellow Morse.

The dinner was good, particularly the Christmas pudding!

The air-line competition cup and the Waley-Cohen cup were presented by Colonel Thomson to the 26th Company, and we were glad to see Sergt Creighton go forward to receive the first-named, as it was undoubtedly his training and fathering that enabled the team to win a very close competition.

The concert which followed was excellent. Some months ago I challenged any ink-slinging 'Erbs to put up a programme of such excellence and variety as we do. You have all kept silent, I notice. If you still think the matter is open to argument, present yourselves here on Tuesday, January 31st, at 7.30 p.m., ask for "Bill," and I will allow you to attend our smoking concert which takes place on that date. After that, there can be no argument.

Children's Party.—On Saturday, January 7th, a deep depression was seen over Iceland, fast approaching these headquarters. It was soon discovered to be our old friend Father (George) Christmas, travelling at great speed in his sledge, drawn by six husky reindeers.

We had received previous notification of this visit, and the families of the married men were all assembled round the fireplace, which was specially erected in the gymnasium. Father Christmas made his appearance in the approved manner, and after a word or two to the children, he distributed the presents which had been arranged on two Christmas trees. Having made his departure, again in the approved manner, the children's party proceeded apace, musical chairs, lucky dips and competitions making the whole thing a roaring success. I am asked by the children to thank all who helped to make this party the "best ever," especially the permanent staff, who were responsible for the fireplace in Old English style which was the "piece de resistance." Smart guys, our permanent staff!

Just a Word.—We are happy to congratulate Capt. Wickens on being appointed Brevet-Major. Our popular O.C. 27th Coy. has done a great deal for the unit for many years past, and it is almost entirely due to his efforts and spade work that our Trade Board entrants were so successful this year. We are only voicing the thoughts of all when we say, "Jolly good, sir! More power to your elbow!"

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

We are going through a quiet season, and consequently there is very little to report.

Trade training is in full swing, and classes are being fairly well attended.

We have not yet received the programme of social events for the remainder of the season, but it will probably be published before this appears in print.

It is with great regret that we report the death of Corporal Allen B., of No. 3 Company. He was a despatch rider of great competence, and his loss to the unit will be sincerely felt. Our deepest sympathy is tendered to his family.

Capt. Sylvester has been posted to the 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot, and we wish him all good fortune in the future. In his place we welcome Capt. C. E. Sketch, whose stay with us will, we trust, be a happy one.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

Children's Party.—It is surprising how soon a month goes; more so when it is necessary to spill much ink and spoil many sheets of perfectly good paper in an attempt to supply the usual notes.

Five sheets having gone, I now arrive at the children's party. This was held on December 17th, over a hundred of the unit members' children being present. After a good tea, wherein many plates of the eatables dear to the hearts of children were disposed of, an entertainer gave a good show; and judging by the amount of laughter, it *must* have been good. It was quite edifying to see certain of our senior n.c.o.s trying to appear as though they were not interested (but didn't they smile when the tea came along!) I take this opportunity of thanking the members' wives and friends who came along and did so much to make the party a success.

Dance.—The advent of the New Year was celebrated with a dance, but why do so many unit members forget all about their H.Q. on such an important occasion? However, although the atendance was small, a very pleasant evening was spent.

Sergeants' Mess.—Sad to relate, I cannot think of anything noteworthy that has happened since last month. Our Winston tried some parlour tricks with his motor-bike and side-car, but they did not come off (though he did). No bones were broken, so we will congratulate him on his lucky escape. May I suggest a new name for him—"Bouncer!"

The issue of paper having been expended, I now retire until next month.

G. E. W.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

Now that the Christmas festivities are over and New Year resolutions made (and broken), we are settling down once again to training.

Since the New Year we have unfortunately reduced our strength by a few, but there is every hope of recruiting to the original strength prior to annual training.

Rumour has it that we are again carrying this out in the Hop County (who said Walmer?—not me, John!) Anyhow, it is a great Deal Walmer at Canterbury than Shorncliffe (that one has qualified for its rootie, I think). But still, a true Briton can stand it.

Annual Company Dinner.—This was held at the Pavilion Creamery on Saturday, November 19th. Major J. D. N. Molesworth, M.C., was in the chair, supported by Capt. F. H. Fitz-Hugh, Lieut. K. J. T. Boag and C.S.M. C. Mumford. The chief guest of the evening was our adjutant, Captain C. R. H. Firth, whose presence I am sure was very much appreciated by all ranks. Thanks to Sergt Dean, a very excellent dinner was served.

After the usual speeches, Major Molesworth presented the cups and medals which had been won during the year.

Following this a number of local artistes (practically all ex-Signals, by the way) were combed out by C.S.M. Mumford, and this concluded a very pleasant evening.

Dance.—A very successful dance was held at the drill hall on December 6th. This was the first unit dance of the season, and was well supported by our O.C. (Major Molesworth), Capt FitzHugh, Lieut. Boag, and approximately 150 other members and friends.

Other dances are being arranged for the near future, and it is hoped that all members of the unit will help the committee in their efforts to keep them going.

Miniature Rifle Club.—This is still going strong, the winners of the last three spoons being Sergt Trower, Corpls Somerfield and Peirson. We are looking forward to some of the young blood taking advantage of the enforced handicaps.

Last Word.—The supply of the Corps Journal to members is *not* limited!

B. B.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

Fonthill Barracks, January 13th.

The Christmas Party.—Christmas. . . Somehow or other one cannot express one's feelings on paper when writing of this time of the year. Apart from the veneration due from a religious standpoint, the feeling that you are friends with everyone on this day leaves one filled with a glorious spirit which unhappily fades away with the coming of the New Year. No matter if Jerry Hawkins punched your nose last July, this is Christmas, and you shake him by the hand as if he had handed you a Treasury note. Consequently, if difficulty is experienced in writing of Christmas in general, think of the feeling of hopelessness the writer is suffering from at present in attempting to describe the kiddies' treat held on December 17th.

Try to visualize row on row of shining faces and gleaming eyes. Listen to the excited enquiries as to when Santa Claus is coming down. Imagine mother's anxiety as to how the safety pin, which at the moment is standing between little Jim and shame, will hold. Buttons always *will* come off at the wrong moment, and at Christmas-time the excitement is too great to worry over such trifles as buttons.

What a clatter of knives and forks, and what jubilant yells and greetings as the R.S.M. in a real Christmas voice announces that a start may be made to clear the groaning tables. Cries of "Cake," "No more trifle, thank you," "Well, just a little," "Oh, my!" And the Tree: I declare there never was a tree like it. No, never! Hung with crackers and lights it was a source of bewilderment to young and old alike.

When Santa Claus (Major Randall Nicol, O.B.E.) emerged from his den, there was such a shouting and clapping of little hands that it was a wonder Santa did not take fright and fly up the chimney again—for everyone knows he only comes when it is quiet. The strange thing about it was that he just had a toy for every child and no more. Well, if it cost one hundred pounds a minute it was worth it ("Hear, hear" from the kids). No Tiny Tims here! No Scrooges! or at least, if there *were* any Scrooges they certainly had had their third visitation and were converted. So cold air didn't get in at all!

To the committee (Mrs. House, Mrs. Andrews, R.S.M. Andrews, and C.Q.M.S. McRobb, and Tug and Bob), and to all officers and friends of the unit whose generosity made this function such a success, our thanks go out. May all their Christmases be as happy as the kiddies' one in Fonthill Barracks.

Tug has his rooty medal (sensation). Charlie Peace, Dick Turpin and several other menials of good character are now sweating on the top line, their argument being that if Tug has got his, well! then they stand a good chance. Joking apart, everyone joins in congratulating this popular n.c.o. on his achievement.

Recruiting has now commenced, four recruits having enlisted last week. By training time we expect to be up to strength. It is hoped that the cutting down of the bounty will not affect recruiting. Of course we Aberdonians are a mercenary lot: in fact, a case has come to light here of a genius putting two bank notes in a cage with a view to breeding!

All ranks were distressed to learn of the unfortunate accident which befell Sergt Cooper H. We are glad to know he has been discharged from hospital, and trust his period of convalescence will be a short one.

A Christmas draw took place in the sergeants' mess on Dec. 24th, when chickens and sausages were drawn for. To those who drew sassas we extend sympathy. The Farrier-Sergeant who unluckily drew "dogs" has not been heard of since; he was last seen careering down the main street, hotly pursued by a

string of indignant sausages and a suspicious-looking chicken. Anyone finding the Farrier, please drop him into the nearest post box. No stamp required.

Mess Tit-Bit.—First Sergeant: "By the way, Dod, did you see Jimmy Hadfield's photo in the 'Line' last month?" Second Sergeant: "Line, Bill? You mean THE WIRE." First Sergeant: "Aye, that's it; I kent it was some sort of a 'line.'"

McHAINE'S DEPARTURE FROM STIRLING.

Air: Old Hundredth (slow, with feeling).

"Farewell, farewell, adopted land!
Farewell, beloved bagpipe band!
No more I'll see dear pipey's face
A'marching down old Orchard Place;
No more I'll try with 30-watt
To get from Maygate through to Trossachs,
But I will try again next month
From Pelham Place in Zuzzex."

(With apologies to Oma Cayanne).

SMUDGE.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, January 12th.

With the New Year work began in earnest; already we have held two week-end courses, and a wireless course lasting nine days will commence on the 14th inst., Western Command Signal Company having kindly lent us an instructor.

There are further week-end courses on January 21st and 22nd, and February 11th and 12th, whilst the officers are holding a tactical exercise at Bridgend on February 4th and 5th under the direction of the Divisional staff.

No. 3 Company will be holding an extended period course during Monday and Friday evenings in March, so altogether the drill hall is once again a hive of industry.

Social events have not been neglected. Some 230 children of members of the unit greeted Father Christmas at the drill hall on December 29th. After tea and games, each received crackers and small gifts from a large Christmas-tree, prettily decorated—thanks to the efforts of several n.c.o.s and their wives, particularly Sergt and Mrs. Batchelor—and almost immediately after Father Christmas appeared down the chimney with a substantial gift for each child. Sergt P. H. Baxter achieved a great success in the name part.

The n.c.o.s' New Year's Eve ball was a great success. A large number of guests attended, including several of our officers; and although the capacity of the drill hall was taxed to its utmost, everyone enjoyed a most successful evening.

Rumours of mechanisation are still in full swing, but at the same time we hear there will be no decrease in the time allotted for riding drill!

Camp this year is to be near Hereford, during the August Bank Holiday period. What it will be like is a problem; we have few people who really know the district, as we were last there in pre-war days—1912, in fact.

THE LEEK.

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

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15,
January 13th.

Another month has slipped by, and Christmas festivities have ended happily. A whist drive held on December 15th was a roaring success. Poultry were given as prizes, which apparently attracted a good number of newcomers. The winners were: lady, Miss W. Jay; gentleman, Mr. C. B. Lowen; first half, Mrs. Turmaine and Mr. Liptop; second half, Mrs. Howell and Mr. A. E. Lowen; booby, Mrs. Lilley.

The children's Christmas tree and party was held on 29th December, and also proved a huge success. Tea was provided and games indulged in. Punch and Judy and a conjuring entertainment were given by Capt. Dalva. The Misses Rosie and Edna Safferty entertained with some very good numbers, assisted by Miss Marie Safferty at the piano. These young ladies are booked to appear at a well-known music hall in London during this year. Congratulations to Sigmn Safferty.

The proceedings concluded with a short speech by Capt W. E. Rayner, in which he thanked the committee for the splendid show they had produced. The majority of the work fell on C.S.M. Hooper and his good lady. Mrs. Hooper had a difficult job in arranging for toys for each child, but as everyone appeared satisfied, she is to be congratulated on the very efficient way in which she completed her task.

An unfortunate accident slightly marred the evening. C.S.M. Hooper, in stepping off the stage, slipped and sprained an ankle. Although he remained "through" for the remainder of the evening, he has been laid up in bed for over a fortnight now. Hard luck, Bill! but congratulations on your tenacity.

No boxing matches have been held since our last notes, but the lads are in hard training under Mr. Banyard for forthcoming events: January 25th, unit individual championships at Headquarters. February 24th, T.A. young soldiers' championships at Ilford. February 16th, 17th London Regt. at Bow. Feb. 24th and 25th, T.A. Divisional championships at Colchester. We are hoping for the best.

Y. E. D.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

Calthorpe Street, London, W.C.1.

Tempus fugit! No, dear reader; you are wrong. I know you've seen it on numerous clock faces, but it is not the maker's names; it's—er—it's—well, it isn't English, anyway, but it means "Time flies." And so it does. Here we are, starting on the second month of what was a brand new year, and as far as the unit is concerned, nothing done. We have been blissfully sleeping, but we are awake at last; and now is the time to start work in real earnest and make up for the holiday which we have been enjoying.

We must start with big ideas. Good work has been done in the past, but we must make up our minds that 1928 will see all our past performances eclipsed; and if this is to be accomplished, it is important that all Companies must set up new records in attendances and recruiting—and don't forget the general efficiency cup!

Drills have commenced at headquarters, "Company nights" being adopted as the most satisfactory method; and once again the familiar Don three can be heard chirping out its messages to groups of puzzled but keen signalmen, all of whom are hoping to be kindly treated by the examiners at the next Trade Board. Non-coms can be heard asking drivers how many fingers can be pushed down a horse's throat if the curb chain and throat lash are properly fitted (not knowing anything about horses, I don't know whether I heard this question correctly). Quartermaster-sergeants can be seen (?) in the stores, quartering, or whatever it is that quartermaster-sergeants do. Anyway, it all goes to show that an interest is being taken and that work is in full swing.

Social.—Dances are held regularly at headquarters, the New Year's Eve dance being a particularly successful affair. The New Year was welcomed in by a happy throng, the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "The more we are together" being carried through with such gusto that any doubts as to the success of the dance were quickly dispelled.

The Company dances continue to attract good numbers, but we desire to see still more members turn up at these excellent functions.

ADSUM.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Fencing Notes.

When the last Fencing notes went to press, the fortunes of those who won their pools at the Northern Command and went to Olympia were not known. Major Helps was unable to compete in epee owing to the Army golf championship; 2/Lieut Dryland, in sabres, was knocked out in the semi-finals; 2/Lieut. Hoblyn, in bayonets, was knocked out in the second round, and Corpl Javins in the first round.

On October 27th we fought Sedbergh (away) in foils and sabres, drawing in fights and losing on points. On November 5th we fought Bradford (away) in foils and sabres, again drawing in fights but winning on points. On November 4th we fought York Garrison, at York, in foils, sabres and bayonets, and lost by one fight. The match against the Royal Engineers in foils, sabres and epee, on November 18th, resulted in a loss by six fights.

The following fought in one or more of the above fixtures:—Sabres: Lieut. J. L. Rogers, 2/Lieuts. L. W. J. Dryland, G. B. Bell and L. D. M. Patterson, and Corpl Tanner. Foils: 2/Lieuts E. D. Good, W. M. Ponsonby, E. J. F. Heap and A. V. S. G. Kemball, and S/Sergt Hart. Bayonets: Lieut R. L. K. Allan, 2/Lieuts. J. M. C. Hoblyn and M. H. C. Harrison.

On November 22nd, at 2 p.m., the match against the "Shop" took place in the R.M.A. gymnasium. The scores were as follows:—Foils, won 5—4 (2/Lieut. Kemball 1, 2/Lieut. Heap 1, S/Sergt Hart 3). Sabres, won 7—2 (2/Lieut. Dryland 2, 2/Lieut Bell 3, Corpl Tanner 2). Bayonets, won 6—3 (2/Lieut Hoblyn 2, Lieut Allan 2, 2/Lieut. Harrison 2). Thus the match was won by nine fights. The reasons for this unexpected victory lie in the extraordinarily good instruction given by S/Sergt Hart and in the keenness of the team, the members of which practised on every available afternoon for more than a month beforehand.

The "Jimmies" for 1927 were given to Major R. P. A. Helps, 2/Lieuts L. W. J. Dryland, J. M. C. Hoblyn, and G. B. Bell, and L/Corpl Javins. Those for 1928 have been awarded to Lieut. R. L. K. Allan, 2/Lieut. M. H. C. Harrison, and Corpl Tanner.

The following fixtures have been arranged for the second half of the season:—

Thursday, Jan. 12th—York Garrison, foil, sabre, bayonet, at home.
Thursday, Jan. 25th—Sedbergh, foil and sabre, at home.
Saturday, Jan. 28th—Bradford, foil, sabre, epee, at home.
Thursday, Feb. 2nd—R.E. Catterick, foil, sabre, epee, at home
April 5th—Northern Command assault-at-arms.
May 24th-June 1st—Royal Tournament, Olympia.

L. W. J. D.

Cross-Country Notes.

Luckily for us the snow did not interfere over-much with our fixtures for December. The fifth inter-Company run took place on December 13th. Result: F Coy. 361 points; School 442; D Coy. 481; Mounted Wing 517; E Coy. 698; Dismounted Wing —.

Positions to date: F Coy. 30 points; School 20; D Coy. 18; Mounted Wing 17; E Coy. 12; Dismounted Wing 6.

In the third run of the North Yorkshire and South Durham Harriers League, on December 3rd, the first two placings were Sergt Cotterell and L/Corpl Broadley. The course was 6½-7 miles at West Hartlepool.

On December 9th, in the Heaton Harriers Memorial road race, Sergt Cotterell came in first and retains the Longfield cup, the premier award for individual competitors. In this race Cotterell beat his last year's time by 22 secs., finishing in 34 mins. 51 secs. over a course of six-and-a-half miles.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Sports in general having suffered from the prevailing snow and ice, very few games were played in December. In soccer one game was played against the School, when we lost by 2—4. One game of hockey was played against E Company, resulting in a win for them. The only rugger indulged in was a practice game to encourage new blood. In the inter-Company shoot we pulled off the matches against F Company and the School by 372—363 and 374—357 respectively, and consequently we are hoping to take up a better position in the table.

Now that the Garrison Soccer League has come to an end, we are busy getting out three teams for the Mackworth Trophy League, due to start in February. By then it is hoped that the grass will appear through the snow in sufficient quantity to make up a playing field.

School of Signals, Catterick.

Hockey.—School of Signals v. D Company, in the Inter-Company League, played on Wednesday, January 11th. An interesting and fast game on a mud-soaked ground. The School were early on the aggressive and quickly obtained three goals, scored by Major Drayson, Lieut Boyd and Lieut Hatfield. Following a period of mid-field play Sergt Jackson scored a fourth. In the second half Lieut Boyd scored an excellent goal from the edge of the circle, and shortly afterwards D Company's inside right replied with their only goal. Then Lieut Malpass added a sixth for the School, and the scoring ended.

Soccer.—We met dangerous opponents in D Company on the Scotton ground on December 14th, and a fine game resulted in a win for the School by 4—2. The School attacked from the start and D Company's goalkeeper was deceived by the flight of a long shot from Dvr Batcheldor. After about thirty minutes play, during one of the rushes on Don's lines, Corpl Brown added a second goal with a fierce drive. Early in the second half Sergt Laing got entangled in the long legs of R.S.M. Anderson, and Sigmn Payne scored from the resultant penalty. The School then resumed the offensive, and Sergt Jackson notched a third goal with a very fine effort from about twenty-five yards. Don

came again and Sigmn Payne reduced the deficit with an equally fine first-timer. The struggle now became desperate, the ground having become snow-covered and the light beginning to fail. After a splendid run Lieut Malpass crossed to Corpl Fellowes, who increased the School's total and the whistle went with the School attacking. This proved the hardest and best game we have had in the Garrison League.

Aldershot Signals.

Rugby.—Not a game of rugby for a whole month! In fact, not one in the Command worthy of note. In these circumstances all that I can do is to review the rugby situation of the Aldershot Signals as it now stands, and make suggestions for its future prosperity.

The team representing the Corps in Aldershot has done exceptionally well considering the difficulties that have to be faced. We are not like the units of the Corps at Catterick, who are all housed within a short distance of one another. They can and do get practice together, and always have a good supply of reserves to fall back upon. When one considers that A Corps Signals is over three miles from Aldershot, the A.A. Section still further off at Blackdown, the 1st and 2nd Divl Signals in South and North Camp respectively—two miles apart—and finally the Companies of these units split up in all kinds of barracks and hutments in the Command, great credit is due to Capts Mathew and Rance for the way they keep things going.

This is not the only drawback. Furlough season, Records, and various courses are all crowded into that part of the season so dear to the winter sportsman. Since the season commenced the same team has never been able to play twice together. At the last moment one of the team has failed to turn up owing to some unforeseen circumstance, and being several miles away is unable to inform the secretary, and so on. Therefore, with these adverse conditions to contend with, the team has done splendidly. I hope to be able to give results of all the matches played, at the end of the season.

We have the nucleus of a really fine team. Let me mention a few. In the forwards we have Capt Rance, Lieuts Thuillier and Morrison, Signalmen Stearck and Moore. The latter is a fine type of forward (it's a pity he is not a little taller), and if trained should make an excellent hooker. In the threes, Lieuts Danby and Hardy know their job. The latter in the few games he has played has done well, and I for one will not be surprised to see him donning the Army jersey before the season is over. On to-day's result with Bristol (Bristol 22 pts., Army 6) the inclusion of a little new blood would appear to be necessary. Hudson at stand-off half is a player who with practice will do well, but he has played better at back for the School of Signals.

One of the main troubles has been the full back position. No player on the football field to-day has a bigger job than the full back. However appalling the avalanche of forwards sweeping towards him may be, it must have no terrors, and he has to clear under apparently impossible circumstances. We want a man who can do this. Anything at Catterick, Major Cobb?

That is the position at the moment. The next match is on January 28th, against Guildford, at Guildford. The combined 1st and 2nd Divl Signals team play the K.O.Y.L.I.s in the third round of the Command cup before the 27th February, and as Lieut Cass of Army fame will not be playing, we have high hopes of winning.

Perhaps I have had a good groan! However, all these groans will pass away *when* we gather together in our new barracks at Smallshot in *March*. I hear now that it may be April or even May. (I shall not be able to face the troops when this appears in print.)

Of course this will be too late in the season to commence any new ideas. However, I suggest that an early start be made next season; that a Company knock-out competition on the same lines as is now in existence in Catterick be carried out; and that someone (I cannot myself afford it) will put up a trophy for the winners, to be played for annually.

By this means the hidden talent which exists in the various units at the moment will be unearthed, and perhaps then, and not until then, I shall have an answer to the many individuals who ask "When are we going to get a game of rugger?"

The Army Cup.—For the information of all persons within reach of Aldershot, the Army rugby cup final takes place on the Command ground on Wednesday, March 14th. Having seen many finals, I can assure you it is a match well worth seeing. Frankly, I get as much satisfaction from this match as I do from an international. It is fast and furious from start to finish, so book your seats in advance.

Who's going to be in the final, did you ask? Why did the S.W. Borderers win the cup three years running? Where were they stationed? Plymouth. Therefore watch the team which is at present stationed there.

By the time these notes are in print the fourth round will be over, and the T.B. will be either taking another step forward or resting on their laurels. I mentioned something about Waterloo in my last notes; yet it is a fact that no team from Catterick in the past three seasons has got further south than Lichfield.

No. 1 Company, A Corps Signals, Ewshott.

Miniature Rifle Range.—R.S.M. Craig won the highest score competition (Section A) for the month of December, 1927; R.S.M. Craig 47; Sergt Chumbley 46. Capt Dallison, 2/Lieut Hoysted, Sergt Renecle and C.S.M. Robertson each scored 44.

In Section B, Sigmn Buckwell won with 44.

Several interesting competitions are being prepared for February, which will do much to popularise this sport as well as to encourage many to become members of the A Corps Signals Rifle Club.

Cross-Country Running.—The first run of the year was held on Wednesday, January 11th. The "OOshot Arriers" and the "Crookham Crabs" ran as a combined team which numbered nearly 250 runners (all finished). Sigmn Jones T. B. (No. 3 Company) was first man home, and Sigmn Belben (No. 1) second. No. 3 Company won on points, but as a run will be a weekly event from now on, they will have to pull up their socks to beat No. 1 next time.

Dvr Slater tried to come back in a perambulator, but his attempt failed, although much amusement was caused.

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Cross-Country Run.—A trial run was held on Wednesday, January 4th, over a distance of approximately 2½ miles, and resulted in a win for B Section. Lieut. L. de M. Thuillier was the first man home, which, considering that he did not start till the remainder had run at least two furlongs, was good going.

Boxing.—Two of our boxers, Signalmen Stuart and Wathen, have been selected to box for the Royal Signals, Aldershot, against the Royal Marines at Chatham on January 10th. We have a fair amount of talent in the Company and hope to shine in the forthcoming trophy matches. Look out, No. 2; it's leaving you this year!

Owing to the furlough period other sports have been somewhat at a standstill, but we hope to give more results in our next notes.

No. 3 Company.

Rugby.—We have struck the winning vein, and turned the tables on No. 2 Company after a good game by 15—3. Several new members acquitted themselves nobly, and as we shall be strengthened by Capt Mathew, Signalmen Wild and Marlow, we are eagerly anticipating our trophy games.

Football.—We turned out too strong a team for No. 2 Company, who were weakened by leave, and we ran out easy winners by 8—0. Football has always been our strong point, however.

Boxing.—L/Corpls Rodda and Pinkney, Sigmn Fielding and Dvr Fountain have been chosen to represent the Royal Signals v. the Royal Marines at Chatham. At the time of writing they are just off, so we wish them luck. These, together with Signalmen Huggins and Martin (old stalwarts) and perhaps L/Corpl Bishop (I wonder?), should give us that long sought after boxing cup. Any others interested will find L/Corpl Rodda willing to assist in every way, with Ramillies always open for practice.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Cross-Country.—Our members for training have been selected, and training has started in real earnest. The material to work upon appears most promising, and there is every chance of having a much stronger team than that of last year, which may result in a Divisional Signals holding a Command cross-country challenge cup for the first time.

We are sorry to lose our old opponents the Cornwalls from this Command. There is very little doubt that they will make Aldershot sit up. It was hoped that they were going a little further north, as it is no good for us to have all our own way.

The unit team of last year take this opportunity of thanking the T.B. team for the very generous way in which they treated our team after the Army run at Colchester. We feel sure that we were very over-bearing in stating our capabilities before the run commenced. Having apologised, look out for yourselves when we meet at Aldershot in March. What about a Corps championship meeting for 1928?

Boxing.—For the last two months there has been little activity in boxing, as the annual furlough period has kept us down to half strength. The next three months, however, will be busy ones for boxing enthusiasts.

On January 18th and 19th the Corps championships take place. We are well represented with the following seven entries:—L/Corpls Walby L. A. and Fee G., Signalmen McCarthy D., Field A., Potter J., Powell E. G., and Charles H.

Close on top of this come the Army championships, for which we have three entries, namely: Signalmen Field A., McCarthy D., and Potter J. W.

In the near future, probably early in February, there is to be a Garrison novices boxing competition, and each unit enters a team of ten—any weight.

Following this comes the Garrison inter-unit competition, the date for which is not at present fixed.

The only events of importance during the last two months were the selection of three of the unit to represent the Southern Command versus the Air Force, and the selection of Signalman McCarthy to box for the Corps v. the London Fire Brigade. Unfortunately these matches clashed, both coming on November 23rd, so McCarthy was unable to represent his weight for the Southern Command. Potter and Powell, however, put up a good show, but were unlucky in meeting heavier men. McCarthy, for the Corps, was very unfortunate, having to retire from the contest with a severe cut over the eye.

It is hoped that we shall do really well in the coming events, as we have several very good boxers.

Hockey.—Since our defeat by the R.E. Southern Command in the first round of the Army cup, we have not played any matches, as the team has been away on leave.

Next week we shall begin our games again, the next objective being the Bulford Garrison cup, which we have a fair chance of regaining. The side is quite a good one, but we are very short of hockey players in the unit, and reserves for the team are hard to find.

Players from India, our main source of supply, arrive too late to be of any use in the competitions, and have usually dispersed to the far winds by the next winter. Our team in the Army cup consisted of: Corpl Kelly, goal; Sergt Standley and L/Corporal Tennant, backs; Sigmn Wareham, Sergt Brandon, and Sigmn Harry, half backs; 2/Lieut Ewbank, Corpl Brown, Sigmn Semmence, Dvr Whittingstall and Dvr Smith, forwards.

Sergt Brandon is shortly leaving us for the Rhine, and a replacement of him in the team is going to be hard to find. Dvr Whittingstall has also gone to Salisbury as groom to the C.S.O., but we hope to have his services for important games.

Soccer.—Apart from "A" Garrison Company League, our soccer activities have chiefly been confined to the Salisbury Plain Area League which embraces all units in the Tidworth, Larkhill and Bulford district. At the time of writing we are ninth in a league of thirteen, led by the 2nd Cheshire Regt.—a fairly creditable result considering our size and the rate at which our players have been posted abroad.

We have just been very unfortunate in losing our captain, Sigmn Dean—a very excellent back, who has always been the mainstay of our defence.

In the Army cup we were drawn with the 2nd Battalion East Lancs. Regt., and got a three-day trip to Pembroke Docks—a little town in the furthest corner of Wales—where the East Lancs. are stationed.

When the day of the match arrived the ground was mostly under water, and a young hurricane was blowing. Our opponents, taking full advantage of their superior knowledge of the ground, eventually beat us by 4—1 after a very hard game. We must give the East Lancs. credit for being the better team, but I think the score would have been more even if we had had more reasonable weather for the match.

NO COMPLAINTS

Tasty on bread and butter. Delicious on hot buttered toast. Makes first-rate sandwiches. Maconochie's make it: N.A.A.F.I. sells it.

'TRIDENT' BRAND SALMON & SHRIMP PASTE

Since December 16th the whole team has been on leave, and we are looking forward to restarting the S.P.A. League next Wednesday as "giants refreshed."

Rugby, 1927-28.—So far this season has been one of the most successful we have had. Out of thirteen matches played, eleven have been won and two lost. Sigmn Simm was elected captain, with L/Corpl Slater G. as vice-captain.

In the first round of the Army cup we met and defeated the 2nd Light Brigade (22—0). Our team were superior in every department of the game, but were slow in finding their best form. Major Robinson, R.A.M.C., kindly refereed.

Being drawn against the Depot of The Welch Regt. in the second round, we travelled to Cardiff on Thursday, November 24th. In spite of a long journey the team were seen at their best and won a good match (23—3). As usual, they commenced to exert pressure. The backs were seen to great advantage, and made the most of the openings made for them by an excellent pack.

Our first defeat was at the hands of the Cheshire Regiment at Tidworth. The team were below strength and seemed somewhat stale. Weak tackling of the fast opposing backs led to our defeat by 22 points to 11.

On December 8th the 5th Battalion Royal Tank Corps defeated us in the third round of the Army cup. The score of 36—8 gives little idea of the general closeness of the play. At half-time the Tanks were leading by 10—3, Smith having kicked a good penalty goal. Great praise is due to our forwards, who successfully prevented A. T. Young (fly-half) from getting much of the ball. For the whole of the second half Thomson was off the field, having cut his leg badly. Walters replaced him on the right wing, with the inevitable result that our seven forwards could no longer prevent the ball from reaching Young. The latter made innumerable openings for his three-quarters, who ran very fast and straight. However, Slater scored a very good try between the posts for Smith to convert, and our team never gave up fighting to the bitter end. 2/Lieut G. A. Thomas, R.A., kindly refereed.

The annual furlough being over, the team are now settling down to serious training with a view to defeating the combined Aldershot Signals XV., against whom we have two fixtures.

To date, "Jimmies" have been awarded to Signalmen Slater, Harry, Clubb, French, Barlow, Cash, Higgins, Tennant, Smith, Crockford and Thomson. There is keen competition for the remaining places in the fifteen.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Athletics.—An athletic tournament, open to Sind-Rajputana and Baluchistan, was held in December under the auspices of the Karachi Health and Physical Culture Institute. The tournament was open to the military, but only a few events were available to participate in.

In the Marathon race (ten miles) L/Corpl Podger ran second, beaten in the last hundred yards by ten seconds. The winner's time for the distance was 52 mins. 25 secs.; and although suffering from the effects of this race, he went on to run third in the mile race.

Sergt A. Taylor won the 440 yards race in 55 4/5th secs., and was beaten by inches only in the 220 yards. Sigmn Davies W. ran in fourth.

The Cricket Team.

Back row (left to right)—Sigmn Wilkes, L/Cpl McKenzie, Cpl Pierce, Sigmn Wilcox, L/Sgt Murphy, Sigmn Turner.
Front row—Sigmn Gordon, Cpl Newman, Sigmn Rance, Sigmn Webb, Cpl Bosworth, Sigmn Jones, L/Cpl Prickett.

Boxing.—A boxing tournament was also held by the Health Institute. Civilians as well as military took part in this, and some interesting as well as amusing contests were witnessed by the spectators. All the contests were individual, and we provided six entrants, three of them being successful. The winners were presented with silver medals given by the Bombay Boxing Presidency.

Fly-weight—L/Sergeant Newmarch v. A.C. Parkes, R.A.F. Newmarch, although fighting gamely, was eventually k.o. in the third round.

Bantam-weight—Sigmn Hutchison v. L.A.C. Willison, R.A.F. An excellent contest. Hutchison won on points.

Feather-weight—L/Sergt Booth v. Pte Porter, Sherwoods. Booth had to retire in the third round after a game fight.

Welter-weight—Signalman Sewell v. Pte Goode, Sherwoods. Goode (who has the reputation of being a first-round knock-out "king") forced Sewell to retire in the first round.

Middle-weight—L/Corpl Rawson v. L.A.C. Gates, R.A.F. In a rather hard-hitting contest, Rawson won a good fight on points.

Special Contest—L/Corpl Podger (9 st.) v. Mr. A. Crane (9 st. 9 lbs.). Podger, after forcing the fight, won on points.

Rugby.—This game is rapidly gaining popularity in the unit, and under the able coaching and tuition of the commanding officer, Major Bradley, we have had a few practice games for the purpose of selecting a team to represent the unit.

Our first match was against the Sherwood Foresters, which resulted in a 3—3 draw. In the return game we lost by 11—0.

We also met Karachi Gymkhana and lost by 23—3; but although losing by that score, we congratulate ourselves on putting up such a creditable performance against our more experienced opponents.

Hockey.—The unit team is still having a very successful season, and since our last notes we have played various teams with good results:—

v. E.R.S., R.A.F., drew at 1—1.
v. St. Patricks, won by 1—0 and lost by 3—4.
v. Gymkhana, won by 4—1 and lost by 1—2.
v. Port Trust, won by 1—0 and lost by 1—3.
v. Ralli Bros., won by 6—1.
v. Indian F.C., won by 4—1.
v. District H.Q., drew at 0—0.

Football.—In the first round of the Shivajee football tournament, A Corps Signals (holders of the trophy) met the Maratha Union—a native team—and had rather an easy passage, winning by 9—0. Other results are:—

v. D Company Sherwoods, lost by 0—3.
v. E.R.S., R.A.F., lost by 0—4.
v. W.I.R.S., R.A.F., drew at 2—2.
v. A.R.S., R.A.F., won by 1—0.
v. A Company Sherwoods, won by 1—0.
v. Y.M.C.A., won by 6—0.
v. Ralli Bros., won by 4—0 and 6—0.

Kohat District Signals

Football.—Results to date show that we have struck a winning vein. We are still suffering from that malady, "seldom able to put out the same team twice consecutively." This is a pity, for undoubtedly we could turn out an eleven to hold our own in most stations. Results as below:—

v. Staff and Departmental Club, won by 7—1 and 2—0.
v. Gurkha Cup XI., won by 1—0 and 6—2.
v. 3/18th Royal Garhwal Rifles, won by 4—2.

The goal scorers were: Sigmn Perks J. 7, Sigmn Yaxley 6, Sigmn Brookes S. 4, L/Corpl Little 2.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

Unit Sports.—An energetic committee (backed up by a slightly less energetic fatigue party of huge dimensions) having transformed the parade ground into a tastefully decorated area, the annual sports were held on Saturday, December 17th, and turned out an unqualified success. Two notable features were the original decorations on the rope obstacle and the unrehearsed incident in which the provost sergeant performed a wonderful feat of mulemanship. Some really fine sporting events were witnessed, and Mrs. J. E. F. Paton kindly presented the prizes to the following winners:—

220 yards, Sigmn Milton. 440 yards, Sigmn Bishop. Mile, Sigmn Bond. 100 yards, Sigmn Milton. Long jump, L/Corpl Wilson. High jump, Sigmn Edwards. Putting the shot, Sergt Stead. Relay race, R.A. Section. Obstacle race, Sigmn George.

Sigmn Milton was presented with a special cup as the best all-round athlete in the unit.

The Corps in Egypt.

Boxing.—At the Command boxing championships, held at Abbassia during the past month, Sergt Wheeler won the finals of the light-heavy and the heavy-weight competitions. His two fights with a renowned opponent in Pte Butler of the Somerset L.I. were the outstanding features of the tournament. L/Corpl Matthews, who improves every time out, reached the final of the feather-weights and only lost on points to Corpl Burnett, the holder of the bantam title for five years.

The Corps championships took place on December 6th in the Signal Barracks, Polygon, and some good fights were witnessed. The inter-Section competition, decided in conjunction, resulted in a very easy win for H.Q. and S.T. team. The following is a brief description of the finals:—

Fly-weight—Dvr Abbott beat Dvr Burnham on points after a good clean contest, in which the better condition of Abbott told in the second and final rounds.

Bantam-weight—Sigmn Cooper beat Sigmn Backhouse on points in a very close contest. Cooper undoubtedly sprang a surprise on the crowd in beating the more experienced Backhouse, particularly as he put up a very bad show last year. There was little to choose in the first two rounds, but Cooper, who appeared to be as fit as a fiddle, kept carrying the fight to his opponent and was awarded a popular verdict.

Feather-weight—L/Corpl Matthews knocked out Dvr Ledsham in the second round. Matthews' greater experience enabled him to do as he pleased with Ledsham, who was no match for him, the end coming early in the second round with a crisp blow to the point.

Light-weight—Corpl George beat Sigmn Mains in the second round. Mains, who has only recently arrived in the country, and had disposed of his earlier opponents in an easy fashion, was up against a far more experienced boxer in George, who by use of a straight left kept clear of Main's famous right, causing the latter to retire towards the end of the second round.

Welter-weight—Sigmn Cheal beat Sigmn Jager on points. This was a very close contest, and no one would have been surprised to see Jager get the verdict. These men are of the strong rugged type of boxer who will not yield an inch. Both showed signs of heavy punishment at the conclusion, and doubtless Cheal's better condition gained him the verdict.

Middle-weight—Sigmn Andrews beat Sigmn McKerr on points. Andrews, who looked very fit, was an easy winner on points over a very game opponent. McKerr, who is another new arrival to the Corps in Egypt, stuck it to the end, and was awarded hearty applause for a good loser.

Light-heavy-weight—L/Sergt Wheeler beat Corpl Parker, the fight being stopped in the second round. Wheeler, who is in a class of his own, was far too good for his opponent, who however showed grit in going into the ring against such a redoubtable opponent, and what was more "got stuck." Wheeler, who was obviously playing light, simply toyed with Parker, the referee stopping the fight as stated.

Heavy-weight—L/Corporal O'Donnell knocked out L/Corporal Hewson in the first round. Hewson, who was obviously unfit, received a severe blow in the plexus early in the first round, which caused him to take the count.

Cross-Country Running.—On December 22nd the Egyptian Command cross-country championships were held at Abbassia, and out of an entry of over two hundred runners, including twelve teams, the Corps had the honour of not only supplying the individual winner in Sigmn Beeton, but also of annexing the team trophy.

The Corps team's performance is probably a record for lowness of score—156 points—this being due to the fact that every man of the team ran splendidly; no fewer than nine members finishing in the first fourteen placings! This is probably a record in so big a field, particularly as the other units are no duds at running.

The Corps runners deserved their success and the gold medals awarded with the trophy, as every man had played the game in turning out for the hard training that took place during the month prior to the contest.

Sigmn Beeton repeated his success of last year, being over a quarter-mile ahead of the second man and winning very easily.

Sigmn Beeton winning the Egyptian Command Cross-Country Championship at Abbassia, Cairo, Dec. 22nd, 1927

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THE WIRE *Date* .....

The Norfolk Regiment caused some anxiety to the Corps supporters in supplying the second, third, fourth and fifth men home; however, close on their heels came the men that mattered, K Section's wonderful pack of five being prominent in the cluster. The outburst of cheering from the Corps supporters when they arrived was worth hearing, particularly as all the remaining members of the Corps team were close behind.

After the individual and team trophies had been presented, a triumphal procession was formed by the Corps supporters, Sigmn Beeton, holding both challenge trophies on high, being chaired through the garrison back to the barracks.

Thanks are due to the supporters who turned out in huge numbers to cheer on the runners.

The Corps have a very fine record in cross-country running in Egypt, having won the trophy in 1923, 1924 and 1925, being second in 1926, and again winning this year. They'll probably give it to us at the finish!

Prior to the Command championships two team races were held against the Norfolk Regiment, our serious rivals, resulting each time in an easy win for the Corps team, Sigmn Beeton being first home on each occasion, with the brothers Collins, Shepherd, Cooper, Chambers, Stillwell, Sergt Solly, Lieut Newsom, Oldale, Bazley, Backhouse, Brice, Andrews, Hillier, Woolley, Powell and Hammond, all close up, helping to keep our points down.

The course used for the Command run was approximately five miles two hundred yards, and consisted of hills with heavy sand, the only easy piece being a little bit of road towards the finish.

It was mentioned last month that the Corps runners in Egypt think they could give the Corps team at home a good run for their money. After the splendid manner in which they disposed of the other teams in the Command race, there is certainly some cause for their confidence. What a pity a contest could not be arranged! We think the Depot team would have to pick their feet up some!

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Boxing.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Wheeler on winning both the light-heavy and heavy-weight titles at the recent Command individual boxing championships; also to L/Corpl Matthews on being runner-up in the feather-weight competition.

In the Corps inter-Section boxing competitions the combined team of H.Q. and S.T. won very easily from Nos. 2 and 3 Sections of No. 1 Company. Several men of the Company have been chosen to go into training in readiness for the forthcoming Command team boxing championships.

Cross-Country Running.—Congratulations to the Corps on winning the Egyptian Command championship on December 22nd, and in supplying the first man home in Signalman Beeton. The following members of this Company were chosen to run and have been awarded "Jimmies": Corpl Collins, Signalmen Beeton, Cooper, Oldale, Shepherd, Backhouse, Bazley, and Dvr Hammond. Signalmen Powell and Hillier were reserves for the team.

Rugby.—Still more congratulations! This time to the Corps rugby team on reaching the semi-finals of the Command rugby tournament, thereby obtaining a valuable twelve points towards the Command best all-round sporting unit trophy.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

Sports.—Our football team is still doing well, as the following results will show:—

"B" League.—v. Cormorant Shore, won by 4—1 and 2—0.; v. R.E. (Hargraves), won by 3—2; v. Staff and Depts., won by 4—2; v. H.M.S. "Splendid," lost by 1—3.

The Staff and Depts. senior football team in the "A" League is ably assisted by three members of the Corps: quite a good percentage!

The inter-Company cup competition commences in February, and with the aid of our new draft we hope to be in the running to lift the trophy.

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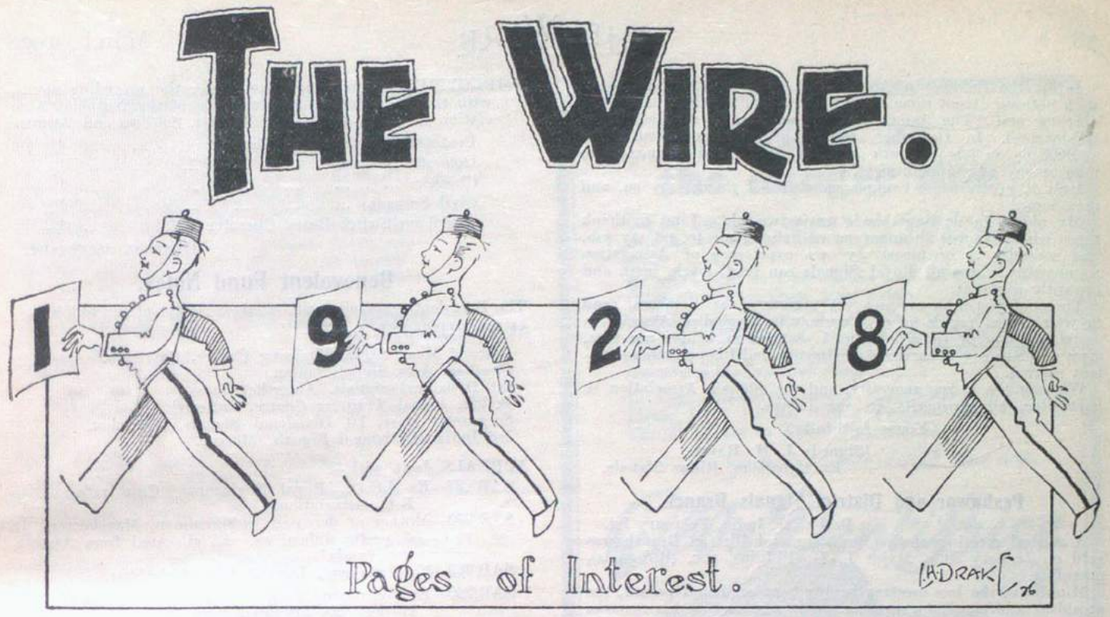

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

SECRETARY AND EDITOR:
Mr. W. BUTLER, 95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1,
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VOL. IX.—No. 97 MARCH, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on January 29th, of Field-Marshal The Right Hon. the Earl Haig, K.T., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., D.C.L., LL.D.

Lieut.-General Sir John Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. (Col.-Commandant) represented the Corps in the funeral procession from St. Columba's Church, London, and at the service in Westminster Abbey on February 3rd.

A wreath of Flanders poppies, made in the British Legion workshops as suggested by Lady Haig, was sent to St. Columba's on behalf of the Corps. It was carried in the procession from St. Columba's to the Abbey and was subsequently placed on the Cenotaph.

❀ ❀ ❀

We offer our hearty congratulations to the Aldershot Command Signals boxing team—and especially to Lieut Cole (officers' light-heavy), L/Corpl Rodda (light-heavy) and Signalmen Stuart (heavy), three Army champions—on their recent successes. A full account of their achievements is published in this issue under Sports Notes.

❀ ❀ ❀

"A Short History of Signals in the Army." As described in our Editorial Notes for February, the new Signals History publication is now available for issue. Application for supplies should be made direct to this office, and all orders should be accompanied by a remittance made payable to "The Treasurer, Signals Association."

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can also be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order.

EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Correspondence.

Sheffield, January 27th.

The Secretary, Signals Association,
95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,—On the eve of sailing for South America I wish to convey to you personally my grateful thanks for having been instrumental in providing me with such a splendid situation.

As you know, I have been engaged by Messrs. —— on your recommendation as W/T operator at a commencing salary of approximately £600 per annum, and have moreover already received the sum of £50 in addition as a preliminary clothing allowance.

I find it difficult to express in writing all I should like to convey, but would ask you to publish this letter in THE WIRE just to let our fellows, both members and non-members, know what the Association *can* do for them when they leave the Service.

We are asked to pay a paltry 9d. per month for membership privileges, and for that small sum we get a subscriber's copy of the Corps Journal thrown in. Think it over, you chaps, and—listen!

I left the Service in April, 1927, optimistic perhaps!—but with nothing except some fairly decent qualifications as a W/T operator and "The Association" to help me in my search for employment. In December, 1927, the Association secured me a £600-a-year job in South America, and I sail to-morrow to take up my new appointment.

Isn't it worth while being a member? I should say so, and then some!

My object in writing this letter is two-fold. First to thank those who have been the means of helping me to get my job, and secondly to broadcast my own experience of Association membership where all Royal Signals can read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it.

Those of you who are not yet registered as members, send in your names *tout-de-suite*. You may be as glad of Association assistance one of these days as I was. You will, I am sure, meet with the same courteous treatment—and I hope with equivalent success.

Wishing the Corps generally, and the Signals Association in particular, all prosperity in the future.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. H. RAFFO,
Ex-Signalman, Rhine Signals.

Peshawar and District Signals Branch.

Peshawar, India, February 1st.

A general meeting of the Peshawar and District Branch was held on January 28th, Major L. G. Phillips, M.C. (R.Signals), presiding.

Minutes of the last meeting having been read and passed, the president addressed the meeting. Our wish is that his remarks could have been heard by those who were not present. The annual report and balance sheet were then put to the meeting and unanimously approved.

The following committee members were confirmed in office for a further period: President, Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., Royal Signals. Vice-President, R.S.M. Sutherland J. B. Hon. Sec., L/Corpl Grant A., M.M. Hon. Treasurer, Corpl Butcher A. P. Working Members and Entertainments Sub-Committee: Coy.-Q.M.S. Stevens T. H., Corpl M'Cormack M., L/Corpl Smith L. H., Sigmn Horton S. C., and Sigmn Sweeney G.

Representative at Nowshera: Sergt Harvey C.

Representative at Landi-Kotal: Sergt Dunn P. R.

After business was concluded, the company adjourned to the sergeants' mess, where tea was provided for all members and their wives and families. The thanks of all are due to Signalmen Horton and Sweeney for the excellent provision made, and to Sigmn Galloway for his scheme of decoration.

Tea finished, a move was made to the corporals' room, where a social evening was spent. The programme was in the capable hands of C.Q.M.S. Stevens, assisted by Corpl M'Cormack (who arranged the room) and L/Corpl Smith L. H. (who was responsible for the liquid portion of the entertainment).

The committee take this opportunity of thanking all who contributed to the success of the gathering. They are deeply indebted to the president and members of the sergeants' mess and corporals' room for the use of accommodation and furniture; to C.S.M. Wills and the remainder of the band, for their excellent performance at short notice; to all those who contributed to the vocal portion of the programme; and last, but by no means least, to the officers and ladies who, by their presence, helped to make the evening such a happy family gathering.

During the evening Mrs. Phillips presented the prizes to the winners of the January billiard tournament, as follows: First prize, Corpl Hayhoe. Runner-up, L/Corpl Taylor. Highest break, Sigmn Owens.

A collection taken during the interval, in aid of the Branch funds, reached the splendid total of over two hundred rupees.

Members have now had ample evidence of what can be done by united action, and we ask them to continue and increase the support given to the Branch Committee in their activities.

A. GRANT, L/Corporal,
Branch Hon. Secretary.

The first amendments to the new Rules of the Association are now being distributed to Branches for the information of all Association members. Unit and Branch representatives are requested to communicate with the General Secretary if copies of these amendments have not yet reached them.

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
Domestic Servant	1
Checker	1
Civil Servant	1
Telephone Switch Board Operator	1

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
Chatham Area Signal Section.
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
P.R.I., Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

APPEALS dealt with—

SAB/287—Ex-N.C.O., Royal Engineers. Case referred to R.E. Association.

SAB/288—Mother of deceased ex-Signalman, Manchester. In domestic difficulties. £5 allocated from Association funds.

SAB/289—Ex-Signalman, Dover. Gift of clothing.

SAB/290—Ex-Signalman, London, married. Domestic difficulties. £4 allocated from Association funds.

SAB/291—Ex-Signalman, Belfast. Case pending.

SAB/292—Ex-Signalman, Edinburgh. £3 advanced from Association funds for outfit and travelling expenses to take up employment offered.

SAB/293—Ex-N.C.O., Scotland. In financial difficulties. Later secured employment and cancelled his application for assistance.

SAB/294—N.C.O., still serving. In domestic difficulties. £3/16/0 allocated from Association funds.

SAB/296—Ex-Driver, Royal Engineers. Case referred to R.E. Association.

SAB/235—Ex-Signalman, Edinburgh. In domestic difficulties. £2 allocated from Association funds.

SAB/180—Ex-Signalman, Scotland—Case pending.

SAB/297—Ex-Signalman, London. Case pending.

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

Regimental Alliances.

To the Editor of *The Times*.

Sir—Keeping touch with the Dominion Forces by means of regimental alliances, of which "His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve," naturally depends upon the personal efforts of individual regiments. There appear, however, to be certain common foundations upon which all regiments can build the bridge of contact. Such foundations can be laid in regimental magazines. The first stone appears to be to include the alliance on the cover or title-page of the magazine—in a form similar to that given under the title of each regiment in the Army List. The next would be to invite and publish contributions from the allied regiment of the particular Dominion. Without the laying of these two stones, it would seem not only that a breach of etiquette was being committed, but that no effort to keep touch was being attempted. And yet so many excellent regimental magazines seem to fail in this respect. It is a fact beyond question that regiments with magnificent *esprit de corps*, by fostering these regimental alliances, can help enormously both in maintaining the solidarity of the British Empire and in creating an Imperial spirit in his Majesty's Imperial Forces. Therefore, I venture an appeal.

Yours faithfully, MILES.

London, November 23rd.

—*The Times*, Nov. 25th, 1927.

Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Major R. V. Montgomery from India to Catterick.
Major A. E. P. Mudge from London to India.
Major J. A. S. Tillard from London to Egypt.
Capt A. W. Roberts from Bulford to India.
Capt W. J. H. Bull from Aldershot to India.
Capt E. P. C. Collin from India to Catterick.
Lieut R. C. Instrall from Catterick to Palestine.
Lieut S. J. Fielder from Bulford to Edinburgh.
Lieut K. E. Holmes from Catterick to Colchester.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 17/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
52nd (L) Divl Signals—Captain A. Beatson-Bell, R.Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 9/1/28.
Capt (Bt.-Major) E. F. Smith to be Adjutant, 9/1/28.

War Office, 20/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2nd Cavalry Divl Signals—Captain (Bt.-Major) H. W. Gay, having attained the age limit, relinquishes his commission and retains his rank, 21/1/28.

War Office, 24/1/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Hugh Morley Longden (late Lieut R.N.) to be Lieut 25/1/28, and to rank as 2/Lieut from 25/1/25.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2nd Cavalry Divl Signals—R. H. C. Van Den Bergh (late Officer Cadet, Oxford Univ. Contgt. Sen. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut 25/1/28.

War Office, 27/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Capt H. M. Sylvester, M.C., Royal Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 4/1/28.
Capt C. E. Sketch, R.Signals, to be Adjutant, 4/1/28.
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Sigmn John Myles Gerrard to be 2/Lieut 1/12/27.

War Office, 3/2/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
2/Lieut J. E. M. Bainbridge resigns his commission on appointment to a permanent commission in the R.A.F. 1/11/27.

The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military Academy to be 2/Lieutenants, 2/2/28:—Percival John Palmer, Charles Dudley Gardiner, Nicholas Estlin Innes Pocock, Robert Gifford Yolland, Jack Edward Seymour Sanders, Nicholas John Hamilton Minshall, Richard Webb, Gray Grayrigge, George Stuart Knox, George Harcourt Stewart Balmain, George Alexander MacMunn, Norman de-la-Poer Tate, Denys Angus Lambart Dwyer, Arthur Bailey Ruck, Arthur Borlase Radclyffe Dugmore, Norman Iliffe Bower, Gerald Leyns Walker.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Capt C. J. Gowland vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 18/1/28.
Capt G. Rooker, R.Signals, to be Adjutant, 18/1/28.

War Office, 7/2/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Commands and Staff—
Capt R. H. R. Steward, M.C., R.Signals, to be Staff Captain, 6/1/28 (temporary appointment).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—Hon. Colonel G. Smith, T.D., resigns the appointment of Hon. Colonel and retains his rank with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 4/2/28.

War Office, 10/2/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt C. E. Sketch is seconded for service as an Adjutant (T.A.) 4/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
46th (N.M.) Divl Signals—Henry Richardson (late Cadet Corporal Denstone Coll. Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut 11/2/28.

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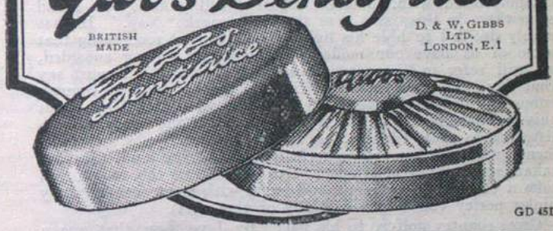


GD 45L

War Office, 14/2/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Cadet-Lieut J. H. W. Cobbing (Peterborough Cadet Battalion) to be 2/Lieut 15/2/28.
47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—Col. J. G. Fleming, C.B.E., D.S.O. (Res. of Officers), to be Hon. Colonel, 15/2/28.

Corps Cricket Fixtures, 1928.

Versus Royal Military Academy, at Woolwich, May 29th—30th.
,, R.A.S.C., at Aldershot, May 31st and June 1st.
,, Royal Tank Corps, at Aldershot, June 11th and 12th.
,, Royal Engineers, at Catterick, June 19th and 20th.
,, R.A.O.C., at the Oval, July 9th and 10th.

Corps Dinner, 1928.

The Corps Committee has approved May 30th as the date of the Corps dinner. The secretary of the Royal Signals Dinner Club will issue notices regarding time and place of the dinner in due course.

Training at Bulford.

Now cross-country running's in season again,
All obedient to the degree,
Our athletes train both in sunshine and rain,
For it's Training they're on—with a capital "T."

No longer they run for the deuce of a way,
Coming back short of breath, bent at knee;
But golf they now play, garbed in cardigans gay,
For it's Training they're on—with a capital Tee!

At morning they go, as their trainer commands,
For long walks and short runs; but when free,
Each finally lands at the Soldiers' Home, Sandes,
For it's Training they're on—with some capital Tea!

NAB.

Plain Tales.

The Artful Dodger.—No doubt there are a good many who will say "I told you so." Let 'em. Some will say "Huh!" while not a few may be expected to say "Garn!"

This is the way of it. I have decided not to go to India this season. I wrote and thanked everybody, and politely declined the appointment. I thought that if I couldn't go on the "Mauretania," I wouldn't go at all. Apparently the "Mauretania" wasn't going that way on my date. They offered me the "Shamrock," "Brighton Rock," "Gimcrack," "Jabberwock," or H.M.S. "Bullrushes," but I was not to be turned from my purpose. I have had to cancel my engagement with Alf Brooks' Oceanic Syncopators. I hope he doesn't mind.

I suppose I must resign myself to a few more months of Bulford. Odds fishes, bodikins, skewers, halidoms and other old English expressions. What a place! How I praised it when I came here two years ago. Balderdash. All of it. There are five really sticky places in England: to wit, viz., i.e., e.g., that is to say—Catterick, Catterick, Bulford, Bulford, Bulford.

The local tradesmen will benefit, anyway, because we shall have to pay all our outstanding accounts, after all.

Blow it!

* * * *

Young Blood.—This is always welcome. We have unearthed a poet. Nothing serious, as yet, and his parents have not been communicated with. His contribution will probably be found somewhere in this issue over the trade mark "Nab." He has rashly decided to hide his light. Well, it is a good thing that some of us have our modesty. The cheers having subsided, we will refer to his contribution on "Training." I must say that there is quite a lot of golf indulged in by the cross-country runners of 3rd Divl Signals. I do not know a great deal about this peculiar game, but I know a good many of the words through listening to these runners. A mashie, apparently, is an implement with which you reduce perfectly good turf to mud. Having taken seventeen abortive swipes to get out of the rough, you take a careful glance round and recite with much feeling "Inky pinky parley vous" (or something of that sort).

Cross-country golfer, to his pal: "By Jove, Lap, that was a jolly good shot of yours. You know, the time when you hit it!"

* * * *

Married Patches.—All married people are interested in Quarters. If they are lucky enough—I mean, if they are in Quarters, they wonder what yours are like. If they are not in Quarters, they can tell you at great length why they should be. It is not all Devonshire cream in Quarters, you know. We have our troubles just like people who live in proper houses. We will deal with Bulford Camp first (and last), because I don't know any others.

Take note of these remarks. They are made of wood and corrugated iron. The Quarters, I mean. A considerable amount of fresh air is constantly circulating in the rooms. This is very healthy, but as all electric light has to be dispensed with after eleven p.m., it makes the use of candles practically impossible. All papers left lying about, after stuffing crevices, must be weighted down.

My chimney was blown down last summer, so I at once applied to have it put up. Towards the end of the year a man came about the windows. I told him it was the chimney, so he tripped gaily up the road and has never been seen since. Another man came and measured the space where the chimney should have been. He came back with a friend, and they sat in the garden—I mean, they sat outside and cried like anything. I comforted them eventually, and about Christmas they returned with a bunch of hammers and a nail, and tore the floor up. I threw them both in the dustbin, bought a chimney, and did the job myself.

Another time my tap burst, and a man came and mended it the next day. One week later a foreman came and proudly informed me that they would soon have my tap put right. I told him the job was done the day after it was reported. Poor chap. He leaves a widow and seventeen children.

* * * *

Before the Dawn.—The Corporal of the Guard turned his coat collar up and stepped out into the chill morning air. Not a sound broke the stillness save the pattering of the rain on the R.S.M.'s poppies and the twittering of the birds going home to Salisbury. "Four o'clock" he hissed, wiping his hand on the back of his nose. (Dash this blinking typewriter). "I will call the cook."

He entered the men's hut, tip-toed down the snoring ranks, flashed his torch and located the spoiler of hot water by the alleged towel spread across the foot of the bed. He shook the sleeper, at first gently, then gradually working up to a "rough-house."

The cook opened one eye and closed it dreamily. "Tell the padre," he said in a far-away voice, "that there are no tram-lines on a rock cake."

The corporal was a practical soul. "Git up," he said.

"Wassay?"

"I said git up."

"Wassertime?"

"Wednesday."

"Whaffor?"

"So's Aston Hotgyle can row against Tom Reece at Newmarket."

"Oh! why didn't you say so before? I thought it was a foxtrot."

The corporal emptied the ashbin on the cook and slammed the door as he left. He was glad to get out into the fresh air after such an intellectual encounter. He is not sure that he had the best of it after all.

Note: Like poles repel, etc.

* * * *

Musical Notes.—A long-felt want in the musical profession, no—wait a bit; perhaps I had better not say that. Start again. A long-felt want in the dance band world is a piano fitted with a tuning device which will permit of its being converted from high to low pitch or viva voce—I mean, vice versa in an instant.

Don't you think that such an invention would bring its author a considerable fortune? You don't know? What's the use of reading a musical paragraph if you're not interested? Come now. You must take more interest in modern syncopated music. What do you know of theory? Can you construct a chord? Can you play a "hot" triangle? Have you heard Buffinsky's concerto in nine sharps for fourteen saxophones and a sledge hammer? Tut, tut! And again, tut! I will start a short course on the subject.

New readers start here. There is a large number of technical terms and conventional signs in music. I will deal with the latter some other time.

There are books of reference on all sorts of subjects, but very few good works for the serious syncopator.

I therefore comma propose to remedy this state of affairs. Loud and prolonged applause.

* * * *

Musicians' Corner, Part I.—Permit me to present to your astonished gaze the following glossary of the lesser-known musical terms.

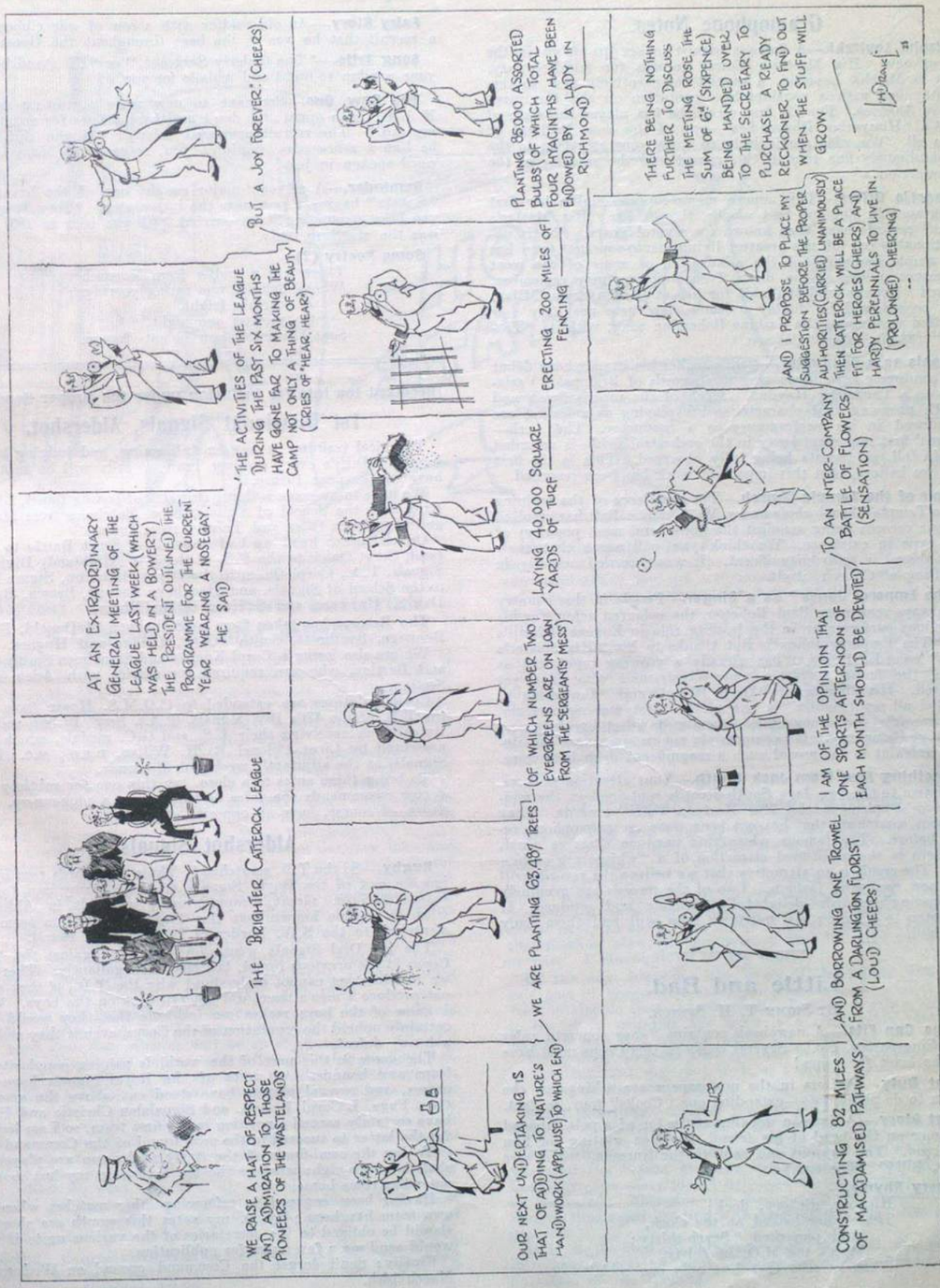
Treble: The top part. Soprano: Further up. Alto: The first saxophone.
Interval: See Bass (insist on seeing the label).
Repeat Signs: Used in a bar to signify same again (not used in Scotland).
Bass: See Bar. Bar: See Tonic.
Double Bass: A sergeant-major's breakfast.
Flute: A flute.
Lyre: See Quartermasters.
Accidentals: Notes played by learners.
F: A noise, forte. FF: More noise, eighty.
Tonic: See Interval. Super-Tonic: Used at hunt balls.

Now, to go a step further, we come to an augmented interval. This is one measuring a semitone more than its corresponding major or perfect interval. Again, if the band cannot be prised away from the bar, there is likely to be an augmented interval. A shoe horn is an instrument used to produce foot-notes.

Answers to Correspondents.—

Q.—I am offered an American organ cheap. How many stops should it have? A.—Four: one per meal and one when the bar opens.

Q.—The overhead valve gear of my two-stroke fouls the differential in bottom gear. What should I——?" A.—What the h—— do you think I am; a saddler?



Gramophone Notes.

Mischa Levitzki.—A famous pianist makes his début in the list of new "His Master's Voice" records for mid-February. This is Mischa Levitzki, a pianist comparatively new to this country but with a considerable reputation on the Continent and in America. For his first record he has played the sixth of Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsodies"—one of the most brilliant of them all. We wish particularly to draw your attention to the extraordinarily fine tone of this record and the sonority of the reproduction.

Maartje Offers.—This superb mezzo-soprano makes her first appearance in England this month, though her "His Master's Voice" records have been known for several years. She is unquestionably one of the greatest living mezzo-sopranos, and has had ample testimony of the admiration of some of the most prominent judges of the day. Toscanini, you may remember, revived "Samson and Delilah" for her at the La Scala, Milan. This record will be doubly welcome, for there are very few recorded versions of the dashing Bohemian song, with its "Tra-la-la" refrain, from "Carmen."

Casals as a Conductor.—Casals makes his gramophone début as a conductor with three very fine records of Brahms' "Variations on a Theme by Haydn." Much of the superb finish and smooth phrasing that characterise his playing as a 'cellist are reproduced in his performance as a conductor. The work—Brahms' first important essay in the orchestral field—is recorded here in full, all repeats being fully observed. This is the first time, we believe, that this important work has been recorded.

Choir of the Temple Church.—The excellence of the training of the Temple Church choir under Mr. Thalben Ball has resulted in their records being amongst the finest (and most popular) of their type in existence. We think you will agree that their latest record is truly magnificent. It was recorded actually in the Temple Church itself.

"The Emperor Jones" as a Singer.—People in this country will always remember Paul Robeson, the coloured actor, for his marvellous performance in the leading rôle in Eugene O'Neill's play "The Emperor Jones." But thanks to his "His Master's Voice" records, Robeson has already a growing reputation as one of the finest singers of negro spirituels who have yet appeared. His singing of "Deep River" and "I'm going to tell God all my troubles" is one of the most moving performances recorded for a long time. It gains its effect by sheer simplicity and sincerity. It is impossible not to appreciate the singular restraint in the use of such a magnificent deep bass voice.

Something New from Jack Smith.—Your attention is specially drawn to the two Jack Smith records contained in the mid-February supplement of "His Master's Voice" records. They represent something that has not been done on gramophone records before. The famous whispering baritone sings as usual, but there is the additional attraction of a "whispering orchestra." The result is so attractive that we believe the records will set a new recording fashion. Two of the records are genuinely "whispering" records—delightfully intimate and subdued. If you listen to them in real quietness, you will find them truly delightful.

Little and Bad.

By Sigmn T. H. Spetch.

If the Cap Fits.—A new book contains "easy concrete rules for making pastry, etc." Several cooks in this Corps must have had the book for years!

Point Duty.—Writers in the newspapers are asking for the soldiers to do point duty—extending our "Cooks" tour, in fact.

Short Story.—A lineman working at the top of a pole dropped a hammer on the head of his friend who was waiting for him to descend. The injured one said to the lineman, "You *are* clumsy, Bill!" (The end.)

Nursery Rhyme.—

Hickory, dickory, dock:
The soldier looked at the clock,
And remarked "Seven-thirty;
Won't the M.O. be shirty,
When he sees that I've only one sock."

Fairy Story.—An old soldier with a row of war ribbons told a recruit that he was at the base throughout the Great War.

Song Title.—"The Orderly Sergeant," or "I'll stand beneath your window to-night and whistle for you."

The Raw One.—Sergeant to new recruit (waiting for the N.A.A.F.I. to open): "I don't get these stripes for scrounging, my lad." The recruit answered calmly: "If you did, you'd be like a zebra now, wouldn't you, sergeant?" Many a true word spoken in jest!

Reminder.—A sergeant-major caught one of the brand new "S.Acks" having a rest near the incinerator. "How long have you been scrounging?" he queried. "I was born in 1907, sir," was the startling reply.

Some Poetry (?)—

There was a soldier from Norwich
Whose delight was eating porridge;
A terrible fright,
On picquet one night,
Sent him mad—now he eats forage.

[Received too late for inclusion under the proper Heading.]

1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

Technical training is now in full swing, and judging by the sound of D.iii's every evening Trade Boards will be kept very busy in the near future.

We have to welcome L/Corpl Howard (of boxing fame), L/Corpl King from the School of Signals, Sergt Batchelor from Malaya, and Signalmen Giles and Trivett from India.

On the other hand we had to send off Sergt Buttle to Sarafand, Sergt Quick to the P.S. of the 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals, T.A., Corpl Quinn to the Depot Battalion, Sigmn Paine to the School of Signals, and Signalmen Bassett, Brown, Barton, Dawes, Hayward and Sullivan to the Rhine.

The Reserve has taken from us Signalmen McDonald, Butler, Bunnage, Southcott, Smith F. O., Uridge and Hughes.

We are also losing L/Corpl Kneller and Signalmen Smith C. T. and Bartley, who are required for service with Aden Signal Section.

Congratulations are extended to C.Q.M.S. Hoare (now with the P.S. of the 47th Divl Signals, T.A.), Sergt Bishop and Dvr Butcher, on receiving their L.S. and G.C. medals, which were presented by Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. (Royal Signals) at the adjutant's weekly drill parade.

To bring these notes to a close, try this one for subtlety: "A doctor recommends the juice of bananas as a pick-me-up. The skins, of course, have an opposite effect."

Aldershot Signals.

Rugby.—So the T.B. scratched! Those few words sum up the ignoble exit of the Royal Signals from the Army cup for the season 1927-28. Great disappointment was felt in Aldershot when it became known that the Training Battalion team had scratched to the S.W. Borderers in the fourth round.

The 3rd Divl Signals went down heavily against the Tank Corps in the previous round, but they died gallantly. Therefore we in Aldershot cannot understand why the T.B., if they could not produce a men's team, did not fall back on the boys. What I know of the boys makes me feel sure that they would have certainly upheld the reputation of the Corps, even if they suffered a heavy defeat.

The game in this part of the world is gaining popularity by leaps and bounds. All units of the Royal Signals have had games, and several players have stood out above the average. Capt Fuge, L/Corpl Bishop, and Signalmen Christie and Upton have certainly earned a position in the first team, so I am looking for the latter to succeed in the next round of the Command cup.

To-day the semi-finals of the Army rugby cup are played. I shall know to-night whether the tip I gave in my last month's notes has come home.

Having been engaged in refereeing other matches when our own team has been playing, my notes this month are short. I should be obliged to the secretaries of the various units if they would send me a few notes for publication.

Finally: don't forget the Command ground on Wednesday, March 14th.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—We regretted the paucity of notes from units of the S.T.C. in the February number, but we enjoyed a virtuous glow from the fact that we were not absentees. We shall always endeavour to be present in the future. Contributions from other members of the unit would be greatly appreciated, and would help to ensure this. Now then, you wags!

The "Brighter Catterick" movement is still proceeding. The paths have been relaid and fences erected round the huts. Only the other day a gentleman entered the Company office and informed us that he and his party of "priveteers" were going to plant a privet hedge along the sides of the paths. Those who are well dug in will not want to leave this delightful resort!

The Company turned out in full force on January 25th and proceeded to York to support the Battalion soccer team in the fourth round of the Army cup. Although we lost, every man enjoyed himself; and we take this opportunity of thanking Sergt Deyermond for his very successful efforts in obtaining buses and enabling us all to have such a very cheap outing.

Our best wishes go with the draft of thirty-five n.c.o.s and men who leave this unit on 23rd February en route for India. We shall then have lost a couple of renowned corporals' mess members—Krim Marchant and Ginger Greenwood.

Arrivals and Departures.—We extend a very hearty welcome to the arrivals from the Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, and hope their stay with us will be an enjoyable one. We also welcome back to the fold an old S.T.C. member in C.Q.M.S. Draper E. from India. We wonder if we shall be hearing again that saying peculiar to Company-quartermaster-sergeants: "Aint got none."

During the month we have lost a very popular officer in Lieut R. H. Copeland, R.Signals, who has proceeded on leave prior to embarking for India. He has worked wonders with our cross-country team, as shown by the result of the last inter-Company run (which we won). Lieut R C. Instrall, R.Signals, has also departed for more sunny climes, i.e., Palestine. Both these officers will be greatly missed, and the saying "our loss is another's gain" is indeed true.

Births.—Congratulations are extended to the following proud daddies: To Sergt Murray G., a son, 10/12/27, and to Corporal Savage W. a daughter, 4/1/28.

Entertainments.—The Battalion continues to hold its usual Saturday night dances in the Newbigging Hall. They are very successful affairs and are well attended by all ranks. There is only one complaint to note about them, and that is they are over too quickly.

Although not a lot is heard about the band, a very successful concert was given in No. 3 Y.M.C.A. on Tuesday, January 31st, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks. Great credit is reflected on our bandmaster, Mr. Ricketts, and also the band, which has progressed beyond all expectations, thus enhancing the reputation of the Corps.

Have you heard this one?—Sergeant, sorting out a training squad: "All of you that are not here, put your hands up." Result of poll: Four.

Dox.

E Company, Training Battalion.

One by Day and Four-by-Two.—I am, by force of circumstances, composing Eddy's contribution this month in the Battalion guard room.

Jolly good thing these duties come along when they do, I think. Good for one's gloves and boots, I mean. Otherwise running repairs would be put off until the stitch in time ran rather badly to seed. One does not often look at a guard from that point of view. I suppose they were invented for that sole purpose. I cannot think of any other.

By the way, I wonder how many of the people who occupy this post of honour for twenty-four hours look around on the view obtainable from the verandah. In good weather, especially in the early morning, the scene is a remarkably pretty one. Rather a pity it is raining just at the moment!

The orderly sergeant tells me that he distinctly heard a man in the rear rank say—but it doesn't matter much, anyway. I *do* hope he was mistaken!

Short Interlude.—Extract from an examination paper: "Gibraltar is noted for its Rock." So, incidentally, is Redcar.

Admonished.—In the February publication of The Wire, the whole of the Signal Training Centre was represented by one Company. An elevation of half-hose would certainly appear to be indicated; otherwise the Editor will be supplanting the present illustrated heading with something about "Not at home Stations."

It is at the foot of paragraphs like this that one generally introduces something about "Dum spiro, spero" but I'm a trifle uncertain of the spelling.

Arrivals.—Hundreds of them. Space is frightfully limited, so I will just say that the Company welcomes them.

Sergt Grace C. has arrived from the South Ireland Signal Section, Spike Island, and takes up the reins in the Company office vice Sergt Young, whose name will therefore be found under

Departures.—Sergt Young to S.I.S.S., Spike Island. C.S.M. Norton R. C. to School of Signals. Sergt Mitchell J. and Sigmn Mortimer G. to Sarafand. Sigmn Manning C. to Gibraltar. Sigmn Martin S. H. to Army Reserve, 16/2/28.

Home postings of Eddyites are often so numerous that the mention of each one individually is out of the question. But their old Company wishes them the best of luck.

An even shorter interlude.—"The plural of penny is tuppence" (from a recent examination paper).

Carry on!—L/Corpl Wyse B. re-engages to complete 21 years, and Signalmen Mottram J. and Reilly A. G. extend to complete 12 years with the Colours.

Congratulations.—To L/Sergt Montgomery K. on his qualifying as Foreman-of-Signals. Does this qualification include your moustache, Monty?

Congratulations, too, to those who have recently obtained their certificates of education.

In Memoriam.—A combined parade of the two Battalions was held on Friday, February 3rd, when a service in respectful memory of the late Field-Marshal Earl Haig was conducted by the padre. The "Last Post" and the "Reveille" were sounded in the church by Signals trumpeters, and the band of the Royal Corps of Signals gave a beautiful rendering of the solemn "Funeral March" by Chopin.

The "Dots and Dashes."—The well known Signals concert party are going to be with us at the Newbigging Hall, St. Quentin Lines, on March 7th and 8th. Remember the dates!

A Useful Book.—The announcement, under Editorial Notes in the February WIRE, of the publication of a small work entitled "A Short History of Signals in the Army" should prove of value to all ranks. May the "History" meet with the support it deserves!

A Much Brighter Catterick.—I wonder what answer I would receive if I asked the question, "Do you think Catterick Camp can be beautified?" Some, no doubt, would agree that it *could* be beautified a great deal. The great majority, I fancy, would be rather rude, to put it mildly.

Yet the aspect of our moorland camp is changing daily, and even the ranks of Tuscany (sorry—that comes in something else, of course). As I was saying, even the most rabid pessimists are compelled to admit that Catterick, at the present rate of improvement, will in time to come possess that subtle something, if not a schoolgirl complexion. All honour is due to those who have shouldered this tremendous task.

In connection with this subject I cannot refrain from congratulating the contractors on bringing along such a cute little "Austin 7" model steam-roller. They leave it lying about, too; but nobody is likely to play with it, because the man who works it lets it run down and takes the key home with him.

P.S.—I think that's all!

L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

The dredger of life in the "old young Company" is at present moving at a slightly increased pace, owing to the arrival of new material and the departure of a number of our finished products, who will, we are certain, help to raise the existing standard of efficiency which prevails in the units to which they are posted. We are sorry to lose them, but the main artery of the Signals circulatory system must carry out its function and push along its supply of good new blood to these organisations.

The new material looks very promising, and in the one and only game of "shun and stanateese" has already made good progress.

The last squad passed out with flying colours, and were congratulated by the commanding officer on their turnout and the smartness and precision of their drill movements. Come along, the new squad! try to improve on their performance.

Technical and educational training is going with a swing. The splendid results obtained are due to the close co-operation existing between the squads and their instructors, and a conscientious desire on the part of the squads to obtain proficiency in their various trades.

A team of boys from the Company has been entered to compete in the North-Eastern youths' cross-country championship. They have been well tried over the various distances covered in the inter-Company runs, and we fully expect to be able to record in next month's notes that they finished well to the fore. Their consistency has been remarkable and augurs well for their performance in the coming event.

The boxing and rugby teams have been putting up some wonderful shows and are both well in the running for maximum points.

Our Prescription for Team Success.—Take a few boys, mix well with grit, determination and spirit, and then empty the whole into the nearest playing field. Success will result from the fermentation set up by the addition of the mixture to the playing field. The spirit mentioned, by the way, should be prefixed by the word "team."

Education.—Congratulations to Boys Harbin, McCulloch, Mace, Broom, Smith G. H., Cooper and Dologhan on gaining their 1st class certificates. Seven boys sat and all passed, gathering in at the same time a few "d's."

Rugby.—Aldershot Signals: Your little request will, I hope, be complied with. A real full back may soon go to help Capts Rance and Mathew, and Signalmen Stearck and Kelly.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Boy Clarke J. E., a late respected member of our Liverpool Detachment. He was well known to all the boys, and their whole-hearted sympathy goes out to his relatives in their sorrow. As a mark of esteem and affection, beautiful wreaths were sent to his home from the officers of the Training Battalion and from the officers and other ranks of the Company.

Strength Addition.—To the marital establishment of our pay clerk, Corpl Jones D., a bouncing scrum half, whose first words (according to his father) were: "Heel! heel! get that ball out, F!" Get him in training as soon as possible, Don!

Movements.—Sigmn Kelly, a useful three-quarter, to 2nd Divl Signals. Corpl Tapley, a middle-weight of repute, to 3rd Divl Signals. Sigmn Brooks to E Troop Cavalry Divl. Signals. L/Corpl Stibbs and Sigmn Burt, two notable athletes, to A Corps Signals. Last, but not least, Sigmn Cooper—our little ray of golden sunshine—to 2nd Divl Signals. No. 4 Hut is sorry and lonesome because you went away. Still singing, Sunny?

Arrivals.—L/Corpl Phillips from A Corps Signals, and Corpl Andrews from 3rd Divl Signals.

LE CHEVAL NOIR.

Sergeants Mess, Training Battalion.

A billiards handicap competition has been organised, and the majority of heats have already been decided. I am not going to say anything about double baulks, but I think the chalk has been manufactured by someone in California. The result of the competition will be announced in later notes.

A trip to Huddersfield on Saturday, February 18th, to see the cup tie against Middlesbrough has been well supported, and an enjoyable day is anticipated.

A table showing the mess team results in the Garrison billiards league will, it is hoped, be published next month.

A hearty welcome is extended to recent arrivals.

L. H. D.

School of Signals.

Introduction.—It is six months since notes from the School of Signals appeared in THE WIRE, and on behalf of our former correspondents apologies are tendered. With regular contributions in future issues we hope to rebind the links of friendship with those who have served in this establishment, and to keep in touch with past and present members of the Corps at home and abroad.

Officers: Casualties.—We are glad to report that Major R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., is making a speedy recovery from his recent serious illness. He is now on sick leave.

Lieut R. T. H. Gelston (The Royal Warwickshire Regt.) has rejoined from sick leave. We trust the snowstorm which swept the camp on the night of his return to duty did not present too bitter an aspect of the amenities of life on the moors.

Arrivals and Departures.—January brought us a Corps celebrity from the Training Battalion in the person of C.S.M. Norton R. C. In extending to him the hand of warmest welcome we would couple our good wishes with congratulations on his recent appointment.

His predecessor, C.S.M. Green L. W., has left us for the 49th (West Riding) Divl Signals at Leeds. We were loth to lose such an old hand, especially for his inimitable monologues, songs and facial contortions which delighted all ranks at numerous concerts and smokers.

The periodical reliefs also include Sergt James H. Nowadays he pushes his bicycle a little farther each day—to Headquarters, Signal Training Centre, where he has taken up duty in relief of Sergt Mitchell J., who has left us for Sarafand. However, Sergt James still remains on our attached strength, so we do not count him as one lost.

Another local move, but of an unusual nature, is that of C.Q.M.S. Cubbon (Foreman-of-Signals), who on discharge has commenced duty as a civilian instructor with the Training Battn.

From the above it may fairly be judged that Catterick Camp is not so bad a place as some folks think, even though one does get "snowed under" (in more senses than one) occasionally.

We welcome from abroad Sergts Bruce and Brett, and from home stations, Corpl Bygrave S. and L/Corpl Grocott.

To 1st Divl Signals: L/Corpl King J., our draughtsman. To the sunnier climate of Ewshott Camp Corpl Brooke has made his way; while Sergts Brooks E. A. and Jackson J. have passed the Gibraltar Rock en route for India.

The Army Reserve has claimed Corpl Fairbairn and Signalmen Payne and Drewett.

Good luck to all!

The fifth Foreman-of-Signals course has dispersed, and we congratulate all four students who have left us for probationary duty as Foremen of Signals: L/Sergt Montgomery K. to the Rhine, Corpl White A. to the Scottish Command, Corpl Bushnell A. to Chester, and Corpl Walker to the Southern Command.

C.Q.M.S. King V. J. is due to arrive on February 20th in relief of C.Q.M.S. Cubbon.

No. 6 N.C.O.s W/T Course.—The students of this wireless course for n.c.o.s returned to their units on February 16th. No doubt they feel bigger men in the wireless world after four months of studying in the bracing air of Yorkshire.

You students of the wireless course
Have had a jolly stay
'Midst mathematics, motors, Morse,
And lectures every day.

O'er moors and glens full well you tramped
One hundred miles or more
On practice schemes, in mud encamped,
In quest of wireless lore.

We know you liked the schemes the best,
And to Croft Spa would go,
Erecting stations in a test
Of how to run a show.

And p'raps the house at Oaktree Hill
To you sweet mem'ries bring
Of coffee hot and tart to kill
The pangs of hunger's sting.

When Needs Must.—It was not our intention to include sports items under the heading of unit notes, but we feel bound to record the appearance of a third team in the S.T.C. inter-Company Soccer League. Field units are reminded that the School is a very small unit, less than eighty strong, and our difficulties in selecting three teams can readily be appreciated. However, we did so, and the noble third team wallowed in the mud of the Gorselands ground for an hour and a half to finish the match versus the Mounted Wing of the Depot Battalion in a draw of one all. Our team included C.S.M. Norton, C.Q.M.S.s Flynn (who was sorely tempted to adopt his rugger tactics from his position of outside right), Squibb and Hayter, and Sergts Curtis and Strange. Major Drayson captained the team. Although a few of this gallant band bemoaned their stiffness for a few days after the match, they were very emphatic in pointing out that the first and second teams lost their matches. Well done, the thirds!

Sergeants' Mess.

Erring Sheep.—An outing was arranged for the members to attend the English cup match, Manchester City versus Sunderland, at Sunderland, on January 28th. Leaving the mess about 8.30 a.m. we arrived at Sunderland about 11 o'clock in time for a look round the town before the match commenced. Afterwards the party motored to Newcastle (less two erring sheep) to spend the rest of the day at the Newcastle pleasure haunts. We are still wondering how one of our number managed to get lost in the knitting-wool shop!

UNCLE PETER.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

A Corps Signals.

Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Ewshott.

Arrivals.—Corpl Bowler ("Joint Box") from Hong Kong (Jo sang kiswoskee. We have been waiting for you for a long long time). Sigmn Mortimore from India. Signalmen Buck, Jones A., Kerr R. J. W., and Holme from the S.T.C. Part of our phantom army arrived on February 11th, to wit Signalmen Grant, Clarke and Hankins.

Departures.—Sergts Wilson and Waller, and Corpl Blower, to India. Signalmen O'Brien, Smith E. G., and Cook F. J., to Gibraltar. Signalmen Buckwell, Smith W., and Whiting W. E. C., to Aden. Signalmen Wilson W. B., Newson H., Horseburgh, Holden, Agar, Avon, Spires and Sowden, to the Reserve. Sigmn Bellas to the School of Signals (Peter, please note).

Marriage.—Sigmn Felix. Mr. Drage, please note. (There is a strong rumour that Punch had been up to see Mr. Drage.)

Found.—One clock in No. 32 Hut. How did this happen?

Congratulations to Lieut Cole (officers' light-heavy), Sigmn Stuart (heavy) and L/Corpl Rodda (light-heavy)—Army champions—on showing the world what the Signals *can* do. To the Smallshot Signals boxing team on beating the Aldershot Command by 17 to 11 points (for results see Sports News). To Joe Cotterell on coming back to form. Vive le Corps!

General.—A feature of the present month is the number of n.c.o.s and men on courses. Sergts McDonald and Farley, Corpl Schofield and L/Corpl Yardy are learning to form fours with the King's Company of the 1st Battn. Grenadier Guards. Corpl Parsons and L/Corpl Lewin are learning the use of the rifle with the East Yorks Regiment. In fact, fifty per cent. of the Company are learning something at various places, and the other fifty are attending lectures on technical and other subjects delivered by the officers. It is surprising how interesting these lectures are. They are very varied, and at times touch on sport; and quite a lot has been learned from them.

Stock Exchange News.—During the past month the Gas-mask Drill market has easily carried off the palm once more, and other interesting features have included a pronounced revival of interest in Kit Inspection shares, and notably those of the M.T. group with which readers are familiar. Taking into consideration the trials and tribulations of the Drill Order industry over the last week or so, shareholders in the Scroungers' Trust cannot cavil at their lot. Here are a few items worth noting.

McDonald beds continue to pull out and remain hard. Biscuits are irregular and uncertain. Bondooks remain strong and active. Furlough and Leave continue to get weaker and weaker. Barrack Windows and Plates appear brittle and uncertain.

Kits were dull in tone last week, but have since shone brightly. Saddle Soap and Bath-Brick continue to hold their own, although very unpopular with buyers. Huts lost forty points each at close of 'Change yesterday. Groopee rates rose one-sixteenth after being idle for a long time. Although Scrounge shares have dropped, Picquets continue to rise steadily.

Smallshot shares are expected to rise shortly, which has caused a fluctuation in Fatigues. This fluctuation is expected to leap, and will undoubtedly cause a panic.

Whom the Gods Love.—A water gala has been arranged, and will shortly take place on or before (or perhaps after) the 4th of October at Smallshot. Entries are invited from past, present and future members of the Wadpunchers' Trust. Members who have had previous experience between the lines at Catterick are barred.

Conditions: Competitors must bring their own water and canoes. First prize, nothing. Second prize, same as the first, but with a gold centre. Third prize, same as the first and second, but with an enamelled edge.

Entries to be sent to "Soofoo," c/o the Japanese Admiral, President of the Wadpunchers' Trust, Smallshot Barracks, Aldershot.

Referee: Dolly Gray. Chief Whip: Clutch. Water Pioneer: Buller. Colours: Greybacks.

This Month's Short Stories.—Sigmn McDoogal went to the "Smoke" in October last, and whilst sight-seeing down the "Spank" he saw a notice displayed outside a wine merchant's shop which read: "Join our Christmas Club. Pay what you like. Have what you like."

Mac trotted in and joined the club by paying a penny. When Christmas Eve arrived he went to the shop and asked for his Christmas present.

Wine Merchant: "What would you like?" Mac: "A bottle of whiskey."

Wine Merchant: "I cannot give you a bottle of whiskey, as you have only paid a penny into the club." Mac: "But it says on the notice 'Pay what you like; have what you like.'"

Mac took the case to court and (to the surprise of the wine merchant) he won his case with costs.

About a month later Mac again went to the shop. Wine Merchant: "Get out of here; you are no customer of mine." Mac: "I know that, but I want a penny on this bottle."

* * * *

Once upon a time there was a driver who finished work at 4 p.m.

* * * *

A Signalman put two £1 notes in a bird cage, hoping they would breed.

* * * *

Pomalin: "Why did Scotland take up football?"
Spekky: "Because of the free kick."

* * * *

In a certain evening paper it was reported that a fisherman from Plymouth had found a shilling in a herring. The following morning this headline appeared in the paper: "Scotch fleet sails for Plymouth!"

Soofoo.

Children's Christmas Party.

The officers of A Corps Signals (Ewshott Camp) held their annual children's Christmas party in the R.A.M.C. concert hall, Crookham, on January 18th.

Chancing to be hard by just after four o'clock in the afternoon, I heard the gentle ripple of childish laughter. After a little clever tracking I found the place from whence the laughter emanated. Gliding unseen through the door, I hid myself behind a fern and gazed on a sight rarely seen.

In this large hall were tables set out and piled with succulent dainties for the discriminating palates of healthy children. Each chair was occupied by a child whose whole mind seemed concentrated on sampling the omnifarious dainties on the board, whilst here and there sat a proud father alternately beaming at his wife, his own children, and the children in juxtaposition to his own.

I said to myself, "Oh, to be a little boy again, if only for a day." Like ministering angels the officers and their wives were continually moving from table to table, satisfying themselves that every child was as near heaven as unlimited food could bring it. Even the parents seemed to lose a year as each minute sped past, and after a short while it was really hard to pick out the children from the parents, so happy seemed everyone.

Still hiding behind the fern, getting awfully cramped and jealous of the children, I saw several late-comers come in from the rain. I was surprised to hear that they had come all the way from London (and other places more distant) with their children to swell the party and make merry.

After a very successful tea the floor was cleared as if by magic, and chairs arranged in rows in front of the stage. When everyone was seated, Capt Parkes announced the first item of the children's concert.

The curtain went up and Tommie Edwards, dressed as Mercury, sang a very appropriate song entitled "Jimmy," which told the children what "The Corps" was for and what it did.

L/Corpl Appleby, dressed for the part, made the children almost cry with laughter by his description of "The life of a curate." My eyes fell on the Padre sitting amongst the children, and he was laughing louder than his companions.

The third item was a sketch, "The wearin' of the green," in which fifteen children took part. It amazed me *how* this troupe of children had been trained. From someone standing near I found that Mrs. Edwards had been responsible for their training. She must have worked very hard to get such little children to do what they did in this sketch. The dresses were very appropriately made and coloured, and were the work of Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Pout.

The last item of the concert was "Irish reels," executed by four of the children.

Tommie Edwards is to be congratulated on his acting and singing. Although only a little chap he has the heart of a lion, and he encouraged the other children to do their best and to forget all about stage fright.

Whilst Captain Parkes acted as usher and announcer, Mrs. Edwards very successfully filled the rôle of director, and Mrs. Appleby "plied the ivories" with admirable effect.

The concert ended, the floor was again cleared, and all the kiddies were wondering what would happen next. Then suddenly, as if from nowhere, Sergt Francis (disguised as Santa Claus) came riding in on a sleigh drawn by reindeer. A whoop from the children went up, and as his sleigh came to a standstill he was surrounded by a crowd of laughing curious children. To one and all Santa Claus gave a huge balloon, a trumpet and a drum. The noise of the drums and trumpets, and the popping of the balloons, reminded me of a Chinese concert and the feast of Confucius.

Suddenly the lights went out, and everyone thought that "someone had blundered." But no! as if by magic a huge Christmas tree appeared at one end of the hall, lit up by fairy lights, with presents and toys hanging from every bough and twig.

The children all became silent with wonder and amazement, and a fairy voice said "Joan Taylor!" Joan Taylor walked forward and received a present from the tree. Every child was called to receive a present from Mrs. Walsh, who had dressed the tree with such great effect, and who proceeded to *un*dress it much to the delight of the children.

When every child had received a present, everyone present (officers, fathers, mothers and children) joined in games. As I looked at all these people, young and old, I wondered to myself who were enjoying the games the most: the parents, the children, or the officers.

When at last the games were finished, the commanding officer (Major C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals) expressed hearty thanks to all who had given their time and taken a lot of trouble in making the children's party so successful. "I cannot wish you a merry Christmas, children, as it has just passed; but I do wish all you little people a very happy New Year."

Thus ended the very successful children's party given by the officers to the children of the W.O.s, N.C.O.s and men of A Corps Signals.

Soofoo.

A Corps at Intra.

1—Now there dwelt on the island which is sometimes called Wite, one Nob-e-all, who was also called 'Arry.
2—And there was a great famine on the island; and Nob-e-all became sorely troubled and did crave for a butt-end.
3—And after he had wasted away in this manner for many moons and could not scrounge even a murphy, a Sadducee came unto him saying,
4—"Follow me and thou shalt be filled, but first of all sign this."
5—And Nob-e-all did sign and journeyed far, following the North Star over great deserts and through great jungles until he came unto Katric.
6—And at Katric he saw multitudes of strange tribes that spake in tongues of dogs and fish; and he became sorely troubled.
7—And seeing a high priest, with a tape on his arm, he spake unto him, saying, "Father, show me where I can be comforted."
8—And this high priest brought him unto a palace called Wyem, where multitudes of Rookies sat wadpunching.
9—And when Nob-e-all saw this, he fell on his marrow-bones and salaamed to the high priest and offered his thanks.
10—And the high priest comforted him, saying, "Mine's a char and five wads."
11—And it came to pass after many moons that Nob-e-all journeyed many leagues unto a place called Ushot.
12—And at Ushot the Lord of the Hosts fell on his neck and kissed him and said, "What art thou?"

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13—And Nob-e-all said, "I am a driver, ice-cream."
14—And the Lord of the Hosts marvelled and said, "Thou shalt be a steward unto my centurions."
15—And Nob-e-all replied, "Yea, verily; I smell buckshee scoff."
16—And he became a steward unto Essems, Quarters and even unto them that are called Sarge.
17—And he did wax fat in the land.
18—And after the Feast of Innocents, Nob-e-all hungered after his second; and the Lord of the Hosts sent him unto the temple of learning.
19—And he did learn the use of the quill, the value of beads, and the three Arrs.
20—And after many years, before the Feast of Pentecost, the Rabbi in the Temple said unto Nob-e-all, "Canst tell me how to find the area of a circle?"
21—And Nob-e-all replied, saying "Verily, thou must multiply the length by the breadth to obtain the area of the circle."
22—And the Rabbi sent one called Emmo to minister unto him.
23—And when the devil had been cast out Nob-e-all did live with the common herd in the house which is called thirty-three, where Yap-Yap, Ambone, Theo, Spekky, Scruff and many others did dwell.
24—And the tribe in this house, which was ruled over by one Pad-ree, were wont to yarn round a fire of coals.
25—And Nob-e-all marvelled unto himself, saying "These men are very learned."
26—And one called the Swede said unto him, "When be a door not a door?" And Nob-e-all was dumb.
27—And it happened that Nob-e-all saw a Centurion wearing a de-ce-em, and he said unto him, "What didst thou do that Cæsar gave thee a de-ce-em?"
28—And the Centurion answered him, saying "I got that for being a witness at a court-martial."
29—And Nob-e-all prayed unto his forefathers that he might possess a de-ce-em.
30—And it came to pass that a great famine spread over the land of Ushot, and many went on the jew because of this.
31—And Nob-e-all did scrounge rootie and chars and butt-ends until the land was bare.
32 And he became sorely troubled because there was no manna in the wilderness.
33—And Essem, seeing Nob-e-all shrivelled up to a bone, took compassion on him and said, "'Arry, thou art empty; follow me and thou shalt be filled."
34—And Nob-e-all followed Essem unto the mess, where one Turpin was steward.
35—And Essem said unto Turpin, "Go, prepare thy grave at a place called Civvystreet."
36—And Turpin departed, and Nob-e-all reigned in his stead.

Soofoo.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Musketry (including rifle drill) and technical training are now in full swing and are enjoyed by all concerned—especially ourself, whose hands were blistered at the third "Prepare to signal."

Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold our new O.C., Capt R. F. H. Nalder, R.Signals, and hope he will have a long and pleasant stay with us (Ps. lxxviii. 6). We also greet Sigmn Cooper from the S.T.C., Catterick.

Departures.—Corpl McCullough and Sigmn Johnson left on January 31st for India, the land of monsoons and microbes. May they have a real good time out there.

Marriage.—Sigmn Staerck E. A. to Ivy Kathleen Kent, of Hastings, at St. Clement's Church, Halton, on December 26th last.

Birth.—On November 18th last, to the wife of L/Corpl Edgar, a son (James Gordon).

Running.—There was a cross-country run on Saturday, 4th February. Further comments are unnecessary. We heard one voice say, "Does he think we're —— greyhounds?"

Agony.—Sigmn Willmington would like to hear from Sigmn Dicker, late of No. 1 Company.

Heard in S.2.—Driver: "Go over, you——!" Officer: "Nearly right, my lad; but his name's 'Boxer.'"

The following is offered with profuse apologies to the unknown author:—

"OHM, SWEET OHM."

A mile or two from Wimshurst
A little cottage lay;
I always volted o'er the gate,
Whene'er I went to stay.

It was a simple single cell
Where dwelt dear E.M.F.;
And she would still be living now
Had she not met her death.

We stood upon the Wheatstone Bridge,
Watching the current flow;
Alas! the parapet collapsed—
She disappeared below.

We used to dyne off copper plates;
She washed up in the zinc;
It was a very pretty sight,
I always used to think.

But when she'd washed a plate or two,
"By chromate," she did cry,
"The hydrogen that's coming off
Is getting in my eye!"

It irks me now to tell you more
Of things that used to be;
She may be now 'midst polar-ise,
E
A floating in the C(=R).

No. 3 Company.

February finds us in the midst of individual training and education, with the weather—oh, why mention it! you know what's it like. Not that nice refreshing rain you read about in books, but nasty cold wet rain, ugh! the wind howls and windows rattle.

Oh to be in India now that February is here! Still, why worry? Spring will soon be here with its onions and schemes, both enough to make us weep. Those telegraph soldiers come here and go tip, tap; say nasty words; and go away again. We appreciate A.G.'s reflections on an Indian holiday, and should like to hear more like it; it's good.

Things We Wonder.—If Barleux could spare a few more lines on gardening to Teddybear, whose notes we were compelled to curtail owing to space.

Does Beeton train on locust? (Well done, Beeton; a really good show.)

Where does the little man in Germany buy his pretty green ink? The unit office wants some.

Whether the hand that holds the trophy isn't beginning to lose its grasp.

Arrivals.—We welcome Capt. Lewis-Barclay (may the power of his service never grow less!) and Sigmn Loxam from India.

Departures.—Lieut Cole to No. 2 Company (our loss is indeed their gain). F/Sergt Preston, L/Sergt Farmer, L/Corpl Leary, Signalmen Gander, Griffiths, Gurney, Hamer, Reed, Watson, Whymark, to India, on January 31st. Sigmn Strike, Drivers Cooper and Treen to Egypt, and Sigmn Purrington to Gibraltar on February 4th. To all of the above we wish the best of luck in their new spheres.

The Ride.—By Soarerstill.

And it came to pass in the land of Threeco that the O.C. did order to appear before him, on horseback, those warriors who do wear stripes upon their arms; and there was great consternation in the land.

For many had ridden not for many moons, and they were sore afraid, and enquired of the Drivers H.T. "Is he quiet, or does he buck?"

And lo, at dawn some warriors appeared, whilst others, rejoicing, tarried on their way.

And the Chief spoke, saying, "Half-Sections right, walk, march!"

And the hearts of the warriors were sorely shaken, for were they not of the tribe of Special Employed, and others, who rode not upon the backs of horses.

And it came to pass that on the journey the Chief spoke to his right hand man, saying, "Go you to the right, whilst I go to the left, and we will meet on yonder road."

And the going was bad, and the warriors spake among themselves saying "What manner of switchback is this?"

And many fell off and tarried among thorns, and some cussed the horses, saying "What horrible beasts!" and when the ride was over their hearts were glad, though their seats were sore for days and days and days.

Threeco.

No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company.

Blackdown, February 11th.

Broadcast Programme.—Station, Blackdown. Call, XXX. (Younger's). Wave-length, short (back and sides).

10.30 a.m.—Shipping Forecast (of special interest to Sergeant Harrington).

1. 0 p.m.—Lunch-time Music.
Song: "My meatless day" (male voice choir).
Gramophone Selections (corporals' mess).

3.30 p.m.—Variety.
Song: "Go to bed early and save the coal," by special request (Quartermaster).
Violin Solo: Sigmn Wing (greatest living exponent of the one-string fiddle).
Duet: "All is not brass that glitters" (section commanders).
Quartette: "I'm in love with a wonderful nurse" (sanatorium sheiks).

4. 0 p.m.—Short Talk by Professor New (late of the School of Hygiene) on "Where flies go in winter time."

4.15 p.m.—Selections by Station Orchestra.

4.30 p.m.—Song: "Who will push the bassinette?" (Sigmn Smith).

4.35 p.m.—An interesting lecture on "'Signs' of the Times" (C.S.M.)

4.45 p.m.—Chamber Music: N.A.A.F.I.

5. 0 p.m.—Children's Hour: Conducted by Uncle Alf and Aunt Snowy.

6. 0 p.m.—Song: "I want to be happy" (Sergt Cleary).
Short Talk on India (Sigmn Randall).

7. 0 p.m.—A Three-Act Play, specially arranged for broadcasting by Lance-Corporal McKenzie, entitled "William" (all star caste).

8.30 p.m.—The Month's Good Cause: Royal Corps of Signals Benevolent Fund (The Treasurer).

9. 0 p.m.—Weather and News.
A slight secondary depression centreing over "All Arms Bridge," moving slowly.
Here is an S.O.S.: Will Sigmn Nash, last heard of at Catterick, please communicate with Sigmn Osborne of this Company?
Sport.
Hockey: Played against 2nd Battery R.A. Result, a draw (3—3).
Football: A running commentary conducted by Sigmn Cook had been arranged for the last match, but owing to atmospherics this had to be cancelled.

9.30 p.m.—Local Announcements.
Arrivals: Sergt Gamester, L/Corpl Goodison, Sigmn Edwards, from India. Signalmen Cracknell, Moore, Osborne, from Catterick. A hearty welcome.
Departures: Corpl Cockings and family to India. Signalmen Spriggs and Hawkesworth to civil life. We wish them the best of luck, and hope they will find congenial employment.
Congratulations: To L/Corpl Rowe C. S. R. on attaining that rank.

Blackdown is now closing down. Goodnight, everybody; good night!

B. A. J.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

General.—Great strides have been taken this month towards individual training. The only fly in the ointment appears to be the lack of individuals to train. With a bit of luck we are hoping these will turn up in the near future.

Attached.—Sigmn Harris arrived from D Troop for a short stay, for the purpose of overhauling and repairing our saddlery. We sincerely hope there is sufficient work to prevent him from feeling homesick.

Carol Singers.—Gr-r-r-r!

Challenge.—Having beaten us in each of the last two matches, we hope that we are to give D Troop a licking next week, if only to prevent winning from becoming a habit with them. If they *do* win again, we hope that it will be a lesson to them. But, of course, by the time this appears in print we will either be crowing or crowed over.

Query.—What type of jumping course is required for a six-wheel gin-palace? Do they require petrol crushed or boiled for the first six months of service?

Greetings.—To C.S.M. Jeffreys (of "Leave it to me" fame) somewhere in India. How about a ram-sammie on the Rheiler Strasse Square? Ginger and Daisy.

Congratulations to Charles Wheeler on at last winning the double event in the Egyptian Command boxing finals.

Sandsmudge.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, February 15th.

General.—By the time these lines appear the March winds will be with us (we hope they will not be any worse than we've had). Apropos I submit the following:—

Half an inch—half an inch—half an inch shorter!
The skirts are the same for mother and daughter;
When the winds blow, both of them show
Half an inch—half an inch more than they oughter!

A Lamentation.—Tientsin please note: Hello, Charlie! flappers calling! You have escaped another Leap Year sunning abroad, and you will be safe to return in 1929.

Sporting Times.—Increasing interest is being taken by all the Company at headquarters. The O.C., Spider and Kelly have appeared for the Headqtrs. Southern Command football team; and after losing nine league matches, a winning team has been got together to return a score card of 7—1 against Winterbourne United. The football coupon fans have returned ten out of twelve on five occasions this season, and feel sanguine that they are now hot on the scent of forecasting the dozen. Under this heading falls "Scouting": we are well off, for we have a scoutmaster.

C Signals, Jubbulpore.—Tich Elliott (late of G and F Divl Signals, India) has been seen in the vicinity of Salisbury by "Coir." He sends his best respects to all who know him, but omitted Bannu and Razmak. 'Nuf said! what say you, Clay?

Arrivals.—We welcome our O.C. back from his short sojourn in the wilds of Switzerland, where I believe he spent an enjoyable time. Beacon Hill twice before breakfast, now!

We also welcome to our midst No. 2314083 Corpl Walker A. R. (Foreman-of-Signals), who has arrived from the Aldershot Command Signal Company to take up duty with this Company at Devonport from C.Q.M.S. Heyward H. G. (Foreman-of-Signals), who will shortly be proceeding for the second time to Sierra Leone. He must like it! or else there is some attraction there!

Randomites.—Sergt McPherson of the —— Highlanders entered the canteen and shouted "McTavish! McTavish!" A voice in the distance: "Yot initial, sergeant?" Coir.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Bulford Camp.

Christmas Tree.—It is rather late to be reporting this, but it took place on the day that last month's notes were posted. We cannot let it pass unrecorded, for it was a great occasion.

Major and Mrs. Allan and all the officers and their wives gave the married families a real treat. It was primarily for the children, but that did not prevent the grown-ups from thoroughly enjoying themselves. The Ellis-Barl band furnished the music during the afternoon and for several children's dances and games after tea. Every wife and every child received a present, and oranges and apples were distributed with a lavish and occasionally heavy hand. I stopped one with my eye!

On behalf of the married personnel, R.S.M. Adams thanked the C.O. and Mrs. Allan and the officers and wives. The cheers that followed were ample proof that the affair was an unqualified success and thoroughly appreciated by us all.

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I nearly forgot to mention that Joe officiated as Santa, complete with sledge and pony, his reindeer having been handed into stores for re-wiring.

Sergeants' Mess.—Item No. 1 from here is the annual ball, which took place on January 27th. Once again the Ellis-Barl band tore off a few portions of melody and rhythm. Many old faces were seen, likewise many strange ones, for people came from many miles away. The men's recreation room was filled to its limit, and the bar was tastefully decorated with elbows.

Strictly speaking Item No. 1 should have been the annual dinner, which took place on January 20th, but never mind! This was another very pleasant gathering. The only civilians able to turn up were Mr. Harvey and Mr. Johnson, and they appeared to be quite glad about it. An excellent dinner, arranged by C.S.M. O'Connor (more power to his elbow!) was followed by a jolly little family smoker. No ladies, you know! Altogether one of the most pleasant evenings spent in the mess, according to the oldest inhabitant. We cannot conclude without a word of praise for the kitchen staff, who positively excelled themselves.

Now we come to the question of billiards. I am not an authority on this game, being a sort of player who is likely to get the game abolished. Nevertheless, I know what has to be done, so I will tell you what I know about the local tournament. Up to the present we have won several matches, or it may be that we have lost them—I'm not sure.

We played the 2nd Brigade R.A. in their mess and won three out of five games. C.S.M. Doust played a splendid game. Our star performer is Sergt Freemantle. He makes winning a habit. C.Q.M.S. Sweeting is a good all-round player—if you know what I mean. Ha! ha!

We beat the R.A.S.C. on our own table on February 3rd.

But all this is not very exciting. You should see me play, though! If no one is looking I edge the cue ball off the cushion if necessary. I like snooker best. I make some pretty cannons at that game.

The Undiscovered.—Congratulations to the following on being awarded the long service and good conduct medal:—F/S/Sergt Holloway A., C.Q.M.S. Barrett A., Signalmen Fry W. and Button A.

In this age of selfishness it is pleasant to discover that there are still those who have a little thought for others. I won't mention any name but select one from the above. I know that he armed himself with an ounce of cachous in order that the dutch courage taken on board prior to the parade should not offend the nostrils of the General. It is these little things which have placed the Corps where it is to-day.

Unfortunately the parade was cancelled owing to bad weather, but "It is an ill wind, etc." The forge smells like a lady's boudoir these days! The cachous had to be used up somehow.

Stop Press.—The sergeants' mess look very much like the runners-up in the Garrison billiard tournament, and Sergt Freemantle's break still stands good. Mine's a pint!

The Garrison Institute.—This is quite a new place, and brings the Garrison right up to date. It is practically a Palais de Danse, and as such should be highly popular.

Whist drives and dances will be held by the Institute Committee every Thursday, whilst units may hire the place for their own affairs. Bulford looks like being quite a gay spot in the near future.

Up to the present I am unable to verify the report that a crown and anchor room is to be provided. Troops are forbidden to walk on the highly-polished floor when wearing hob-nailed boots. This also applied to ladies. The practice of throwing pieces of cake at the band is frowned upon, and I understand that buying the M.C. a drink is positively discountenanced.

For the benefit of those who know Bulford, I may say that the institute is at the back of the Garrison theatre, and is the old N.A.A.F.I. (converted).

Brighter Motoring.—Motorists and other "wheeled" visitors arriving in our lines are somewhat confused by a huge notice which orders them to turn left. To do so, however, is to court disaster, for a large pole stretches across the road and a little further down are two seven-foot pits.

Nevertheless, one night George essayed to use the road as a short cut to check parade. He was late for the parade, but believe me, he had a very reasonable excuse for reporting sick.

The explanation is that the workers engaged on the reconstruction of the unit huts chose the day following the erection of the "turn left" notice to commence work on the huts down that road. Sheer Bolshevism, you know! One can almost imagine them calling an extraordinary meeting to check the innovation of such a modern idea as one way traffic. There would be much gnashing of whiskers and some grinding of teeth (among the younger members).

We live in stirring times. A motorist hesitated at the turning last week, looked again at the notice, and drove straight on. Cries of "Coward!" followed him.

Labour Exchange.—I have it on good authority that there are quite a number of musicians in this unit. They tell me that the following are available: Alto, saxophonist, banjoist (several), clarinettist (if there is such a word), trumpet player and pianist.

At present it is not possible to form a dance band from Signals alone, but if the above are really capable of distinguishing a dotted crochet from a tetrachord, why don't they make themselves known to the writer, who, while not professing to be a musician, guarantees to produce a dance band out of any promising material.

It is not enough for an aspirant to say, "I can play the saxophone—lend me yours." He should have the instrument firmly gripped in his right (or left) hand throughout the interview. If asked to play a run at speed in diminished sevenths, he should merely elevate one (or both) eyebrows and say "After you." He would probably get away with it.

I have often wondered why someone well placed hasn't attempted a real hundred-per-cent. dance band from troops in the Garrison. At present there are three bands. Two work in with each other, and occasionally join forces to a certain extent. The other undercuts both of them but is not of much account.

Arrivals.—Sergeant Oakes and Sigmn Harbottle from India. Sigmn Frarey E. from E Company, Training Battalion.

Departures.—Sigmn Ellis to T.A.R. on 10/1/28. Cpl Walker to Spike Island on 30/1/28. L/Sergt Napper N. to the Depot Battalion on 31/1/28. Signalmen Adams H., Hales, Sammon S., Smith C., Smith G. T., and Stanley A. to India on 31/2/28. Sigmn Smart R. to Gibraltar on 3/2/28. Sigmn Ailward C. on 8/2/28, L/Corpl Harding on 10/2/28, and Sigmn Heath on 13/2/28—all to T.A.R.

Sigmn Pickern was transferred to the Army Reserve on 16/2/28. George served at Bulford for five-and-a-half years, and will be greatly missed, especially in the cook-house. The best of luck in civvy life, George. Do you remember the jam roll you made?

Education.—Drivers Fraser J., Phillips W., Walton H. and Whyman gained the 3rd class certificate at Bulford on November 29th last.

Appointments and Promotions.—L/Corpl Bloye to be Corporal w.e.f. 10/12/27. Sigmn Lewis T. to be L/Corporal on Corps roster w.e.f. 3/11/27. Sigmn Catley G. E. to be L/Corpl w.e.f. 10/12/27.

Extension of Service.—Sigmn Simm M. to complete twelve years with the Colours.

Births.—To Sigmn Raiman a daughter (Doreen Joyce Rosina) on 23/1/28. To Sigmn Martin W. a daughter.

R. F. B.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

"All's well that ends well," we are told. It is, however, the beginning with which I am concerned at the moment, for I know not what to tell you here. Come along, all you love-sick swains, and tell me how you compile those numerous sheets of MSS. which I see in the post. Acting upon the assumption that in this world one must arrive prior to departure, I will first tell you of

Arrivals.—C.S.M. Stockwell from A Corps Signals, Ewshott. L/Corpl Purcell from Hong Kong. Signalmen Robinson E. and Robinson R. W. from the Depot. Also the following of the 15th Infantry Brigade Section have arrived from China: Corpl Nelson, L/Corporals Ward and Burrell, Signalmen Dodson J., Holcombe A., Holloway A., Lipsham H., Read S. J., Stopps E. J., Wells T., Jardine R., Pattinson H., Pritchard G. W., Strevens A., and Drivers Wood F. H. and Richardson T. W. To each and all we offer the heartiest welcome. Nearly all are "wanderers returned." And now for

Departures.—The following have left us for foreign climes: Signalmen Green E., Sawyer S., Sutcliffe R., Hatherall E., Sullivan J., and Wells E. H. to India, per H.M.T. "Neuralia," on January 31st.

Discharges.—Signalmen Hind A., Campbell J., and Fellows T., to the Army Reserve. Sigmn Forbes H. discharged on compassionate grounds (some say he needs it).

Courses.—L/Corpl Peerless L. J. has rejoined us after having completed a wireless course at the School of Signals, Catterick. There would appear to be little prospect of his being able to impart his hard-earned knowledge to a class in this unit at present, as our stock of wireless apparatus is nil. There will probably be some sets brought back with the Shanghai D.F. Signals, however, when we shall doubtless be able to get busy.

China, 1928.—I am now able to state that the Shanghai Defence Force Signals (? some of 'em) will be leaving for home on or about the 24th February. A large number are doomed to remain in China. A Section (all wireless personnel) and H Section are the unfortunate ones, I am told. It will be good to see a few of the old lads home once more, and a hearty welcome awaits them when they do arrive.

General.—Having been aroused from their winter lethargy (like the dormouse) the E.C. personnel have lately been busy instructing a class of signallers from Territorial units in the Command. On completion of this course on the 17th February, they will have a week's lull to recuperate in readiness for another which commences on the 25th.

Later.—Some of the late 15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section arrived o.k. on February 14th, very pleased to get home. They send their love to all who were left behind, and hope *their* stay will not be too long. Hard luck, Ronnie!

F. S. A.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

News is very scarce indeed this month. With the leave season in full swing, very little of interest has happened. Training for the time is at a standstill, and ordinary duties just manage to pull along. However, by the time these notes are in print, everything should be back to normal and all the leave parties recovered from their rest—earned and unearned.

It was with great regret on the part of all that we said goodbye to Capt P. A. Hitchcock, who until recently was our commanding officer. He is to go to India sometime in March, and I know quite well that the many old boys of this unit already there will be looking forward to the chance of seeing him again. In him we have lost a splendid sportsman, one who was never behind in any game or entertainment suggested, and one on whom we always relied for the best help and advice. The Company has lost a good friend, but we congratulate his new Company, and wish both Captain and Mrs. Hitchcock the very best of luck possible. We hope that some day we may meet again.

Capt N. Brown has arrived to take over the duties of O.C. To him we extend a hearty welcome, and feel sure that if we do our best for him (as we did for Capt Hitchcock) it will not be long before he will be quite settled down and pleased with his new Company.

In the "Departures" list we must not forget to mention L/Cpl Millen S. W., who has left us, also for India. Sigmn Wells is for Aden very soon: that is our only champion swimmer gone. We wish them both the best of luck at their new stations.

Of course we have a new S.A.S. now, which is very handy for news from Newtownards. As we are all anxious over the welfare of young Jock, it has come as a blessing in disguise.

Numerous people have been asking for news of our late lamented "grand old gent," who left us for Sarafand. It is wondered what kind of animal he backs now.

Sigmn Semple of this unit would like to hear from Signalman Jones F. W., late of Class 9 I.R. Corpl Coram demands a letter from Sigmn Hockley.

C. W. N.

South Ireland Signal Section.

Spike Island.

General.—To all readers of THE WIRE, near and far, "a happy and prosperous New Year."

It is very seldom that notes appear from this quarter, but those whose job it is to find items to submit each month and who have little material to work on will understand our prolonged interval of silence.

A big change has taken place owing to the fact that the Devil has cast his net with the subsequent receipt of little blue chits from Records. I think those of us who are left now breathe freely until next trooper. (I actually heard someone say "Roll on.")

We did not have the enjoyment of tobogganing and other sports that the recent fall of snow made possible. We would have welcomed the excitement of something unusual. We had a kit inspection instead.

Departures.—We said "goodbye now" to quite a good number of the Section bound for foreign lands (including Catterick).

Capt. W. F. Sugrue has left to join A Corps Signals, Ewshott. Our best wishes go with him. May his stay in his new quarters be all that he would wish.

Sergt Grace left his "almost" native land on January 6th for E Company Training Battalion. Good luck, sergeant! don't let your clubs go rusty.

Corpl Tich Field (to whom congratulations are due on his recent promotion), L/Corpls "Arfer" Fuller and Ben Curtis are also noteworthy R.E. fixtures who have been struck off the inventory and will join in the near future one or two of their old friends in India.

Sigmn Turner, our short-lived draughtsman, also left with the above draft. Sigmn Dicky Bird to Ewshott.

Arrivals.—Capt. D. D. Bannerman has taken over the command from Capt. Sugrue, and has taken up residence on the island. We hope he will enjoy his sojourn in the land of "ravens and wussers."

Sergt Young from E Company Training Battalion joined us on January 6th, as relief for Sergt Grace. We all hope he will settle down on the island and soon forget his first experience of the Irish Sea.

Signalmen Barker and Ashenhurst from Catterick on Jan. 29th.

Marriages.—Quite a large proportion, considering our strength, have taken unto themselves a wife. The roll of honour includes L/Corpl Ben Curtis, Signalmen Bonzo Evans, Kirby, Morgan and Norman. We offer our congratulations to all.

We nearly had to include another lance-corporal in the above list, but he has deferred his "plunge" until his return from India.

Orders.—Reference Army Orders: The lance to be abolished. All lance-corporals will be rolled in bundles of ten and handed in to the Q.M. Stores.

Local Order: All men to have two plates. Someone remarked "What's the big idea? We can get it all on a saucer."

In closing, may we remark on the absence of notes from the Outlaws of Dunree. Has the Chief Outlaw changed his milk diet?

J. S.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, February 11th.

General.—Again it is time to scribble a few notes, and after delaying the ordeal for want of inspiration and sufficient happenings, I find myself with only a few hours left in which to compile a diary of the doings of this tribe.

I have scanned Parts I. and II. of Company Orders in the hope that something may have happened, but these only serve to remind me that so-and-so was awarded C.B., that "Standing Orders will be amended as follows," and so on.

I could certainly allow my imagination to run wild for a few seconds, but then I should be disbelieved—and what a waste of perfectly good time and paper!

Barleux's anticipated leave to Chatham has inspired one or two members of this unit, and I am afraid that if they were allowed to visit that seat of all evil, there would be little or nothing left to remind us of all the hardships experienced by the orders which emanate therefrom.

A draft of twenty-eight other ranks will, by the time these notes appear, have arrived to strengthen our numbers and, we hope, our soccer and rugger teams also.

The latter are doing quite well, as will be seen by the Sports Notes; but to appreciate their play and perseverance, one must see them on the field of battle. They are terrors, and can give the best teams out here something to think about.

Arrivals.—Sergt Jock Brandon from 3rd Divisional Signals to C.S.O.'s staff—a valuable asset to our soccer team. Welcome, Jock; and may your stay in Rhineland be full of romance.

Departures.—Sigmn Knockles F. W. to mix up colours at the A.V.T.C., Hounslow. To the Army Reserve (via Catterick and all the glories and comforts it affords) Corpl Baker E. B., Signalmen Hall F. J., Smith J. M., Keillor J. H. G., and Driver White R. C.

Draft.—Owing to a casualty occurring in our Indian draft, Sigmn McLean J. was warned and bundled off to the T.B. in quick time. Cheerio, Mac! may you be discharged from the land of Ind just as quickly.

The Month's Hero.—Dvr Linton J., who joined the ranks of the benedicts on January 20th. Congratulations, Jock, and many of 'em.

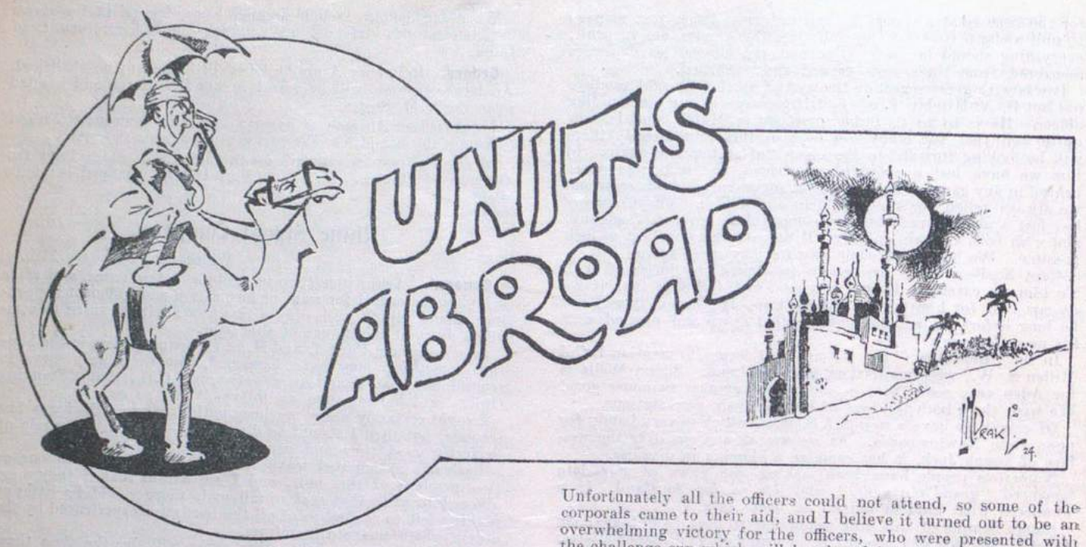
Training.—The linemen and visual op's are now under training; and to see them go out in the morning, plus horses and cable wagon (and in the case of the latter, flags and lamps) is a sight for sore eyes—always smiling, never moaning. They come back to barracks hungry, weary and worn, and proceed to remove an accumulation of mud (and it is first-class mud in this district) from their boots to the accompaniment of a very fine old ballad entitled "Roll on!" I wonder what they mean. This song starts off with "roll on," has a lot of "roll on" in the middle, and ends on the top C with "roll on."

I happened to pass within earshot of an instructor who was quietly informing his class that if the "doings" and "whats-a-name" are connected in series-parallel and connected to a "gadget" on the "port side" of this "chariot," then everything should be o.k.! I am wondering if this is one of the reasons for the sudden outbursts of the afore-mentioned ballad.

Games Tournament.—Keen competition still ensues amongst the Sections for the indoor games tourney shield. Results to date are as follows: Wireless and R.A. Brigade, 80 points; 2nd Brigade, 50; Headquarters, 40; Command, 38; 1st Brigade, 34.

Omega.—Signalman up before the C.O. for absence. C.O.: "What have you to say?" Signalman: "Well sir, I was in the N.A.A.F.I. buying——" C.O.: "Case dismissed."

BLANCO.



A Corps Signals, Karachi.

January 17th.

General.—By the time these notes are published we hope to have returned from our training camp at Mugger Pir, feeling much wiser and fitter than before and ready to sit up and do a bit of individual swatting during the forthcoming hot season.

Our Motor Construction Section have already gone over the top, and are doing their best to gain their objective by getting as near to Quetta as possible before the main body arrives.

One of the most interesting stunts to be looked forward to is the Line Company technicals. I'm sorry that, much as I should like to enlighten the reader on the technicalities of the Line Company "technicals," various acts and regulations forbid it.

On Wednesday, December 21st, the corporals' mess held a dance which was a huge success, and more are looked forward to.

On Monday, January 2nd, the unit turned out for the yearly Proclamation Parade, and everything went off very well. The march past was excellent.

Enclosed are some photographs which we hope will be of interest. [See the page of "snaps"—Ed.]

During unit training the commanding officer is offering a prize for the six best photographs taken. We hope these will be published in The Wire in due course.

On Monday, January 9th, the unit held a practice camp on the Sind Desert, and after a hard day's work the commanding officer kindly granted permission for our indispensable jazz band to give us a musical evening around the camp fire. Harmony was well rendered by our local talent.

Christmas Festivities.—Our festivities went down very well, and a very amusing and entertaining programme was arranged to cover the period which started off with the children's tea and Christmas tree. From all accounts this was a great success, and everybody who attended seemed very pleased. Of course Kate Carney was humorous as Father Christmas. He always was one for children, wasn't he?

On Christmas Day the men's mess was well decorated, and in the evening the members sat down to dinner. This was also a splendid affair. The jemedar sweeper told me that he collected all kinds of remnants in the camp the next morning, and when he returned them to their owners, the latter all looked dazed and asked "How did it get there?" Some even wondered how *they* got there! Thanks must be given to the hard workers who did so much to make such a success.

On December 27th the sergeants' mess held their functions, which started off by the members turning out for a fancy dress football match against the officers at ten o'clock in the morning. Unfortunately all the officers could not attend, so some of the corporals came to their aid, and I believe it turned out to be an overwhelming victory for the officers, who were presented with the challenge cup which will be played for yearly. The cup was presented by the P.O.L. Supply Keamari. The referee, Mr. George Washington Donnelly, managed to creep off the field unassisted after a strenuous effort to keep the game in hand. There were more spectators at this keenly contested match than I have ever seen at any other in Karachi. As a matter of fact there was a real mannequin parade on one side of the ground, the participants probably trying to identify their husbands and see whose clothes they were wearing.

In the evening the mess had their usual Christmas dinner and social, which was a very sumptuous affair. The committee worked very hard for several days to make this event a success, and there is no doubt that they obtained their object; and undoubtedly many were the thanks and blessings showered upon them during the course of the evening.

On December 28th the Signals Association gave an invitation fancy dress ball in the men's dining hall, and this was much appreciated by the large numbers who attended. Prizes were awarded for the most original and best dressed ladies and gentlemen on the floor. We were very pleased to see that some of our Navy friends who keep calling in at Karachi were able to put in an appearance, and they received a cordial welcome.

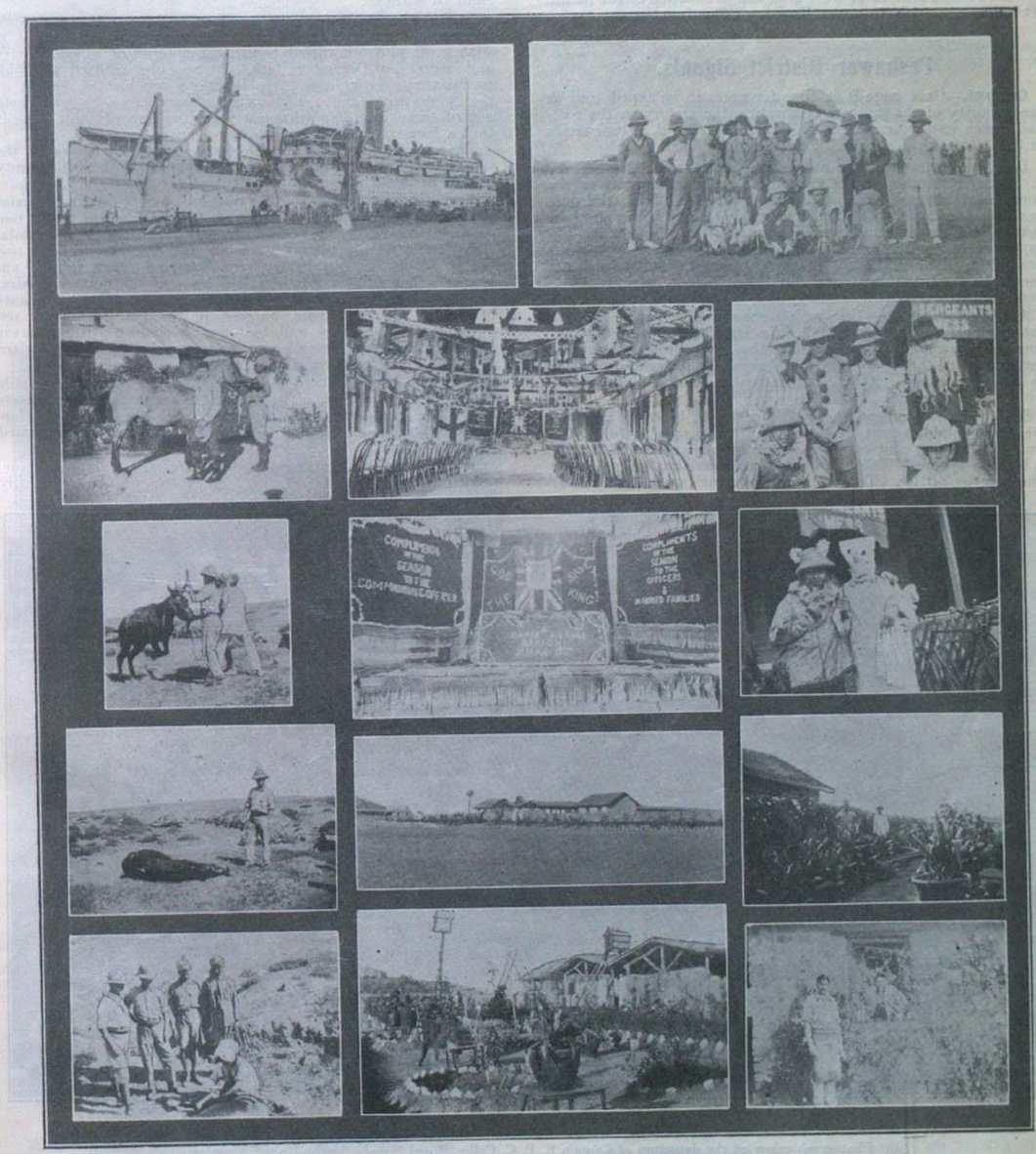
Births.—To R.S.M. and Mrs. Shepherd, a son. To Sergt and Mrs. McGregor, a son (it is rumoured that the future Mac can already kick with his left foot). We congratulate the proud parents, and will instruct Santa Claus not to be too previous in the future.

Departures.—We are very sorry to lose the following, but pleased that they were all able to spend Christmas with us before they left. We sincerely hope that their new abodes are as good as the old one. C.S.M. Hamilton, C.Q.M.S.s Draper and Cooper, Sergts Thomas and Oakes, L/Sergts Morgan and Collins, Corpls Pierce, Boak and Lawson, L/Corporal Clark, Signalmen Hayes, Rance, Richards, Ward, Coaten, Harbottle, Trivett, Fox and Henderson D. to the U.K. Sergt Powels to Peshawar District Signals.

Arrivals.—The following have joined us during the month, and we hope that they will soon settle down and adapt themselves to A Corps Signals and their new surroundings. L/Sergt Wicketts and family and Corpl Davis and family from the U.K. Sigmn Bishop and family from D.I.K. Signalmen Coe, McLean, Chart and Oatley from Jubbulpore (and posted to the 4th Medium Brigade Signal Section at Muttra).

League Notes.—Sorry, Meg, we can't propose you. In any case it would all depend on the decision of the investigation committee, whom you do not know and therefore could not square.

SNAPSHOTS from A CORPS SIGNALS, KARACHI



Top row—H.M.T. "Neuralia"; the boat that took 'em home (Good luck! We'll have a box!)

"The" Football Team, winners and losers of the "A Korps Scignals Hamateur Football Kup," 1927.

Column 1—
F/Sergt Rainbow i/c
A "Ticklish Job"
"Accomplished!"
Performing an Operation

Column 2—
Junior N.C.O.'s and Men's Mess Room decorated for Christmas *(Photo by "Emma")*
A "close up" of the Designs in the Mess Room shown above *(Photo by Sigmn Taylor)*
A General View of the Stables
The Stable Garden, with our Pigeon House

Column 3—
The "Funmakers"
Gertie and the "Rest Camp Ghost"
Another view of the Garden
One of the Indian rank "Shoeys"

The stage coach can always be obtained on application to the n.c.o. i/c horse lines three days after the publication of the banns. This does not apply to secret Registry Office functions.

AKORPZ.

Peshawar District Signals.

General.—Once more it is time for notes to be typed, and as the majority of the unit are celebrating the victory in the football match to-day versus 100th Medium Battery R.A. (our rivals in the garrison), I shall hie away and carry on.

It is with regret that we record the departure of Capt. E. P. C. Collin, R.Signals, to the United Kingdom on transfer to the home establishment. One of the most popular officers the unit has had, our loss is the gain of a unit at home. We all trust that he will always remember Peshawar District Signals and the happy times that he spent with us. On December 26th practically the whole unit went to Peshawar station to witness his departure, and the loud and prolonged cheers accorded him were well deserved.

At the same time our best wishes are also extended to L/Corpl Johnson and Sigmn Page A. C., who left for the United Kingdom on the same day, on transfer to the Army Reserve. Johnny once remarked that if he stayed out here another year, he would be completely bald. At present he has at least a *little* fungus around the sides.

Sergt Gamester S. had the good fortune to be transferred to the home establishment to accompany his invalid wife to the United Kingdom, and our best wishes are also extended to him in his new sphere. We trust his billiard activities will not cease wherever he settles. To whatever sergeants' mess he arrives: Please watch his "round the table" cannons: they're a perfect sight to witness!

At last the Peshawar District Signals Branch of the Signals Association has blossomed out into a working unit, and it is with great pleasure that I record the holding of a whist drive and social on December 14th. It must be realised that all profits that accrue from these functions are for the benefit of the Association, and the Association may come to your help one of these days; so what about buying one of those pencils that a long-suffering committee try to work on you?

The evening commenced with forty-four sitting down at the tables, and the game continued smoothly until the full twenty hands had been played.

Two excellent prizes were presented to the gentleman and gentleman acting as lady who had the best scores. The two next best scores also were rewarded with prizes. As a consolation prize a tin of cigarettes was presented for each of the two lowest scores. An amusing scene occurred when it was announced that hidden numbers had been placed on two chairs, and that prizes were to be awarded to each of the last occupants of them. All that could be seen in the hall for about ten minutes were the legs and bottoms of chairs. After a great deal of sorting out the two occupants were found and the prizes were presented to them.

No whist drive would be complete without its inevitable booby prize, so a number was picked from the entrance tickets and the holder of that was presented with the booby. Unfortunately the prize was lost amidst the confusion that prevailed whilst the unwrapping process was taking place.

After the whist drive came a sing-song, and it is really surprising to see what talent there is in the unit. Practically

No. 1 Company, Peshawar District Signals

Photograph taken on the departure of Captain E. P. C. Collin, Royal Signals, for the United Kingdom

BRITISH RANKS:—

Back row (left to right): Sigmn Cumming, L/Cpls Knight and Douglas, Cpl Hotchkiss, Sigmn Seek, Cpl Freemantle, Signalmen Claven and Birkett, L/Cpl Varley, Sigmn Cappleman, L/Cpls Smith W., Hill and Johnson, Signalmen Adams, Pavey and Clackett, Cpl Hayes, Signalmen Quaintance, Tunbridge, Ashby and May

Third row: Signalmen Doyle, Smith J., Sweeney, Warman, Owens, Bowering, Legg, Carter W. and Knight, Cpls M'Cormack and Pack, L/Cpls Lacey, Simpson, Taylor and Hull, Cpls Smith J. and Bell, L/Cpls Clarke A. B. and Riando

Second row: Sigmn Cannon, L/Cpl Hadfield, Sigmn Harris, L/Sergts Child and Goodyear, Sergts Shepherd, Storey and Gamester, C.S.M. Wills, Captain E. P. C. Collin, Sergts Todd and Parsons, L/Sergt Conyers, Sergt Blunden, L/Sergt Brown, Signalmen Ablitt and M'Auliffe

Front row: Signalmen Small, Hume, Swinson, Horton, Carter G., Carey, M'Cullagh, M'Donald, Adkins, Pye and Miles, Cpl Hayhoe

everyone present gave a song or recitation, and with the aid of "community singing" by a youth of twenty years' service everyone was in the best of spirits. Mention must be made of the generous offer of C.Q.M.S. Disbrey to play the piano for the whole of the evening, and a vote of thanks through the medium of this Paper must be passed to him. It is hoped that he will repeat his generous offer at future functions.

Now, come on, Peshawar! Those odd twenty men who are not yet members of the Association, as soon as you see this in print, rush up to the secretary and register your names forthwith!

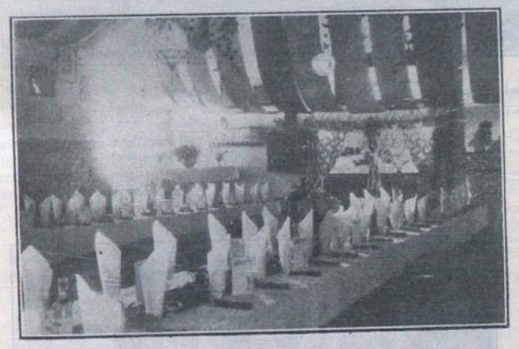
Education.—Congratulations are offered to the undermentioned on their successes in the education examinations held in October:—

Sergt-Instr. Osborne T. C. (A.E.C.), and L/Corpl Lingard F., awarded special certificate.

L/Sergts Luff A. S. and Bennett G. F., L/Corpl Smith L. H. and Sigmn Nolan M., awarded 1st class certificate.

L/Sergt Child C. failed in geography only.

L/Sergt Bennett G. F. obtained "distinguished" in mathematics.



The Dining Hall, Christmas Day, 1927

Christmas Festivities.—Our Christmas holidays commenced with a notification in Unit Orders that the duration of the holidays would be from the 24th December to 1st January, and that was the sign for general merrymaking.

Christmas morn was heralded by the usual coffee and rum being brought round the barrack-rooms. Then, at our leisure, we decided to arise and partake of breakfast, which for the occasion was held in the coffee shop.

The morning was passed away by an amusing fancy dress football match on the hockey pitch. If prizes were awarded for the most grotesque costumes, it is certain that many of the participants in this memorable game would have been awarded *special* prizes. After the match, at which, sad to relate, no goals were scored, we all procured our English mail which had arrived that morning.

The Q.M.'s Staff come out into the open to hunt for those missing Rations!

Left: C.Q.M.S. Stevens T. H. *Right:* L/Corpl McPherson D. C.

Then we trooped into a nicely-decorated dining hall to enjoy a glorious repast which an enterprising committee had arranged for us. Major L. G Phillips, M.C., and all the officers arrived at two o'clock and offered their best and happiest wishes to all ranks for the coming year, to which greetings hearty responses were made. Dinner over, steps were taken to clear away some of the "Murree best," and the clearing away was a great success.

Senior Indian Officers

Right: Subedar Randhir Singh *Left:* Subedar Ismail Khan, I.D.S.M.

Despite the inexperience of some of the committee, great efforts were made by them to ensure the day's success. L/Corpl Hill and his Christmas Day committee are to be congratulated on successfully completing their arduous task.

Wedding.—Elaborate preparations were made on December 26th for the marriage of Sigmn R. Legg to Miss E. F. Lodge.

The D.R. Section assembled in force, and hired a carriage to take the bride and bridegroom from St. John's Church to their home after the ceremony. Although the effects of Christmas were still evident, the wedding ceremonies were a success, and it will be a long time before Sigmn and Mrs. R. Legg forget their wedding day.

The Bride and Bridegroom

Arrivals.—Sergt Clewlow P., D.C.M., with his wife and two children, rejoined after spending a happy six months in the United Kingdom. Corpl Taylor T., with his wife and two children, from the 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford.

Sergeants' Mess.—The sergeants' mess members spent a very enjoyable evening on December 26th, on the occasion of their annual dinner. The hall was beautifully decorated, and it is certain that those who helped in this work need not be without employment on their return to civil life.

Peshawar District Signals at the saluting base, Proclamation Parade, Peshawar, 2nd January, 1928

The British ranks are leading, with the Indian ranks in rear

Memories of home were evinced by the well-made model of a ship in full steam. Whoever participated as the electrician must needs be congratulated on his efforts.

After dinner the hall was cleared and dancing took place. It is certain that at the close of the evening practically every one present was wishing that these annual dinners could be made weekly affairs.

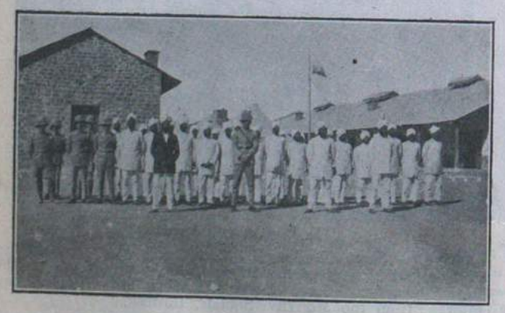
Inspections.—On January 8th, Major-Gen. C. A. G. Godwin, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding Peshawar District, visited the unit, and after a thorough inspection of all personnel, equipment and animals, he left the unit quite satisfied with all that he saw.

Landi-Kotal Brigade Signal Section.

January 15th.

Signals Association.—Thanks to the renewed activities of our parent body, Peshawar District Signals, we have received a visit from the hon. secretary of the Signals Association (Peshawar Branch), who explained the objects of the Association in his endeavour to enrol a few more members.

We are pleased to note this enlivenment of affairs in the above respect at Peshawar, and we are looking forward to seeing the District regularly represented in THE WIRE in future. Good luck! and may you soon reach the 100 per cent. membership, Mr. Hon. Secretary.



Armistice Day, 1927

General.—The Section having at last settled down in Landi-Kotal, after their move from Peshawar, now proceed to look around and find the place is not too bad after all. It certainly is no place for Pussyfoot.

Section training is in full swing, and we have developed a very keen Cable Detachment. The n.c.o i/c of this detachment was so eager one day to get his line to the top of little Ben that he helped his carrier along by keeping his rifle in close contact with the carrier's lower regions. Oh, sergeant, why?

Voluntary Fatigues, Christmas Eve

Christmas.—The jolly festive season was a great success so far as we were concerned, although it must have been very wet for some of the lads. The catering for the Section was all that could be desired, and special thanks are due to Sigmn Greatorex for the work he did in this respect.

We very much regretted the absence, through illness, of our O.C. on Christmas Day. We were somewhat compensated for this by a visit from Colonel-Commandant C. A. Milward, C.I.E., C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., Commander of the Landi-Kotal Brigade, whose short speech was appreciated by all ranks.

A concert arranged by Sergt Dunn was voted a great success, and we are much indebted to him for the interest he took in making things as lively as possible. Another n.c.o. (who needs no name) also made things lively. In fact, he should be transferred to a Gurkha regiment: he is that keen on knife throwing. (Mr. Editor, please note that Bobby sang all the songs, and his "Hellium" went down very well.)

Proclamation Parade.—On January 2nd the Section (complete with all Signal paraphernalia) took part in the Proclamation Parade at the aerodrome. The Royal salute was fired by the 18th (S.) Indian Mountain Battery R.A., after which came the general salute, three cheers for His Majesty the King-

Landi-Kotal Froth Blowers, Christmas.

Emperor, and then the march past. As the music for the Signals regimental march was not available, we marched past to the R.A. tune, which we found to our liking. We can safely say (without incurring the wrath of the Signal Sergeant) that we kept up the reputation of the Royal Corps of Signals on this parade. (Note: Henry does a parade; Henry cribs. Why?)

Photographs.—It is proposed by the Section to select various views of the Khyber for reproduction in THE WIRE. We hope these will be appreciated by all readers of the Corps Journal.

Introducing "Lapper" on Christmas Day

Agonies and Moans.—Will Peter Reeves communicate with Nobby (late of No. 18 Squad)?

Sigmn Vousden would like to know if Bill, of B Corps, has heard of his buffalo yet.

Sigmn Keough would be pleased to hear from P. Carter (late 4/7th Dragoons).

Will Sigmn Mullins (late of 4th M.A.B. Signal Section, Muttra) broadcast to the Admiral (late 1st Divvy)?

To Sigmn Spedding G.: Please get on my wave-length. L/Cpl Lawson T.

The Week's Best.—The babu is pleased to announce that he has no money owing to him this week.

LANDI.

Waziristan District Signals.

Bannu Detachment.

December 28th, 1927.

Having at last come to the surface after the Christmas festivities, I will survey the events of interest in the past month.

To start with, all ranks here hope that Signals at home and abroad spent a very enjoyable Christmas, and offer rather belated best wishes for the New Year. One more case of "better late than never."

Holidays started at noon on December 24th, when the troops commenced to make merry, with the exception of a little band of volunteers who worked exceedingly hard to make things a success.

Thirty-six men sat down to dinner at 15.00 hrs. on Christmas Day. The dining room, which the sergeants kindly lent for the occasion, had been very tastefully decorated in the usual manner. The skilful pencil of Sigmn Lewis was much in evidence, as was the "boat."

An impromptu dance was held in the recreation room after the dinner. During this we noticed what seemed to be a new dance, which for want of a better name I will call the "Bannu Creep." It seemed to be particularly suited for a Christmas afternoon dance, and will in time undoubtedly become universal (I said, in time).

The evening was devoted to a smoker. This was a most amusing event. At first the singers were dry—sorry, I mean shy; but as the evening wore on we had plenty of people singing to us. In fact, one of the local lads sang so much that he is now roaming round the lines looking for a spare voice. Don't rush: he is not prepared to buy one! I have just heard that another voice has been lost. You will all see that, although we are far from home, we had a most enjoyable time.

Departure.—Sigmn Doherty left us to join unit headquarters en route for that big boat.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Crawford, Richards and Staite have joined the happy band from unit headquarters, and we wish them a long and pleasant tour with this detachment. Signalman Swift has returned from headquarters, which he joined when he left us a few weeks ago.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

General.—At last! Notes from Quetta have been very scarce during the past few months, and to tell of all happenings since their last appearance would occupy more space than the Editor would care to allot. However, just for the sake of "Auld Lang Syne," everyone will have to be content with more recent happenings, with which I'll endeavour to oblige.

Musketry.—The casuals finished off the season with the usual trek over the khuds, and returned with smiling faces (some are, and some are not, when the results are made known). However, the shield still remains under lock and key, and will emerge some day. Perhaps!

Trade Ratings.—Trade testing for present ratings is now in full swing. As for the result, that remains to be seen.

Arrivals.—The following joined us on dates shown from the Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore: L/Corpl Jennings, Signalmen Traunter and Whitehead E., on 24/11/27. L/Corpl Holden, Signalmen Bailey, Booker, Bowtle, Roberts, Ford, and Wilkinson, on 2/12/27. We hope their stay will be a long and pleasant one.

Other Arrivals.—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Sibley, a son (13/10/27). To Sergt and Mrs. Stainer, and to Sergt and Mrs. Ellerton-Long, a daughter in each case (24/10/27).

Departures.—The following left us on 22/10/27, for U.K. for transfer to the Army Reserve: L/Sergt Kirby (Tich), Corporals Bates and Crompton, L/Corpl Bendon (of orderly room fame), Signalmen Allen, Chambers, Court, Downs, Edwards, Fookes, Forrington, Gostridge, Hanmer, Hemsley, Johnson, Matthews, Pitts, Phelps, Harman and Williamson (the dashing D.R.).

F/Sergt Ind on 22/10/27 to U.K. for ninety days' leave prior to discharge, on completing his pontoon. (What's it like in civvy street, Shoey?)

Corpls Williams and Henshaw to A Corps Signals, Karachi, on 21/11/27. (What's it like, Billy?)

Pte Tomblin to rejoin his regiment, the 2nd K.O.R.R. (Lancaster) on 20/11/27.

C.Q.M.S. Waters (late pay bloke) to A Corps Signals, Karachi, for employment with No. 2 Signal Park, Quetta Arsenal. (Who said your luck was out, Pam?)

Officers.—We welcomed the return from leave in U.K. of Capt. R. L. M. Rosenberg, R.Signals, but his stay with us was very short, as he left us on December 27th to join the 3rd Indian Divl Signals, Meerut. Their hockey team's gain and our loss.

The same welcome was extended to Capt R. Jee, M.C., Royal Signals, also from leave in the U.K.; and like Capt. R. L. M.

Rosenberg's, his stay was also short, as he "picked 'em up" for a tour further north—Peshawar District Signals.

Capt. J. S. Millar also "picked 'em" for the 4th Indian Divl Signals, Jubbulpore—a change of station having been recommended.

Major C. W. M. Firth, M.C., recently left us to attend a course at the Senior Officers' School, Belgaum. We wish him the best for a "d." It is rumoured that he is proceeding from there to the U.K. on leave, but wait and see!

Extension of Service.—C.Q.M.S. Freeland to continue beyond 21 years. Not "fed up" yet, Bill?

KYKO.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

January 11th.

We sincerely wish all members of the Corps a happy and prosperous New Year!

The Christmas season is one to which we all look forward to break the monotony of our everyday life in India, and in spite of the absence of snow—as depicted on the Christmas cards some of us received from home—we managed to spend a very enjoyable time during the holidays.

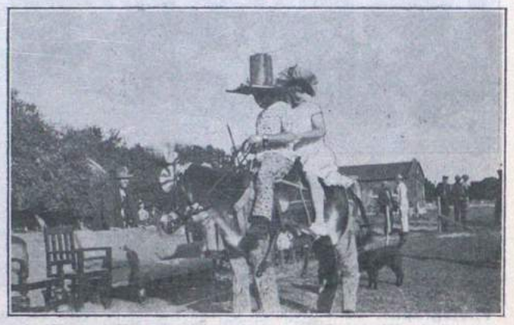
The weather was perfect: lovely sunny days with just that touch of crispness in the air to remind one of our English autumn. The revels commenced on Christmas Eve with a fancy dress football match—officers and n.c.o.s versus the signalmen. The appearance of the teams, as well as their play, certainly caused much amusement to the spectators. After the match a draw for a bicycle took place. The machine was won by Sigmn

Read—lucky man! The promoters are to be congratulated, as they have by this means secured a sum of Rs.90 for the Old Comrades Association.

Dinner on Christmas Day was at one o'clock. The mess room was tastefully decorated, and there was no lack of the good things usually provided on that day. In the evening we assembled in the school-room, where a barrel of Younger's "Monk" brand was on tap. A stage had been rigged up, and the unit

band, assisted by some unit talent, gave an extremely good concert.

On December 28th the corporals held a dinner and smoking concert which was voted a great success, and on the 30th the sergeants' annual dinner took place, followed by a dance. Our versatile unit band again provided the music, and between dances kept the company in roars of laughter by their exceedingly clever sketches, "The Wireless Set" and "The Fire Station."



This concluded the festivities, and we ushered in the New Year by attending the annual Proclamation Parade. This unit was the only dismounted British one on parade, and as usual we acquitted ourselves creditably, being complimented by the G.O.C. We have now settled down again to ordinary routine, and are hard at work trying to keep our New Year resolutions.

Congratulations to Sergt Garroni on his promotion, and to L/Corpl Briar M. on qualifying at an educational course at Belgaum.

All ranks of the unit extend a heary welcome to Capt R. L. M. Rosenberg, who lately arrived from the 2nd Indian Divl Signals, and to Sergt Donnaghy from the Signal Training Battn., S.T.C. (India), Jubbulpore.

Birth.—To the wife of Corpl Crowe F., a son, on January 3rd.

INK.

Kohat District Signals.

January 24th.

Though Christmas is now a month gone, my first remarks this month must be relative to the festive season. We can't boast of ten, fifteen and twenty-feet snow drifts that the home papers are so full of; instead we had bright and cold weather, with drifts of a different kind.

We started off the Christmas programme on Wednesday, the 21st, by a tennis "at home," the officers and sergeants meeting the junior n.c.o.s and men. Three courts were kept going for nearly three hours, and the tennis on the whole was very good indeed. In all, nearly thirty sets were played, the seniors proving easy victors. Tea was served during play, and the whole presented an animated scene. In fact, to hear the M.C. announce one's next set on the centre court took one back to one's Wimbledon days! The result was: Officers and sergeants, 157 games; junior n.c.o.s and men, 67.

On the 22nd a very enjoyable time was spent at the new Staff and Departmental Club, when a fancy dress dance was held, open to all ranks of the station. The new hall is admirable for dancing, and was tastefully decorated for Christmas. There was a good attendance, and prizes for waltzing and spot dances were given. C.S.M. Jones T. is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts in organising the function.

Christmas Day itself drifted by as Christmas days do—all too swiftly, leaving behind memories clear, vague or thick, as the case may be. The main job on this day seems to be "eat, drink and be merry," and all certainly succeeded in doing this. In fact, that seemed to be the motto of Corpl Scott and his satellites, for Christmas fare was plentiful and varied. Admittedly a few could not do full justice to it; but after all, it was Christmas!

On the morning of the 27th, a short six-a-side football tournament was held. D.R.s beat No. 1 Brigade Section by 4—3.

O.L.s and O.V.s beat Headquarters by 1—0. In the final, O.L.s and O.V.s beat the D.R.s by 13—1. The winning team received Rs18.

While on the subject of sports, I must add that in the Kohat District assault-at-arms Corpl Hammond P. gained second place in the 220 yards race. At the same meeting, our Indian ranks were runners-up in the tug-of-war, losing to the 2/1st Punjab Regiment in the final.

In my last month's notes I referred to the winning of the District football shield by the Gurkha ranks of this unit. This month we show a photo of the winners.

On December 29th we sent off nine to Karachi for the "Neuralia": Sergt Caines F., M.M., L/Sergt Broughton H., L/Corpl Patterson J., and Signalmen Myerson B., Neal H., Brookes W., Clapson W., Kain F., and Wylie R. Good luck to them all! May they all fall on their feet in civvy street.

Another departure was Sergt Hales A. G. ("Dub" to all and sundry, ex-boys in particular). Sergt Hales was one of the oldest members of the unit, and a staunch supporter of the Association. Remember those dances in Jubb, Dub? We wish

him and Mrs. Hales all the best in their old surroundings in Jubbulpore.

This month we received four new arrivals from the Depot: L/Corpl Andrews, Signalmen Holley, Moore and Harmer. May they enjoy life on the Frontier!

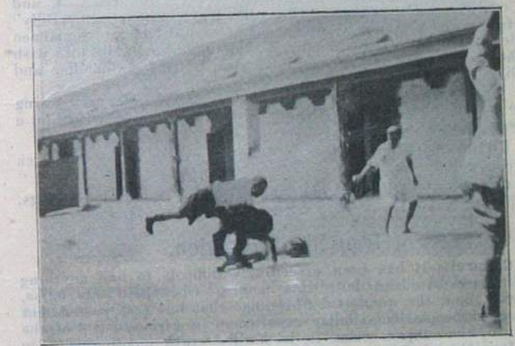
The 1st class education examination results are through, and we fared as follows: Passed, Corpl Hammond, Signalmen Lloyd, Bilsby (one "d") and Friday. Sergt Lydamore got one "d," but one "fail," and L/Sergt Cadell got one "fail." They have to try again at one subject each. L/Corporal Little has to have a shot at the whole lot again.

These results bring our educational standard in the unit up to 31 firsts and specials (that is, 30 per cent. of the unit), 59 seconds and 14 thirds. We venture to suggest that few units can boast of this educational standard.

On December 27th Sergt Stevens S. took out a Section to the artillery concentration at Akora camp, and got back again on January 21st. Last week we sent off a Brigade Section to the Rawalpindi manœuvres under Capt. F. J. Allen, R.Signals, and Sergt Keepen A.

The accompanying snaps will probably be of interest to readers. One shows the figure of the Rawan of Hindu history, which is burnt annually at the festival of Diwali to celebrate that gentleman's demise at the hands of the Hindu god Rama.

The other shows Gurkhas killing a goat at the Hindu festival of Dushera. In the snap the goat is standing over a log of wood with its head on the ground, the exposure having been timed exactly at the moment the Gurkha's kukri severed its head. On the extreme right can be seen part of the "firing party" firing a volley over the victim.



Last, but not least, the humble scribe of this unit tenders his thanks to the Printers and the Editor for that guinea. 'Twas a great surprise, but greatly appreciated.

Sergeants' Mess.—The last month has been such an active one that we are giving the mess a separate heading this month.

The Christmas festivities commenced on the 24th with the kiddies' annual Christmas tree. C.S.M. Jones was the proverbial distributor of gifts, and arrived in time-honoured style down the chimney—a real live chimney—much to the kiddies' liking. After tea and the toy parade, the children went for a ride while we prepared for the evening.

The event at night was perhaps the jolliest and cheeriest show ever seen in the mess. A whist drive and dance was on the programme, and at midnight we were visited by a band of carol singers from the cantonments, who joined in our jazz as promptly as we joined in their carols. It was a very pleasing interlude, and during the early hours musical items by various talented members of the mess kept things very cheerful.

At this function, we practically said goodbye to two very old members, Sergt Freddy Caines and L/Sergt "Bruffton." Both will be missed in their different ways, and the mess took the opportunity of making their farewell in tangible form with parting gifts. Freddy's and Bruff's speeches in reply will not readily be forgotten.

The annual mess dinner took place on Boxing Night. The company was very small this year, but we were a contented band, and another Christmas function has passed into the land of pleasant memories.

Several practice dances and pukka dances have been held, and on January 21st another very enjoyable social was held. This time, we were lucky in obtaining some excellent talent from outside the unit.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee.

January 24th.

General.—New Year's greetings to all units (better late than never). Christmas in this station passed off very well, being celebrated in the old-time fashion by all ranks. Everybody voted it a very good time, although our O.C. (Captain V. P. Roberts) was unable to attend, being in hospital. It is hoped that he will be with us shortly. The usual Christmas decoration was presented by Lieut E. J. H. Moppett to Sigmn (Trooper) Day in recognition of his cup-winning tales, which caused much amusement amongst those present.

The Visual Section are away in camp at Gurgoan, working in co-operation with the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, and will no doubt return with usual full honours.

Meanwhile the Wireless Section are carrying on in the most "horsey" fashion. Several well-known roughs are to be seen performing every morning: blanco of any shade is in great demand. Of course, Dingle-Berry Day's tips are worth listening to! Spud finds that a cushion would be very acceptable in the mess-room. Nowadays No. 2 does not get barbary.

All this activity is in preparation for the move to Sialkot, which takes place during February. Much is expected from the new station. We hear that a picture palace adorns the landscape.

Departures.—The undermentioned are expected to leave for U.K. during the next two months: A/Sergt Shiner A. J. and Corpl Spud Murphy on six months' leave. Signalmen "Billy" Holder and Chandler C. to the home establishment. Signalmen Bedford L. A. and Roadhouse W. for discharge. All ranks wish them a pleasant voyage, and a cushy billet for Chandler and Billy.

We are sorry we are losing Lieut E. J. H. Moppett, owing to his being posted to C Cavalry Troop. All ranks wish him a very pleasant stay in his new unit.

Birth.—To F/Sergt Agar, a bonny daughter. Does she kick with both feet?

Agony.—To "Hanks" and "Fred": Don't forget happenings, Christmas, 1930! Also to Steve, somewhere in India

Iraq Signal Section.

General.—It has been exceedingly difficult to find anything of interest to contribute this month. One could, of course, write about the wonderful Christmas that has just passed, but as most people had similar experiences in various parts of the world, the subject seems to be hardly worth mentioning.

It might be of interest to some to know that we were credited with a temperature of 79 degrees in the shade on Christmas Day, which made it ultra-ideal.

Before leaving the subject, thanks must be given to L/Corpls Reeves and Frampton (and also to that kindly old gentleman Mr. McKinlay) for preparing such an elephantine dinner and for the marvellous manner in which they dealt with the rush by diners on "sparkling Mac's."

Well, everyone seems rather glad that the Christmas and New Year festivities are over, and one and all are settling down to a real fine "tacky existence." Anyone who has been in Iraq knows what I mean by that expression. Existence is all you can call it. The other word is added as an afterthought.

The linemen still persist that they are the hardest-worked party in the Section, but a strong feeling has been growing among the switch board operators that *they* hold the premier honours. Being neutral, I "pass." The new name, I find, for this trade is "piano tuning."

Certain people who had it in mind to do further time in Iraq have lately come to the conclusion that such a thing is impossible. The effect of the (h)air, no doubt. Anyway, *lead on!*

Heard These?—Sarcastic diner: "Are you the young lady who took my order?" Waitress: "Yes, sir." Diner: "Well, you are still looking fine. How are your grandchildren?"

First soldier: "Coming to the 'Ippodrome, Bert?"
Second ditto: "What's on?"
First ditto: "Oh! one of those Shakespeare things. 'Nothing much doing,' or 'As you like it'—I've forgotten which."

This one is *true!*

Signalman (working on the Exchange in Hinaidi): "Number, please."

Indian subscriber: ""P£-YCJDF&/Rs1FF KISWASTE-&& ('&Rs N&s H'HH("

Signalman: "Hi, hi, hi! steady on, Joe; I've only got my Group 'E.'"

Another Stamp Famine.—Sigmn Evenden (of this Section) would like to hear from 2317921 Sigmn Taffy Tarrant (last heard of in D Company, Catterick).

Will Sigmn Vic Hayden (last heard of in 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot, and now believed to be in India) please write to Swede Whiting, of this "burg."

There was a certain young chap called Rudy Hunt who went to India (where the thirst comes from), and who wrote to Sigmn Tim Kenneally. A repetition of this procedure would be welcomed.

L/Corpl Frampton (of this unit) wishes to be remembered to the Depot Battalion corporals' mess, and would be pleased to hear from L/Corpl Stickley.

Sigmn Deradour E. would like to hear from Sigmn Pipe F. before the aforesaid gentleman leaves this country.

Thank you!

TITUS.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, December, 1927.

It is with pleasure that this month we record the birth of "Corps Signals" of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps. Although only visual and W/T signalling is at the moment specialised in, it is hoped to extend activities and become a live Signal formation. The friendship which has always existed, together with the mutual desire to see this arm of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps really efficient, will, we feel sure, produce a valuable asset to the defences of the Colony.

To Lieut Noll and his men we extend the esteemed mitt. (Hoping to see everyone of them a contributor to our Signals Association, and one in particular a correspondent to THE WIRE.) Good bizz!

We ask our "comradios" in the North to spare our blushes and get on with the good work. As much credit to you as to us O.B.s. Many thanks for doing your bit. It is sincerely hoped that short-wave W/T will materialise into a chain of stations to Horse Guards. Why not?

The arrival of some C.mk.ii sets has taken our thoughts again to long-wave. Very good performances the little fellows have put up, proving good communication to all parts of the Colony and to aircraft. It is felt, though, that an additional spare part should be produced which would attach to the second and third fingers of the right hand, and so enable operators with thick fingers to tighten the grid terminal of the 50-watt bottle. Otherwise, all "can do."

What with the reshuffling of S.D.F. and the annual reliefs, the casualty list this moon seems somewhat lengthy.

Departures.—Corpl Onvett to Shanghai on promotion. L/Cnl Purcell, Signalmen Holland, Pink, Gough and Hawley to U.K. on completion of tour. The latter severs his active association with the troops, and we wish him all the best in civilian life. Find a good job, Hawley; then keep it. Cheerio, all of you!

Arrivals.—Sergt Bent from Malta, in relief of Sergt Seymour. Sergt Lowrie from Shanghai, in relief of Sergt Withers, posted to Hong Kong Section. Corpl Chapman, L/Corpl Butler, Signalmen Pennington, Crump, Warwick, Metcalfe, Baldwin, Souter, all for various reasons. (If I went to the office to find out, my end would be somewhat sticky). Welcome to the fold. Plenty of cable to be laid, O.M, and nil Q.R.M. Hi!

Education.—L/Corpl Harris and Sigmn Gough awarded 2nd class certificates of education. Well done; only one more, and we are 100 per cent.

Promotion.—L/Sergt Withers to be Sergeant. Good old Bill!

Extension.—L/Corpl Harris to complete twelve years with the Colours.

Arrivals (Married Families).—To Mrs. Seymour, a son (Robert Victor). To Mrs. Bowler, a daughter (Joan Elizabeth). We offer our warmest congratulations to both families. To the former the Section presented a pair of silver-plated pole climbers, and Sergt Seymour suitably replied. Corpl Bowler now opens his cricket score with a single.

GRID CHOKE.

15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Hong Kong,
December 28th, 1927.

Since we arrived here we have been very considerate, only sending one batch of notes to be criticised by the Editor. Now, however, we feel we must write and tell of the glorious time we had at Christmas. This and, of course, the approaching end of our tour out here are the only two subjects we have to write about.

But the Christmas! "Gee kid! it sure was *it*, and then some!" as our American cousins say. For four days our stage manager (Sigmn Wells) and his hard-working assistants, Corpl Nelson and Sigmn Dodson, toiled and laboured with gratifying and dazzling results. They never seemed to tire, and on entering the little room of our bungalow one felt pukka homesick—at least, so Jimmie said. You don't know Jimmie? Oh, he's a peach!

As is customary on such occasions, we borrowed right and left, and our hearty thanks are extended to the vicar of St. Andrew's, the manager of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Club, the manager of the canteen (Mr. G. Young), and others, whose favours all contributed to the success of our Yuletide.

The accompanying "snaps," taken by Sigmn Paddy Whiting, serve to illustrate the intricate work executed by our decorators.

The entrance of our O.C. (Mr. Duncan) was the signal to start. Toasts were given to Mr. Duncan, Corpl Nelson and others. After a short but none-the-less sparkling speech by the former, "For he's a jolly good fellow" was sung.

Thanks to Jock Vollan and the cookhouse staff, we were well served; and what moans there were emanated from the condition in which we found ourselves afterwards.

As time went on dusk settled, and when the lights were put on the old room looked better than ever. Our able barman, Sigmn Ginger Williams, was kept hard at it but fulfilled his role to perfection. Songs were ably rendered by Corpl Nelson and Paddy Whiting, the latter trying hard to resemble a one-man band. His instruments were an alarm clock, a ukelele, a banjo and a drumstick. The sound thus created was nothing compared with that heard from the different owners the following morning.

Sigmn Wells Corpl Nelson Sigmn Dodson

Later on a fatigue party rolled across to the canteen and commandeered the piano. This acquisition enabled the boys to show their dancing talent, and the Charleston was excellently demonstrated by our police friend 'Appy Andrews and Sigmn Dodson. The casualties by this time numbered about six but were steadily increasing. Eventually only the old sweats remained.

There was a heartrending scene, witnessed only by the mosquitoes, bats and night owls, at 3 a.m. the same morning. Two weary men, the wrecks of what had been our energetic stage manager and his talented scene-remover, were silently shuffling about, erasing the signs of what to a passer-by must have been a hectic night. Believe me, it was!

Departures.—To Shanghai: Signalmen Spiller R. G., Hersey C. O. C., Smith J., Seager and Laurenson. L/Corpl Honey also went. (Elusive, those stripes; aren't they, Arthur?) To Shameen: Signalmen Wood and Weekes. Our team suffered when Chippy departed. (Still moaning, Pete?)

Arrivals.—From the Hong Kong Section: Signalmen Jardine, Pritchard, Patterson and Strevens.

Postings.—The following have been posted to the Shanghai Defence Force, but are attached to the Hong Kong Section: Signalmen Baldwin, Metcalfe, Worthy and Warwick.

The Usual Agony.—Sigmn Metcalfe would like to hear from Sigmn Fielding, somewhere in Aldershot.

Sigmn Baldwin wants news from Sigmn Lord C. F, last heard of in No. 3 Company A Corps.

Ticker deplores Ticker, Londonderry, and would welcome a letter from Phil of the Red Rose.

Ex L.R.G.S.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, February 7th.

Wars, and Rumours of Same.—According to the prophets, on or about the time these notes appear in print we shall be involved in a war of great magnitude—this being predicted in some manner by the shape of the Cheops Pyramid at Giza. After a good look round a few days ago, I gave the matter up as being a trifle too deep.

Homeward Bound.—After a pleasant stay of five or six years, five n.c.o.s and four men have now left us for posting to home units or discharge. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on their respective steps up the ladder: A/U/L/Corpl Walsh to be L/Corpl w.e.f. 10/12/27. L/Sergt Connelly to be Sergeant, w.e.f. 12/12/27.

Birth.—To L/Corpl Powell H. B., a daughter (Elaine), on 23/1/28. (Can it talk yet, Ginger?)

Short-Wave Fiends.—Two amateur stations have been working in this unit for some time under the calls "F.E.2.W.T." and "F.E.2.E.S." Wave band 40–50 metres, with input up to 100 watts. Possessors of short-wave apparatus are asked to render reports. Morse and telephony are used during periods 18.00 to 20.00 hrs. and 00.01 to 02.00 hrs. G.M.T. The stations are operated by Sergt Norcross and Corpl Corbett respectively—the latter having been reported as R.6 at three thousand miles.

"BLANCO"

Used by H.M. Forces for over 50 years for equipment cleaning. Still acknowledged as the one and only for it's purpose.

Old Campaigner

Agony.—Sigmn Dale of this unit would like to hear from Sigmn Davies H. (of Catterick) and Sigmn Alldred H. (of India).

Corpl Coppack (present whereabouts unknown) is requested to correspond with Fred.

A packet of writing paper and stamp to you by first mail, Paddy. W. E. C.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, February 7th.

Notable Events.—These, during the past month, have been few and far between—the most important being K Section's move to Moascar and the selection of Sigmn Bodimeade to play in an Army rugby trial.

K Section went to Moascar early in January, their departure being greatly bemoaned by those unpatriotic individuals who are greatly upset by the speeding-up of the guards and picquets owing to the smaller numbers remaining. Now that the Signal Troop have also gone away to Mena for Brigade training, and J Section are expecting to go in a few days' time, permanent guards and picquets will be the rule. Can't you hear the cheering of the unpatriotic individuals referred to above?

Fame.—I am afraid that Sigmn Cordell will have to be mentioned in the book of fame this month. I have had nearly a hundred various individuals seek me out to inform me of this soldier's deed that has made him famous in Egypt. J Section dashed up in a bunch, all eager to be first with the great news, whilst for the remainder of the day various others tiptoed up and with hushed voices told me all about it. I quite expected to be awakened that night to hear it again.

I will relate just what occurred. J Section were ordered to parade in drill order, wearing shorts. Sigmn Cordell appeared on parade *wearing spurs!* Now, don't get over-excited. Why, one of these days we'll have plum jam for tea—and *that* would be worth reporting.

Historic Events.—On what date did the Battle of Amami take place? It was on a Friday, we know, but Rudolph wants to know the actual date, because the Norfolks corporals' mess are celebrating the anniversary, and it would never do to miss so important a function.

That Smile!—Proof that THE WIRE is a good advertising medium was given when, two days after the January issue appeared with the news that a set of valuable false teeth had been lost, stolen or strayed, the missing teeth turned up. Their owner's "million dollar" smile is now assessed at its full value once again, and the insurance companies heave sighs of relief.

Emigration.—A number of the "oleswets" attended a lecture on emigration a few weeks ago, but I don't think we have had any applicants to date. Some people seem to think grooming six horses before breakfast is hard work! According to our drivers, six mules would be easier. One possible emigrant stated that he would be willing to go sheep-farming in Australia provided he was allowed to round up the sheep on a motor bike! (he's one of those who do *not* like grooming six horses before breakfast).

Those Batons!—Stronger holds on the batons were obtained when the following mounted another step upwards: L/Sergt Wheeler to Sergeant, 11/12/27. Corpl Pickering to L/Sergeant, 15/12/27. L/Corpl Matthews to Corporal, 28/12/27. L/Corporal Tudor to Corporal, 2/1/28.

Sigmn Beach managed to get a grip on an A/U on 9/1/28, whilst all the other lance-corporals cast smiling eyes on the n.c.o.s guard and orderly corporals duty roll.

Medal Optimists.—The following, having completed nearly six years and not obtained a medal, held an earnest conference together, with the result that they decided to risk another six years in the hope that something may turn up whereby one may be obtained—Corpl Tudor, L/Corpls Gratwicke, More, Green and Cousins, all to complete twelve years.

The Writing on the Wall.—Corpls Cahill, Parker, Matthews and Guile; L/Corpls Page and O'Donnell; Signalmen Hunter, Outhwaite, Carpenter, Wilson, Drury and Barker duly read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested the sorrowful news that they are due to leave these sunny climes for the U.K. on the 16th February. Of course, they might not all go. Rumours have been heard that Corpls Matthews and Guile are plotting to miss their boat, as they do not wish to go. (Who said "Yemkin," and what does that mean?)

To the Earth's Four Corners.—Wanderers of the Signals, wherever you may be, kindly scan the following and see if anyone is trying to make you disgorge your hard-earned stamp money.

Sigmn Adams R. wants some news of L/Cpl William Brunton, believed to be in Jubbulpore.

Sigmn Hillier R. would like a line from Sigmn Innes (Jubb.)

Sigmn Cordell wishes to correspond with Sigmn Dodd (Jubb.)

Dvr Abbott would like to hear from Sigmn Gearing (Jubb.)

Sigmn Turner W. sends out S.O.S. to another Jubb. man in Sigmn Parrack.

Corpl Matthews and L/Corpl Stone would like to have a few lines from Sigmn Tim Kenneally (somewhere in one of the four corners).

Sigmn Brown R. H. wants to hear from Sigmn Urwin (doesn't know which corner).

Signalmen Edwards and Terry and Dvr Crackett, having a surplus of stamp money, want to correspond with *anyone* in the Corps who originated from Portslade. They request that, when writing, only the village official notepaper be used, with the crest (crossed turnips, surmounted by a swede) as the heading.

Thank goodness, that lot's finished! Now I know what the manager of a matrimonial agency feels like on a pay day.

ART.

Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, January 30th.

At Last!—After two years and six months we are due to receive new blood, C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Walker C. F., Signalmen Jones A., Randall W., and Walsh H. being posted to this Section. We extend to them a hearty welcome, and trust that they will survive their tour in these "isles of rest."

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Simmonds P. A., Corporal Gale C. W., and Sigmn Mitchell G. have been posted to U.K. and leave us early in April. We hope they each find a home station to their liking. We shall be sorry to lose them, and shall no doubt miss such pithy remarks as "——in the box again," "Up to you, Charlie," etc. We understand that the F.-of-S. returns with a great regard for things American. Now, don't say you were not warned!

Discharge.—On February 8th, Corpl Horsey H. leaves us for civvie street. He remains in Bermuda, having found employment with the Bermuda Electric Light Company. All the best in your new life, Harry; and don't forget we have told you where to come if the wolf knocks!

Thanks.—Many of them to those units who sent us Christmas cards, including "Nevassaite."

Q.S.M.L. "Bermuda."—On Monday, January 16th, the motor ship "Bermuda" made her first trip to Bermuda, arriving in Hamilton harbour about 11 a.m. We refer you to the various newspaper accounts of this wonderful boat, which is to make a weekly trip here from New York during the season. Some of us have been privileged to look over her, and in the opinion of these land lubbers she is certainly "the goods."

Back to the Land.—Gardening is once more in full swing at the H.Q. Exchange, Prospect. Backs are aching and hands are raw, but still the good works goes on. Our seeds are being selected with greater care this time. We have not forgotten that packet of "lettuce" seeds last year, which yielded us just two *radishes*.

Sport.—There is very little doing in this respect. We must, however, congratulate Sigmn Gilkes on being a member of the team which won the B.A.A. soccer cup—No. 1 Section team, St. George's. THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

February 11th.

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to the undermentioned Signalmen, arrived from the United Kingdom on the 7th inst.: 5988076 Cook F., 2316263 Hobden T., 2314318 Manning C., 2315656 O'Brien J., 2316273 Purrington A., 2315667 Smith E. G., 2315439 Smart R. G., 2317215 Taylor P. W.

We would like to know their first thoughts on seeing the Rock—and we would like to know their last!

Departures.—By the time these notes are in print, 2306651 Sigmn Gresham J. and his family will have left us for United Kingdom per H.M.T. "Nevassa" (on the 23rd inst.). Our best wishes go with them. This Signalman will be very much missed on the field of sport.

Things We Hear (after five Tomato Seasons).—Bone again! Shorks in the horbor! About time someone else took the can back and made the cocoa! Rissoles agin? No duff? I. . . . nearly rolled up! Have you seen the pillot boat? Don't forget the labels! I had a lovely game of dynamoes last night! That's something I must note in my dairy! I'll put this card in my albion! More better! The team seems absolutely demobilised. I could have gone home to-night on the "Dorsetshire!" You can get that round at the Narfy. I've got four more in my locker, sir. It went right over the detached mole. The married patches. Pyjamas are only to go for a barf in!

Clee.—With the advent of the new draft, L/Corpl Webb and Sigmn Collins move up one in "single rank size." L/Corporal Webb has now handed over the ladder.

Belt Holders.—Now that the present holder of the belt is due to leave us shortly, we are anxious to know who will be the winner of the final. Will he be a married man or a single n.c.o?

Rudolph!—Would a pair of spectacles improve his clothes, civilian, Martin Henry, mk.3 (many stars)?—and what position does he hold with the Y.M.C.A.? Which end of the Rock does he prefer to work on?—and is the pull-over a family heirloom?

It is authentically stated that spats are in vogue (and doles) in the U.K. We are anxious to know if they will shortly make their appearance in Gibraltar.

Gardening.—Will Barleux send his world-famous Gardening Hints to Chief Gardener, c/o Garrison Rowing Club, Gibraltar, with a few extra hints on sowing "tumuli." We trust the Pimple is o.k. as we are at present.

Football.—The "B" League football competition is now nearing its close, and the unit has a good chance of finishing as runners-up. After a very good game we managed to defeat the 1st Fortress Company R.E. by the narrow margin of 1—0. We still have one match to play.

The inter-Company cup competition commences this month, and results will appear in next month's issue of THE WIRE.

CALPE.

SOME SHINE!

CRYSTAL LIQUID METAL POLISH

(BRITISH MADE)

Gives the brightest shine in the quickest time.

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This Pimple!

What means this exclamation,
This ribald speculation,
About or in relation
To a Pimple?

Why, ranks of ev'ry station
Make daily immigration
Towards our excavation
Dubbed the Pimple!

When eagle eyes come peeping,
Soon all—large trucks a-heaping—
Foul dirt and mud are deep in,
On the Pimple!

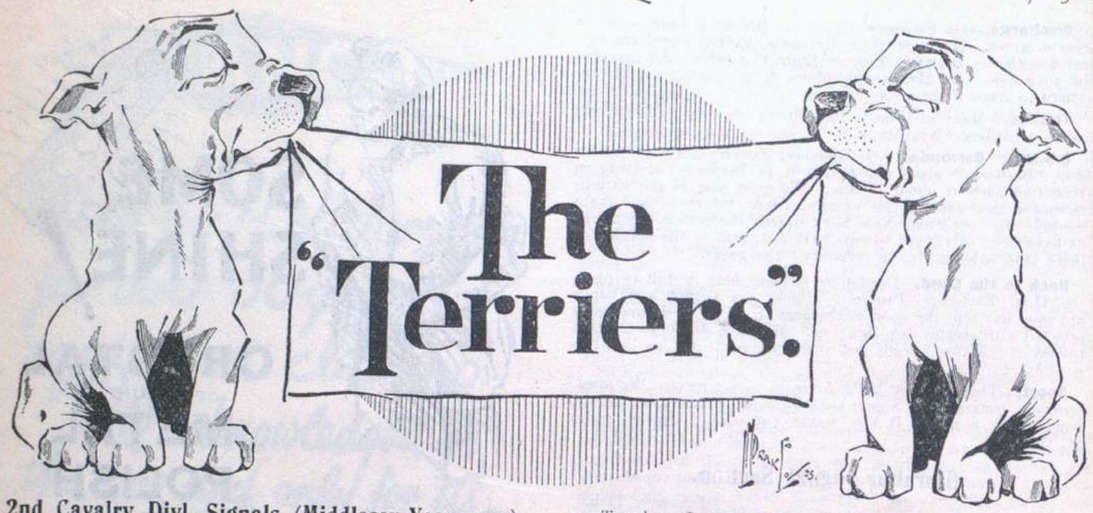
Our Q.M.s seem great diggers:
See how they work like niggers;
They'll lose "those girlish figures"
On the Pimple!

See sergeants, with elation—
For "mess" and "stimulation"—
Desert this exhumation
On the Pimple!

Hear corporals—barrow wheeling—
Lament in tones appealing,
"We'll lose that 'Kruschen feeling'
On the Pimple!"

Come O.R.s—near prostration—
In frenzied exploration
For oil and embrocation,
From the Pimple! NAB.

[Contributed by the 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.]



2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1,
February 15th.

The advent of Easter promises not only the coming of spring and official summer time, but gives a foretaste of the joys of camp to those fortunate enough to be able to attend the Easter week-end training which has been arranged to take place this year with our very good friends the Life Guards (1st and 2nd) at Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

Quite apart from the value of the time spent among Regulars and such actual practice training as we can get in, a week-end at Windsor with the Household Cavalry has joys unknown to those who have not yet had an opportunity of being present on such occasions.

From a long and varied acquaintance with Windsor, the writer can assure intending participants in the Easter training that Windsor contains many other places besides the Castle, Combermere Barracks and the railway stations. The Great Park contains depths well worth plumbing, and the riding school has possibilities undreamed of by the habitues of Chelsea only. (If you don't believe me, ask Mr. Nichol: he knows.)

The recent demonstration of the practical aspect of wireless television has caused considerable dismay among the W/T folk. The old slogan of "Out of sight, out of mind" crashes to the ground; and the hours of blissful browsing with a pipe in the grateful shadow of trees on some beautiful hill-side in the country seem likely to be numbered, now that it is possible for each and every wireless station to be continually under the eagle eye of the Signal Master at Headquarters. We assume, however, that the televisor can be successfully dimmed by "jamming" or some other equally effective process; and so, perhaps, the picture may not be as bad as it has been painted.

With regard to annual training this year, it is with great pleasure that we learn we are to occupy the same camping ground at Windmill Hill, Ludgershall, that we occupied last year. A better place it would be difficult to find, and all that is wanted is good weather and visits from our friends. So will readers of THE WIRE please make note of the place? The dates are from July 29th to August 12th inclusive.

A concert was held by the local Branch of the Signals Association which was attended by all Association members in this unit. It is needless to remark that an extremely pleasant evening was spent.

I had almost forgotten to say that Sergt Simnett, our famous and extremely patient riding instructor, is still praying. Let us hope that whatever he is asking for will be granted.

26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1.

Signals Association.—The annual general meeting of the Westminster Branch of the Association was held at headquarters on Tuesday, January 31st, and after reports by the treasurer and secretary, the election of officers was proceeded with.

We are pleased to say that the old committee volunteered to stand again and were unanimously accepted.

The secretary, Sergt Wood, expressed his regret at being unable to carry on and asked to be allowed to nominate his successor in the person of Sergt Bradbury. This met with the meeting's approval, and Sergt Bradbury was duly elected secretary.

The president, Major Wickens, gave a brief report of the activities of the Association in the past year, and appealed for fresh members to carry on the good work.

The meeting was followed by a smoking concert which was excellent. Our comedians were in fine form, and our tenor and baritone sang sweetly and deeply respectively.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Spring is in the air and our sombre drill hall is bursting into bud. From these mysterious buds have evolved harness rooms for each Company and a store for the Supplementary Reserve. All are heated, and so, we hope, farewell to rust and mildew. It has been very roughly calculated that in approximately four years the saving in vaseline alone will pay for the whole structure.

Annual training this year will take place at Bolton-le-Sands, on the shores of Morecambe Bay. This is a little nearer home than usual, but what matters as long as we are close to the sea.

On Wednesday evenings pleasant sounds may be heard trickling out of the depths of the drill hall. They come from the new unit band that is now in full practice under the able baton of Mr. Grundy. Instruments have been purchased, but a few more players are still required. All who are competent musicians and would like to become members of the band are asked to see Capt Ashley.

The following programme of social events up to the end of the season has been arranged:—

Saturday, March 3rd—Signals Association dance.
Wednesday, March 14th—Officers' mess supper.
Saturday, March 24th—Officers' mess dance.
Saturday, March 24th—Sergeants' mess dance.
Saturday, March 31st—Unit dance.
Wednesday, April 18th—Officers' mess supper.
Saturday, April 21st—Signals Association dance.
Saturday, April 28th—Officers' mess dance.
Saturday, April 28th—Sergeants' mess dance.
Wednesday, May 9th—Officers' mess supper.
Wednesday, May 9th—Sergeants' mess social.

We recently bade farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Denman, who have been caretakers of our headquarters since 1896. Mr. Denman joined the Regular Army exactly fifty-nine years ago, and we wish this old soldier and his family a quiet and enjoyable future.

We welcome in their place Mr. and Mrs. Bragger, and hope that, when the noise and dust of removal have subsided, they will find their new home truly comfortable. Mr. Bragger is one of the Old Contemptibles and fought with the 1st Cheshire Regiment in the retreat from Mons.

No. 3 Company, 2nd Corps Signals S.R.

Whilst regretting that we shall be separated from our friends the Terriers at this year's annual training, there is much rejoicing at the prospect of visiting A Corps Signals at the end of June.

Whether A Corps Signals will be pleased is another matter, but we can assure them that we are keen on learning our particular job; and we have a notion that it is at Ewshott that opportunity and facilities lie.

With such a camp in view, training (which commenced with great zest) is proceeding with energy and enthusiasm, and we hope to be in good trim when June arrives. A week-end camp is promised for March, in addition to an ambitious scheme for the despatch riders.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

By some strange means our last month's notes went astray. They contained a few remarks about Christmas doings, etc. But, of course, we mustn't inflict Christmas on our friends now!

Apart from this the notes contained congratulations to Lieut W. J. L. Cornelius on obtaining his second "pip," also to 2/Lts Bailey, Moss and Lee-Wright on passing their A certificate examinations. "Tall oaks from little acorns grow" is perhaps an apt quotation here.

There was also a reference to the extension of command granted to our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel W G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C. This gives general satisfaction, and we were all very glad to get the news.

An officers' two-day exercise was held during January and proved to be a most useful and instructive one.

Next month the n.c.o.s course will take place, and it will be a complete change so far as the venue is concerned. I think the thirty odd who have put their names down will come back from Bulford with happy memories, for I feel sure our parent body—the 3rd Divl Signals—will do everything to make them comfortable.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

Since the New Year opened the special course of two-hour drills has been well attended, and it is hoped an improvement in the speed of operating will be one of the great achievements of the course.

No. 1 Company and the unit generally are exceedingly sorry to realise that C.S.M. Agombar G. (the P.S. instructor) is now in his last lap. He has been a solid help during the past four years and has gained everyone's esteem by his all-round good qualities.

Congratulations to L/Sergt Coles and Corpl Gill on their elevation in rank. There are still some rungs left in the ladder!

Sigmn Selley sends his greetings to old friends from India. He is at present in Jubbulpore.

Another kind remembrance during Christmas was from Charlie Rew, a former C.S.M. of No. 1 Company, and an old Wessex Terrier. He is now in Canada and flourishing.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

I am indebted to a new correspondent, writing under the nom-de-plume of "Rubber Neck," for the following:—

PLYMOUTH SECTIONS.—Having had a month to get over the Christmas feeling, training is now in full swing, and all are looking forward to Whitsun camp.

In spite of several men enlisting in the Regulars our strength continues to grow, and with the right class of recruits.

Our miniature range is now in being, and a challenge has already been received from the Cornwalls (good job it is not rugger). I hear that several old soldiers are furbishing their bows and arrows in anticipation.

What price the divan chair coming west, No. 1?

[Oh! Greerly! Why, you won the gold watch last summer!—Old Spark.]

After this, what about Topsham? You haven't all gone fishing yet, surely!

OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

And it came to pass that in the month of February my Chief did speak unto me, saying, "Where are my notes, that the Editor of THE WIRE may be comforted?" And when in my discomfort I did reply, "I have none; you are unlucky," he did tear his hair and rorted much, saying "Go thou and prepare me a goodly survey of the things that have come to pass." So I did journey into the orderly room, for I was sorely distressed, and gathered unto myself much parchment, for is it not written that the word of my Chief is law. Returning to sanity, herewith the usual notes by the wayside.

Training is proceeding with the usual amount of New Year vigour, and it is interesting to note that a programme of training has been prepared for the next three months. In this every class of trade will receive adequate instruction which will, let us hope, result in many first-class key and flag bashers, not forgetting the cable manipulators.

Social.—There is a decided lull in the social life of the unit, but I note that L/Corpl Howell is making great progress with a billiards tournament, for which entries are pouring in. It would appear that we have some budding Inmans in the unit.

Sergeants' Mess.—A full parade of the w.o.s and sergeants' children took place on January 14th; dress, clean fatigue. The parade moved off at zero hour and launched a very determined attack on the ration dump, which (being unable to return the fire) was speedily demolished. On their return to the rest camp (some still showing traces of the engagement), the parade was subjected to a display of sleight-of-hand and other tricks wherein things vanish, such as a quarter-bloke loves to show. Then followed much physical jerks (assistance here being given by several mess members) which involved quite a lot of "on the hands, down."

The proceedings closed with a very well-received ceremony: the distribution of presents (rations to be consumed off the premises, also one silver coin of the realm—brand new), after which the parade was dismissed.

From the smiles adorning the faces of the children, there is not much doubt that the party was a great success—the only regret being that we do not run more of them. I am sure that all those members of the mess who did so much to keep things going were very satisfied; and they are deserving of every congratulation.

Agony.—Owing to the slippery state of the floor outside the mess, it is believed that one (or more) members came to grief; so I broadcast an S.O.S. to Phil to "go easy with the beeswax."

THE TYPEWRITER BASHER.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

At last I've started! How can one be expected to settle down to write notes when such questions as the following have to be put up with: "When is the next ride, sir?" "Can I have some 'ammo,' please?" "When can I go in for my top rate?" "What about one?"—and of course others; but one is not there to hear them!

That reminds me, our canteen is going strong once again. At a meeting held recently, presided over by our O.C. (Major J. D. N. Molesworth), a committee was formed and Signalmen Dawson and Gaitley were elected stewards. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the latter the place is resembling a Lyons Restaurant more and more every day; and since these two have been operating with the scrubbing brush and soft soap, the linoleum is again included on the inventory.

Our "mobile fitter's shop" (Sergt Sparrowe) has also been "moving" and, assisted by L/Corpl French, has wired up the canteen and installed extra lighting.

Signalmen Banks and Dawson have been working overtime and laid a pair of lines from the lecture room to the canteen for working D.iii.. Fullerphone, etc., thereby eliminating such remarks as "Whoa! I didn't get that; start again."

Several members of the unit have again found the boxing gloves, and it is hoped that they will improve on their good form shown recently in the hall and get together a team to compete outside. I am forced to make known the fact (through threats of exposure) that "yours truly" put them on for about five minutes one evening in the training quarters: it seemed like five hours! When I came to earth again I heard whispering enquiries as to whether it was a sign of spring or Simonds.

Found it!

It does'nt matter how dark it is, the light of one orange wax candle, made by WILKIE & SOAMES will pierce the deepest gloom.

WILKIE & SOAMES' orange wax candles will not splutter, will burn evenly without guttering or smoking They represent the brightest possible standard of quality in wax candles.

WILKIE & SOAMES' ORANGE WAX CANDLES

WILKIE & SOAMES LTD GREENWICH, LONDON, S.E.10.

In Memoriam.—A short service in memory of the late Earl Haig was held here on Sunday, February 5th, at Madeira Place, and a small detachment (commanded by Capt F. H. FitzHugh) represented this Company. Other units present were Sussex Yeomanry, R.A. (T.) and R.E. (T.).

S.O.S.—Will Sergt Dempsey open his heart or his writing pad, if he has one, and drop a line to B. B.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby.

The annual dinner of No. 3 (Nottingham) Company was held at the Albert Hotel, Nottingham, last month and was as usual a great success. Several old veterans of the Company turned up, and it was a treat to see their faces once again.

H.Q. and No. 1 (Derby) Company had their annual dinner at headquarters, Phœnix Street, Derby. This was easily the most successful held thus far, both in point of numbers and quality. The usual toasts were given and responded to. Our C.O. and the adjutant received a great ovation on rising to speak, which says volumes for their great popularity. This Company is rapidly nearing its establishment, and the class of men now joining shows that despite reductions in pay and bounties the Signals are a popular unit in Derby.

On Sunday, February 5th, the Company paraded with other units for the memorial service to the late Earl Haig. A very good muster was made, despite the wretched weather; in fact, our number was greater than that of the oldest and strongest unit in Derby, even including their officers and band.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome 2/Lieut H. Richardson to our midst. We trust his stay with the 46th Divl Signals will be long and prosperous.

With deepest regret we record the loss of a popular and promising young member of our unit. Sigmn Eley F. was accidentally crushed to death by an electric crane during the course of his employment with the International Combustion and Engineering Company. His untimely end leaves a great gap in our ranks, for he was one of the most popular lads in the Company—there was always a smile on his face, whatever the conditions. Our sympathies go out to his bereaved widowed mother in her great sorrow. A number of officers, n.c.o.s and men attended the funeral to pay their last tribute of respect to their late comrade.

MEREDIMUR.

47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, S.W., Feb. 15th.

General.—We have not much to report this month. Our drill hall has now recovered from the recent Thames floods, which caused a certain amount of damage to our headquarters, stores, etc. We had about five feet of water in our cellar and eighteen inches in the drill hall. The canteen, various stores, and other ground floor rooms also suffered.

Easter Camp.—We hope that this will be held at Ditchling, a pretty village near Brighton. If we have as good a time as on previous occasions, we are certain of the camp being a success.

Dances.—These seem to be improving, and if more members of the unit would give their support we should soon be back to our old standard.

Officers' Guest Night.—This was held in the officers' mess on January 23rd, and was undoubtedly the most successful night yet held. We were glad to see among the guests our late adjutant, Capt J. G. Deedes. Before leaving he visited the w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess, which was much appreciated.

Arrivals.—We welcome C.Q.M.S. Hoare from 1st Divisional Signals. Having been with Territorials before, he is rapidly settling down. We sincerely hope that his stay with us will be the happiest time of his service.

Children's Party.—On January 14th the w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess inaugurated the first post-war children's party. This was held in the drill hall. It was well organised and was voted a great success. The promoters and organisers are to be highly commended.

The afternoon started with community singing and individual turns, followed by a cinema picture; then tea, a conjuror, three more cinema films, and various games. We also had two clowns.

Towards the end of the evening Santa Claus arrived. He called each child by name and presented him or her with a special gift, besides an additional toy from the Christmas tree. In addition to this there were several hidden number prizes.

Before leaving each child was given a bag of sweets, apples and oranges. We hope that this party will take place again next year, and that it will embrace the children of all ranks.

Honorary Colonel.—We regret to state that our hon. colonel has resigned after forty years' service. We are all very sorry to lose him, as we know that he had great pre-war ties with our headquarters. All ranks tender Colonel Gilbertson Smith their heartiest congratulations on his completion of so many years service, and sincerely hope that he will not forget us in his retirement.

LEMJAY.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

Fonthill Barracks, February 13th.

"A policeman's lot is not a happy one!" Neither is the thankless job of unit correspondent, for here I have been sitting, tapping my pencil for close on an hour and wondering whoever thought of starting THE WIRE and what punishment I would mete out to the bounder were I his C.O. and he was unfortunate enough to incur my wrath. Probably hang him!

To our officers who go forward for examination for promotion on the 22nd and 23rd of this month, we extend our best wishes. May they come out with flying colours! We generally do well in anything we put our hand to, and I am sure that many will be the glad sighs when the examination is over.

Our whist team is now in the semi-final of the cup and are fairly confident of entering the final, having already twice, in the league competition, beaten the team they are drawn against. Best wishes and tons of trumps and aces, lads; and the medals and shield are in Fonthill already.

Sergt Quick P. has arrived from Aldershot, and mighty lucky we are in getting such a keen and capable instructor. His welcome at Aberdeen was a warm one. Too fizzin' true, it was, eh Pip?

Dances are still the order of the day, or rather night, our last one being a huge success. To Sergt Cummings and his zealous committee our thanks are due. These dances, besides bringing the unit together, are a valuable source of recruiting. Many strangers come around and naturally get talking of Territorial matters in general; and as our lads are always on the look-out for recruits, these talks invariably culminate in a recruit coming forward for enlistment.

Our sixty-hours course has finished and another one started, but this time the numbers have increased threefold. Winston is going to get a hit at the next trade board. Weather permitting, several Sunday schemes will take place during this course, which will be of great help when section training comes along.

Threesome and Rock are mighty silent these days. The cry goes up, "Gone are the brilliant articles that used to make Cabinet Ministers at Whitehall quake so: gone the musical advice of Threesome, which used to gladden the hearts of pipe-majors and wireless enthusiasts."

No longer is there a rush for WIRES when the parcel arrives at Aberdeen, and all because the gentlemen in question have not awakened from their winter hibernation. Come, sirs! stir yourselves, so that the deeds of Stirling and Kirkcaldy may be noised among others, and help keep the old flag flying. SMUDGE.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

Here we are, turning up like the proverbial bad half-penny after an absence which we regret. We will do our best to contribute regularly to THE WIRE in future.

With the departure of Capt A. Beatson-Bell we lose a popular adjutant, who has served with us for the past four years. He leaves us for the Air Defence Formations, and our best wishes go with him. Our loss is their gain.

We extend a hearty welcome to Major E. F. Smith (T.A.) as our new adjutant, and congratulate him on his recent promotion. He is very popular with all ranks of this unit, having served with us for many years. We hope his tour of duty as adjutant will be long and pleasant.

Training has started for the season, several courses and the riding school being in full swing; and dots, dashes, and sparks of various descriptions may be seen emanating from all corners of the drill hall. Very satisfactory results have been obtained up to now (although it is I who say so).

With the approach of the musketry season, all ranks are preparing to clean their bows and arrows with a view to bringing home the meat. As most of the firing will take place on the miniature range this year, we should derive benefit from this in any competition meeting. (Eyes down, A.A. Signals and 44th H.C. (T.A.).)

Dances are being held monthly in the w.o.s and sergeants' mess, and also in the men's club, and are proving a success.

A few remarks about our P.S., who have also been punching up lately. Congratulations to Sergt Atkinson, who has passed an A.I's course at Catterick. Unfortunately, he has had to go to the expense of a larger size in hats since his return. Sergt Hoyland V. passed a course in rifle inspection at Enfield Lock, and since his return many spare parts of rifles have been found in the armoury. Anybody wishing to obtain a wristlet watch à la mass production should apply to him. LOWSIGS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

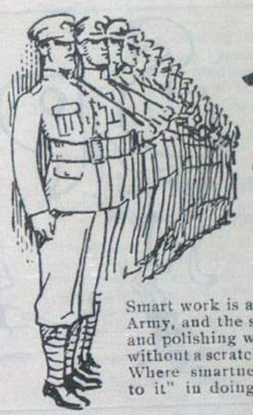
Cardiff, February 14th.

The past month has seen much more activity than is usual so early in the year. Week-end courses have been held by all Companies with success, and the officers carried out a tactical exercise at Bridgend as a trial run for their promotion examinations which come off shortly. We hear eight officers (including the adjutant) are trying their luck, and we hope they will all be successful.

Mechanisation is still only a rumour, so we wait and wonder!

We have lost one of our P.S.—Sergt Batchelor, who left us a few days ago for Bulford, en route for India. No. 2 Company will miss him, and the children will miss Mrs. Batchelor's cheery help at the next Christmas party. Members of the n.c.o.s mess bade them farewell at a smoking concert, and showed their appreciation of the work Sergt Batchelor has done.

Camp is to be at Hereford, and we hear that the site is half a hill and half a swamp! It sounds rather promising.



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There is to be a unit week-end course early next month, and this will be the last during the spring training.

With April will come the really busy drill time. The hall will be open for drills three nights a week, and riding drills will be resumed.

What is the joke about the handle that wouldn't turn?

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

The winter courses for n.c.o.s have now finished, and it is hoped that the students have soaked in some knowledge. On attendance and results, Senton and the brothers Barnett w n easily. Hearty congratulations are offered them on their appointment to L/Sergeant, and also V. C. Phillips to the same rank. Congratulations also to Corpl Warner and L/Corporals Dirs and Sunderland on promotion to the ranks mentioned.

The Stratford Companies are now busily arranging their programme of training for the season and in preparation for the forthcoming Divisional scheme. It is hoped that all members will put their backs into it and support the C.O. and their Company officers.

We had rather hard luck in the young soldiers boxing championships at Ilford on February 4th, owing to one of our lads being sick and two others on night work. However, Signalman Pavey (of the Southend Company) put up a very good performance and won the welter-weights. The team points were: 4th Essex 19, Essex A.A. S.L. Companies R.E. 16, Signals 14, 6th Essex 12, and 7th Essex 12. Had our team been at full strength, we had a very good chance of winning the cup again.

The unit championships were carried out on January 25th, and some very good fights were put up. The results will be found under Sports Notes.

C.Q.M.S. Scrivens (P.S.) has gone to 1st Divl Signals, and is replaced by Sergt Dowie from No. 2 A.F.A. Brigade Signal Section. We hope the latter's stay amongst us will be a long and happy one.

Y. E. D.

Army Boxing.

Fine Form in Championship Finals.—Prince Arthur of Connaught witnessed the final bouts of the Army boxing championships at the Stadium Club, when there was a full house.

Naturally there was some disappointment when it became known that owing to damaged hands Lieut W. Schoales (Loyal Regiment) would be unable to defend his middle-weight title. Schoales as a welter and middle has won no end of Service championships since 1919. Pte Barry (Suffolk Regiment)—also through damaged hands—had to scratch in the bantams.

The form of the winners was excellent, and as they go on to take part in the Imperial Services Boxing Association championships (in which the Navy and Air Force champions appear), the Army will hold a strong hand in that competition. And such of them as are successful in this final test are qualified to compete in the A.B.A. championships, in which the Services boxers are becoming a formidable contingent. Results of final bouts are appended:—

OFFICERS.

Middles—Lieut C. G. H. Christian (2nd Training Brigade R.A.) walked over. Lieut W. Schoales (2nd Battn. Loyal Regiment), the holder, scratched owing to damaged hands.
Welters—Lieut J. W. Gainher (2nd Battn. Loyal Regiment) beat 2/Lieut H. Cotton (R.E., Chatham) on points.
Light-Heavies—Lieut E. F. Cole (Royal Corps of Signals) beat 2/Lieut A. G. Foster-Barham (R.E., Chatham) on points.
Lights—2/Lieut H. C. D. Huxham (2nd Battn. Loyal Regt.), the holder, beat 2/Lieut M. B. Chapman (R.E.), the referee stopping the bout in the first round.
Feathers—Lieut Byas (13th Field Brigade R.A.), the holder, beat Lieut M. C. Hall (3rd Medium Battery R.A.) on points.
Heavies—Lieut J. Courtis (R.A.S.C.) beat Lieut A. J. Holt (3rd Battn. Coldstream Guards), the referee stopping the fight in the first round.

OTHER RANKS.

Bantams—Pte J. Garland (2nd Battn. Gordon Highlanders) had a walk-over. Private Barry (1st Battn. Suffolk Regiment) scratched owing to damaged hands.
Lights—Gunner A. Webb (24th Brigade R.A.) beat Dvr Grainger (Royal Corps of Signals) on points.
Feathers—Sergt Beal (2nd Battn. The Buffs), the holder, beat L/Corpl Martin (2nd Battn. Rifle Brigade) on points.
Light-Heavies—L/Corpl Rodda (Royal Corps of Signals) walked over. L/Corpl McLeod (1st Battn. Seaforth Highlanders) scratched.
Heavies—Sigmn Stuart (Royal Corps of Signals) beat Corporal Young (3rd Battn. Coldstream Guards), the holder, on points.
Fly-weights—Corpl Connell (1st Battn. Cameronians) beat Corpl J Tuck (1st Battn. Suffolk Regiment) on points.
Welters—Corpl Watts (1st Battn. Lancashire Fusiliers), the holder, beat Pte Cromey (2nd Battn. Bedford and Hertfordshire Regiment) on points.
Middles—Gunner R. A. Smith (14th Medium Battery R.A.), the holder, beat Pte Mills (Duke of Wellington's Regt.) on points.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Rugby Notes.

We greatly miss 2/Lieuts Smyth and Hoblyn, who have left us for India. The former, as captain, has by his keenness both on and off the field set a splendid example, and done a lot to help on Corps rugger. 2/Lieut Hoblyn improved with every game. Both have our heartiest good wishes for the future.

"Jimmies."—The following have been awarded "Jimmies" for the 1927-28 season:—

Corps—Captain Owens, Lieuts Danby, Hardy, Morrison and Thuillier, 2/Lieuts Bradford, Lewis, Severin, Smyth and Wintle; Sgt Squirrell, Signalmen Harbury, Lawton, Reeves and Stearck, and Boy Sadler.

S.T.C.—2/Lieuts Good, Harrison, Hoblyn, Hyde, Tucker and Worrall, Corpls Jones and Murphy, and L/Corpl King.

Training Battalion—2/Lieuts C. Fothergill and Shawcross, Sergts Herbert and Payne, Signalmen Barnett, Birkett, Fraser and Kelly, and Boy Kerr.

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Hartlepool Rovers.—Played on Scotton ground on Jan. 14th, resulting in a win for the Rovers by 10 points to 9 (two goals to three tries). Signals scored a try in the corner after five minutes' play, and Harrison was unable to convert. A good three-quarter run by the Rovers resulted in their left wing scoring under the posts, and at half time they led by 5 points to 3. Soon after re-starting they scored another try, which was converted. The Signals forwards, however, took the ball from half-way and Sadler scored. Just before time we scored again in the corner; Harrison made a good but unsuccessful kick at goal; and we lost by one point!

The forwards played very well indeed, and Boy Sadler was the outstanding forward on the field. We were without Captain Owens, 2/Lieuts Tucker and Severin, Corpl Murphy, and L/Cpl King. The Rovers are recognised as about the best team in the north, so the result was most satisfactory, as they played their full side except Wade, who was playing for Yorkshire.

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Middlesbrough.—Played at Scotton on January 28th, and Signals won by 5 points to nil. The ground was in a very muddy condition, which suited our forwards. There was no score in the first half, but Dvr Reeves cut through during the second and scored a good try, 2/Lieut Lewis converting.

After that we pressed continuously until the finish, but were unable to cross the line again. Middlesbrough had sustained but one defeat before this during the season.

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Old Leodiensians.—Played at Leeds on February 4th. Capt Owens and Lieut Severin were unable to play, but we proved victorious by 3 tries to nil.

Royal Signals v. Sedburgh School.—Played at Sedburgh under appalling conditions, which were so bad that the game was stopped fifteen minutes before time. Our forwards controlled the scrum, and we nearly scored on three or four occasions. The result was a pointless draw.

Boys v. Barnard Castle School.—Played at Barnard Castle on February 4th, and after a most enjoyable game the boys won by 6 points to 5 (two tries to a goal).

Royal Signals (3rd) v. Richmond Grammar School.—Played on S.T.C. Headquarters ground, also on February 4th, and a draw resulted—each side scoring one try.

Boxing Notes.

S.T.C. Championships.—The Signal Training Centre boxing championships were fought on January 26th, and some good bouts resulted. The following were the winners and runners-up:—

Light-heavy—Winner, Cpl Bryant; runner-up, Sigmn Smith.
Middle—Winner, Sigmn Pyke; runner-up, Sergt Payne.
Welter—Winner L/Cpl Williams; runner-up Sigmn Jackson.
Light—Winner, Sigmn Govier; runner-up, Dvr Etheridge.
Feather—Winner, Sigmn Fowler; runner-up, Boy Statham.
Bantam—Winner, Boy Boulter.
Fly—Winner, Boy Roderick; runner-up, Boy Jones.
Officers: Light—Winner, Lieut Tucker; runner-up, Lieut Patterson.
Officers: Middle—Winner, Lieut Van der Goot (only entry).

Sigmn Chapman put up an extremely good show against a more experienced boxer (Sergt Payne), and should with perseverance do well at the game.

Undeniably the most exciting fight was the light-heavy weight between Corpl Bryant and Sigmn Smith (both of D Company). Both men "slammed each other good and proper" for the three rounds, and an extra round was necessary to decide the winner. Both contestants were all in at the finish.

The Novices League is still in progress, and promises to bring plenty of talent forward for next year.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Very little sport has taken place in this Company during the past month owing to the bad state of the grounds.

Football.—Three matches have been played, with the following results:—

v. Dismounted Wing, 1st XI., won by 3—2.
v. Dismounted Wing, 2nd XI., won by 8—0.
v. Dismounted Wing, 3rd XI., won by 5—1.

Shooting.—Only one match has taken place during last month—that against the Dismounted Wing, which was lost by a few points.

Cross-Country Running.—The last inter-Company run, which was also the S.T.C. championships, was held on Tuesday, 24th January. By the aid of good team work we managed to win the inter-Company run. Our first three places were Sigmn Hall (5th), Sigmn Meadows (7th), and Sigmn Bergman (8th). This was a great improvement on the preceding run.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Rugby.—We managed to defeat the Mounted Wing in the First League by 9—3 and in the Second League by 9—0. The Mounted Wing unfortunately had just lost Lieuts Smyth and Bell, which considerably weakened their teams.

Cross-Country.—We heartily congratulate L/Sergt Cotterell (of E Company) and L/Corpl Broadley (of F Company), who finished first and second for the Army versus Oxford. We are expecting really big things from both of these exceptional runners this season. Don't be surprised if the former again wins the National and International events, and the latter runs well up in both of them.

School of Signals, Catterick.

Football.—On February 8th we resumed soccer with our opening Company League matches against the Mounted Wing. The first eleven suffered defeat by the odd goal in three in a scrappy game, which was spoilt by the heavy ground and boisterous wind. The second eleven also failed to the extent of 2—4. The third eleven excelled themselves on the Gorselands ground and forced a draw.

Our next game was again with the Mounted Wing, on this occasion in the Garrison League. We fielded a stronger team, but although we had most of the game, we could only draw at 1—1. The ground was in a terrible state, and the game was rendered farcical by a cross wind.

Hockey.—School v. Dismounted Wing: Played on January 18th. The School were far too strong for their opponents, the ball very seldom leaving the Dismounted Wing's half. The School, being a more experienced side, were able to cope with the very bad ground conditions. Goals came at regular intervals, being scored by L/Corpl Davies (4), Major Drayson (3), Lieut Boyd (2), Sergt Tovey (2), Dvr Hellier (2), Capt Wade, Lieut Malpass, and Dvr. Batcheldor. The Dismounted Wing's goal was the result of a very fine individual effort by Lieutenant Patterson.

Aldershot Signals.

Rugby Notes.

Rugby players at Aldershot view with dismay the scratching of the Training Battalion to the South Wales Borderers. We were proud that the T.B. had got into the fourth round of the Army rugby cup, but now, what!!! Are bed socks required, or has the strength of the T.B. been reduced to less than fifteen men? It has been whispered here that surely old war "Cob" must have left the stables in which he has so long been quartered; otherwise such a thing could never have happened.

Royal Signals, Aldershot, v. Guildford.—Grounds at Aldershot have been out of use recently owing to rain, and the team has not played a representative match for nearly two months. It was interesting, therefore, in view of the near approach of the important match versus K.O.Y.L.I. for the Aldershot cup, to see how the team would shape.

The game was played at Guildford on Saturday, January 28th, in pouring rain and in a sea of mud. With the exception of Lieut Thuillier, who had a damaged leg, Signals were at full strength.

Capt. Mathew was fortunate enough to win the toss, and Guildford kicked off against the wind. The Signals forwards quickly rushed the ball down the ground, and a scrambling try was scored far out on the left. Lieut Morrison added the extra points with a very good kick.

Played continued in the Guildford territory; the Signals forwards were packing well and getting the ball from the scrum. After fifteen minutes play, Upton scored a try in the corner as the result of a brilliant three-quarter movement, the slippery ball being very well handled.

Shortly after Lieut Hardy dropped a goal. Signals maintained the pressure, and Lieut Hardy scored two more unconverted tries. Signals therefore crossed over with a commanding lead of 20 points.

It now remained to see how Guildford could be held in the second half, as they were playing with almost a gale behind them. It was obviously "tactics" to keep the ball tight. This was not altogether recognised, and there was too much kicking and wild passing. Lieut Danby was a notable culprit in this respect.

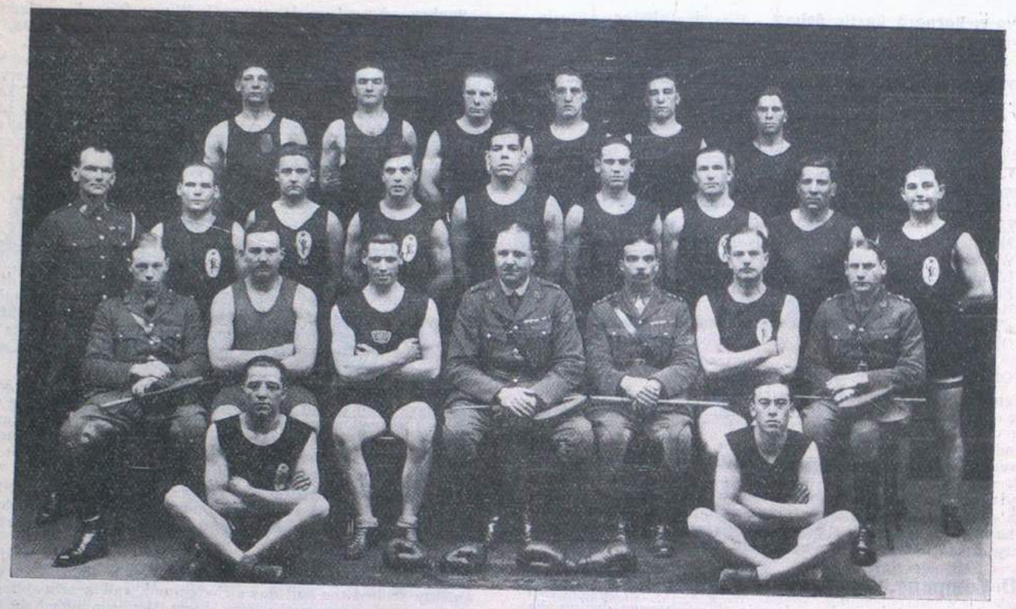
Guildford pressed throughout the whole half, and scored two unconverted tries and a dropped goal, the final result being Royal Signals, Aldershot, 20 points; Guildford 10.

The game was on the whole encouraging. The forwards, led by Lieut Morrison, played excellently and stuck to it well in a tiring second half. Lieut Hardy was the nick of the outsides, and Sigmn Upton ran strongly on the right wing.

Royal Signals, Aldershot, v. K.S.L.I.—Played on the 2nd Divisional Signals ground on February 1st. The result was a win for the Signals by three goals, a penalty goal and four tries (30 points) to one try (3 points). The ground was very wet and muddy. Signals played a "sleepy" game against a weak side. They will have to wake up and take a pull at themselves if they wish to go further than the next round of the Aldershot rugby cup.

Boxing Notes.

The Royal Signals Team.—The boxing team of the Aldershot Signals, which swept the board at the Corps championship meeting on January 19th, winning every title, is shown in the photograph on the next page. Among the best-known boxers in the group are Capt H. A. Spencer, formerly light-weight champion officer of the Services, who has done much to strengthen the Aldershot team; L/Corpl F. Rodda, holder of the I.S.B.A. light-heavy-weight title; Corpl Langley, Army open and amateur welter-weight champion, 1925; and Dvr Emblem, Army open light-heavy-weight champion, 1925.



The Aldershot Command Signals Boxing Team

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen Wheeler P. and Thomas, Cpl Langley, Signalmen Morris, Fountain and Hogg
Middle row—Sigmn Smith (trainer), Dvr Benjafield, Signalmen Midgley, Taylor, Stuart and Wathen, L/Cpl Pinkney, Dvr Emblem, Sigmn Moore
Front row—2/Lt. J. C. Hardy, Lt. L. de M. Thuillier, L/Cpl Rodda (captain), Lt.-Col. R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. (commanding 1st Divl. Signals), Capt. H. A. Spencer, M.C. (hon. secretary), Lieuts. E. S. Cole and D. C. R. Hall
In front—Dvrs. Grainger and Baker

The photograph is by Gale and Polden, Ltd., of Aldershot, to whom we are also indebted for the loan of the block for printing.

Although there was a smaller entry than usual for the Corps championships, this fact does not account for the sweeping success of the Aldershot boxers. The reduction in numbers was due to the cost of bringing men from distant stations such as Catterick, and in fairness to other units the entries from Aldershot were reduced in ratio.

Army Individual Championships.—Our entries in the Army championships resulted as follows:—

Light-heavy (officers)—Lieut E. S. Cole, Army champion.
Light-heavy (other ranks)—L/Corpl Rodda, Army champion.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart, Army champion.
Light—Dvr Grainger, runner-up.
Feather—Sigmn Thomas, semi-finalist.
Welter—Signalman Wheeler, third series. (In his last fight Wheeler's eye was badly cut and he was not allowed to continue).
Middle—Sigmn Moore reached the second series, but was forced to retire with an injured thumb. Sigmn Taylor reached the third series, and was also forced to retire consequent on an injury.
Bantam—Sigmn Hogg, semi-finalist.

Royal Corps of Signals Championships.—The best boxers from seven of the principal Corps units in the Home Commands competed in the Royal Corps of Signals boxing championships, held in the Marlborough Lines gymnasium on Thursday, 19th January.

The units represented were A Corps Signals, 1st Divisional Signals, 2nd Divisional Signals, E Troop 1st Cavalry Divisional Signals, 3rd Divisional Signals, Depot Battalion, and Training Battalion. Of these the 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot were the most successful, supplying five Corps champions in Hogg, Thomas, Grainger, Wheeler and Moore. The remaining two champions, Rodda and Stuart, were from the 2nd Divisional Signals at North Camp. Thus it will be seen that the Aldershot Signals are likely to have a hot team for the Command unit championships.

Hogg, Thomas, Grainger and Moore are new champions. Fowler, last season's bantam champion, missed his train and could not defend his title. Govier hurt his hand in training and could not compete. Jones, last season's light-weight champion, has completed his service in the Army. Howard, middle-weight champion last year, was unable to get down to the weight and did not compete.

So fierce was the fighting that few of the bouts (which, in the semi-finals and finals, were two two-minute and one three-minute rounds) went the full distance. Still, the boxing was good, and in the majority of cases the winners were worthy of the title of champion.

Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O. (Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command), in congratulating the boxers on the good show they had put up, said the meeting had been well attended and well worth witnessing. After presenting prizes to winners and runners-up, he was given three hearty cheers by the audience, who had fully enjoyed the fighting.

RESULTS.

Bantam—Final: Sigmn Hogg (1st Divisional Signals) beat L/Cpl Fee (3rd Divisional Signals). Both men opened fiercely, but before the second round ended Fee retired with a sprained wrist.

Feather—Semi-finals: Sigmn Thomas (1st Divisional Signals) beat Sigmn Henderson (A Corps Signals) on points. The loser was the quicker man of the two, but had not the ability to score points like his opponent. Dvr Sainsbury (1st Divisional Signals) beat Sigmn Powell (3rd Divisional Signals). This was a slogging fight until, at the beginning of the third round, Powell had to discontinue owing to a cut eye.

Final: Thomas beat Sainsbury, the referee intervening in the second round when the latter was almost out.

Light—Semi-finals: Dvr Grainger (1st Divisional Signals) beat Sigmn Morris (A Corps Signals) on points. Grainger, who has represented the Corps on various occasions this season, won on points, but Morris made him go all the way and put forth his best. Corpl McCarthy (3rd Divisional Signals) beat Sigmn Etheridge (Depot Battn.) on points. This was a poor fight, neither man showing much inclination for long-range boxing.

Final: Grainger beat McCarthy, the referee stopping the fight in the second round. McCarthy, who appeared to have hurt his right hand, was outclassed.

Welter—First series: Sigmn Jackson (E Cavalry Troop) knocked out Sigmn Wathen (2nd Divisional Signals) in the second round. Corpl Langley (1st Divisional Signals) knocked out Sigmn Hutchinson (A Corps Signals) in the second round, after the referee had urged them to "make a fight of it."

Semi-finals: Langley walked over, Jackson having received an injury to his arm. In order that Langley should not benefit to the disadvantage of his opponent in the final by his walk over, Dvr Baker (1st Divisional Signals) boxed three rounds with him and went all out. Sigmn P. Wheeler (1st Divisional Signals) knocked out Sigmn Humphries (3rd Divisional Signals) in the opening round, with a right cross to the jaw.

Final: Wheeler beat Langley on points. The latter, a former Army title-holder, went all out to beat the Corps champion, but, feeling the effects of his previous bouts, just failed. Wheeler boxed splendidly, and scored just enough points at a distance to win. Langley did best at close quarters. This was the best fight of the evening.

Middle—First series: Sigmn Potter (3rd Divisional Signals) beat Sigmn McLaren (A Corps Signals) the referee stopping the bout in the first round, after Potter had had the best of the exchanges. Sigmn Moore (1st Divisional Signals) beat Signalman Charles (3rd Divisional Signals) the referee stopping this fight also in the second period.

Semi-finals: Moore knocked out Potter in the opening round, after the latter had been down earlier for a count of seven. Sigmn Taylor (1st Divisional Signals) beat Sigmn Pike (Depot Battn.) on points after a hard-hitting fight.

Final: Moore beat Taylor, the referee applying the closure in the second round, when Taylor began to show the effects of hard rights. In fairness to the latter, however, it must be stated that he was accidentally fouled earlier in the round.

Light-heavy—Final: L/Corpl Rodda (2nd Divisional Signals) walked over, L/Corpl Howard (Depot Battn.) being absent.

Heavy—Final: Sigmn Stuart (2nd Divisional Signals) beat Gnr. Smith (attached Training Battn.), the referee stopping the fight in the first round. Stuart was streets ahead of his opponent.

Apologies are offered for the omission of last month's notes. That month was almost a holiday for the team, only one competition taking place—that against the Nore Command (R.N.) at Chatham, results of which are given below.

Heartiest congratulations are tendered to Sergeant Wheeler (Egypt Signals) on his success in the middle and light-heavyweight Egyptian championships. We trust he will keep them.

Signals v. Nore Command (R.N.)—The Aldershot Signals met the Royal Navy at Chatham on January 10th. Results:—

Bantam—A.B. Gladwyn beat Sigmn Hogg on points, Hogg being handicapped by an injury to his wrist in the third round.
Feather—Sigmn Thomas beat P.O. Vingoe, putting his man down three times. The fight was stopped at the end of the first round.
Light—Corpl Davis (R.M.) drew with Sigmn Morris after a very close fight. A.B. Watson beat Dvr Grainger on points after a very plucky fight. L.Stoker Clarke beat Driver Fountain, the latter being forced to retire in the last round.
Welter—L.Seaman Jackson and Sigmn Wheeler were very evenly matched, and the bout resulted in a draw. L/Corpl Ayling (R.M.) beat Dvr Baker on points. Sigmn Watham was knocked out in the second round by L.Smn Flowers.
Middle—A.B. Ewin beat Sigmn Taylor on points after a closely-fought contest. Sigmn Moore put up a good show against L.Smn Meadows, winning on points. Sigmn Midgley beat L.Smn Russell on points in a very close fight.
Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda beat Marine Welton, the referee stopping the fight in the first round. S.P.O. Spiller beat Driver Emblem on points.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart knocked out Stoker Fuller in the second round.

The competition, as will be seen, was won by the Nore Command, but nevertheless a good show was put up by Royal Signals.

Aldershot Command v. Royal Signals.—Very nearly four hours' boxing was seen by a large audience at the Maida drill hall on Friday, February 3rd, when a team representing Aldershot Command met the Royal Corps of Signals in a match consisting of eleven six-round contests.

The Command, whose team was depleted by injuries received by several boxers in the Army championship meeting the previous week, were beaten by 17 points to 13 (seven fights to four). Two Army champions fought for the Signals in Stuart and Rodda, the latter also boxing in a special contest which was not part of the match.

Lieut.-General Sir David G. M. Campbell, K.C.B., Commanding-in-Chief Aldershot Command, presented the prizes at the end of the tournament. His remarks were extremely brief. "We have had a jolly good night's sport," he said, "and I think the Royal Corps of Signals are to be congratulated on their form."

The band of the 1st Seaforth Highlanders played during the evening under the baton of Mr. E. Grayson, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., bandmaster.

RESULTS.

Bantam—L/Corpl Needham (R.A.S.C.) beat Sigmn Hogg (Royal Signals) on points. Needham was the better stylist and had more speed, but he was meeting a hard fighter in Hogg. The signalman floored him three times in the fourth round and the gong appeared to save him, but Needham recovered well and just got the verdict. Both boxers received the congratulations of the referee on a splendid fight.

Feather—Sigmn Thomas (Royal Signals) beat Rifleman Cupples (1st Royal Ulster Rifles) on points. Little separated the pair in the first two rounds, but after that Thomas went ahead to finish a fairly comfortable winner.

Light—Dvr Grainger (Royal Signals) beat Sergeant Hopkins (R.A.S.C.) on points. This was a decisive win for the signalman, who was runner-up to Webb in this year's Army championships. Hopkins held an advantage in height and scored well with his left, but Grainger was the cleverer two-handed boxer.

Corpl Ipson (1st York and Lancs. Regt.) beat Driver Baker (Royal Signals) on points. A keenly-contested bout, in which the honours were shared fairly evenly.

Welter—Rifleman West (1st Royal Ulster Rifles) beat L/Corpl Langley (Royal Signals). There was no doubt about the Ulsterman's win, but the fight was spoilt by leaning and holding. Langley is a much less dangerous opponent than he was two years ago, when he won an I.S.B.A. title.

Sigmn Wheeler (Royal Signals) beat L/Corpl Catton (1st H.L.I.) on points. Wheeler was a shade the better against a game opponent who was always dangerous.

Middle—Sigmn Taylor (Royal Signals) beat Guardsman Stewart (1st Scots Guards) on points. A hard and level fight all through. Taylor was slightly the cleverer, but his opponent was the stronger in the last two rounds and appeared to have earned the award or at least deserved to draw.

Sigmn Moore (Royal Signals) beat Guardsman Davis (1st Grenadier Guards) in the sixth round of one of the best fights of the night. The Guardsman had a marked advantage in height and was a trifle ahead early in the fight. He began to weaken, however, in the fifth round, and the referee intervened in the next when he was lying helpless on the ropes.

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Light-heavy—Dvr Emblem (Royal Signals) beat Drummer McCaulay (1st Seaforths) on points. Most of the fighting was done at close quarters, and Emblem was more often on the target than the Highlander.

Heavy—Sigmn Stuart (Royal Signals) beat Pte Maslin (2nd The Buffs) on points. The new Army champion boxed well, and although he took a balance of points in every round he did not have an easy task against Maslin, who fought hard all the way.

Special Contest—L/Corpl Rodda (Royal Signals) beat L/Corporal Howard (Royal Signals) on points. Howard came in as substitute for P.C. Pitcher (Metropolitan Police), who was unable to box owing to an injured hand. He was not in the same class as the holder of the Services and Army titles, but put up a game fight.

Royal Signals (Aldershot) v. Royal Navy and Royal Marines (Portsmouth).—On Friday, February 10th, the Signals met the Royal Navy at the Gymnasium, R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth, in a series of twelve three-round bouts and two of six rounds. The result of the night's boxing was a victory for the Signals by 22 points to 18.

Bantam—Sigmn Hogg found a very clever opponent in L.Stkr. Tull, who by his fine ringcraft caused most of Hogg's hits to go wide and so won on points.

Light—A.B. White beat Dvr Fountain, knocking him out early in the first round. A.B. Boon beat Driver Baker, the latter having to retire after the second round owing to an injury to his jaw. Dvr Grainger beat A.B. Jenkins after three rounds of hard fighting, in which Grainger scored freely.

Welter—Sigmn Moore beat Stkr Golden on points; the stoker endeavoured to get to close quarters, but Moore kept him away in masterly fashion. Stoker Day beat Sigmn Midgeley on points, the latter being unable to get in at his man. Dvr Benjafield fought Telegraphist Reeves and beat him after three quick rounds; both men started out for fast work, going after a knock-out, but although Reeves had the advantage of a longer reach, Benjafield had him decidedly groggy in the third round.

Middle—Sigmn Taylor beat A.B. Flewin on points; the latter was all for in-fighting, but Taylor kept clear and at every rush broke away, always scoring. L/Corpl Howard beat L.Smn Dixon on points, after three rounds of hard fighting.

Light-heavy—In this weight two boxers very well known to both the Navy and Signals participated: Dvr Emblem and Stoker Miller. They fought a special six-round contest, mostly in-fighting, Miller winning on points after one of the best bouts of the evening. Corpl Trinder was due to meet L/Corpl Rodda, but was unable to appear, his place being taken by Stoker Stubbs, who was disqualified in the second round for holding.

Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat Stoker Kennedy, the fight being stopped in the second round—Stuart being of a far better class than his opponent.

Feather—Sigmn Thomas was beaten by L.Smn Flowers, the latter proving too hard for him, although the fight was not one-sided. Dvr Sainsbury beat Smn Thomas after a most plucky fight, winning by sheer grit and sticking to his man.

The prizes were presented by Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, at the conclusion of a very successful evening.

On February 10th Sigmn Wheeler was due to meet Private Cromey (Lancashire Fusiliers) at Ashford, Kent, to decide who should represent the Army in the inter-Services championships. Wheeler, however, was unable to fight, and was substituted by Corpl Langley, who lost on points.

A Corps Signals, Ewshott.

Sports.—Now that leave is nearly over, we are looking forward to another burst of winter sports before we start on athletics and cricket.

The Soccer Leagues have been going on steadily, with varying success, chiefly owing to the fact that the teams are seldom the same in successive matches. This is due to postings, drafts and other cribs, and of course cannot be prevented.

Rugby is flourishing. We now have Company teams, and a lot of new blood is being discovered. A very good match against the 2nd Gordon Highlanders, in the second round of the Command cup, resulted in a win for the Gordons by 9—0. An account of this will be given in the next issue of THE WIRE.

Hockey is going well, and Company teams have been playing, enabling us to make a good selection for the unit team.

Sport on the whole is on the up-grade, and we are catering more for the majority than the individual. When the unit moves to Smallshot this will be felt, as we shall be able to turn out Section and Company teams for every kind of sport.

By next month we shall be able to give a list of A Corps "Jimmies" which have been gained in January and February.

Sections will have to get moving very shortly, as the commanding officer is presenting a Section trophy for sports. The details are not yet completed, but the competition will give a chance for the "unknowns" to show their skill—which is exactly what we want. So bustle round, section commanders!

When we get to Smallshot we shall have a greater chance for our players to gain places in the Command Signals teams. At present we are rather "in the blue," but we shall shake the world when we get to "the promised land."

Appreciation.—Well done, the spectators! Cough lozenges are cheap, but we hope you didn't need them. Shouts are half the battle!

No. 1 Company.

Miniature Range.—Result of the inter-Section competition: No. 2 Construction Section (269 points) 1st; Unit Headquarters (266), 2nd.

The teams were composed as follows: No. 2 Construction Section: C.S.M. Stockwell (76), L/Corpl Hole (78), Signalman Hogan (42), Dvr Theobald (73). Unit Headquarters: R.S.M. Craig (77), Q.M.S. Edwards (56), Sergt Wilson (56), Sergeant Francis (77).

The individual knock-out competition has reached the third round, and the favourite for the gold cup is Sigmn Eldred, who made the highest individual score in the team competition.

The "snakes" of the Company are busy training for the National team handicap, which is being fired off on February 17th against a team from Midlothian, Scotland.

Soccer.—The following have been awarded Station "Jimmies": Sergt Chumbley and Sigmn Edwards.

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Rugby.—At last the trophy matches have started, and one has been won and one lost. We beat No. 2 Company by 15 points to 3 (three goals to one try). We were down by 3—0 at half-time, but as soon as we changed over things woke up a bit. Signalmen Varey and Wild and Dvr Joy each got over the line, and Lieut Thuillier converted all three tries—a very good kick, that second one! It was a sight for sore eyes, and everybody must be congratulated on their splendid performance—the spectators as much as the players. Keep it up, No. 1, and no one will touch us.

Soccer.—We were unfortunate to lose our first trophy soccer match to No. 3 Company by 2 goals to 4. It's up to us to do better in the remaining matches. The game was very exciting, and L/Corpl McClelland and Sigmn Innes gave us some thrills. Well done, boys; you set the inexperienced a good example. L/Corpl Warner played an excellent game at back; his defence was splendid. Keep it up, and you'll keep them out; you played a wonderful game against a faster team.

No. 3 Company.

Football.—On February 3rd we played our first trophy game with No. 2 Company, and drew first blood at their expense after a good game by five goals to four. Space is too limited to give a detailed description of the game. Suffice it to say at one time we were deservedly two goals in arrears; and only the dogged nature of our defence, the verbal artillery fire from the touch line, and a glorious drive from thirty yards out by Sigmn Holmes enabled us to achieve the seemingly impossible.

On February 8th we met and defeated No. 1 Company after a good game by five goals to two. Once again our defence was in form. Our forwards, although inclined to hang on to the ball too much, were too good for the No. 1 Company's defence, and often had them in a tangle. The verbal artillery barrage kept us going when we were inclined to slacken.

Hockey.—On February 9th we emerged successfully from "a hit hard and often at anything and anybody" encounter with No. 2 Company. In the first half the bustling tactics of our

opponents rather upset our play, but eventually we assumed command and ran out victors by five goals to love.

Now remember, Threeco, the advice you were given about support: it does make a wonderful difference, and has already saved us one game. We've started well and mean to have a real good go for that trophy; so if you are not fortunate enough to be picked as a player, be the next best thing—an enthusiastic supporter. Turn out on all possible occasions both for the Company and unit matches, and feel that you have done your bit towards the success of the team.

Cross-Country.—By the time these notes appear the trophy run will have been decided, and although Twoco have a confirmed opinion as to the result, we feel certain things will not be nearly so easy as they anticipate.

Our three runs have been well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by the Company.

On February 3rd our inter-Section race resulted in a very close victory for K Section, with J three points behind.

Boxing.—Our heartiest congratulations to Lieut Cole and L/Cpl Rodda, our successful Company representatives in the Army championships—two real live "champs" in one Company! Surely a record. No wonder we feel optimistic about the trophy boxing. Yes, we also have two or three more Corps representatives, but more about them anon.

Oh, Pinson! why did you change your vocation?

To Capt Spencer, our congratulations on the defeat of the Aldershot Command and the Royal Navy. The team has reached a splendid standard of efficiency, and whoever beats them in the Army championships will know they've been in a battle, without a doubt.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

Football.—Since the Christmas break the Troop are showing signs of great improvement. The last two matches have ended in a win and a draw. The first match, versus R.A.M.C., ended with the score of 2—2.

The second match, versus R.A.O.C., provided a win of 1—0. Seeing that the R.A.O.C. are at the top of the Junior League, we score a double victory in "seeing their boots off."

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Boxing.—The Corps and Army championships are now over, and we are concentrating our activities on the coming Garrison events, namely, the novices competition on February 16th and 17th, and the inter-unit competition early in April.

In the Corps championships we were unfortunate. Fee (bantam) damaged his hand and was beaten by Hogg in the final. Powell (feather) was obliged by a cut over the eye to retire from a fight in which he was winning. McCarthy, in the final, lost to Grainger on points, after having put his thumb out. Charles met the winner (Moore) in his first fight, but put up a good defence. Humphries and Potter were also unfortunate.

In the Army championships, Fee put up a good fight against Pte Birchall (R.A.M.C.), but the latter was too strong for him. McCarthy went through two rounds without much trouble, but met Grainger again in the third round, when the latter confirmed his victory of a week before and beat him on points. Potter was unfortunate in coming up against Guardsman Stewart in the first fight, and got beaten.

Now we shall start training in earnest to be ready for the Garrison cup. Field has been obliged to retire from boxing for the time being, owing to an operation on his nose. We hope he will be fit by April.

Football.—Very little has been done, as the whole of the unit team were on leave until January 12th, and the only unit match we had was against the R.A.S.C. on January 25th. This was played in pouring rain and with a young hurricane blowing, and resulted in a win for the Signals. We still, however, keep our place as ninth in the league.

The most important forthcoming event is the inter-Company competition, which comes off about March 5th to 19th, and of course provides points for the inter-Company shield. For this event, Companies produce two teams, both playing on the same day. The problem of training the second elevens, with a very limited number of grounds and a small amount of kit available, is causing Company selection committees to tear out their hair in handfuls.

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We have had two players sent us from the Depot this month in Signalmen Thompson and Barnecutt, but unfortunately we are losing the latter almost at once, as he has been posted to the Rhine.

Hockey.—The Clerk of the Weather keeps a "special" on our hockey team. As a result of this, directly we arrange a match he waits until half-an-hour before it is due to start and then turns on the tap. During the last month all our games have been played in the mud or in the rain. We have been successful in defeating the 9th Field Brigade R.A. and the 2nd Light Brigade R.A.

The inter-Company competition starts next week. This gives points to Companies for the Company shield. No. 2 Company fancy their chances, but Nos. 1 and 3 are both going to have a say in the matter.

Cross-Country.—The Swindon Athletic Club came over to Bulford to give our team a trial, and the result was a walk-over for the Signals. Swindon had the first man home, followed by a pack of eight Signals men, with thirty seconds between them. The visiting team then placed a tenth man, followed by the remainder of counting places for Signals.

There are some interesting fixtures coming off within the next few weeks. A team has been entered for the Wiltshire County run on February 28th, the Bulford and Larkhill Garrison run on March 2nd, and the Southern Command championships on March 9th. It is hoped that from the result of the last event the team will again be included in the Army run.

A final warning: Look out for yourselves, T.B.

Rugby.—This month has been marked by some very good games, the most notable of which was against the 9th Field Brigade R.A., who defeated us by 9—6 after one of the hardest games of the season.

Few changes have occurred in the team. Two of our leading lights (whom we thought were on draft) are still with us.

Two out of the three inter-Company shield games have taken place. No. 1 Company beat No. 3, and No. 2 beat No. 1. Both games made up by keenness and clean play what they lacked in science.

Rhine Signal Company.

Rugby.—The team are now looking forward to the cup rounds, and have started again after many have been refreshing themselves in Blighty. Tip from the Waratahs: "With luck we are hoping to reach the final." In the first round we drew a bye, and in the second we meet the R.A.S.C.

Of late our weak team has been trying its luck and so lost to strength. Results:—

v. R.A.S.C., won by 17—4.
v. R.A., lost by 3—6.
v. 8th Hussars, lost by 3—5.
v. R.W. Fusiliers, lost by 0—8.
v. Royal Berks, won by 3—0.

Football.—We now hold second position in "B" League, and we still have hopes of winning.

A great game was witnessed when we played the Royal Fusiliers in the Rhine Army cup, the score at the end of an exciting first half being one goal each. L/Corpl Roby scored our goal, and C.S.M. Ralph that for the Fusiliers close on half time.

The second half commenced with the Fusiliers attacking, and only by our stubborn defence did we keep them out. Our forwards replied with a break-away at intervals, when the Fusiliers backs had a busy time. The ball was passing from end to end, and the spectators were shouting in the right cup spirit. About four minutes from time, when everything pointed to extra play being necessary, the Fusiliers scored off our back, and won by 2—1. A great game, Signals!

Other results:—

v. R.A. (League), won by 4—1.
v. R.A.S.C. (friendly), lost by 1—7.
v. Royal Fusiliers (friendly), won by 2—0.
v. 8th Hussars (friendly), lost by 3—4.
v. Worcesters (League), draw of 1—1.
v. R.A.O.C. (League), lost by 2—4.

We are now hoping to get into the final of the inter-Company cup, our first match being away versus the "Casuals."

Hockey.—Games have been cancelled owing to grounds being in an unfit condition, and a number of league fixtures have yet to be played.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Football.—The unit entered a team for the Shivalji football tournament, which was contested on the ground of the local Y.M.C.A. We won the trophy the previous year, and were confident of keeping it in our possession.

In the first round we met Maratha Union, a native team, and won rather easily by 9—0. In the second round we beat the W.I.R.S. R.A.F. by 3—0. We drew at 1—1 with C Company Foresters in the semi-final, but won the replay by 3—2.

This left A Corps Signals (holders) and D Company Foresters to contest the final. A splendid game was witnessed, which (with extra time played) resulted in a draw of 1—1. In the replay another excellent game was witnessed by the spectators, and this also ended in a draw.

In the second replay, crowds from Karachi turned up to witness the game: and this time the Signals gained the upper hand, retiring winners of the cup by 3—1.

The donor of the cup congratulated both teams on the splendid games they had played, and gave the cup into the safe keeping of A Corps Signals for the second year in succession.

Hockey.—As we are preparing for unit training at Mugger Pir we have had to cancel several of our hockey fixtures. We have played a few matches with the following results:—

v. 5/10th Punjabis, won by 3—2.
v. R.A. Manora, won by 4—1.
v. Port Trust, lost by 1—5.

Rugby.—We entered the unit team in the Karachi local rugby tournament. In the first round we met the R.A.F. Depot, and after a hard game succeeded in winning by 8 points to 3, Sergt Harvey and L/Corpl Rawson being the scorers. In the semi-final we met the Karachi Services, and after a hard and strenuous game were passed out by 6 points to 13. Major Bradley and Sigmn Cox were our scorers.

Billiards.—During December a billiard tournament was held in the regimental institute. The sergeants' and corporals' messes were well represented. The handicappers were Sergt Powels, Corpl Pierce and Sigmn Simpson, representing each mess.

The preliminary rounds were played off, and these left Sergt Watmore and Corpl Mills in the final of 250 up. It was a very interesting game, and Sergt Watmore proved the winner. A silver cup was presented to him, and the sum of Rs.10 for the highest break of the tournament (63).

Corpl Mills was runner-up, and he was presented with the second prize of Rs.15.

Notable breaks for the tournament were: Sergt Watmore, 53 and 32; Corpl Mills, 34 and 31; Corpl Pierce, 34 and 32; Sergt Powels, 31 and 30; and Sergt Harvey, 30.

A billiard match was also held between the corporals' and men's messes. There were six games, and on the aggregate the corporals mess won by 52 points. The highest break (39) was made by L/Corpl Evans J.

During the month Sergt Watmore accepted a challenge of 500 up from Mr. Garford, of the Staff and Departmental Club, Karachi, and he was successful in winning quite comfortably by just a hundred points.

Peshawar District Signals.

Sport.—Our sporting activities have greatly increased during the last two or three months, and practically each evening we have a match of some sort.

On January 2nd, we played the 2nd Battn. K.O.Y.L.I. in the District hockey tournament, and won by 4—0. Capt J. A. I. Watts scored three of the four goals, and Corpl Hayhoe the other. One of the goals scored by Capt Watts was said to be one of the best seen in the Province.

The Indian ranks team played the 1/9th Jat Regiment at hockey in the Peshawar District tournament and won by 1—0, the winning goal being scored by Capt J. A. I. Watts.

Versus the Rifle Brigade, at football, we lost by 0—2.

At football, also, versus the 100th Medium Battery R.A., in the semi-final of the All-India Rahim tournament, we won by 2—1. The goals were scored by Sigmn Cumming.

Rugby has commenced, and in our first match (versus the 2nd Battn. K.O.Y.L.I.) we won by 9—3.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

Sports.—Now that our own football ground is in a playable condition, and the hockey ground nearing completion, more football and hockey will be seen at home. As will be noticed from the following we have not been idle in these games. As a matter of fact the question of the day now is "Any football or hockey on to-day?" or "When is the next football match in the tournament being played?"—owing to our having entered two teams for the Baluchistan inter-Company football tournament. However, more of this tournament later.

It was decided that an inter-unit tournament should be started. To go into this in detail would occupy too much time; furthermore, it would occupy too much space; so suffice it to say that eleven teams were drawn from the hat, and played on the knock-out system.

All the matches were played with real keenness, with the result that J and K teams met in the final on Christmas Day and kicked off at 10.00 hrs. The roll was called, and K team was one man short (good old Ted). He rolled up fifteen minutes later, and the whistle blew "Commence."

The referee kept a strict eye on the players, but not strict enough to observe Andy (who was playing outside right for K team and laying well out on the wing) nip off occasionally for a swig from the "chota top glass" lying in wait on the touch-line.

Well, J team won by 3—1 after a good game. The C.O. (Capt Cameron-Webb) presented miniature cups to the winners, and bronze medals to the losers.

Several other football matches have been played lately, but I must apologise for having mislaid (lost, stolen or strayed) the results.

Hockey.—An inter-unit hockey tournament was also arranged at the same time as the football tournament was agreed upon, but owing to other fixtures this has not been completed to date. The result of the final will be reported when played.

We entered two teams (A and B) for the Baluchistan District hockey tournament. In the first round A team played B Coy. 1st Battn. East Lancs. Regt., and proved easy winners. In the same round B team played C Company 1st Battn. East Lancs. Regt. and also proved the winners.

In the second round we were unfortunate, as A team played B team, and the former were winners by 3—1. However, this proved a very fast game, and set the selection committee thinking.

Thus A team qualified for the semi-final and played H.Q. Wing 1st Battn. East Lancs. Regt. Before this match we were unfortunate in losing the services of Capt Rosenberg, who had been playing for the team during the first rounds. In this game A team proved the winners by 1—0. Then the East Lancs., having lost with all three teams, lodged a protest that we played an ineligible player. The protest was upheld, and the match replayed. This time A team proved the winners by 2—0, and qualified for the final.

In the final our team played Headquarters Western Command and lost by 1—3, after a hard and fast game. The Command were certainly lucky to win, but they took advantage of all opportunities that came their way, whereas A team, whilst doing nearly all the attacking, could do anything but score. The G.O.C. presented the cup to the winners on the conclusion of the game.

Rugby.—We have just been notified of our allotment of the rugby ground, and notes regarding this sport will be given later. What about some, Jack?

Cross-Country Running.—This is also in the bud, but when Newy gets going he wants some beating, so you'll hear more of this later.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Sport.—Most of our players are due for transfer to the home establishment or to the Army Reserve this trooping season. We hope, however, to make a good show this year with some of the young blood left to us. No important matches have taken place lately, but we have had several friendly games with teams from other units in the station.

At hockey, a second eleven match against G Battery R.H.A. resulted in a win for us, whilst a draw was the outcome of a match with the Drums of the Dorsetshire Regiment. Signalmen Bain and Beck seem to be the best goal-getters.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Roorkee.

Sport.—There is not much to report under this heading, as the opposition is not up to our standard. During the month we played the following games:—

Football—Versus R.E.s, won by 7—1 (Mills 3, Davy 2, Agar and Gow).
Versus combined team, won by 5—0 (Davy 3, Hinds and Gow).
Versus N.C.O.s Mess, won by 5—2 (Gow 3, Day, Boyle).
Hockey—Versus R.E. Mess, draw of 1—1 (Semmence).

We are hoping to report more sport when we get to Sialkot, with more troops to test our ability.

The Corps in Egypt.

Best All-Round Unit Sporting Competition.—At the time of writing the Corps in Egypt are at the head of the table for the above trophy, being three points in the lead over the R.A.S.C., the holders.

We have a really good chance of securing this trophy for the first time. During the past five years we have been runners-up on four successive occasions, and last year we were third—only two points behind the actual winners. As there are between fifteen and eighteen units competing for this trophy yearly, and we possess about the smallest numbers of any, it will be realised that we have a record to be proud of. Old members of the Corps in Egypt who have now left the Command will remember the tussles we have had to secure the trophy in past seasons. This year we mean to do "just that little bit extra" and carry it off, to place it in its proper resting-place—among the other trophies of the only Corps that matters.

For the benefit of those in other units who do not realise the keen competition in this Command for this trophy, I will name the sports which count for its possession: cricket, tennis, swimming, football, cross-country running, rugby, boxing, hockey and athletics.

Only athletics remain to be decided for this year, and these are held on the same principle as the Army relay championships in England. The difficulty we have in getting up relay teams for all events, owing to our small numbers, will therefore be realised. Even so, we have never been outside the first three teams on the final placings, and we hope to do as well this time.

Even though we fail to bag that all-round trophy this year, we shall not give up; for with other seasons to come, bringing fresh blood from home, we feel certain that perseverance will bring its own reward in time.

Boxing.—Congratulations to the Corps at home on providing the individual winners of the following Army championships at the Stadium Club, London: Lieut Cole in the officers' light-heavies, Sigmn Stuart in the other ranks heavies, and L/Corpl Rodda in the light-heavies.

The Corps in Egypt entered the semi-finals of the Egyptian Command boxing team championships on February 2nd by defeating the 2nd Brigade R.H.A., winning every fight except one. Details of the contests are as follows:—

Officers: light-weight—Capt Giblin (R.Signals) beat Lieutenant Bordass (R.H.A.) on points. This was a very close contest, and it was only the winner's forcing tactics in the final round that gained him the verdict.

Officers: middle-weight—Lieut Kennett (R. Signals) knocked out Lieut Christopher (R.H.A.) in the second round. Lieut Kennett was by far the better boxer, and scored at will. He terminated the contest early in the second round with a crisp right to his opponent's jaw.

Fly-weight—Dvr Abbott (R.Signals) received a walk-over.

Bantam-weight—Dvr Burnham (R.Signals) lost on points to Dvr Eades (R.H.A.). There was little to choose between these two boxers, and though Burnham appeared to have had the better of the first two rounds, the winner's forcing tactics in the final doubtless gained him the verdict.

Feather-weight—Corporal Matthews (R.Signals) beat L/Bdr. Sterry (R.H.A.) on points. Matthews, who boxed much below his usual form, was up against a strong two-handed fighter, who carried a knock-out in each hand. It was only his superior ring-craft that saved him on several occasions, but by use of several good lefts in the final round he managed to secure the verdict by a narrow margin.

Light-weight—Corpl George (R.Signals) beat Driver Mason (R.H.A.) on points. Mason, who has a style of fighting entirely his own, kept attacking with wild rushes which had no effect on George, who easily steered clear and soon brought his opponent up straight with a few crisp blows to the point. George's fine exhibition of the straight left piled up the points sufficiently for him to win by a very large margin.

Welter-weight (first string)—L/Corpl Osborne (R.Signals) beat Gunner Hughes (R.H.A.) on points. The winner, a splendidly-developed boxer, should have won far more easily than he did, as he was much the better boxer of the two. He lost a lot of points by allowing his opponent to punch him on the jaw as hard as he could (and then laughed at him, forgetting that Hughes was scoring valuable points all the time). However, Osborne had obtained a sufficient lead in the first two rounds to enable him to secure the points.

Welter-weight (second string)—Corpl Wales (R.Signals) beat Gunner Smith (R.H.A.) on points in a very close contest. Wales, who is a good left-handed fighter, was up against a strong rugged fighter, who would give no ground, but the winner's forcing of the fight throughout gained him the verdict.

Middle-weight—Sigmn Andrews (R.Signals) knocked out Gnr. Hutton (R.H.A.) in the third round. Andrews was a much better man, both physically and in boxing skill; and after leading throughout on points, he applied the closure in the third round with a strong right to the jaw.

Light-heavy-weight—L/Corporal O'Donnell (R.Signals) beat L/Bdr Perry (R.H.A.) on points. There was little to choose between these two, and the slight lead obtained in the first two rounds enabled O'Donnell to gain the verdict.

Heavy-weight—Sergt Wheeler (R.Signals) knocked out Gunner Abbott (R.H.A.) in the first round. This fight was one that everybody was eager to witness, there being great expectations of a close contest. Wheeler, however, was much the better man, outclassing his rival at all points of the game, and applying the closure in no uncertain fashion with a crisp left and right midway through the first round.

15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section, Hong Kong.

Sport.—In the football world we have kept up the Signal traditions, as can be seen by the following:—Played 14; won 11, drawn 1, lost 2.

Having very few men to choose from, we sought help from the Shaforce Details to the extent of three men. Of these one in particular, Pte Vine (of the Rifle Brigade) played some very sterling games for us. Sergt Bellew as goalkeeper gave us of his best, and judging from his play he must have been hot stuff as a youngster. L/Corpl Ward as left back proved our greatest asset in defence, and played some fine games. In the half-back line Corpl Nelson was very tenacious and literally worried his opponents. Metcalfe in the forward line found his feet and played some dashing games, taking a large share of the goals.

Altogether we have had a fine football season, and with our O.C. (Mr. Duncan) ever willing to meet our essential needs as well as taking a great interest in the games, we have thoroughly enjoyed it.

I might mention that we have met our rivals the Hong Kong [illegible] three times, and each time successfully. Our only regret is that we are going home, thus depriving them of their chance of becoming even.

44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals, Stamford Brook, W.6

Boxing.—The Divisional boxing took place on February 11th at the Drill Hall, Pound Lane, Willesden. This unit put in three entries: Sergt Wallis, bantam; L/Corpl Howell, middle; Driver Caley, light.

Sergt Wallis put up a good fight, but was unfortunately beaten. L/Corpl Howell lost in the first round. Dvr Caley won his first two fights in brilliant style, but was forbidden by the doctor to enter the third owing to an injury to his hand.

Although we were not fortunate with our entries, the unit *was* represented—which is creditable to the members concerned.

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

Boxing.—The unit championships were held on January 25th, and a very interesting evening's sport was enjoyed. The officials wer Capt J. McConville, M.C., referee; Mr. A. E. Kenyon and Mr. Langham, judges; Capt W. E. Rayner, timekeeper; C.S.M. Hooper W., M.C., and Sergt Warren, whippers-in. At the conclusion our commanding officer, Col. E. A. Edwards, presented the cups and medals to the winners, and in a short speech thanked the contestants for the good sport that they had provided. He also thanked Mr. Banyard for his excellent work in training the lads. The results were:—

Bantams—Sigmn Detenon (No. 2) beat Sigmn Macklin (No. 3) by a knock-out in the first round. He also beat Signalman Brooks (No. 1) by a knock-out in the third round.

Feathers—Sigmn Langley (No. 3) beat Sigmn Hazelwood (No. 3). The referee stopped the fight in the second round.

Welters—Sigmn Sawford H. (No. 3) beat Sigmn Way (No. 2), the referee stopping the fight in the first round. Dvr Gosling (No. 1) beat Sigmn Johnson (No. 3) on points. In the semi-finals Sigmn Sawford H. (No. 3) beat Sigmn Pavey (No. 3), and in the final he beat Dvr Gosling (No. 1), who retired in the first round.

Lights—Sigmn Dent (No. 3) beat Boy Morris (No. 3) on points. Dvr Scott (No. 1) beat Sigmn Caldwell (No. 3) by a knock-out in the first round. In the final Dvr Scott beat Sigmn Dent on points.

Middles—Sigmn Coffey (No. 1) beat Sigmn Pitteway (No. 2), the referee stopping the fight in the third round. Pitteway put up an excellent fight but was outclassed.

Every duke suspects every dustman, and every dustman suspects every duke; and the tragedy is that if the dustman were invited to spend half-an-hour in Grosvenor Square, or the duke were to spend an evening in the dustman's particular parlour, they would both enjoy themselves immensely.—Sir William Orpen.

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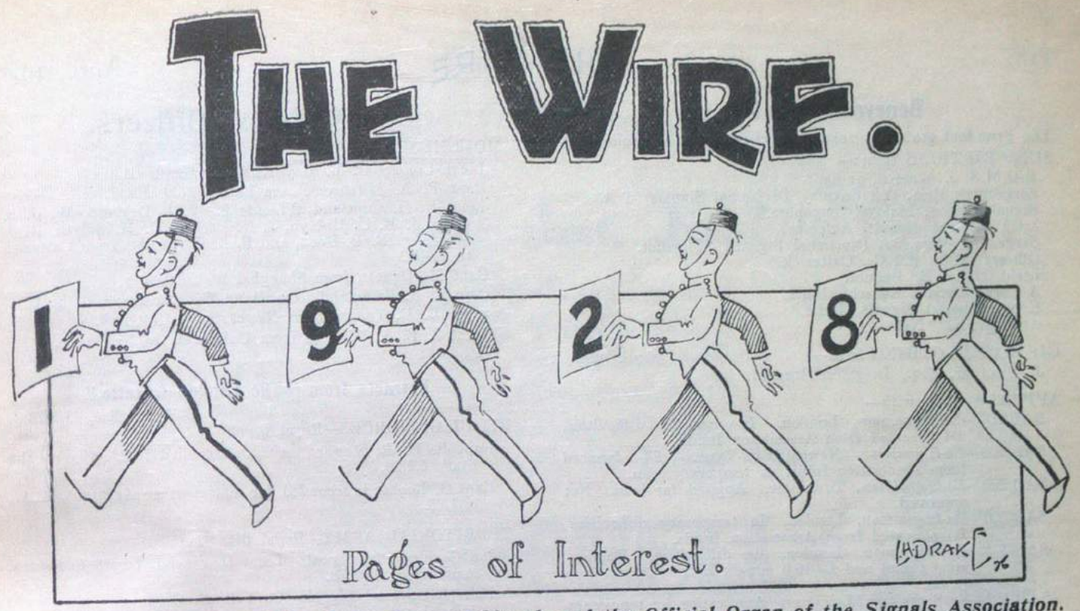

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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.

Telephone: Victoria 2081

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VOL. IX.—No. 98 APRIL, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

WANTED.—Unsoiled copies of the December, 1927, issue of THE WIRE. Will readers who have any spare copies they wish to dispose of kindly communicate with the Editor?

❀ ❀ ❀

We take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to Captain S. F. Allen, New Zealand Staff Corps, and also to Lieut G. J. Salter, Australian Staff Corps, who have recently arrived in this country with the object of undergoing a "Q" Course at the Signal Training Centre and a number of attachments to Signal units.

❀ ❀ ❀

This month we have to record two more civilian appointments for ex-Signals men as wireless operators, in situations abroad at a commencing salary of £600 per annum. This makes three such appointments within two months, and a similar vacancy was satisfactorily filled by the Signals Association in 1927.

In wishing Messrs C. F. Vicker and E. W. J. Collins every success in their new spheres of operations, may we express the hope that they will continue to keep in touch with their Old Comrades Association through the medium of this Journal? Bon voyage!

❀ ❀ ❀

"A Short History of Signals in the Army." As described in our Editorial Notes for February, the new Signals History publication is now available for issue. Applications for supplies should be made direct to this office, and all orders should be accompanied by a remittance made payable to "The Treasurer, Signals Association."

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order.

EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

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:

1	Post Office Engineering Department ...	Ex-Signalman
2	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
3	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
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5	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
6	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
7	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
8	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
9	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
10	,, ,, ,, ...	,, ,,
11	,, ,, ,, ...	Ex-N.C.O.
12	Motor Mechanic	Ex-Signalman
13	Waiter	Ex-Signalman
14	Porter	Ex-N.C.O.
15	Telephone Switchboard Operator	Ex-N.C.O.
16	Labourer	Ex-Signalman
17	Draughtsman	Ex-N.C.O.
18	Wireless Operator (abroad)	Ex-N.C.O.
19	Wireless Operator (abroad)	Ex-Signalman

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following—

SUBSCRIPTIONS from :—

R.Q.M.S. J. Wassell, India.
Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals, T.A.
Signal Section, Malaya, Singapore.
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C., Catterick.
Lieut H. A. B. Palmer.
A Corps Signals, Karachi, India.
Kohat District Signals, India.
Anonymous ("Nemo.")

GIFTS OF CLOTHING from—

J. Sworder, Esq., Leighton Buzzard.

APPEALS dealt with—

SAB/297—Ex-Signalman, London. In domestic difficulties. £4 allocated from Association funds.

SAB/298—Ex-Signalman, Newcastle-on-Tyne. £4 advanced from Association funds as temporary loan.

SAB/299—Ex-Signalman, Towcester. Applied for loan. Not approved.

SAB/300—Ex-Signalman, London. In temporary difficulties. £3 allocated from Association funds.

SAB/301—Ex-Signalman, London. In difficulties. Employment found and £2/10/0 advanced from Association funds.

SAB/302—Ex-Signalman, Leicester. Application for temporary loan, since cancelled by applicant.

SAB/303—Ex-Signalman (no home address). Employment found in Canada, and £5 advanced from Association funds.

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

Corps Dinner, 1928.

The Corps dinner will take place on Wednesday, May 30th (at 7.30 for 8 o'clock) at the Royal Adelaide Gallery Restaurant (Gatti's) King William Street, Strand.

The Colonel-Commandant of the Corps will preside, and Field-Marshal Sir George F. Milne, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., LL.D. (Chief of the Imperial General Staff) has been invited as the guest of the evening.

Tickets are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 237, War Office, S.W.1.

Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Lieut.-Colonel C. L. Day from London to India.
Capt P. A. Hitchcock from Belfast to India.
Lieut R. H. Copeland, 2/Lieuts L. W. J. Dryland, W. J. S. Gray, J. M. C. Hoblyn, J. N. Barker, D. M. Smyth, R. J. Moberley, E. D. Good, and R. L. Carpenter, from Catterick to India.
Capt M. Duncan from Shanghai to Colchester.
Capt C. A. Bridgland from Hong Kong to leave in the U.K.
Lieut L. V. Younie from Newcastle to Catterick.
Lieut J. E. S. Walford from Colchester to Newcastle.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 17/2/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Capt R. H. R. Steward, M.C., is seconded for service on the Staff, 6/1/28.

Capt G. Rooker is seconded for service as an Adjutant, T.A., 18/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

2nd Cavalry Divl Signals—Lieut D. Sinclair ceases to hold a commission, 18/2/28.

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—Capt R. E. Coleman, O.B.E., T.D., to be Lieut.-Colonel, 25/11/27.
2/Lieut W. Gilbert to be Lieut., 9/11/27.

War Office, 21/2/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

2nd Cavalry Divl Signals—Lieut G. S. Sale, M.C., to be Capt. 1/7/27.

43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals—2/Lieut F. G. Lee resigns his commission, 22/2/28.

War Office, 28/2/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., is seconded for service on the Staff in India, 20/1/28.

The undermentioned Lieuts to be Captains, 28/2/28 :—
R. C. Instrall with regimental seniority, 13/2/21.
W. G. L. Kennard with regimental seniority, 15/2/21.
(such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay).

Capt R. M. Lunt, from Indian Army, to be Capt. 29/2/28, retaining his present seniority.

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—

2311664 Seymour, A. 15/10/27

To be Sergeant—

2306766 Minion, R. 13/8/27
2308766 Garroni, J. 17/10/27
2309714 Harvey, C. 24/10/27
2306660 Eynott, C. 28/11/27
4027251 Wheeler, C. 11/12/27
1855586 Connelly, J. 12/12/27
2310574 Bremner, R. 2/1/28

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

2306835 Spencer, A. 17/10/27
2306755 McKee, J. 17/10/27
3517099 Bramwell, L. 18/11/27
2309447 West, W. 10/12/27
2312704 Brown, H. 11/12/27
2309109 Pickering, E. 15/12/27
2313643 Bowler, W. 2/1/28

To be Corporal—

5875302 Cheverton, B. 18/10/27
2311099 Hammond, P. 26/10/27
2312404 Harriss, A. 18/11/27
2315534 Sorrell, A. 22/11/27
2314086 Davies, J. 22/11/27
2315391 Carnell, O. 10/12/27
2313708 Bloye, L. 10/12/27
2558951 Wills, G. 11/12/27
2314566 Charlesworth, J. 12/12/27
2310467 Matthew, F. 28/12/27
2309397 Smith, H. 1/1/28
2315149 Tudor, E. 2/1/28
2314033 Pierce, R. 3/1/28

Discharges.

3701418 C.S.M. Hamilton J. 16/2/28
1850338 C.Q.M.S. Chitty J. 19/1/28
1851618 C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Cubbon, J. 19/2/28
2306213 Sergt Spalding R. 19/1/28
2306177 Sergt Laycock W. 23/1/28
5662089 Sergt Caines F. 4/2/28
1850357 Sergt Haines J. 22/2/28
2308789 F/Sergt Webb F. 21/1/28
2306178 Corpl Corbett J. 21/1/28
4181344 F/Cpl Burchinshaw A. 21/1/28

Transfers to Army Reserve.

2313553 L/Sergt Broughton H. 4/2/28
2314317 Corpl Smith J. 15/11/27
2314950 Corpl Hall W. 19/12/27
19271 Corpl Jones H. 4/1/28
2314451 Corpl Percy G. 18/1/28
6337502 Corpl Hill S. 18/1/28
2312605 Corpl Finlayson A. 21/1/28
3515942 Corpl McDowell A. 22/1/28
3437324 Corpl Tavner R. 31/1/28
2313656 Corpl Collins E. 15/2/28
2313703 Corpl Morgan V. 15/2/28
2314033 Corpl Pierce R. 16/2/28
2314583 Corpl Baker E. 27/2/28

War Office, 2/3/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Lieut K. H. Treseder is seconded for service under the Colonial Office, 25/1/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—The date of appointment of 2/Lieut J. H. W. Cobbing to be 2/2/28 and not as stated in the Gazette of 14/2/28.

43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals—2/Lieut A. B. Taylor resigns his commission, 3/3/28.

51st (H.) Divl Signals—Hon. Colonel J. H. Leigh vacates the appointment of Hon. Colonel on completion of tenure, 28/2/28
Major R. J. Nicol, O.B.E., Res. of Officers, to be Hon. Colonel, 28/2/28.

War Office, 6/3/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut W. M. Ponsonby to be Lieut. 20/10/27.
2/Lieut E. B. Wallace resigns his commission, 7/3/28.

REGULAR ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

Edgar Bryan Wallace, late 2/Lieut, to be 2/Lieut. 7/3/28, with seniority 28/10/25.

50th (N.) Divl Signals —R. M. Percival, late L/Corporal, Repton School Contgt., J.D., O.T.C., to be 2/Lieut. 9/2/28.

War Office, 9/3/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Major J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., to be Lieut.-Col. 23/2/28.

War Office, 13/3/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Capt A. Beatson-Bell is seconded for service as Chief Signal Officer, Air Def. Formations, T.A., 22/2/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

48th (S.M.) Divl Signals—A. G. Simpson (late Cadet Sergeant Bromsgrove Sch. Contgt. J.D., O.T.C.), to be 2/Lt. 14/3/28.

Correspondence.

No. 2 Y.M.C.A., Horne Road,
Catterick Camp, Yorks.

The Secretary, Signals Association.

Dear Sir—"Rather a queer address for an ex-quarterbloke," but nevertheless true. The above remark was overheard by myself in the local bus en route to Richmond.

However! Having completed my pontoon and now comfortably settled down as manager in the above Y.M.C.A., may I (through the medium of THE WIRE) ask any old friends who may be passing through Catterick to call in and say "How-do!"

Some people, I understand, are glad to give the moors a wide berth, but me! Well!—as one's bread is buttered, etc., and so forth! With a view to keeping in touch with old associations, will you please regularly supply me with a copy of THE WIRE?

I have been wondering, too, whether Ginger Norton would come along and give a lecture one Sunday evening? Would you kindly ask him?

That everybody should "keep smiling" is the wish of

Yours sincerely,
C. G. MACK.
(late C.Q.M.S., T.B., S.T.C.)

We each have all the time there is; our mental and moral status is determined by what we do with it.

* * * *

The burning of a little straw may hide the stars of the sky; but the stars are there and will reappear.

* * * *

Forgiveness lies at the bottom of Christianity, and kindliness is the great secret of life.—Justice McCardie.

* * * *

He who loses wealth loses much; who loses a friend loses more; who loses his spirit loses all.

[*STOP PRESS*]

A Corps Signals, Ewshott.

A Corps Officers and Sergeants v. R.A.M.C. Officers.

Our annual football match specially advertized and reported on. Won by Signals by 4—0.....And this it how it started.

This appeared on the Notice Boards:—

BALL
WHAT BALL?
FOOTBALL
FOOTBALL WHAT?
FOOTBALL SENSATION
WHAT FOOTBALL SENSATION?
GREAT FOOTBALL SENSATION

The Officers of the Depôt R.A.M.C. versus The Officers and Sergeants "A" Corps.

2.30 p.m. NORTH HORNS GROUND. 25/1/28.

Several well-known men in the football world have offered their services, and the Selection Committee have chosen the following:—

Major Walsh
Capt Dallison C.Q.M.S. Brown
R.Q.M.S. Edwards Sergt McDonald Lieut Wasey
Capt Fuge Lt. Boileau C.S.M. Stockwell Lt. Milner
Capt Sugrue

Trainer: Lt H. A. C. Stallan (who will be on the ground) can be recognized by the black bag he carries.

All Reporters, Press Photographers, Hawkers, Gipsies, Bill-Posters, and Bookies must wear Ginger Bowlers and White Spats.

If you like it, tell your friends. If you don't, tell us [We won't sneak.]

—— GOD SAVE THE TEAM!——

Once upon a time it was a fine day and so They said let's have a football match, and so the Others said alright if you're not too rough, and they said no we won't be rough.

And the inside right said well we had better get on our hats and coats and go down to the ground, and the inside left said yes I'll come with you only I must warn the right half in case he forgets his boots.

And then some of the Others came in and said don't you think it's going to be wet? and They said no we don't think so but we will take our umbrellas, and so they took their umbrellas and went down to the ground, and on the way they said come along Baron you will have to wear short trousers to-day otherwise you won't be able to kick the ball, and he said what ball? and they said read the notice.

And they all went on the ground and saw a lot of people walking around in bowler hats and they said who are those people? and some one said oh those are the other team. And then all the people on the fence got down and said no they couldn't play football in hats, and the others said why not? and don't you think the sun is too strong to be bareheaded? and they said no we don't think so and hadn't you better start playing.

And the referee blew his whistle and they all said oh what did you do that for? and he said I'm very sorry I couldn't help it but I saw one of the Others putting up his umbrella and I don't think you can play football with an umbrella up; so they said no you can't play like that and he said alright I won't and went and stood in the goal.

And the referee blew his whistle again and they all said stop you mustn't do that we haven't got a ball, and the Youngest Recruit said that's alright I have got one ready here.

And so they went and kicked the ball and it fell in the Others' goal and they said where's our goalkeeper? and they said there he is picking up the ball, and he said yes here I am and he stood up again.

And the ball came back to him again three more times and he said to the others I am getting very tired, and they said so are we but we can't help it because They keep on kicking the ball.

And the outside left said alright we won't kick it any more and he kicked the ground and the ground wasn't as soft as the ball and he hurt himself, and so they all said we won't play any more, and so they put on their hats and coats and went away.

And the outside right said that was a very nice game and the left back said yes wasn't it and what do you think we shall have for tea? and he said I don't know.

And then They said to the Others thank you very much and we hope we will play again and the Others said certainly when it is fine, and then they all went home. TOTO.

Apologies to A.M. (Punch).

The Letters of Dolores.

My dear Toto,—Isn't it just too wonderful, I don't know that I ought to tell you 'cos it's a dead secret but if you won't breathe a *word*. . . . We're really going! It's terribly thrilling and we're all just dying of curiosity, you see we've *heard* such a lot and now we're going to see it all for ourselves. Do you know they say there are baths there with real hot water!

And then I was talking to Pomalin the other day, and he said that Guards only come round once in six months and then there were real spring beds to sleep in. Another thing he said was that you never wash plates by hand, you put them on a lift, pull a handle and turn a knob and then go to sleep until a whistle blows.

But m'dear, best news of all—we shall still have our dear old 40 hut *and* there's room for lots of dandylions on its banks. There's such a beautiful square too, plenty of room and *so* flat.

Oh and the stables are so nice! Battler nearly had a fit when he heard that the horses have got water laid on to their stalls. I haven't got time to tell you all about everything, but d'you know they've the cutest little room they call the "Olesweats" in the Naffy—I don't know what it means but Mabel said Yap Yap had qualified 'cos he'd grown a moustache. I told Pomalin he ought to and he *was* rude, I wonder why?

Yes and that reminds me. Yap Yap's gone and so has Punch and Oxford and Cambridge has come in his place. D'you know why we call him that? Well it's 'cos we never know which foot's going to win.

We're getting too energetic for words here now, d'you know Bandy *nearly played football*. He actually had his name down and then he disappointed us—wasn't it a shame?—p'raps he thought he'd lose that dinky curvey look.

Nearly all the wadpunchers played and *did* look nice, and so did the linesman. Oh yes an' I've just thought of a new parody for the proverb, "Faith removes mountains"—it's "Hope raises bumps."

Went to the Races the other day, the dear Bishop was there, such a surprise! Oh and that *dear* man they call "Googly" and lots of others. I'm sure I don't know why they call him Googly 'cos after all he is Mayor of Sheppey and so quiet and retiring. They played me such a bad trick too 'cos they said "Back the 'Honest Thoroughbred,'" and I couldn't find him on the card, and then Muriel told me it was all a joke and introduced me to him—such a nice man. I asked him how much he'd won and he turned to his friend, Hatpins I think his name was, and started talking in a foreign language. I b'lieve they didn't win!

We ended up with a dance and a party, and an awful clever man called "Bacon Gobbler" did tricks; believe me he lived up to his name!

Must fly now.
I'll let you know all the news. DOLORES.

A Corps Signals—Sports.

Rugger.—The match v. Gordons, in the second round of the Command cup, was played at Bordon on the Officers' Club ground. One of our team was on furlough, but otherwise we had our usual. Halliday came out of the scrum and played full back. Jones, Todd and Cale came back from furlough specially for the game!

The game on the whole was quite hard and fairly even except in the scrums, where the heavy Gordon pack made itself felt. At half-time the score was 3—0 in favour of the Gordons.

In the second half, playing downhill, we pressed heavily in the loose but just couldn't get over, and we got a counterblast each time from their forwards. All the team played well, notably Wood, Ward and Crowley (who made a fine run).

The three's on the whole had to stick to defence, the big hooker in the Gordons pack getting most of the fun.

Full time gave the Gordons the game by 15—3.

Section Sports.—We are preparing now for Section sports, to find our runners for the coming season. From form shown on the football field we should have no cause to fear for lack of sprinters or long distance men.

Where Sections enter more than one team the average points will be taken, so everyone will have to go hard. This equalises Sections a lot, as some are forty strong and some only fifteen or so. The commanding officer is giving bronze and silver medals for these sports.

Tabloid Sports.—Our annual show versus the R.A.M.C. will have taken place by the time this appears, and we hope to be able to tell you we have won this time. We were second last time, the H.L.I. being third.

"Jimmies."—A Corps "Jimmies" have been awarded to date to members of teams as follows:—

RUGBY.—Capt Fuge, Lieuts Boileau, Hoysted and Milner, Corpl Jessop, Signalmen Jones, Cale, Crowley, Prentice, Wood, Halliday, and Dvr Ward.
SOCCER.—Sergt Chumbley, Corpl Gresham, L/Corpl Parsons, Signalmen Edwards, Caple, Marsh, Short, Clements and Barker.
HOCKEY.—Lieuts Wasey and Hoysted, Sergts Bevan and Dormer, Corpl Schofield, L/Corpls Gallagher and Smith, Signalmen Gregory and Fletcher.
BOXING.—L/Corpl Wilce, Signalmen Morris, Nicklin, Case, Hope and McClarron.

There are several more "Jimmies" to be won in each team, and competition is strong for the last places. Remember, the *best* players get the "Jimmies"!

SPORTACOR.

The "Dots and Dashes."

On March 7th and 8th the "Dots and Dashes" produced, with great success, their second programme of the season. It was a more ambitious one than their first effort of last December, but it went with a snap from the start.

After a rousing chorus to open with, some excellent solos were given by Mrs. Taplin, Sigmn Whitehead and Sergt Payne. The first two are new-comers to the party, and are without doubt a great asset.

Then we had a playlet, "The Proposal"—a clever burlesque on the modern method of engaging a cook. Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Taplin, Sergt Payne, and Lieut. Scott made up the cast and took the show along with a swing.

An outstanding recruit to the party then came on the scene in the person of Sigmn Neale—a comedian of more than ordinary ability, who is a great help behind the scenes as well as in front, as I am told that the party is never allowed to get glum!

To finish off the first half of the programme there was a most effective camp-fire scene, with the whole party sitting round the fire singing the old-time "Darky" songs, and pausing now and again to listen to the light-hearted banter of Lieut Scott and Sigmn Neale.

The second part of the programme consisted chiefly of "The great three-act mystery drama, The Bat and the Banana." Written and produced by Lieut Scott, this burlesque provided us with a veritable feast of fun. There were lots of murders, druggings, black-outs, screams and blood-stained bayonets, but above all a layer of irresistible comedy, with Sigmn Neale again very much to the fore. Mr. Mack scored a personal triumph in the part of Mr. Justice Blenkinsop, and Sergt Seabrook and Sigmn Whitehead as Limbs of the Law had to be seen to be believed. It is invidious to single out individual members of a party in which everyone entered with such spirit into the fun of the thing; but before we finish, we would drop a word of praise for Corpl Taplin, who carried through the arduous and often thankless task of accompanist with great success.

There was only one disappointment—the small number of officers present. Still, never mind; perhaps they will come along in crowds to the next show. At any rate, we thank the "Dots and Dashes" most heartily for a thoroughly cheering evening.

A. R.

To make Bread and Butter into a meal

Yes, more than a meal—a treat! For just look at the variety to choose from: Anchovy, Bloater, Chicken and Ham, Turkey and Tongue, Salmon & Shrimp, Salmon and Anchovy, Sardine and Tomato.

And every one distinctive, tasty, full-flavoured. Every one absolutely pure and wholesome. Try one for tea to-night—but be sure you ask for ARMOUR'S.

Armour's Potted Fish & Meat Pastes

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Plain Tales.

Facts and Figures.—The most important piece of land in Bulford to-day is the Pimple. That being so, you must realise that we cannot omit Pimple news every month. Now that the initial excitement has worn off, one does not see officers and n.c.o.s covering themselves with chalk and glory. I'm sorry about this, because Mr. X. always looked so well with a wheelbarrow.

The average weight of soil moved daily on the Pimple is between thirty-six and forty tons, but there is a loss of from three to five tons daily owing to the fact that nursemaids *will* use the Pimple-Incinerator road. They should use the road running past my office. The daily loss of a few figures doesn't matter in the Army. Everyone loses his figure, anyway, by the time he reaches C.Q.M.S.

When the whole thing is completed, a running track will be available giving a 600-yard lap. It has been estimated by one of the chief gangers (Annypotz, I think) that a man completing three laps will have covered no less than several thousand tons of earth.

Sigmn Rhodes, having worn out three shovels and a pick, was taking a short rest. He stood gazing at the blue sky, thinking of home, cakes, muffins and crumpets. Especially crumpets. An officer approached quietly and startled him by asking "How many men are working on here?" Dusty shook himself back to earth. "About half of 'em, sir!"

The remarkably fine weather of the first ten days of March filled the R.S.M.'s heart (if any) with good cheer. He's never satisfied, though. He wants rain now, so that the turf-rolling can proceed. At present it is snowing!

Corpl McBride (chief turf biter) is resigning that appointment and is going to Jamaica. It *would* be something with jam in it, anyway.

* * * *

Gardening Made Easy.—Before I proceed with this engrossing subject, let me assure you that it is only at the request of thousands of readers that I share my extensive knowledge of horti- and agri-culture. In fact, even at this stage I have a good mind to withdraw. Oh, no! do go on! All right, I will. Serve you right, anyway. We had better start at the beginning for the benefit of new readers and those who had bad luck last year (through ignorance).

The first thing to do with a garden, assuming that you have tried to get rid of it, is to dig it up. For this purpose you require a spade and/or a fork, and someone to do it. Of course, in the event of your not being able to get a man from the stables, you must wield these weapons yourself.

Mulligatawny seeds and N.Y.D. may be planted round the outside edge of your plot when the necessary spade work has been done. These do not rise to the surface. You dig them up later in the year, count them, grade them, roll them up in bundles of five and burn on a carefully-made rubbish heap. Speaking of rubbish reminds me to mention that gardens should, at all times, look a picture of orderliness. Nothing looks worse than a garden covered with old tins, stalks, rags and papers, except another garden covered with more old tins, stalks, rags and papers.

The ground should now be cleared for watercress, but to show an independent spirit plant dried figs.

A number of people will no doubt plod along in their gardens without referring to these notes. I can only wish them the success which I know will not be theirs. Exhibitors from all over the country won prizes at flower shows last year. I do not think I am claiming too much when I say that the majority of them were enthusiastic pupils of——(to be continued).

* * * *

Carrison Institute.—This excellent building was the scene of much gaiety on Thursday, February 23rd, it being the opening night for all ranks. No less than forty-seven tables were occupied for whist, whilst over a hundred people arrived for dancing alone.

The prizes were numerous and of the highest quality, having been given by the officers of the Garrison. The C.R.A. (Colonel Finlayson), Mrs. Finlayson, Lieut.-Colonel Carrington, R.A., and Mrs. Carrington were present, together with a large number of officers. Mrs. Finlayson presented the prizes, and by a coincidence the special prize for highest score was won by Colonel Finlayson himself.

A representative from each unit in the Garrison was present on duty under R.S.M. Maynard, R.A. Dancing continued until 1.30 a.m. and would have gone on until 4 o'clock had the dancers been consulted.

The Ellis-Barl Harmony Four supplied the music. I must reluctantly admit that this band is easily the finest combination of four in the district (who threw that?)

A permanent stage is an absolute necessity, and I hope to see one there very shortly. I find that getting a soprano saxophone knocked down my throat interferes with my respiration, besides interrupting the rhythm. Out of reach on a stage, this cannot happen.

The hall is equipped with a magnificent Broadwood grand piano. The floor is being developed along the right lines and is already quite slippery.

* * * *

Musicians' Corner.—This month's instalment of the course will have to be brief. I have too many irons in the fire.

Now, theory is all very well, but I want you to have real practice. I am therefore giving you two examples of "breaks" in the modern style, which should prove of real interest to the earnest musician—I mean, dance band member.

"HOT" BREAK FOR C# BARITONE VIOLIN.

As regards Ex. I. I have no doubt that many of my students will find this a trifle difficult. Nevertheless, it can be done on a good instrument and commands instant success. Read this letter from (I think) a satisfied client. "Dear sir (he means me) —Having studied under you for nearly three years, I am pleased to say I can now play the scale of C on a C melody saxophone. My parents soon died, but I have persevered and expect to secure employment as a barman in the near future. Do you know anyone who would care to buy a saxophone, complete in case, for £2 10s.?" This letter is typical of hundreds I have received from (I think) successful students.

"HOT" BREAK FOR LEARNER.

Ex. II. is a touching little thing composed by myself in the middle of the night. Note the subtle touch somewhere or other. Observe that the melody is suggested rather than emphasised, whilst the rhythm is unselfishly left to the drums or anyone who cares to take it. This is the spirit without which no successful dance band can hope to fall to pieces.

This month's hint to amateurs: Trumpet players should avoid eating biscuits whilst playing. To do so not only spoils the flavour of the biscuit, but may possibly interfere with the tone of the instrument, especially on the high notes (if any).

* * * *

The Dental Inspection.—You must know, first, that the n.c.o.s of the 43rd Divl Signals (T.A.) were attached to the 3rd Divl Signals at Bulford for a week in March. We shall have to be very brief with this because time fuges it, or so they say.

One day the 3rd Signals had their annual dental inspection on the square, and several Terriers were heard by their own Regular n.c.o.s to say that they expected they would also have one. Immediately there was born an idea.

Several of the die-hards inveigled Mr. Sowden (the regimental hairdresser) into the scheme, even so far as making him put on a clean collar, just like a real dentist (sorry, Nappi). Away to the hut they filed, all looking very solemn as befitted the occasion. The Terriers were paraded inside the hut and smelt never so much as a little mouse.

The dentist commenced his inspection. False teeth were removed and replaced with almost professional incompetence, and the Nappi never moved a muscle of his face. Ten minutes of this and Sergt W . . c . x could stand it no longer. He let out a roar of laughter and was immediately placed under arrest. The "dentist" still preserved his gravity. "Quite right," he said; "never heard of such a thing."

Needless to say, the inspection was got through as quickly as possible, for the plotters were only human after all. They removed themselves to the mess and indulged in a well-earned orgy of laughter. I never heard the end of it. The victims probably know all about it by now. I'm sure they will admit that Mr. Sowden is to be congratulated on his control of the facial muscles.

* * * *

Cross Runners.—Our newly-discovered poet collected trouble in large chunks as soon as last month's WIRE appeared. His well-meant effort resulted in an invitation to accompany the cross-country runners on a Sunday morning walk of about fourteen miles. He stuck it out, although I suspect it all but broke him. I certainly do not agree with the runner who said he should have done it in marching order.

One wonders what would happen to such people as Tom Webster if all his subjects took exception to a little gentle satire!

Possibly N.A.B. has produced something in verse to commemorate his stroll. They tell me it takes more than that to subdue him.

P.S.—I don't believe any of 'em can play golf; but, kid, they *can* run!

* * * *

Wadpuncher's Wit.—Driver F . .te . .w removed a small piece of wood from his cocoa, turned to the young lady at the counter, and said, "I see Rowntree's have branches everywhere." The other side of his face was not injured at all!

* * * *

April Story.—"No thanks," said the Quartermaster; "I don't want any of those new n.c.o.s."

* * * *

Late News.—It is reported that the accumulator football sweep of the 3rd Divl Signals sergeants' mess has been won. Hooray!

BARLEUX.

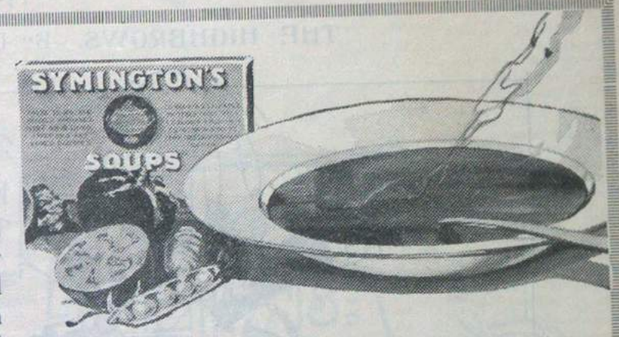
Seven Days' Leave in Egypt.

Oh! ain't it grand to be free from the sand,
Away from "Lights Out" and "Reveille,"
For seven long days to loiter and laze,
With enchantment to dally.
It's playing the deuce with my bit of Feluce;
I go out a bit in a gharry;
I marvel at tombs and life in some real rooms,
And forget I am only an Escarree.
Last night, for a short while, I saw the the White Nile
And marvels of pillar and stone;
I sat there amazed, and silently raised
Some prayers to the Heavenly Throne.
From the land of the camel, perfumes and enamel,
I'm hoping to depart in a while;
Despite fog and rain, I am longing again
To dwell in my dear native isle!

A. WAITE, Signalman.

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
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.
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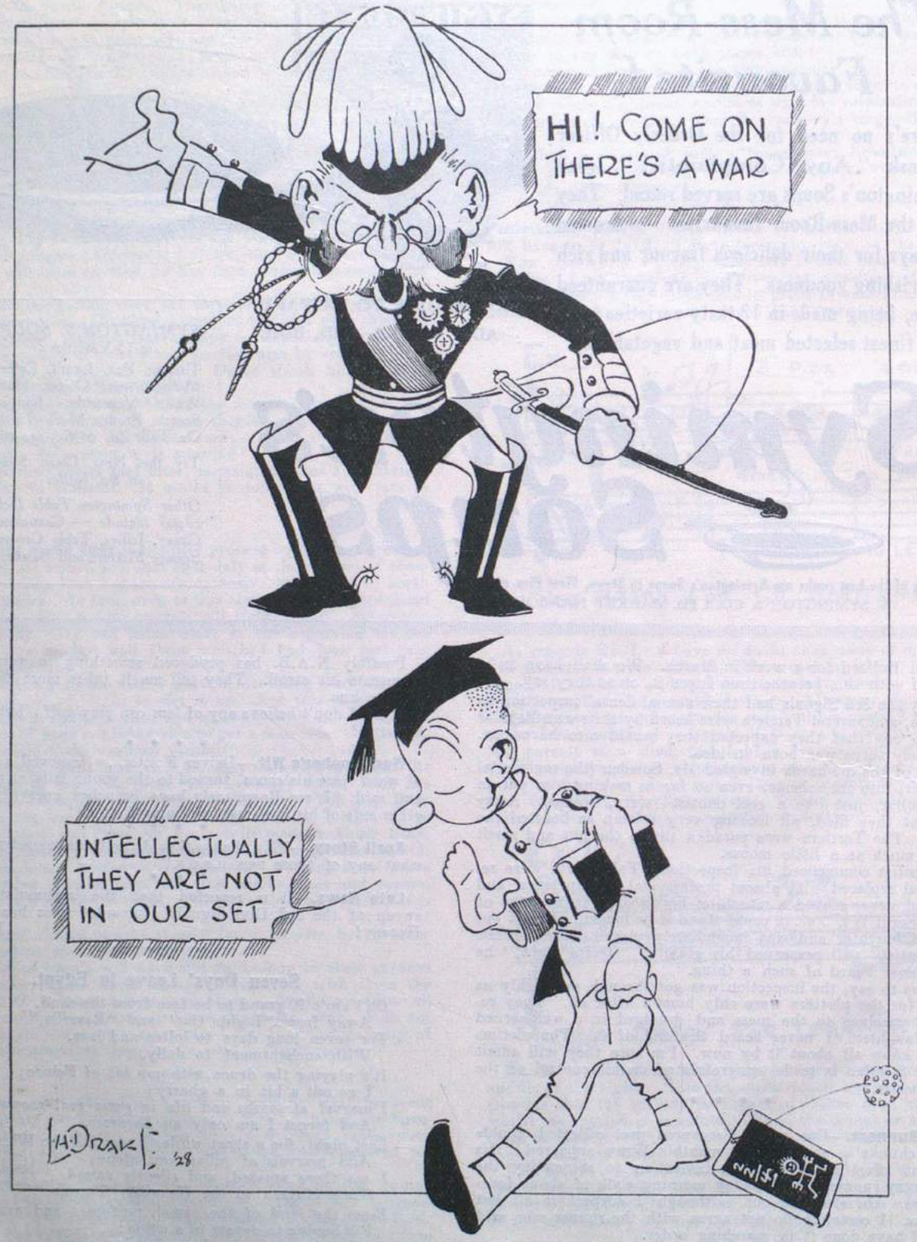
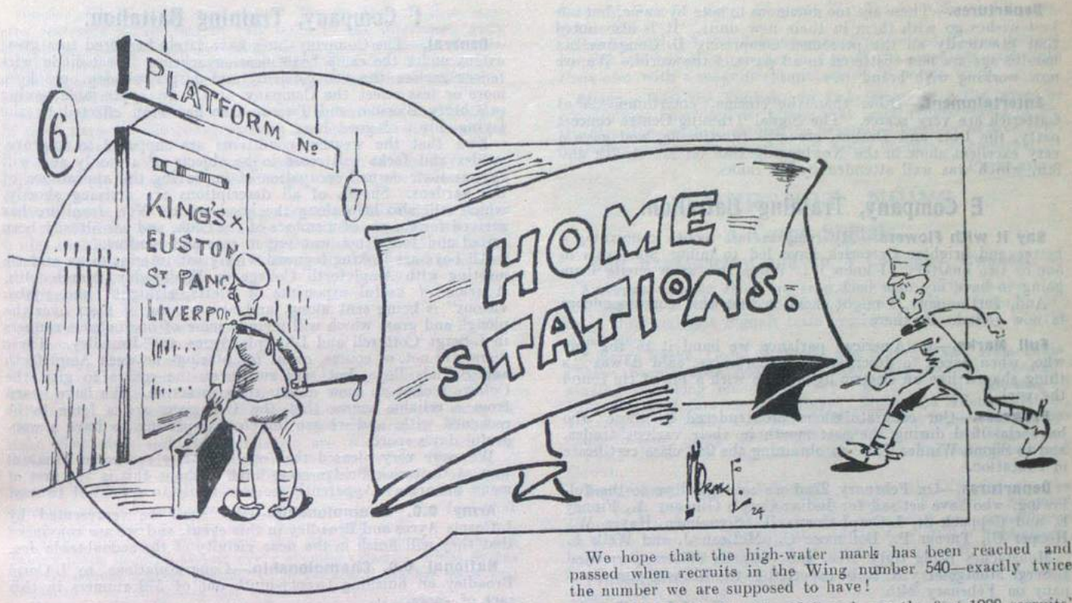
THE HIGHBROWS. By L. H. Drake.



A recent Army Order states that a very high standard of intelligence is required in the present-day recruit.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—Catterick, the Signals winter resort, has again donned its winter garb and shows every prospect of retaining it for an indefinite period. Our pessimist even goes on to say that sleighing will be the most popular summer sport at Catterick this year.

Olympia.—As in previous years we are sending a team to compete at Olympia, and great hopes are entertained of at least getting placed in this year's tournament. The horses and jockeys show great promise.

Departures.—Several R.E. fixtures have been struck off the inventory of this Wing during the past month and are now on their way to warmer climes.

To India: 2/Lieuts E. D. Good and R. J. Moberley, Sergeant Goodman, L/Sergt Francis, F/Corpl Jagger, Corporals Dodds, Miles, and Read, L/Corpl Duncan, Signalmen Webb, Broyd and Stanley. It's a funny thing that when anyone belonging to the office staff is posted away, something like a pair of scissors automatically gets posted as well.

To Egypt: 2/Lieut G. B. Bell.

To Army Reserve.—Corpl Hollis F. and Dvr Parkes A. H. have been transferred to the Army Reserve, and our best wishes for the future are extended to them.

Arrivals.—L/Sergt Clarke E. W. and four other ranks from the Dismounted Wing; seven other ranks and two trumpeters from D Company. The first-named is to fill the chair occupied by Sergt Francis for something like seven years, as the latter has left us for warmer climes.

Births.—To Corpl and Mrs. Miles a son (Derek Player) at York on 27/1/28. To Dvr and Mrs. Harley a daughter (Teresa Ellen Mary) at Richmond on 29/2/28.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Once again I down my rifle and replace it with a pen to acquaint long-suffering readers of The Wire with the activities and doings of the Dismounted Wing; but before proceeding I must apologise for the absence of notes during the past four months. I can only say that work, and plenty of it, has left me no time in which to write.

We hope that the high-water mark has been reached and passed when recruits in the Wing number 540—exactly twice the number we are supposed to have!

Recruits' Football.—No. 15 Squad won the first 1928 recruits' knock-out football competition, and I hope to be able to publish the result of the second competition next month.

Shooting Cup.—The recruits' shooting cup was won by No. 22 Squad with an aggregate average of 34.5 points.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Sergt Griffiths and Corpls Chadney and Stickley on attaining their full ranks. I understand a few more members of the Depot corporals' mess are now sweating.

Arrivals.—I take this opportunity of welcoming Sergts Morley and Napper, Corpl Effland and L/Corpl Romain, who have joined us from "Divs." I hope they will enjoy their stay in the wilds of Catterick. Sergt Hore has joined us from the Mounted Wing to take up the laborious duties of group sergeant.

Departures.—L/Sergts Boon and Murray, Corpls Tanner, Cook and Luck, and L/Corpl Ellison have left us for the Strand (that is, India's coral plains, of course). No! that record is not broken yet, Aubrey. We all wish them the very best, and hope to renew their acquaintance before long.

Marriage.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Cox on taking the plunge.

Agony Column.—L/Corpl Lambert J. of this unit would like to hear from Sigmn Glynn of Ewshott.

Dis.

D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—We have a very important item to announce this month. Our O.C., Capt P. H. Owens, R.Signals, is leaving us to take over the young officers' squads, and is being succeeded by Capt E. P. C. Collin, R.Signals, ex-India.

Our best wishes go with Capt Owens in his new sphere of activity, and we extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C. We trust that during his stay in the Company he will have as pleasant a time as his predecessors.

Re-Engagements.—Sergt Murray G. and Corpl Grainger G. to complete 21 years with the Colours. Wouldn't be chucked out, eh?

Arrivals.—To the latest arrivals from the Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, we extend a hearty welcome. We trust they will continue to uphold the traditions of the Company.

Departures.—These are too numerous to note by name, but our best wishes go with them in their new units. It is also noted that practically all the personnel comprising D Company six months ago are now scattered to all parts of the world. We are now working with brand new 'uns!

Entertainment.—Other than the cinema, entertainments at Catterick are very scarce. The Signal Training Centre concert party, the Dots and Dashes, are still functioning, and gave a very excellent show in the Newbigging Hall on March 7th and 8th, which was well attended by all ranks.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Say it with Flowers.—My remarks last month concerning a better and brighter Catterick have led to minor upheavals in one or two quarters. I knew it! When this snow melts I am going to have my own back.

And, furthermore, I might mention that this correspondence is now closed. So there!

Full Marks.—In American parlance we hand it to the guy who, when asked to describe a wireless valve, said it was "a thing shaped like an electric light globe with a bit of tin round the wick."

Progress.—Our congratulations are tendered to those who have classified during the past month in their various trades, and to Sigmn Winder T. J. on obtaining the 2nd class certificate of education.

Departures.—On February 22nd we said goodbye to the following, who have set sail for India: Corpls Gilmour A., Finney E. and Coppack J., L/Corpl Curtis B., Signalmen Hayes W., Hooper C., Turner P., Dollimore C., McLean J. and Wells F.

Moustaches being duty free, the Customs officers permitted L/Sergt Montgomery K. to be exported to the Rhine Signal Company on February 24th.

E Company's best wishes also accompany Corpl Jones T., who left us for India on February 28th.

Arrivals.—We welcome all who have joined us during the month.

The Housing Problem.—Caught in those strange and inexplicable undercurrents which periodically deprive us temporarily of our military equilibrium, I have been swept through the usual channels and deposited, bruised and bleeding, among a strange people.

In semi-consciousness I heard a low chanting, and recovering from my swoon, I opened my eyes and beheld the married families, with joined hands, slowly circling round me.

They were singing "How do we stand on the waiting list?" to the tune of "Here we go round the mulberry bush"; and at the end of each verse they closed in on me with shrill cries and beat me violently with a miscellaneous collection of barrack furniture, whilst their children threw things at me, crested and uncrested.

Evading them, I fled shrieking to a high place, and here I have lighted a mighty beacon of Army Forms K. 1325. And I am going to keep it burning, night and day, until the officer i/c barracks comes along and rescues me.

You see, I am single!

Resolution.—Apropos the foregoing paragraph, I resolve henceforth to eschew the poking of fun at Company Quartermaster-Sergeants. It serves them right, anyway!

Marriage.—Our hearty congratulations and good wishes to L/Sergt Fishwick R. H., on his marriage, at Richmond, Yorks, on February 2nd.

Still Going Strong.—R.Q.M.S. Clark is permitted to continue in the Service beyond a period of 21 years.

Acknowledgment.—I desire to thank my many benefactors in this Centre through the medium of our Corps Journal—particularly that department where, at a certain period of each month, I gain a furtive admission and depart avec their portable Corona. I am deeply indebted to them, and I am going to buy them a new ribbon one day.

Awfully Funny.—Why does a laundryman resemble a gardener? Because they are both sons of the soil.

Afterthought.—Sorry!

L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—The Company lines have lately benefited to a great extent under the camp beautification scheme. Neat little wire fences enclose the hut gardens, and larger wooden ones keep more or less select the Company area. An appreciable saving in Cherry Blossom and Two in One has been effected by the laying down of good hard paths.

Now that the weather conditions are supposed to improve, spades and forks will cease to be objects of art only and will resume their normal occupation of improving the appearance of the gardens. Shrubs of all descriptions are arriving shortly, which will also help along the good work. New furniture has arrived for the use of members of the Club, and has already been tested and found not wanting in ease and comfort.

All boys are looking forward with great interest to an athletic meeting with Ampleforth College on Wednesday, March 14th. A team of useful exponents of "lefts, straight" and "jabs, vicious" is being sent along, and also a team of fliers over the plough and grass which will include some of our notable runners in L/Sergt Cotterell and L/Corpls Ayres and Broadley. These fliers will not, of course, count for placings between Ampleforth and Signals Boys, but will run over the course to give the College a close-up view of our stars in action. We have heard from a reliable source that the Collegians are a force to be reckoned with, and we are therefore expecting to have a wonderful day's sport.

We were very pleased that our Company racehorse (Simkin) won at Catterick Bridge races, and we hope this is the first of many victories. Apparently he won easily in a field of twenty.

Army C.C. Championship.—We shall be represented by L/Corpls Ayres and Broadley in this event, and we are convinced that they will finish in the near vicinity of the redoubtable Joe.

National C.C. Championship.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Broadley on finishing twenty-ninth out of 379 runners in this race of races.

LE CHEVAL NOIR.

The Home Beautiful.—In twenty years time the S.T.C. will indeed be a place fit for heroes to live in! No less than 411 little holes have been dug, and 411 little trees (5 to 7 ft.) will be put in these holes when the snow clears.

To give old residents of S.T.C. an idea of this vast scheme, I will tell them where the trees will be put.

Officers' Mess.—A circular belt on the "high ground around Esmiehellon?" No! on the high ground near the School of Signals, to blot out the view of huts from the mess. Lots of trees around the mess.

Scotton Ground.—Flowering cherries on each side of the pavilion, and forty sycamores around the cricket ground.

Depot Battalion.—Round about the Battalion Headquarters and Wing lines.

School of Signals.—Dotted here and there in the lines.

Training Battalion Headquarters.—Fourteen flowering cherries in front of the orderly room, D and F Company offices. On each side of the path leading to S.T.C. headquarters. In front of those headquarters. From F Company to the N.A.A.F.I. From the N.A.A.F.I. to the School of Signals (both sides of road). From the Training Battalion headquarters to E Coy.

Married Quarters.—A few trees of all sorts.

"We are all men and women of the world," and we must realise that it is our children who will benefit by all this trouble. The boys are entirely responsible for the digging and planting; and may they live long and see the results of their labours!

F. R. C.

School of Signals.

The Trumpet.—The general impression among those of the field and foreign units who have never visited Catterick—that it is a vast moorland continually swept by rain, gales and snow, without any social amenities whatever—is erroneous and must be dispelled.

In the daily press we read much of "Visit England" and "Brighter Britain," but nobody has yet thought fit to extol the pleasurable atmosphere and environment of the S.T.C.

Firstly, let us consider the climatic conditions. Take the present month (March)!

Saturday, 3rd—A gloriously sunny day, birds singing in the trees, dogs and kittens basking side by side in the sun. Just the sort of day on which one would like to warble the Hallelujah chorus from the top of Druggan Hill.

Sunday, 4th—Another sunny day. The St. Quentin lines married quarters colony out in full force in the afternoon, gaily absorbing ultra-violet rays along the Scotton road and in the neighbourhood of the ranges and Barden Moor. A most illuminating sight. One's arms ached with the continual exercise of raising one's cap.

Monday, 5th—Mild with fair intervals, but (like any Monday in most parts of the country) with an atmosphere of washing and cold dinners.

Tuesday, 6th—Warm, turning colder later in the day. The nip in the air brought a look of expectancy to the faces of all true Scotsmen.

Wednesday, 7th—Fine morning and sunny, but being a rugger day the clerk of the weather came up to scratch, and sent along a nice cool breeze to keep the players fresh! P.S.—As he was a bit late with it, he had to send it along in a hurry and it arrived at ninety miles an hour!

Thursday, 8th—Rain.

Friday, 9th—Snow.

Saturday, 10th—More snow.

Sunday, 11th—Still more snow.

Monday, 12th—And yet more snow.

Now, could anyone say they were bored with such a grand variety of weather conditions to keep them occupied?

Secondly, the scenery in the neighbourhood of the camp is among the finest in England. The noted districts of Wensleydale, Swaledale and Richmondshire are within easy walking distance (that is, if one happens to be an Arthur Newton).

Thirdly—and this should be of paramount interest to all members of the Corps—the facilities afforded for every kind of recreative exercise and sport are excellent, despite the fact that the playing fields until recently were virgin soil.

Lastly, one must not forget the social functions which are taking place in camp almost every evening: dances, whist drives and occasional concert parties. The Dots and Dashes gave two shows to crowded houses last week.

Now we must add to the list of entertainers the S.T.C. Ladies' Social Club, which meets every Tuesday afternoon. It was a very pleasant surprise this afternoon to receive an invitation to their first concert. Although the programme gave no clues to the identity of "the Troupe," the officers and ladies who took part presented us with such a first class show that we offer our hearty congratulations, and express the hope that this will be only the first performance of many.

Progress.—The Camp Lay-Out Committee's work of planting trees and shrubs throughout the lines is proceeding apace. Another mark of progress is the building, now nearing completion, which is being converted into bunks for those sergeants who graduated on February 29th with the honours degree of "Bachelor of Artfulness."

Casualties.—Sigmn Douthwaite has proceeded to Aldershot for a cookery course, while C.Q.M.S. Harris and Sergt Curtis have extended their service for one and six years respectively.

Promotions.—Congratulations to W.O. Class II. (Q.M.S.) Foreman-of-Signals King V. J., Sergt Hall H. F., and Corpl Grocott J., on their promotion to the ranks stated.

To Signalmen Stevenson and Clements we also tender congratulations on their recent appointment as Lance-Corporals.

Second class certificates of education have been awarded to Drivers Brown and Batcheldor.

Sergeants' Mess.

A Triple Event.—There was a pleasant assembly in the billiards room of the mess on Tuesday evening, February 21st. The members had foregathered ostensibly to play a billiard match versus the officers of the School. The occasion of having the officers as our guests made a fitting time for us to bid "bon voyage" to Sergts Brooks and Jackson (who have sailed for India) and to wish C.Q.M.S. (Foreman-of-Signals) Cubbon J. E. the best of luck and good fortune on his leaving the Service. He was the recipient of a suitably inscribed clock as a token of the esteem in which he was held by the mess members.

Of the billiards we refrain from comment, except to say that the results of the six matches show that our officers do not lack practice on the baize. The first match was 100 up, and the remainder 50. The scores were as follows:—

Lieut Hatfield 100; C.S.M. Norton 94. Major Drayson 50; R.S.M. Anderson 29. Lieut Boyd 50; Sergt Gammon 46. Lt. Gelston 34; Sergt Kennedy 50. Lieut Eve 37; Sergt Mann 50. Lieut McNair 50; Sergt Shipcott 27. Totals—Officers 321; Sergeants 296.

Having suffered this defeat, as time permitted it was decided to play one frame of snooker pool, and the sergeants came into their own with a magnificent victory of 58 points to 39.

Query.—Does the English cup find favour with the wives of our football fans? and is it true that certain inhabitants of St. Quentin lines wish to attend the next mess meeting to give their views on cup ties in general and motor outings in particular.

PETERKIN.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

A Corps Signals.

Unit Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Ewshott.

Arrivals.—Sigmn Gresham from Gibraltar. This is the original Joe who played for the old Depot team, and we hope he will be in the Smallshot Signals team next season when they win the Army cup.

L/Sergt Peeke, Corpl Waldock and Sigmn Dales from India. (These people soon floated, as they were months overdue—staying just long enough to say "Hello!" and "So-long!") Likewise the following from Egypt: Signalmen Adams, Barker, Dorrington, Powell, Tite and Williams. But Sigmn Hodge has come to stay, along with Signalmen O'Donnell and Negus.

From the S.T.C.: Signalmen Cartwright, Delicate, Devin and Cowan.

Departures.—Sigmn Whymark to the 4th Divl Signals (we have lost another Company keystone in Frank). Sergeant Chumbley to Memory Lane (he will be missed and remembered as a fine all-round athlete. Here's the best, Bill! Jubbulpore, note). Signalmen Luke and Teasdale to the A.R.

Promotions.—Corpl Bowler to be Lance-Sergeant. Attaboy temporary C.Q.M.S.

Corporals' Mess.—The juniors held a dance on March 9th. Nuff said.

All Ranks Dance.—A dance for all ranks was held at Crookham on February 29th, and although a rare thing, this proved a great success. C.S.M. and Mrs. Caulfield won the waltz competition. A pleasing feature of this dance was that *all* ranks attended, from the C.O. right down to the trumpeters.

One signalman (who had never been to a dance before in his life) plucked up courage and went to this one. This was on a Friday. On the Monday he was in married quarters. This is quick work, even for Leap Year. What a leap! what a thrill!

The Association.—The letter from ex-Sigmn Raffo, printed in the March issue of THE WIRE, has shown us just what the Association can do for us as our turn comes round.

The Association is, I am sorry to say, looked on by a few as a benevolent fund for sergeant-majors; but this letter is one of many proofs that it is the SIGNALS Association and that it is out to do its best for one and all, irrespective of rank.

The Association does not need a better advertisement than this letter. Take heed, one and all. Stick to facts, not hearsay.

Uncle Peter.—All ranks of A Corps Signals are glad to hear your voice once more. We do not like to lose touch with an old friend, so keep it up, old chap.

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.

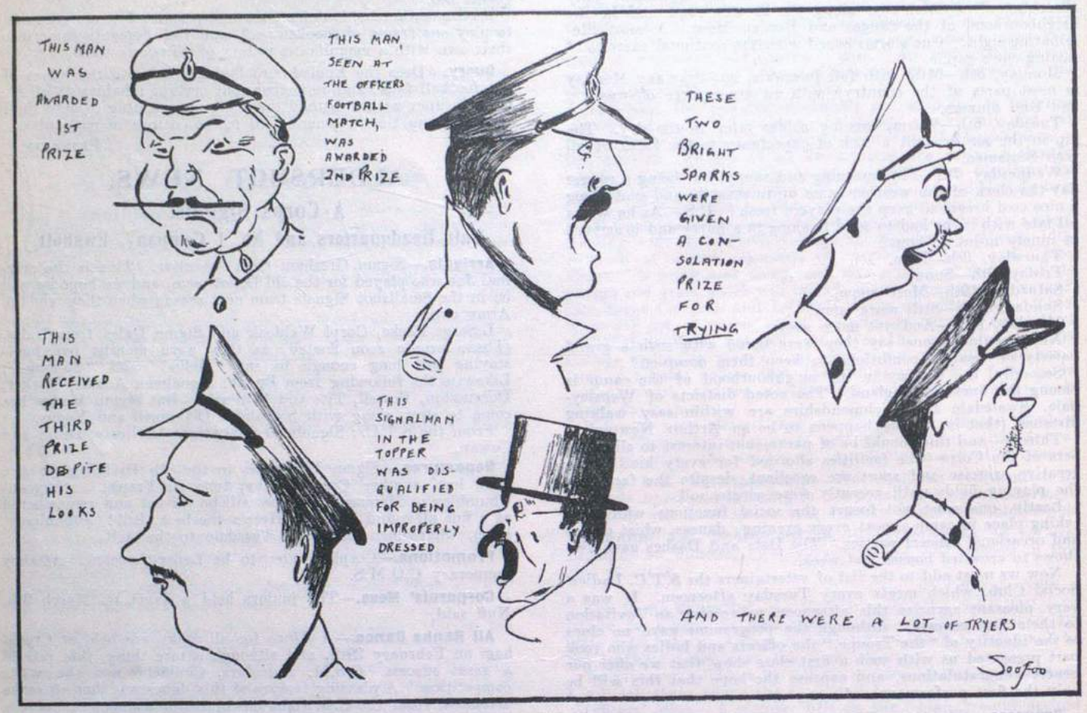
WORKING HOURS—MONDAY to THURSDAY, 8.30 to 6.30
FRIDAY, 8.30 to 7.0 SATURDAY, 8.30 to 12.30

A PRIVATE ROOM IN BOTH SHOPS FOR OFFICERS AND LADIES.

All Members of the Staff are ex-Service Men.

F. SHAKESPEARE, Proprietor

PRIZE WINNERS IN THE FACE-FUNGUS COMPETITION.



Gibraltar.—Cooky, me lad, ye had an Oirishman's roise, did ye! Faith, but why did ye celebrate? The lads sympathise.

Egypt.—Lost: Dicky Bunn, last heard patting down the sand with his daisy doots. The drabbies would like you to give them a song, Dicky.

Metropolis.—"Bottle," aspiring to dizzy heights, commenced studying for his second. After a while he created the impression that he was "nob-on," and his transfer from Jehoichim's Light Horse to the Destruction Section was the result. A week or so went by, and for some unknown reason "Snake" was also transferred to the same Section. Bottle, to air his knowledge, said to Snake, "You will work on the dressed route to-day, and you will not want any slotting kit." Snake leaves £2 in credit, and it is being credited to the public.

The Sport of Kings.—Tweseldown race course was the scene of the Aldershot Military Race Meeting on March 0th. The weather was splendid. It snowed hard until the first race, and from then onwards until the last race the sportsmen, bookies, mugs and so forth basked in the rays of a warm sun and walked to and fro (and backwards and forwards) in a foot of mud, experiencing an exhilarating sensation as of treading on an Oriental super-pile carpet. All this was gratis! Tea and wads were at a premium. Any kind of tea could be had for a mere song—say about a bob, or perhaps two. I know it was frightfully cheap.

The bookie chaps were very generous. They were perfectly priceless. In fact, they were giving away money and information for nothing, and the people were taking full advantage of their generosity. I cannot understand how these bookie chaps live.

There were several gentlemen (with small stands dotted over the ground in juxtaposition to the course) who were showing people who had the good breeding to be interested "how to find the lady." I think it was very generous of these gentlemen, and I am sure it must have been very interesting to find the lady. Of course, I do not know who the lady was—probably a relation of someone who had got lost or trodden in the mud. It was really the policeman's job to find this lady, but he must have been a lazy fellow, as I saw him walking about with his nose in the air. He gave me a frightful glare once or twice.

I was on the point of severely reprimanding him when my attention was drawn to a young fellow sitting in the mud. His face was white and haggard; his eyelids twitched, and the whites of his eyes seemed to enhance the pallor of his face. His lips were moving, and I could hear him muttering to himself: "Five quid, be gosh! five quid! It was a dead cert. I could have staked me life on it!"

I approached the young fellow, and raising my "Derby" I said: "Pray excuse me, my good man; but what was it that you could have staked your life on?" The young fellow looked at me with an angelic look, and said, "Find the lady."

I do not believe to this day that the lady was ever found. Most remarkable, what!

SOOFOO.

No. 3 Company (Crookham Camp)

Arrivals.—Almost as numerous as the Company's complaints re life, credits and fatigues. They are far too many to name, but the most celebrated are Capt. W. F. Sugrue, R.Signals, from Spike Island; Corpl Pagett W., from the Orient; Corpl Brooke from the School of Signals (Peter's present domain); L/Corpl Stibbs T., from the Corps nursery (Boys' Company); Sergt Bellew, Signalmen Allen, Gadd, Slater H., Rice J. E., and Williams H.—the latter men after a glorified Cook's tour from this Company to Shanghai and back. (They tasted the delights of the luring posters: "Join the Army and see the world!")

A hearty welcome is extended to one and all; and may they soon settle down to the idiosyncrasies and trials of A Corps.

Departures.—L/Corpl Larkham H. (Lizzie) to the Army Reserve. Well done, thou good and faithful servant! Good luck, Liz: but do not "dole" it out—"wave them" on. Signalmen Hillman, Spear and Lawson, also to the Reserve.

L/Corpl Phillips A. to the "rats"—not the dogs—to fill the vacancy created by L/Corpl Stibbs. L/Sergt Rumble L., Signalmen Burgess, Case, Croft, Fraser and Horne to the Rhine Command. Sergt Morley to the Depot Battalion, S.T.C., Catterick.

Best wishes to all.

Births.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Rankin H., on being presented with a son and heir. Midnight perambulations, Bob, or daily ditties.

The deepest sympathy is extended to Sigmn Denny in the death of the child recently born to him.

Marriage.—Corpl Walker A. W. has joined the noble army of benedicts and C.R.A. merchants (papa's Friary allowance?) He wishes me to inform some worthy person with the appellation of Tim that he has lost. How much was it, Hooky?

General.—By the time these notes are in print we shall probably have moved into our new home in Haig Lines, Aldershot. I say probably, because as rumours went it took the Depot several years to move from Maresfield to Catterick. S'funny how the Army always takes the longest way round!

A few months back the unit looked smart, young and reliable. Now the personnel, what with the daily round of fatigues, two soccer teams, and adorning their upper lips, resemble Fred Karno's army suffering from old age and decrepitude. Still, *sic est vita!* Bear up, and join Dan's football twister—pay up by noon on Saturdays.

Here is an extract from a green-covered contemporary: "A general, to get to the officers' mess, had to pass by the guard-room. He was challenged by the sentry for the countersign, but he had forgotten it. The sentry did as he thought best, and packed the general off back. The next day the man was warmly commended for doing his duty under great provocation. The next month he was doing the dirtiest fatigues in barracks." Draw your own conclusions and morals, ye tribesmen.

Heard in Aldershot.—Two of the weak and eloquent sex were perambulating the High Street, presumably upon a shopping expedition, as usual. As they were passing a butcher's shop one espied a succulent porker with a bunch of sage in its chewing apparatus. Said she: "Oh, look, Maria!" Maria replied: "Yes; that reminds me, I must buy Albert a pipe!" Probably the wife of Felix, the A Corps Adonis. Least said, soonest mended; or otherwise, discretion is the better part of valour.

Thanks.—I would like here, on behalf of No. 3 Company A Corps Signals officers, w.o.s, n.c.o.s and men, to thank the Depot R.A.M.C., Crookham Camp, for the pleasant times, sporting fixtures, social events and many other considerations and functions we have enjoyed during our sojourn here.

Agony.—For the second time of asking, Lulu would like to hear from Sigmn Waters W. (Baldy), at present in Hong Kong Signal Section or thereabouts.

LULU.

1st Divisional Signals.

McGrigor Barracks, Aldershot.

We failed to come up to scratch with our last notes, and the Editor was put to some trouble (for which we are sorry) to manage a half column in the March WIRE. We will do our best to avoid any further black marks.

February! What a delightful month we have had, and an extra day, too. The additional sunshine has made all the difference, and the folk on outdoor individual training have revelled in it and really made amazing progress. At some future date we hope to publish the results of trade tests to substantiate what has been written. A spell of good weather adds zest to all our undertakings. Is there anyone who disagrees?

The troopers from India have brought us a good number, but their stay was short, and we had a hectic time in transferring the majority to the Reserve—the Depot being too full to receive them, it seems. Your loss, Depot, has *not* been our gain this time! Among those to arrive were Signalmen Aylott, Avins, Beacon, Day, Dove, Barnard and Ellis. We hope they are now comfortably settled in civil life.

L/Sergt Stalley, Signalmen Allen J., Holder V., Sewell F., Seek J., Pope C., from India, and Signalman Davis R. G. from Egypt, arrived on February 27th, and are now enjoying (we trust) the delights of an English springtime in their home towns.

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LEMON

Squash and Crush

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As a help towards balancing the large numbers from the unit sent abroad this trooping season, we now have among us Signalmen Strudwick H., Hughes J., Bean A., Brett P., Jessop G., Chapman S. A., they having said farewell to the Training Battalion. We want their stay with us to be a pleasant one.

In addition to our Indian friends, the Reserve has been increased by old hands in Signalmen Halliwell, Bunnage, Uridge, Butler S., Southcott C., McDonald C., Pyper P. That makes an average of one in two days, and gives one food for thought.

Signalmen Kneller, Smith C. T., and Bartley H. should now have become acquainted with Aden; and Signalmen Marshall F., Trevenna H., Mullard R., Gardner W., Stapleton M., Adlard S., Cargill W., Hensby D., Fisher H., and Wilson G., will all have seen the blue Mediterranean and Bombay ere these notes are read. May they all have good fortune in their new spheres.

One now hears the name "Smallshot" daily. I am not sure that "Smallshot" is correct, for the proverbial little bird has whispered that "Haig Lines, *Aldershot*," is to be the official address. The time is fast approaching when we shall all be gathered together as one big Signals family. It seems inconceivable that we will at last have our own barracks—and they are such as should excite envy in other corps and regiments: just the last word in modern equipment and fittings. We have every reason to be very proud of our new home!

All their old and new friends will be pleased to hear that Signalmen Balch H. and Harding (now in India) have been appointed paid lance-corporals, and that Signalmen Wheeler and Moore are now unpaid lance-corporals.

L/Corpl Evans has remustered as operator, wireless, and Signalmen Beminster W. and Dawes W. as operators, visual.

It was with great regret that we all heard of the sudden death of Field-Marshal Earl Haig; and especially was his passing felt by those who had the honour of serving under him and the everlasting memory of his message received by many in and around Villers Brettoneux during the latter days of March, 1918. Col. Willan, Capt Prescot, R.S.M. Lawrance, R.Q.M.S. Fegan, C.S.M.s Keevil, Butcher and Shenton, and C.Q.M.S.s Pearce and Scrivens attended the memorial service held in the Garrison church.

C.S.M. Bremner—of jolly old H.D. Signals (the 51st)—dropped in on Sunday evening, the 26th, and is having a month's stay with us. We hope he will tell Smudge and Pip all about his coming, his seeing, and his conquering.

At the first levee of the season, on February 28th, Major Vyvyan, Capt. Beadon, Lieuts. Pope, Ponsonby and Hardy were presented to His Majesty the King by our Colonel-Comdt.

Not a very good one this month! Smart n.c.o.: "I was alarmed this morning." His pal: "When?" Smart n.c.o.: "Oh! just before reveille."

Sergeants' Mess.—With the move of the unit to our new barracks, the 1st Divl Signals sergeants' mess will close down and join our confreres of A Corps Signals and the 2nd Divl Signals in the new sergeants' mess at Smallshot.

As a final celebration as an individual mess, the w.o.s and sergeants arranged a smoking concert on February 8th. The mess was honoured by the presence of the Chief Signal Officer (Colonel Prickett), our commanding officer (Colonel Willan), Capt. S. J. Murphy (Command Signal Company), and the officers of the unit. It was an evening full of delight, with capital entertainments. The only fault to record was that the hours sped too quickly. One cannot pass on without mentioning the brilliance of Sergt Riley, R.E., who kept us all in a state of mirth each time he mounted the platform. Lieuts Wheatley and Hall also gave us a turn; and the songs at the piano by S.M. Speary, R.E., and a banjo solo by Mr. Walshaw, were also most enjoyable.

During the course of the evening, R.S.M. Lawrance said how much it pleased us to have our officers among us. Referring to the move about to take place, he said we were looking forward to entering the new mess at Smallshot, and combining with the other Signal units to make the Signals mess an ideal one and one to be envied not only in the Command but in the Service.

Our commanding officer, replying in a short witty speech, wished us all success in our new mess, and said that we were going in with a very fine bank balance. In fact, he only wished we would enter *their* mess under similar conditions (applause and laughter). He especially referred to a photograph of the 1st Divl Signals Company, taken just before the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, and said he would be delighted at seeing it given its rightful place in the sergeants' mess.

YA.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

A Lines, Aldershot, March 13th.

General.—There is no matter of great importance to record this month. The technical training proceeds, and of course many are sweating. We beat No. 2 Company at soccer by 3—1 on February 15th, but in the second round of rugby were not so successful against No. 3 Company. The same may be said of hockey. Notes on the games are given in the Sports section.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following to the Company: Corpl Mathews from Egypt; Sigmn Caton and family from India; Signalmen Baldock, Goold and Taylor from the S.T.C.

Departures.—Corpl Ayton to the Rhine. Corpl Anderson and Sigmn Johnson J. to the land of char and wads. We expect Jock will need to get cracking over there. Sigmn Collins is leaving us for Sierra Leone in a few days.

Congratulations.—To L/Corporals Christie, Myddleton and Staerck, on their attainment of that rank. May they keep their eyes on the baton all their lives, and raise their voices on the executive.

Wanted.—Back numbers of "The Wireless World," 1920 to 1926. Apply WIRE Reporter, No. 1 Company, 2nd Divl Signals, stating issues available and price.

Courses.—Sigmn Francis attended a course of instruction in sanitary duties, and passed with the usual honours.

Obituary.—It is with the greatest regret that we have heard of the death of C.Q.M.S. Squirrell, of No. 3 Company, at the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, on March 12th. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and relations.

Motoring News.—One of our Drivers I.C. has become the owner of a contraption worked in aluminium and sailcloth, proudly referred to as "my bus." It may not tick off 60, but it is amazing how quickly it has ticked off a few penn'orth of "ye olde Charles Beer" for Dan. Don't mention the Hog's Back in the hearing of the latter; he doesn't like it.

ECAT DISJUNCTUM.

On a seat in the office a Signal clerk sat,
Singing "Date-stamps—no date-stamps, no date-stamps;"
And I said to him, "Signal clerk, why do you sit,
Singing date-stamps—no date-stamps, no date-stamps?"

"Is it weakness of signals, O Nobby?" I cried,
"Or an 'O ink ink sugar' delayed by your side?"
But he, with a wave of his register, sighed,
"No date-stamps—no date-stamps, no date-stamps."

W. H. D.

No. 2 Company.

Introductory.—Hello! hello!! hello!!! No. 2 Coy. calling. First of all, let me apologise for the absence of notes for the past few months. No! it was not because we had the wind up. It was owing to our regular scribe being absent from the Company on a G.P. course at Lincoln. Now he is about to return, it is hoped to forward copy regularly and so keep in touch with our old friends at home and abroad.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty if somewhat belated welcome to our new O.C., Capt H. M. Sylvester, M.C. (from Manchester) and to Lieut E. S. Cole (from No. 3 Company). We hope their stay with us will be long and fruitful (cheer up, Threeco).

We also welcome Corpls Dan Godfrey and Evelyn R., Signalmen Outhwaite, Carpenter, Wells, Baker and Andrews, from India and Egypt respectively, and Signalmen Bergmen, White, Hewett, Norris and Mann, from Catterick. May they enjoy their sojourn with us.

Departures.—Our best wishes go with Corporals Cutler and Cousins, L/Corpl Armstrong, Signalmen Roberts, Burton, Gadney, Murphy, Penfold and Mullens, who have left us for summer climes.

We were sorry indeed to lose our old trial horse Sigmn Grimes, who has left us for civil life. Any newcomer who could beat him over a mile or upwards was always useful when there was any running to be done.

Training.—Individual training still holds good, but gives way shortly to Section work. In the meantime faces of all shapes will be seen as they return from the Trade Testing Board. No need to ask "How did you fare?"—expressions speak for themselves. The only face that is sure to smile will be the C.S.M.'s. No more need to worry about "who the —— can I put on that?" when suddenly called upon to find a man for fatigue.

Congratulations.—To C.Q.M.S. Bryant C., on being presented with the L.S. and G.C. medal; and to Corpl Cook L. on attaining that rank.

CURIO.

No. 3 Company.

Things have been going with a real fizz these last few days. Horse inspections, Trade Boards, trophy matches, and a few exciting matches in the Command have all helped the days to fly and the time to come very near when we move to our new home at Smallshot.

It has just come through that L/Corpl Rodda and Signalman Stuart are the I.S.B.A. champions for this year. Our heartiest congratulations to them; also to Lieut Cole, who was narrowly beaten on points. Hard luck, sir; we *did* want all three titles.

Departures.—The following embarked for the sunny climate of India on 23/2/28 (they will be a bit pushed for a long week-end now): R.S.M. Cussens, Signalmen Howard, Kingswood, Enright, Wells, Kelly, Marlow, Robinson, Williams and Gray.

Discharges.—The following left us for civvy street, and we wish them the best of luck, a Rolls and a thousand a year: Corpl Coole, L/Corpl Pinkney, Signalmen Lodge, Clarkson and Gillett.

Arrivals.—To the undermentioned we give a hearty welcome (may they all make it their duty to help us to capture that trophy): Cpl Moore, L/Corpl Page, Signalmen Hardman, Bates, Kitwood, Smith, Owen and Styles.

Death.—We deeply regret to announce the death of C.Q.M.S. Squirrell in Cambridge Military Hospital, after a trying illness, on March 12th. A good all-round athlete, his loss will be keenly felt by all who remember him from Maresfield days. The funeral was attended by the commanding officer and officers of the unit, No. 3 Company, Unit Headquarters, and a party of senior n.c.o.s from A Corps Signals and 1st Divl Signals under R.S.M. Lawrance.

THREECO.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot.

Training.—Technical training has started in this unit, and the W/T op's (both of 'em) are under the care of L/Corporal Forrest, who has just returned from No. 6 W/T Course at the School. He must have learned something up there, because he can take a C set to pieces and put it back again without even having one little screw left over!

We are also looking forward to L/Corpl James' return from the Mounted Wing, Catterick, where he has been having an equitation course; and we want to see if *he* has anything left over when he pulls a horse to pieces.

Several of our married men are looking forward to our camping ground this year, which is somewhere near Brighton; and it is rumoured that a few have already booked "furnished apartments, overlooking sea, h. and c., etc., cheap." (It is hoped the office staff don't forget the pass forms!)

Men may come.—The following have arrived in this unit since our last notes were printed, and we take this opportunity of giving them a glad welcome: Signalmen Chinery, McMullen, Robinson and Askew from the Training Battalion.

Men may go.—It is with great regret that we lose the following, who have gone to other climes, and we wish them a pleasant voyage and a good station: Signalmen Barbour, Allen and Stocks (our John) to India per H.M.T. "Dorsetshire" on February 23rd. Sergt Bardoe V. and wife to India on March 6th per H.M.T. "Somersetshire."

But—These stop here for ever: Gee-gees.

Poet's Corner.—We had hopes of being able to give some good poetry in this part, but after perusal of entries the following was picked out as the best. (Needless to say, there won't be any corner next month.)

"Where innocence is bliss,
Fast falls the eventide."
(The bloke who started this, I hear,
Has been shoved right inside.)

When the Colonel erupted, the Mess despaired. How they—and the Cook—had plotted to cure his Indian temper! The Old Man had softened at the Major's hint of a pleasant surprise at lunch. But someone had blundered. For the third time, cold mutton was served *without* the Military Pickle necessary for a great reform!

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MILITARY
PICKLE
Most popular with all Ranks.
Of all Grocers ... 10½d. and 1/6 per Bottle
HAYWARD BROTHERS, LIMITED
KENNINGTON, S.E.

Debating Society.—I went to a meeting the other night, but I'm sorry I didn't stay long. This is all I heard: " . . . that in rising to move this motion, it gives me great pleasure to be here to-night to move the motion I am about to move. I have often felt, and I am sure the chairman has also, that it is a great privilege to be asked to move a motion of the nature I am moving, and in conclusion, I would like to thank the committee for their kindness in asking me to move this motion and. . . ." I left!

Marriages.—We note with some concern the scarcity of wives in the South Ireland Signal Section. No doubt the lance-corporal whose name was nearly included in the roll of honour prefers to wait a little longer and take a sporting chance of another wife turning up, rather than be the sixth.

Heard this one?—

Corky Dee went sick to-day,
To see the medical man.
He tapped his chest in a medical way,
And pronounced his medical ban:
"Spirits, my boy, you must never drink"
(The M.O.'s verdict very clear)
But Corky thanks his lucky star—
His favourite drink is beer.

Or this?—The other day I asked a certain party why she always wore an overall over all her nice clothes, and here is her answer: "What's underneath the overall is underneath the dirt that's on the overall that's over all what's underneath the overall that's over all what's underneath."

TROOPER DON.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

General.—Just at present it is hard to find notes of interest to the Corps as a whole. Training is the main theme of the day, and everybody walks about with the pre-occupied expression of scientists on the verge of some marvellous discovery.

Arrivals.—At last we are getting those long-looked-for additions to our sadly depleted Troop. Signalmen Moore, Cosby and Jones arrived from Catterick during the month. We sincerely hope that the change will be one to their liking.

Appointment.—Sigmn Hudson appointed A/U/L/Corpl w.e.f. 17/10/27. Congratulations, Dick, my boy!

Congratulations.—All members of the Troop join in hearty congratulations to the 3rd Divl Signals on winning the Southern Command cross-country run. It was a splendid effort. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

Challenges.—We met D Troop and beat them. We left their mutilated remains on some spare battlefield in Aldershot. Evidently we failed to kill their indomitable spirit. Ack, ack, ack. They have challenged us again. It is not really the thing to dig up one's dead and kill 'em again. But, D Troop, you force this thing on us. I had composed a neat and touching epitaph on your demise, but now it will have to stand over for insertion in next month's WIRE (with additions).

Joking apart, our annual local Derby was a great success, apart from the score. It is true, it was not what one might have called an ideal day, being inclined to be muggy and with a very slight drizzle falling. But had it poured with rain and frozen, the ardour of the rival teams and spectators would not have been damped a wee bit.

Both teams played a clean and sporting game. One side *had* to win, a draw being considered too tame a result for such a match, and D Troop tried their hardest to alter the irrevocable right up to the final whistle.

After the match the Troops met in the friendliest of spirits over a gorgeous spread given by D Troop. At the termination of the meal, a speech by Capt Sutton Pratt (O.C. D Troop) was thoroughly appreciated by all ranks. Unfortunately our O.C. (Capt C. M. F. White) was unable to reply, but Sergt Adcock responded in a few appropriate words.

SANDSMUDGE.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, March 15th.

General.—The time comes round again, and we endeavour to scribble a few notes, although news is rather scarce.

Looking around we find plenty of red noses and frost-bitten hands which make everyone rush to the fireside.

During the past month Salisbury has been livened up with the Headquarters dance, which was the "hit of the season." Military uniforms were very conspicuous, mess dress, blues, serge S.D., evening dress, lounge suits, and multiple eights all mingling together in a riot of colour. Major-Gen. A. A. McHardy, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and other officers of the Headquarters Staff were present.

The dance went off with a good swing, the attendance numbering about three hundred; and at least a hundred were reluctantly refused admission owing to lack of accommodation. The Blackbirds Orchestra of the 5th Battn. Royal Tank Corps, from Tidworth, supplied six hours of good music.

This was the first dance given by the Command Headquarters for the past two years, and in response to many applications another will probably be given in a week or two. Sergeant Graham K. (hon. secretary) and Mr. F. Cole (ex-Signals) were active members of the committee who organised this function.

Randomite.—Apropos the above dance. A lady, asked by her husband if she would like to go, replied: "But I have nothing to go in." "Never mind!" was her husband's reply; "you will only be twelve months in advance of the times."

Sporting Times.—Congratulations to the 3rd Divl Signals on their splendid victories in the Garrison and Command cross-country runs. It was a picture to see eleven of the team trot in en-bloc, a few places after L/Corpl Ivison, who had beaten the R.E. fancy for first place. In the Command run nine of the team ran in together in a similar manner.

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

Making Ourselves Felt.—The principal topic of conversation just now is cross-country running. Our team have acquitted themselves well, and in winning the championships of the Bulford Garrison on March 2nd and the Southern Command on March 9th, they prove beyond all doubt that training pays. Our great ambition now is to put one across the Training Battn in the Army championships.

We are not so inflated with success as to imagine that we can get away with the Army, but, gee!—supposing we did!

Full details of the Garrison and Command runs will be found in the Sports section. The whole unit heartily congratulates Capt Schneider, R.S.M. Adams and the team on their successes. Nor must we forget Sigmn Cross with his embrocation.

Irregular Issues.—This, I think, applies particularly to our present brand of weather. Sunday, March 4th, was the warmest day for the time of the year ever recorded, whilst Sunday, 11th, was the coldest since 1871 (before you came up). Of course, you have read all about it in the newspapers, but perhaps our friends abroad haven't heard about it.

They do say that No. 2 Company's football team managed to beat No. 3 because there was a blinding snowstorm in progress on Monday, March 12th. I wonder!

Fatal Cable Wagon Accident.—It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Sigmn Scott F., of No. 3 Company.

He was out with a Cable Section on training, and whilst acting as No. 3 was thrown heavily on the hand grip at the rear of the wagon. He sustained internal injuries and died in Tidworth Hospital on Saturday, March 10th. He was a promising and well-liked lad, and will be sorely missed.

The 3rd Divl Signals offer their deepest sympathy to his parents and relatives. The body was conveyed with military honours from Tidworth Hospital to the railway station en route to his home at Stockton-on-Tees, on Tuesday, March 13th.

Sergeants' Mess.—This noble edifice was the scene of much gaiety and a considerable amount of trade during the week ending Saturday, March 10th. The n.c.o.s of the 43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals, T.A., were attached for a little training. The training they had, but I am not so sure about the *little*. They appeared to have a pretty full time. We were chiefly concerned with their leisure hours. The dart tournament was decided, but no one can remember who won. Billiards were off, as our table was in process of being moved from one room to another.

"Heads backward bend" was another game at which honours were even, though it was touch and go for a bit between Joe and Sam. We were very sorry to lose their company, and we honestly believe they had a faint regret at leaving.

For further particulars see small bills—I mean "Plain Tales."

Checkmate.—The Fierce Corporal was out looking for trouble. Round the corner came the Satirical Driver, walking like a man with no object in view.

"Ha!" said the F.C.; "what are you on, me lad?" "Six and six, same as yerself, yer blinking idiot."

Miscellaneous.—I've often wondered whether I could spell that word.

Sigmn Laver wishes to hear from someone or other. I've lost the piece of paper with the names on.

Barleux keeps wondering where Eddie Hay has got to. Last heard of in India.

Sergt X. wishes to buy some more tickets in a football sweep.

Jock L. would like to know whether anyone found the penny he dropped in the Garrison cinema whilst the lights were out.

Traffic may now turn left as directed by the notice opposite the guard-room. Road now open. Workmen disconsolate. Unable to think of another good place to dig. Beg to suggest water main across the Pimple just where it has been turfed.

If two tubs of coal are all I am entitled to per week, how much should eggs cost at the N.A.A.F.I. when they are 1s. 4d. a dozen in the market?

Why don't I shut up?

All right, I don't need telling twice. I'm touchy like that!

R. F. B.

Arrivals.—Sergt Laing J., Signalmen Smith G., Sowerby and Whittaker from the Training Battalion during the month. We hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

The following have joined us from overseas, and are welcomed to the fold: Sgt Ratcliffe from China; Sigmn Allen from India; Sergts Vignaux and Shepherd and Sigmn West from Egypt.

Departures.—The following have left us for foreign climes, and our good wishes go with them: To India, Corpl Coy, Signalmen Southey, Felton, Harding, Knight C., Patience J. and Saunders E.

C.S.M. Grist, of No. 1 Company, bade us farewell on 17/3/28, on his posting to the permanent staff of the T.A.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following who (after their drill course) have been appointed to paid rank: L/Corpls Catley G., Bolton, Frawley, Rowe, and Smith E.

Education.—The following have obtained 2nd class certificates: L/Corpl Rowe, Signalmen Simpson A., Potter J., Hood C., Gladwin, Bywater, Patience, Smith D. and Dvr. Cross.

Civvy Street.—Sigmn Eaves (Joe's right-hand man) has gone to civilian life. Bottles will be greatly missed, and we all wish him the best of luck.

Sigmn Sankey was discharged as physically unfit on 15/3/28.

Training at Bulford—II.

And the Tribe of the Runners, even the Tribe of the Kross-country, took counsel one with the other, saying "Mark ye the writings of this scribe; he doth mock at us, and maketh he merry at our expense."

So they seized him, saying thus: "Come thou with us upon our goings out and comings in, that thine eyes may be opened so thou shalt see, and thy feet may be sore so thou shalt feel."

And he went with them.

Stumble, stumble, stagger,
O'er plain, long lane, through street;
I do not mind hard walking,
But, oh dear! my poor feet!

Stumble, stumble, stagger,
Till comes a spell, to boot;
I sink down on a tree stump
And rest awhile en route.

Stumble, stumble, stagger;
From side to side I roll;
To make the body fitter,
They fairly ruin the sole.

Stumble, stumble, stagger;
Smiles light the cobbler's phiz;
I wish my time was over,
Whilst overtime is his.

Stumble, stumble, stagger;
Their own ends they defeat;
To obtain understanding
My hoofs I, too, forfeit.

N. A. B.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

General.—We are still jogging along, doing a little bit of training in certain trades, a little bit of musketry (brief, this year, thank heaven!), and as usual, a whole lot of stable routine (all trades!)

Horses are all very well when they stand at "ten to one," or when somebody else has got 'em; but when one has to spend one's time in cleaning their teeth, stirring up their bergoo, crushing their blinkin' oats, giving them a trim (short round the back and sides), and tucking them in at night—well, then they become a mixed blessing.

A few Drivers I.C. are lucky enough to be at their trade, and a few linemen and flag-hashers are getting part-time instruction with a view to a higher rating. It's all very exciting, isn't it?

Signals Association Dances.—There is *one* bright spot in our existence, and that is the weekly dances. We formerly held these dances in the Regimental Institute, but owing to their ever-increasing popularity and the fact that the floor covering was rapidly going west, we have had to shift the scene of our activities down town.

The first of these dances was held in the Co-operative Hall, and was entirely free. It was an immense success. A jolly good orchestra, one of the best halls in the town, with a splendid floor, an enthusiastic gathering, and free refreshments. (Oh, Nathan! how those sandwiches vanished! Benje, believe me, he surpassed himself on this occasion.)

We shall hold these dances every Monday night in future, at the usual bob-a-time, and I don't think I am rash in stating that they will easily prove the most popular dances in town.

I should like to record the unit's appreciation of the sporting action of our O.C., Major A. G. J. Copeland, in giving permission for these dances to be held in the town. It is a privilege that all of us will do well to look after.

The refreshments at all future dances will be run by a member of the Association now in civilian life, so we are still supporting home industries.

We have also started a regular Thursday night practice hop for the lads in the canteen. No charge is made, and a pianist from the town comes along and provides the music, usually assisted by Corpl O'Rourke and his banjoline, what time we master the intricacies of the Yale Blues and kindred steps. I'd like to show you the spectacle of our worthy branch secretary, Corpl Andrews, learning the steps at the hands, or rather the feet, of Dvr Shillibeer! I think we shall have to issue a standard certificate for dancing!

Wireless (emphasis on the "less.")—I once stated that the unit possessed no wireless sets. I was wrong. Safely hidden away in the stores are two C sets: very safely. I hear that they are going back to Ordnance. Also, we are now the proud possessors of two A sets, re-arranged for pack transport. These are also safely camouflaged in the stores. There is at present *no* danger of them seeing the light of day.

Return of the Exiles.—One hundred and forty other ranks are due to arrive home from China this month (March).

I think the only people from the 4th Divl Signals now left in China are the wireless personnel (A Section). Presumably they will be employed on short-wave stuff. (I'll listen out for you on three and three-quarter inches, Spill.)

Many of those returning are due for transfer to the Army Reserve—about forty, I think. In addition, there are thirty-eight in the unit at present also due, so the pay-bloke is going to have a "loverly" time. Incidentally I'm one of the thirty-eight, so let's hope they all get spanking jobs. Hear, hear!

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

Scottish Command Signal Company.

Edinburgh.

Introduction.—Let me introduce the Scottish Command Signal Company. I know lots of the Royal Signals personnel don't know that such a Company exists, but we do; and if you came to Edinburgh, you would soon be aware of our existence.

At present we are accommodated in the Castle, where we have our workshops, stores and wireless station. Our strength is one officer, one sergeant, two lance-sergeants and four corporals, with about fourteen civilians. The Company is commanded by Lieut S. J. Fielder, R.Signals.

Departure.—C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Terry, who has just left us en route for Aden. Good luck, Jim!

Arrivals.—Corpl Wright H. A., from India, after a tour of seven years with the Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore. We welcome him amongst us, and hope he will soon settle down to the Scottish clime. He has taken over the duties of paymaster and general office routine of the Company.

Corpl (F. of S.) White A., from Catterick, ex-Egypt (after his F. of S. course) to undergo six months' probation here. We wish him luck, and hope he comes out first grade.

Corpl Daniell from China—at present enjoying a well-earned leave.

Agony.—Hughie sends his best salaams to all his old friends at Jubbulpore, and says "You can't beat a wee Scotch." "How about coming up here, Sam?"

Jim Foley wonders if Jim Ellis has forgotten how to write. Now, come on, Jim; I'm sure you have lots of spare time.

Our Verse.

There was a young fellow called Wite,
Who felt very lonely one night;
He met a wee Jessie
And accompanied her, lest he
Went astray and got awfully tight.

WEE RITE.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

The recent sunshine has made us wonder what is about to happen: it is so unlike Ireland. Some say we are going to have a fine summer, which our cricket fans are already preparing for, but to me it sounds too good to be true. We were told at school about the "saucer-shaped country," little knowing how true it was. Being perched on the edge of it is alright, but away from that edge one gets into the real mud. Of course this delights our footballers, who jump into the various mud-heaps and enjoy it each time. To see them on their return from a game, one would think they were trying to rearrange the map.

This greasy state was the means of a mishap a few weeks ago. One of our dashing D.R.'s, Sigmn Quilter, was taking a despatch out of town when, with the aid of a milk van, he was thrown into a ditch. In spite of a fractured arm he delivered his despatch in proper Signal style, but I am sorry to say he was brought back by ambulance. He is out of hospital now, and of course we are glad to have him back amongst us, but—what a splendid epitaph he could have had!

We welcome the arrival of Sigmn Simmonds from A Corps Signals and Signalmen Bruton and Hardy from Catterick. There is a chance yet for them to become Outlaws.

One of the oldest Outlaws has now left the brigandage for good. After a course at the A.V.T.C., Sigmn Hill F. has entered civvy street. We hope his return to England proved a better passage than his one to Belfast.

In the recent N.I.D. boxing we entered two competitors, both of whom were unlucky. One, I'm afraid, took the result rather seriously—also something else. He is better and wiser now!

I must not forget to congratulate Sigmn Taffy Harries on his recent appointment as lance-corporal. We wish him all luck, and hope he may continue to ascend the upward path. Congratulations are also due to Dvr Gray on obtaining his 3rd class certificate of education.

After many interesting lectures by Sergt Sheale on gas and its effects, we marched to Holywood on February 27th for the purpose of going through the gas chamber. This was done in two parties, so that each could laugh at the other as they came out crying. This was noticed more because of the fine day; otherwise the tears would surely have been mistaken for rain.

Sergt Beverly is wondering what has happened to the Dismounted Wing. He is looking for some news.

Sigmn Cheel G. wishes to hear from Sigmn Moore H. C. D.

There is no truth in the rumour that the C.Q.M.S. is one pint of cresol down. It certainly went down, but was pumped up again. That reminds me! The other day the Q.M. told me that Thomas Gibbon wrote the following lines especially for him:—

That man may last, but never lives,
Who much receives and nothing gives;
Whom none can love, whom none can thank—
Creation's blot, creation's blank.

Of course, it is all a matter of opinion.

C. W. N.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, March 10th.

Bitter disappointment was the fate of this Company on March 8th, when a number of spectators gathered at the Stadium to witness the Rhine Army cross-country championship.

We entered a team in Class B; and although Sigmn Orpwood ran out an easy winner (three minutes ahead of A League's time), with Lieut McCormack a good second, and we had eight men home out of the first nineteen, the laurels were carried off by the Sappers—second place being awarded to our team. Hard lines! but an excellent performance, of which we are proud.

Officers' Leave.—Our O.C. (Major P. C. Snatt, M.C.) is at present enjoying a rest in U.K., and the temporary command of this unit has fallen on Capt W. U. Tyrrell.

Arrivals.—These are too numerous to mention by name, but we welcome the twenty-seven of 'em with open arms.

An old face was recognised by those who were undergoing riding drill in 1922 when L/Sergt Brown H. appeared in our midst.

L/Sgt (F. of S.) Montgomery has arrived in relief of C.Q.M.S. Walker, to whom we offer our congratulations on his recent achievement.

Departures.—The Reserve has gained two of our number during the past month—Signalmen Dunk and Tokins—to whom we proffer our best wishes in their new surroundings.

Marriages.—Congratulations to the following, who have settled for life: Sigmn Lupton W. D., on February 8th, and Sigmn Savage D. P., on March 4th. May they and theirs enjoy the happiness desired for them!

Births.—To Corpl and Mrs. Davey, a daughter, on 14/2/28. Congratulations!

Ginger Edwards and Co., of A Corps, are informed that this incident does not mean a cessation of sport as far as the proud father is concerned. He, too, can still play football.

Courses.—L/Corpl Roberts S. W. has rejoined the unit, after having gone into the more advanced stages of W/T at the School of Signals. He certainly looks none the worse for it.

By the way, Bob; you had better get your supply of pencils and paper for the near future, and probably the orderly room will lend you a typewriter.

Promotions and Extensions.—L/Corpl Hart to be L/Corporal on the Corps roster w.e.f. 11/12/27, and to complete 12 years with the Colours. Who said it couldn't be done?

Honours and Awards.—Vide Army Order No. 150 of 1927: Sergt Smith H. awarded the long service and good conduct medal (with gratuity). Well done, Smudge; it's easy, isn't it?

This Month's Best.—D.R.: "Sergeant, my petrol level is too low." D.R. Sergeant: "For —— sake, fit balloon tyres."

BLANCO.

A Short Story.

"Is the Colonel in?"
"Yes; he is with the General at present."
"Is the Captain about?"
"I don't know if he has gone. Is his cap there on the peg?"
"Which is his cap?"
"The empty one!"

A. B. C.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

February 15th.

General.—At last our unit training is over! We are pleased to say that the C.S.O. Western Command, who directed operations, was very pleased with the results, and congratulated all ranks on the efficient way in which they carried out their various duties. Our area of operations was from Karachi to Dinga.

To enable us to reach Dinga a crossing had to be made over the Hub river at Bund Murad Khan, and this proved very useful in view of the amount of heavy traffic that had to pass over it. At one period the river was impassable by motor transport; and many of us will never forget the heroism of the ration party bringing up supplies from the base, when they found that the only method of crossing was to carry the supplies on their heads. This was one of the lessons one learns on these tactical moves.

It was found that some of the party were below water-level when crossing, and in consequence we shall have to leave the taller men behind next year. Corpls Stoner and Lee, and L/Corpls Childs and Blackwood, would be the type of men for this job as far as height goes—but possibly next year we may discover that their shoulders are not broad enough, or some other peculiar ailment common to men living in a different atmosphere to us will cause another alteration to our plans.

The weather was not all that could have been desired. Just prior to our going out an order came into force that "chin-straps would be worn down on all parades." Many of the locals due to go home in March were priding themselves on being able to show white chin-strap marks on their sun-dials, but were very much disappointed when they found that greatcoats, gloves and mufflers were more in demand than topees. To counteract the effects of the cold wind certain of the Headquarter staff indulged in a tin of Mercantile Marine, which they smeared over their faces to act as a wash as well as a beauty preserver!

A little excitement was caused at Dinga when the prairie caught fire, but thanks to one or two sensible persons this was soon put out.

Our Pack Section went off on their own into the blue, and their transport consisted of camels hired locally. One of these animals caused a bit of excitement before they were out of camp by running amok and upsetting the formation. One man was kicked into a cactus bush; and the peculiar thing about this accident was that the individual had a few days' march before him and the kick did *not* cause him to go sick.

It is a pity that medals were not granted during this campaign. I am sure that the colour party should have been suitably decorated for the way in which they carried out their strenuous tasks and ably left some to others.

The troops' comforts were well looked after. As a matter of fact one individual washed his plate in his tea and drank the washing-up water, saying "Either the rations or the cook is improving."

In concluding these notes on our unit training I must say that I did not notice the Geddes axe as being part of anybody's loading tables, and I am not sure how many recommendations for medals for devotion to duty have been sent in. The char wallah is about the only energetic person that I heard up before reveille.

No sooner had we returned from this campaign than another broke out! Even this did not catch us napping,as an improvised Infantry Brigade Signal Section was formed to proceed to the same area with the Sind Independent Brigade on their brigade training. It is believed that they also put up a good show, so that we shall not have to keep an army of occupation in the Kelat States. The main lesson learnt by the Section on this manœuvre was that spur straps soon get worn out when marching. (How're your poor feet?)

H.M.T. "Somersetshire" arrived during the month at Karachi but brought us no reinforcements, and has only a vacancy for one of the unit to proceed to the U.K. When she returns there are quite a number of the locals going home for discharge, home establishments and leave. It is surprising that a number of personnel have asked permission to get married while on leave; and it is no wonder that enough reinforcements do not come out here, when nearly everyone who goes on leave helps to fill up the ship on her return journey by bringing his bride with him.

Arrivals.—Capt B. de O'Dell, A.I.R.O. Corpl Watterton and Signalmen Anstey, Innes, Driver, Dalton, Morrison, Davies, Funnel, Russell, Middleton, Wallace, Ward, Waldman and Foster from Jubbulpore. We give them all a hearty welcome to this unit, and hope they will never regret their transfer.

Departures.—L/Sergt Murphy, local discharge. Sigmn Sewell to U.K. We wish them the best of luck in their new habitations.

Agony.—Corpl Williams (Bill) wishes to hear from Sergeant Kayley, late of Colchester.

League Notes.—Yes. It is correct to say "sniping" (and not "teeing in" or "tapping in") when referring to a rival.

Intelligence.—One of our budding instructors thinks the following would be a useful addition to "Signal Training" when imparting knowledge to a new class.

HELIOGRAPH, 5 INCH, MARK V.—A mechanical contrivance, only used in fine weather on account of its delicate condition. If it looks like rain, immediately put the helio back in the box in case it gets a chill.

Never lay the stand on the floor, because (if you get G.B.) it means picking it up. Always be careful, in erecting the stand,

"BLANCO"

Used by H.M. Forces for over 50 years for equipment cleaning. Still acknowledged as the one and only for its purpose.

Old Campaigner

not to let a leg get inside your puttee, because if you are suddenly called away you will drag the whole lot with you, and nothing looks worse than a signalman with a helio down his leg.

Don't look at yourself in the mirror—you may get a shock. The duplex is only used in conjunction with the signalling mirror to see if you want your hair cut, or when DX is offered.

The head of the stand is protected by a cap in case it gets a tap.

The range of a 5 inch heliograph is seventy miles. If the message is important and you cannot get it at that range, send a runner.

A helio is useless over hilly country, because it cannot walk.

ADVANTAGES.—*1st, portability:* can be comfortably carried in half a limber. *2nd, speed:* if dropped down a khud, will reach the bottom before a toy balloon. *3rd, secrecy:* the flashes cannot be picked up with the naked hand. *4th, cheapness:* if the signalman loses one and is not rumbled, it costs nothing.

The 3 inch heliographs are not allowed out of stores because troops have been known to pinch the duplex mirrors and give them to blind men for dharsies.

THE CASE.—The helio is carried in a leather case provided with shoulder and waist straps. The latter should invariably be strapped round the waist, across the body and over the right shoulder, then under the armpit across the back, over the left shoulder, once round the waist again, and the end firmly held in the teeth so as to ensure quick release.

(What about a bit on astronomy, Joe?)

AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Cambridge Barracks February 8th.

Although these notes are somewhat behind time—I *did* make a New Year resolution that they should be sent most punctually—we are still in the land of the living (with the usual Indian modification). Well! better late than never, unless it's a parade; then use your own discretion.

The weather is very cold and wet, and makes one wonder sometimes if one has suddenly arrived back in "Old Blight."

Officers.—Our best congratulations are extended to Captain C. T. Hughes, M.C., of the Experimental Section, on attaining that rank.

We welcome Capt J. C. Coates, M.C., from home leave, but regret to hear that Mrs. Coates was too unwell to travel. We trust that she will soon be able to make the journey.

Capt A. Newton, I.S.C., has joined us from the 1st Indian Divl Signals, and many salaams are also extended to him. He has taken over Q.M. from Capt F. R. L. Goadby, M.B.E., who shortly joins his new regiment, the 2/3rd Sikh Pioneers.

Major G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., has returned from home leave, and has gone direct to the Army Signal School, Poona, to which he has been appointed.

Lieut R. A. Smith, A.I.R.O., was with us for thirty days' training, and returned to his home in Kashmir on the 4th inst.

Manœuvres.—This is a sacred word in the unit and is rarely uttered above a whisper; at least, that was the case last week. When our people returned from their cold shower and mud bath, many of them left their voices behind and whispering was the usual medium of conversation. One would have imagined that our strong, silent (very) Army were secret service agents of high standing who were afraid to let any information go astray. Really, I felt sorry for them. When I asked No. 1 Company's C.S.M. how he liked the manœuvres, words failed him!

There was a great deal of talk going around that the manœuvres were cancelled owing to the absence of rum. Oh, dear brothers! never let it be said in this teetotal age that Signals failed through lack of "spirit." This kind of talk will never do. What's the Murree Brewery for?

The manœuvres made a lasting impression on some people. Sergt Bracken will bear me out in this. He unfortunately ran into a bullock-cart in the darkness whilst despatch riding and badly cut his countenance. I am glad to say he is up and about once more, plus a few bandages, and will soon be his old self again. The great war altered the face of Europe, but it was manœuvres that did it for Sergt Bracken.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to (and Field-Marshal batons indented for) the following on attaining their present rank: L/Corpls Holtham E. W., Summers R., Hale E. C., Price H. W., and Somers T. J.; U/L/Corporals Tomkinson E., Dobson A., Hope L., Trew J., Lamb B., Penn L. E., Choulerton J., Howard W., Wood W. F., and Dale G. H. One of this number now withdraws his offer (made in August last) to supply a set of stripes, with hooks complete—he has now found a use for them!

Arrivals and Departures.—Quite a number of changes have taken place. The following have joined us to date: L/Sergeant McLoughlin, Corpls Topp, Searle, and Shreeves, L/Corporals Hayler and Russell, Signalmen McCauley, Jenks, Goddard, Hansford, Salter, Hamer D., O'Reilly, Watkins, Catt, Newitt, Cooper, Hughes, Kendall, Lloyd, Ross, McLoughlin, Walters, Vigars, Whiteway, Thomson, Tutt, Nicholls, Parrington, Stanford, Shilletto, Staley, Yates and Macey, from the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore. Sigmn Johns D. from C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur. Our best welcome is extended to them.

Amongst the departures is Sergt Shilton, to B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot. We were very sorry to let him go.

The following left us for the United Kingdom at the end of December, for discharge or transfer to the Army Reserve: Corpl Chandler and Signalmen Mitchell W., Jones A., Vicker and Roddy. At the same time R.S.M. Bradford and Sergt Spalding, with their families, also left; and Sigmn Armstrong is on leave in U.K. The last named is the celebrated H.Q. gardener. Will he please refer to the General Notes for information?

On the 1st inst. the following draft left for the U.K.: Corpls Wheeler (cheerio, Spike), Godfrey, Trust and Taylor G. A., and Signalmen Beacon, Gill J. P., Smith G. H. (Chinstrap), Wall, Howes, Aylott and Avins, and Sigmn Caton with his wife and family. We wish them all the best of luck and success. Sergt Carpenter has gone home on medical grounds, and we trust that he will soon be quite fit again.

General.—As will be seen from the above paragraph, our technical ability has suffered a great loss. With much regret we said goodbye to our old friend Chinstrap and his conduct sheets. Never again, even in this advanced age, can he be replaced. No more will a sand-sprinkled wash bowl be put out in the sun to dry; nor will the wash-house see so much serge, etc., being scrubbed. No more will our old friend be found wondering on which parade ground he is due (or rather, overdue) to fall in. However, we wish him the best of luck in civvy street.

Headquarters garden has quite refused to function. No further bulletins will be published, and Nature will be given its own way.

We have a Kennel Club, and it is proposed to hold a dog show shortly. I foresee much glee and news. The betting on the possible champion dog at present slightly favours Charlie's "'Arry."

Headquarters office staff have been badly shaken up of late. Sergt Wainscott of the orderly room went into dock shortly after Christmas (no, you bad boys! I did *not* say on account of Christmas) and was discharged minus many molars. This is evidently what one means by the expression "getting it in the teeth." However, he is able to sit up and take a *little* nourishment now, so will soon be fit again.

Then L/Corpl Benten and his bicycle parted company, resulting in the human partner in the argument sustaining a broken collar-bone. He is also convalescent and gives a hand with the office work.

During the time these two members were in hospital, the remaining portion of the staff stood up to the extra work like men! (*I'm* one of the remaining portion, by the way.)

Correspondence.—Dick sends his very best salaams to A.J.K., H.F.H., A.E.W. and S.J.S.

D.R. One.—No! I have been informed that L/Corpl Benten is not about to start an acrobatic cycling stunt class.

Well, I will now close down until next month. Adieu!

ECHO.

Peshawar District Signals.

February 7th.

Last month was rather uneventful. The main item of interest is that the Signals Association held their annual re-union on Saturday, January 28th.

At 4 p.m. the business meeting was held in the dining hall, Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., R.Signals, presiding. The existing committee, having held office for a short time only, were re-elected for the ensuing year; and it is hoped that with their help we shall have some splendid entertainments.

After the business meeting we all wended our way to the sergeants' mess to partake of tea, to which the wives of members of the unit had been invited. That part of the function over, we again moved—this time to the corporals' room, there to enjoy a Bohemian evening. This consisted of special variety turns given by members of the unit, and dancing took place at intervals.

C.Q.M.S. Stevens was most useful in appealing for funds for the Signals Association, and it was rumoured that he was getting his hand in for his return to civil life. But we must admit it is all for a good cause.

The turns were too numerous to enumerate, but it was agreed by all that a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Our efforts in social activity are greatly hampered by the lack of adequate space, and the many schemes we are called upon to carry out which involve our departure from barracks; but despite these drawbacks we do manage to have some good whist drives and functions.

Departures.—On the 1st inst. we bade farewell to the undermentioned, who left this country for the land of the eternal rain (and snow, it is rumoured): Sigmn Seek J. and family, to home establishment. Signalmen Grasmeder W. and Claven F., to Army Reserve. Sigmn Smith L. G., to home establishment. Our best wishes are extended to them all in their new spheres.

Capt R. M. Lunt, 5/2nd Punjab Regiment, left us on the 5th inst. to spend six months on leave in the United Kingdom. We trust that he has a most enjoyable time.

Obituary.—It is with great regret that we record the death of No. 3902482 Sigmn Griffin T. J. (of T Company, Indian Signals Corps) on January 23rd. Although a comparative stranger to the unit—having been employed in the Khyber since his arrival—all ranks were trusting to hear of his recovery from his illness; but on the verge of his departure for the U.K. he gradually lost strength and never rallied. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents in their loss.

Arrivals.—Heartiest greetings are offered to the undermentioned, who recently arrived from the United Kingdom, via Jubbulpore (we trust they will soon settle down to soldiering in Peshdistsigs): Signalmen Ingledew J., Dowdell W., Clements J., Rowlands T., Hunt F., Kempster W., Massey A., Nicholls, S.

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GD 52G

General.—There is great activity in the unit office these days. The thump of the typewriters is incessant, and if any daring person asks a question of any of the staff, woe betide him! It is rumoured that all this activity is in aid of mobilisation, but alas! the prefix "practice" puts a damper on things. To the question "Why is the pigeon loft being repaired?" the answer was received, "Why, for war, of course."

We trust that our pictorial efforts are greatly welcomed, because if they are not we shall send some more along. For the information of all ex-Frontier wallahs it is notified that the celebrated notice board on the Frontier has been removed, and the following installed: "Frontier of India. Travellers are not permitted to pass this notice board unless they have complied with the passport regulations." In time, all those millions of photos of the old notice board will be regarded as heirlooms. Who wants to buy a couple of them at specially reduced prices? A photo of the new board will be inserted in this Journal very soon.

Marriage.—It has been rumoured that a very old friend of ours in the 1st Divl Signals has at last tied the celebrated knot. Of course, no names; but really, Percy, you should have given us ample warning. I put that piece of wedding cake underneath my pillow the other night, but nothing happened. You really should have given us the wire about it. Anyway, the heartiest of greetings are extended to the missus and yourself.

SIGS-PESHDIST.

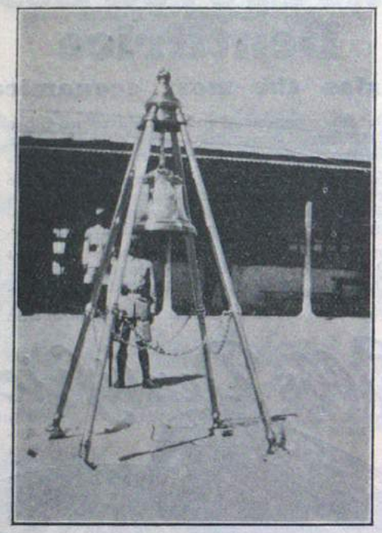
Landi-Kotal Brigade Signal Section.

February.

Signals Association.—We are pleased to open our notes this month by thanking the committee responsible for the excellent re-union dinner held at Peshawar on January 28th. Fifty per cent. of the Section were granted leave to attend the function, but mainly owing to financial difficulties many could not attend. (Yes, Pay Office; waiting for the 10th of each month prevents a lot of things happening.)

Those who stayed at home had a full description of the event from the more fortunate ones, the most pleasing to us being

the success of our Section musicians. "Garn! don't believe yer." We also heard that a brave and bold warrior took off his tunic and said "Now, lads, I'm a signalman now."



War Memorial of 1/3rd Gurkha Rifles at Landi-Kotal.

General.—Great was the delight and many the smiles on the day the January issue of THE WIRE arrived here. To many of the lads this was something new (being mainly newly-enrolled members)—hence the jubilation. Personally, my delight was in the knowledge that I could leave my copy lying about without fear of anyone with Scotch tendencies walking off with it.

Just lately we have been rather enjoying ourselves with Brigade schemes, as we have been partaking in two each week since mid-January. Up to the present we have earned a very good name (communication being always of the best), and we intend to keep it until the end of the last scheme. Of course, in this hilly district, accidents will happen on schemes, and we have one or two brawny lads on the strength of the R.A.M.C. One of them dropped a loaded kajawah on his toe. Ah! a feat (no, not feet) of strength again, I presume.

As promised in our last notes we enclose a few photographs, which we hope will interest readers of the Corps Journal. We hope to send more another time.

Agonies.—Sigmn Holloway would be pleased to hear from Sigmn Rumney, of Command Signals, Aldershot. Will L/Corpl Basher Williams please communicate with L/Corpl Clarke E. A., late of D Company (1926).

The Month's Wonder.—Ducky Duck (late Admiral) was seen to kick a ball, and we all went sick next day with bad eyesight.

Situations Vacant.—Vacancies exist in this Section for a few more really well (s)trained uke players. Only those used to playing at reveille need apply. (No, Dwyer Sahib, a set of strings stretched across a wash-bowl is not called a bo-lele.)

Arrivals and Departures.—We are glad to receive Corporal Penny and Signalmen Ashby, Hardy and Romaine from Peshawar—the two former especially for their hockey capabilities. May their stay be long!

L/Corpl Lawson T. has left us for a vocational course at Calcutta. L/Corpl Simpson to Jubbulpore on a course; and Sigmn Keough to Peshawar prior to leaving for the Army Reserve. The best of luck to them all.

LANDI.

Waziristan District Signals.

Dera Ismail Khan, N.W.F.

General.—Hail, comrades! We have not much news, but accept our greetings.

The weather here is quite decent, although a prevalent thirst is in evidence amongst various members of our community.

A successful dance was held in aid of the Signals Association. This was preceded by whist. There was a good attendance, and dancing continued into the small hours. The commissariat was supervised by two of the lady members of our unit, Mrs. Cains and Mrs. Frost, and thanks are extended to both for excellent services rendered. The M.C.s were L/Corpls Wade and Orford, and Corpls Frost and Richardson ably managed the bottle and jug department. Our president, Capt Winckley, kindly came along and stayed with us for a while.

Arrivals.—From leave in the U.K.: Capt. G. C. Winckley, M.C., and Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich; we are pleased to see them again. Transfers from the U.K.: C.S.M. and Mrs. Cains, C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Hoad, and Corpl Sewell; we give them a hearty welcome, and may their stay with us be long and happy. We also welcome L/Sergt and Mrs. Warlock from Risalpur, and L/Sergt and Mrs. Greed from the Depot.

Departures.—Transfer to U.K. and Army Reserve: We are sorry to lose the undermentioned, who have left us for civil life (but not without expressing some regret, we are glad to say): C.S.M. Chitty J., D.C.M., C.Q.M.S. Saville, L/Sergt Evelyn, L/Corpl Branagan, Signalmen Wilson W. H., Dale W., Doherty A., Wall C. H., and Casbard.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death, at Razmak at 5.30 a.m. on December 24th, of L/Sergeant Channell F., from acute appendicitis. "A splendid sportsman and a thorough good fellow." Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents and relatives.

VAT.

Razmak Brigade Signals.

Razmak calling, to wish all Signal units a happy New Year and to apologise for the absence of last month's notes.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C., Lieut W. Gracie, and trust his stay with us may be a pleasant one. Sigmn Harwar to this unit on permanent transfer.

Departures.—Signalmen Lucas and Barber to Rawalpindi. The best of luck, Joe and Luke, in your new surroundings.

Christmas.—Altogether a very cheerful time was spent at Razmak. The mess-room was tastefully decorated by L/Corpl Shurer and party. The most important thing, the food, was under the able management of Sigmn Fisher, who (aided by L/Corpl Raymond and Sigmn Foster) turned out a first class dinner. Our O.C. (Lieut Gracie) presented the best-decorated bungalow with a prize of two bottles of port. The dinner proceeded merrily, the O.C. proposing a toast to "The King" and "Absent Friends." Sergt Perrett responded with a toast to the "O.C.," the injunction to "drink hearty" being hardly necessary.

OSCILLATOR.

Kohat District Signals.

February 21st.

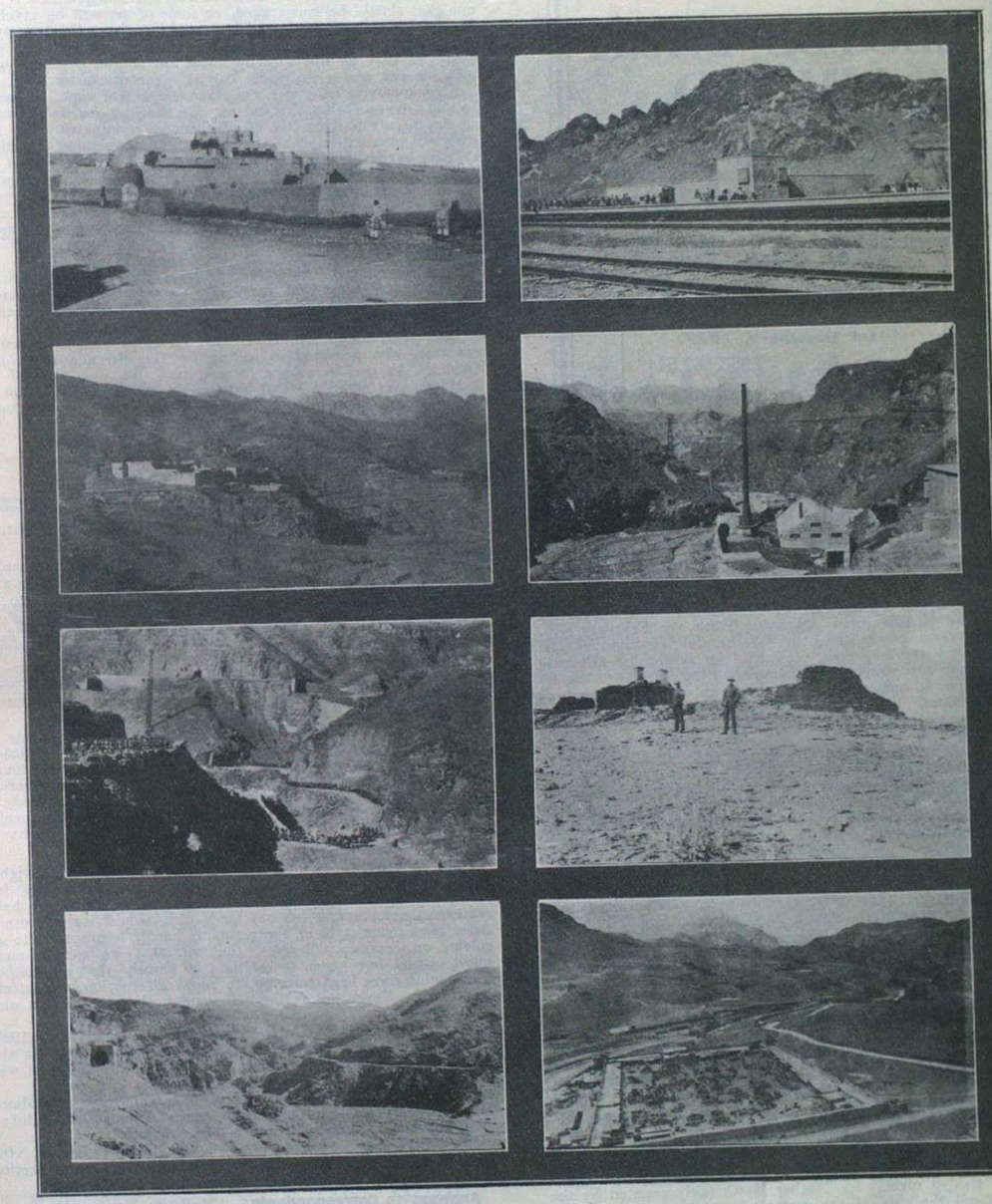
This month, so far, has been most noticeable for two things: the rain, and a burst of warm spring weather. The former left its mark—mudlark, for surely Kohat (or rather Nicholson lines) never was such a mud pond. We slithered on parade; slithered everywhere, in fact. This made the burst of warm weather all the more acceptable.

Queer country, this! The other day I picked up a catalogue of a firm of well-known London clothiers and outfitters, who cater specially for the East. Nowhere could I see anything in the warm clothes line, nothing like a heavy overcoat or mac; yet they called it "Seasonable Clothes." Ugh! that firm needs a bustling commercial he-man to come and put things right.

Yet, I believe, the fact that India can be really wet and really cold sounds like a huge joke to those at home. But it was no joke to No. 1 Infantry Brigade Section—or the rest of the troops, come to that—on the Rawalpindi manœuvres. According to the survivors it must have beaten last year's summer at home!

Kohat District manœuvres having been cancelled, we have settled down to training in barracks, section schemes, and musketry.

VIEWS IN THE PESHAWAR DISTRICT.



Jamrud Fort, N.W.F.
Char-Bagh Fort, Khyber Pass
Landi-Kotal Mobile Column on the march
A View of Khyber Pass

Landi-Kotal Railway Station
Waterworks near Landi-Khana
Ruins of Lord Roberts' Camp
Caravanserai, Landi-Kotal

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Turning to the lighter side of life, an all-ranks dance was held in the R.A.F. lines—a hangar dance—on February 4th. Non-stop dancing was the order of the day, or night. The R.A.F. band and our own provided the music for alternate dances, and one cannot help complimenting our band on its performance: it certainly showed to advantage against that of our neighbours.

During the evening Capt H. D. Orr and several other artistes gave us musical items. This, with the artistic and somewhat original decorations by the Air Force committee, provided a very pleasant evening's entertainment.

Our football and hockey teams have started serious training for the Pindi tournaments, and we are making a real effort to lift the Signals cups this year. Other competitors, please note.

Our congratulations to Major and Mrs. R. A. Henderson on the birth of a son and heir (David) on January 30th.

We have to welcome the following to the fold, and trust their stay in Kohat may be long and cheerful (may they never break the continuity of their service on the Frontier): Signalmen Shubrook A., Seward H., Smith S., Talbot J., Talbot F., Summerskill W., Richards A., and Webster G.

Our best wishes to Sigmn Kennedy-Smith, who took his discharge in India on February 16th. L/Corpl Cole E. and Sigmn Flower J. have left us for vocational training in Calcutta.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

Manœuvres.—Why did we not contribute notes last month? Well, as you know, the season of phases, narratives, special ideas and senior umpires was about us, and the unnatural conditions did not conduce to the compilation of readable notes—so we had, perforce, to revoke.

You know what manœuvres mean. One travels about light, with no money and a kit-bag full of dirty washing, subsisting precariously on excitement and fresh air, varied with an occasional brown stew or a couple of packets of monkey nuts. One's ribs are tickled nightly by Mother Earth (ably assisted by the old man and the kids, if the writer's bones are any criterion), and one suffers terribly in the morning with breezes round the knees. Why can't some kind-hearted philanthropist form a Society for the Provision of Knee Muffs for Cold-Kneed Soldiers? They need 'em.

Apropos: The initiative of one who used the Brigade sign as a knee-protector is to be commended, but the practice is not one that should be encouraged, or some of us will be involved in framing charges against delinquents, in the following style: "Conduct to the prejudice, etc....i.e. misusing Government property, in that he did wilfully make use of the Popham panel as a flea-bag and a lineman's bag as a cap comforter."

All manœuvres have much of a sameness. On some, we march to and fro; on others, fro and to. On the last one we appeared to march only to; but like all of them, it terminated when and where it was expected to, in spite of unprecedented situations created by dashing platoon commanders.

As I say, all manœuvres have a marked similarity; and who, having "done" one, has not heard the lad who (whilst everyone else is perspiring in an earnest endeavour to get his unit into the column by the unearthly hour prescribed in the Order of March) pops up with the plaintive bleat, "What about my breakfast, sergeant?"

Then there's the inevitable signalman who is always chasing but never catching that most elusive personality, the senior umpire; and the happy-go-lucky subaltern who really doesn't care, but is eternally enquiring "What's the situation?"

This year, another soul rolled up—a precocious exchange operator, who persisted in asking for the Brigade *Intelligent* Officer. Ah me! let's hope he got him.

Manœuvres entail a lot of hard work, we know, but a lot of funny things happen, and I've found that one can derive a certain amount of enjoyment from them if one

(A) Has the infinite patience of a Job.
(B) Has a super-keen sense of humour.
(C) Has a facility for fasting for indefinite periods.
(D) Is a practical somnambulist.
(E) Is able to use four senses at once.
(F) Possesses a well developed capacity for assimilating round abuse as though it were generous praise.

Then it doesn't matter a dhobi's donkey if the senior umpire *does* get lost, or the helio you have so carefully aligned on and assiduously called up for twenty minutes *does* turn out to be a biscuit tin.

However, the little troubles and trials notwithstanding, I think the Sections which were out performed their several functions satisfactorily.

And After.—And now, having survived the hectic period commented on in the foregoing, we commence the jolly old individual training again.

We got a new squad this morning; a likely-looking body of O/V group E's—every one a potential C one-er. One, at least, has a marvellous sense of anticipation, for on looking through the results of a preliminary reading test, we noted that whereas everyone else had read "Royal Irish," he had "Royal Scots." We taxed him with fudging and accused him of being a neologist, but he said, "No, sergeant; a Methodist"—which effectively gave us *our* quietus.

Part II. Orders.—In our last issue (if we remember aright) births had a prominent place. This month it is a wedding, for Captain Higgs was happily married on February 9th. This bald statement must suffice, as not for worlds would we venture a description; our style of expression is hardly appropriate to so solemn an occasion. Besides, the fact that we were a mere guest caused our knees to oscillate so fiercely that our nether limbs must have been forming, in rapid alternation, the letters X and O. Never mind; best of good wishes to Captain and Mrs. Higgs!

The posting of Capt Hurst (who has been with us since 1924) to the Signal Training Centre is universally regretted in the Company. His departure causes a vacancy in the unit that will be very hard to fill. May the p.s.c. quickly materialise!

Others to leave us are L/Corpls Kimber and Page, Signalmen Marooney, Bryant, Child, Hollis, Perrin, Thomas and White; all going home. Lucky fellows!—best of luck!

We nearly forgot to hand out bouquets to Sergt Lyon's XIth Brigade Section on lifting the cup for the best all-round Section in the Company. Right well and worthily won, sir!

Answers to Correspondents.—"Mallet": Yes, we have seen worse displays of half-back play, but not much.

"Stanley": Tripe has been known to be better dressed.

"Flo": Quite right, dear. Slightly higher waist-lines will be the vogue during the next trooper. They will be non-skidding and inter-changeable.

JOESOPE.

Gems of English Verse.

No. 5—"SACRIFICE."

Farewell, old friend! the time has come
For us to say goodbye;
I hate the thought of losing you,
But now the hour is nigh.
You've been with me, aye, everywhere,
Right from the very start;
But duty calls, and 'ere this eve
Two comrades sure must part.

Farewell, old friend! this parting will,
There's no doubt, make a sore;
But, still, I know 'twill help me
Just to think of you the more.
And when I fondle lovingly
The place where you have been,
I'll heave a sigh, because I know
You will not then be seen.

So bring me scissors and a towel,
And shaving kit complete;
We'll make this parting swift and sure,
And also, I trust, neat.
I know I should not part with you;
I'd sooner part with cash;
But a drummer in the "Gondoliers"
Should never wear a "tash."

DASH.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

February 23rd.

General.—Apologies are tendered for our absence last month; but, the unit being on manœuvres, circumstances did not permit. It is late in the year now to speak of Christmas festivities, but in passing let me mention that we had a very enjoyable time, and the committee responsible for the arrangements are to be congratulated on the effort they made. A native band composed of Army pensioners helped to enliven the proceedings, and we discovered that we had a budding conductor in our midst.

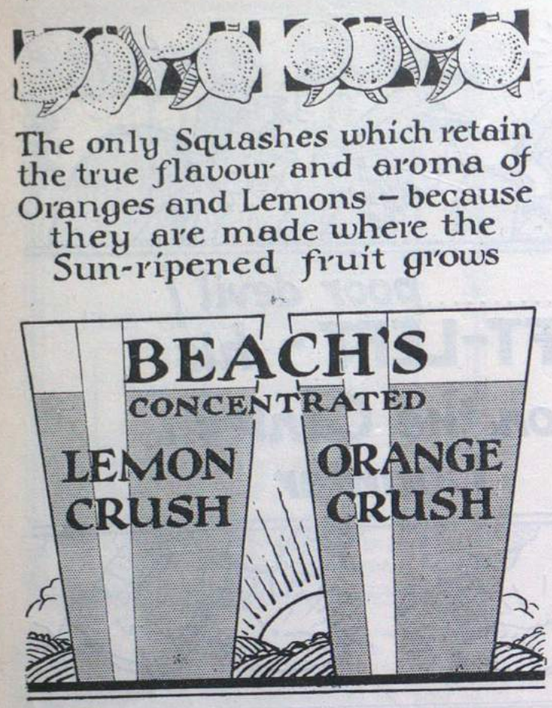
On January 4th we left Sialkot for the Rawalpindi District manœuvres. The march lasted seventeen days and was more or less uneventful. The unit took part in exercises held during the marches from camp to camp, and did all that was required of them. At Rawalpindi the animals were inspected by the A.D.V.S., and once again the report on their condition was excellent; they were spoken of as the fittest in the Brigade.

A rather unique experience occurred at one place where the Troop played a Native College at hockey. After doing their best to make us turn out the ambulance, we beat them by 5—0. Their headmaster invited our team to partake of refreshments at the close of the game. Conjuring up visions of tea and cakes, we proceeded to the schoolhouse and received—a piece of sugar-cane each.

The actual manœuvres commenced on the morning of January 23rd, but during that night the weather clerk decided to give us a treat. A ceaseless downpour for several hours soon made the roads impassable for wheeled transport, and the manœuvre was cancelled. The return journey was made by rail, and we arrived back in Sialkot on January 28th.

Preparations were then made for the move to Risalpur. A Troop arrived here on the 20th of this month, and many old acquaintances have been renewed. By the way, we are glad to see that A Troop have at last woke up and started to contribute to THE WIRE. We trust they will keep it up. When are the members of C Troop going to make a move?

Arrivals and Departures.—We extend a hearty welcome to Sergt Shilton from B Corps Signals, though unfortunately his stay with us will not be a long one. By the time these notes appear C.Q.M.S. Haigh and his family will have renewed their acquaintance with Cavalry Signals, and we also give them a



hearty welcome. Signalmen Reddick, Hubbard and Williamson (three more for "bone rubbing") arrived from Jubbulpore.

Shoey Loakes has left us for Peshawar District Signals, and we wish him the best of luck in his new unit.

Congratulations.—To L/Sergt Brett on obtaining his 1st and a "d"; and also to L/Corpl Mayson on passing in two subjects towards his special. To U/L/Corpls Ravenhall and Robinson V. on their appointment to the first step on the ladder.

Corporals' Mess.—This den has been very quiet of late, but on arrival at Risalpur we intend to make things hum again.

We were pleased to have one of our old members back again for a few days from A Cavalry Signals, but the next time he visits us we intend to lock up all pictures and breakables, for he's expensive.

Our Blighty hero is back from Poona with a lot of funny names for parts of a gee-gee.

One member of the mess is disconsolate, for he has lost his name of Binder. It's impossible to have two of the same name, and all vote that his rival beats him hollow.

By the way, anyone in Blighty who is thinking of coming to India had better get in touch with us, for one of our members (renowned for his "corporation") tells us he is a "veteran of the East," so he should be able to give a few tips.

Men's Mess.—The principal event in this hive of industry is the latest discovery by a member who spent a few days in Rawalpindi Hospital. While there he changed his cockney brogue to that of a Scottish Highlander. He has changed it so completely that his nickname of 'Arry is now changed to Jock.

W. C. M.

Iraq Signal Section.

General.—I think I am right in saying that, so far at any rate, the "game hunters" of this Section have had a pretty successful season. They always come back from their trips with something —either partridge, duck or husky voices—the latter, I should imagine, through shouting at the frightened birds. The comparison between the annual musketry return and the results of a shooting expedition would surprise anybody. Anyway, they are jolly fine partridge. Iveadsum.

Boat Trips.—We are hoping this year to do better (if possible) than last in the matter of boat trips. Instead of starting them at the latter end of the summer, it has been suggested that we organise a few at the beginning. Well, roll on! Last year, I believe, there was only one place in the world that rivalled our "moonlight bathing," and that was Canvey Island.

Billiards.—A match was recently arranged between ourselves and the M.T. Pool, R.A.F. Our team consisted of L/Corporals Brudenell, Fisher and Ashford, Signalmen McKinlay, Hill and Symonds. After a very close game we ran out winners by the small margin of four points.

Promotions.—The heartiest congratulations are extended to L/Corpl Harriss on his promotion to Corporal; also to Signalmen Jerram, Wyman and Ives on acquiring their first step up the ladder. May this be the first of many!

In Lighter Vein.—So many amusing things are overheard in our telephone exchange that a certain signalman is thinking seriously of keeping a record of them.

THE LATEST ONE.—An officer of the junior forces, after getting through ours and a Baghdad exchange, waited for half-an-hour without hearing anything. Suddenly a native's voice broke his musings: "Have you had 77 yet, please?" Came the retort: "Look here, old fellow; if you had been here as long as I, standing by this telephone, you'd have had rickets by now!"

TITUS.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, March 3rd.

Congratulations.—To L/Sergt Rushworth and Corpl White on passing their respective W/T and Foreman-of-Signals courses.

Birth.—To Sergt and Mrs. Honnor, a daughter, at Mustapha, on February 29th.

Manœuvres.—By the time these notes appear manœuvres will be finished. As is usual during these periods, the weather has been bad, consisting mainly of rain and sand-storms. The 120-watts and a C set have been out at Mena and Helouan for some time, providing communication between the Brigades and G.H.Q. Other sets have been moving between the two camps, and will be used in the final phases.

Another Record (?)—A certain signalman wished to communicate with another working on the sports field the other day, but was unable to make himself heard owing to the high wind. Being of a brainy turn of mind, he took off his hat and used it in lieu of "flag, signalling." The signals were distinctly readable at a distance of ten miles! Go up one, Nutty.

W. E. C.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, March 4th.

Notable Events.—As far as can be ascertained, the outstanding event (though the individual concerned is No. 1 Company's property) has been the appointment of Corpl Pat Ryan to the position of i/c regimental police, Polygon. He has already become famous in his new duties, the particular event which brought him undying fame being reported (at least, I hope it is!) under another heading: "Big Game Hunting in Egypt." If you read it, and at the conclusion are still in doubt as to the identity of Tap Nayr and his faithful cook Mahdlo, just reverse the letters of the names and you'll feel wiser! [We regret the report referred to has been unavoidably crowded out this month.—ED.]

J and K Sections are still out under canvas in this romantic land, spending a few weeks on the desert looking for the romantic part of it. Judging by the remarks heard from the fortunate ones taking part in the operations, they don't seem to regard manœuvres as being very romantic. Still, some people are never satisfied!

Landings.—We welcome Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., who arrived on H.M.T. "Nevassa" on the 14th of last month. He will take over the Company from Maj. G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., who is returning to the U.K. in the near future.

Sigmn Strike N. also arrived by the same boat, and his dexterity in juggling plates and scrubbing tables landed him in a staff job in the sergeants' mess the very next day.

Have you seen it?—Echo answers "what?" Why, the sergeant-major's car! This piece is dedicated to those who bit it first time, to those who are just biting, and to those who will assuredly bite.

Those Smiles.—At various intervals mention has been made in these notes of a certain individual's "million dollar" smile. I have been asked to give him due warning that he may have to take a back seat in the near future, as the Troop are training one of their D.R.'s to develop a "two million dollar" one.

Merely a Coincidence.—Found during breakfast on the morning of the 29th of last month, two leaden pellets (slightly damaged with teeth marks) in a serviceable rissole. I'm not throwing out hints, but isn't it remarkable that a pie-ard (wild dog) was despatched to its happy hunting grounds with the aid of a load of buck-shot only the evening before? And at the very door of the cook-house, too! (I sincerely trust this won't affect recruiting in home units.)

Mulligatawny's Latest.—When on a recent signal scheme, owing to the noise created by his machine close to a wireless set, he was politely (*very* much so, in fact!) requested to remove his bike to "warmer regions," as the operator could hear nothing. Shortly after a message had to be delivered, but Mulligatawny could not be found. An hour or so later he turned up, and was asked where his bike was. "I've taken it back to *camp*, as you told me to," said our hero. (That's the limit! Signals barracks at Polygon being classed with the "warmer regions." Oh, Mulligatawny! how could you?)

Worth Mentioning.—The certain Aldershot Section which (as we have been informed by one of the drivers who took part) *marched* 200 miles in four days, all equipment, wireless sets and accessories being carried with the aid of Shanks' ponies!

We don't like to lose you.—But Records think you ought to go: and they've gone! The following limpets and hangers-on were with the greatest difficulty persuaded to leave these sunny climes and board the "Nevassa" for U.K. on the 16th of last month: Corpl Jock Matthews (first-class sprinter, boxer and footballer), Corpl Sid Parker (good all-round athlete), Corporal Guile (Brighton Police, kindly note), L/Corpl Page (not a player, but a strong Corps supporter), L/Corpl O'Donnell (good boxer and athlete, but laboured under the delusion that Everton were going to win the cup), Signalmen Hunter and Carpenter (both good cross-country runners), Sigmn Wilson (good footballer, ex-Corps player), Sigmn Outhwaite (McEwan's and Younger's, please note), Sigmn Drury (Command billiards champion, and holder of the B.S. shield—won outright from Dvr Ratledge), and Sigmn Barker (mothers, watch your daughters!)

Do you believe in Ghosts?—Perhaps you don't, but we have an orderly corporal who does. Sigmn Harry Outhwaite, though having left for the U.K. as stated in the previous paragraph, was placed on the absentee report one evening about a fortnight after he had gone. We all had a good look round for Harry, but could find no traces; so we *presume* the orderly corporal believes in ghosts.

Man's Faithful Companions are slowly but surely becoming as extinct as the dodo, at least in Egypt. Further orders decree that all dogs are to be muzzled and tied up, and on no account to be allowed out without their owners. All dogs seen promenading on their own are liable to receive a charge of buckshot in their hind-quarters from the vigilant regimental police.

An indignation meeting, presided over by Blanco's Micky and ably supported by Bertie's Spindle and the remainder, have to date found no solution to the problem.

"Muslin" of Dogs.—This ought to be reported in the above paragraph, but it deserves separate mention. When the order regarding the muzzling of all dogs came out, the n.c.o. i/c sausage factory (who owns a dog) requested one of our car drivers to get him a supply of *muslin* when he next went into Cairo! I don't suppose it'll be long before we find pieces of the muslin in the sausages; some cooks are too tired to remove the muzzles when filling the bags of mystery. No wonder they call 'em "hot dogs!" though it'll be a bit above the limit if muzzles are thrown in as well. (I hope this doesn't affect the sale of the aforesaid hot dogs.)

Cries in the Wilderness.—Let's hope the people concerned are listening in whilst the following floats through the ether. Some of you people don't half hang on to your stamp money! Last month we had a dozen cries. The month before there were half a dozen gasps, and this month there are four positively shrieking. Here goes!

Driver Jimmie Emblem (there's only one Jimmie, so there's no need to mention his station) is requested to send over a few right hooks and straight lefts (on paper, though, James) to Dvr Abbott (possesses an accent that originated within sound of Bow bells) of this unit.

Sigmn Jimmie Vine (once on the inventory board of Egypt Signals) is asked to plug in to Sigmn Chick Harmsworth (still at the diverting pastime of "number please"). The former is believed to be in Shanghai; at least, it was noticed that the bother in China ceased on the date he was supposed to have arrived there, so it may have been more than a coincidence.

Sigmn E. C. Chaloner (I believe this is only a dodge to see his name in print) would like to have a line from Signalman Gordon J., now in the land of black sausage and lager beer.

L/Sergt McLoughlan was last seen by L/Corpl Hewson A. E. J. (Tubby) in old G Company, way back at Maresfield in '24 (*do* stop gasping, you recruits!); and Tubby wonders whether, if he says "please," he might get a letter. (Never mind the stamp, Mac!)

ART.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, January 15th.

The never-failing topic of "the Trooper" again heads our notes, H.M.T. "Dorsetshire" having left Hong Kong homeward bound. What with Shaforce reductions and the usual draft returns, it is doubtful if there was accommodation for "just one more." A battalion of the Green Howards and two hundred details from Shanghai, added to by over four hundred plus married families from Hong Kong. Ye gods! Nevertheless we are sure that the squeeze will be humorously tolerated. The U.K. is at the right end of the journey!

To our particular friends Capt C. A. Bridgland, Sergt Seymour, Corpl Bowler, and their wives and families, we gave our cheers as the trooper left the wharf, but they were completely

Left! Right!

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drowned by one of the jolliest send-offs imaginable. The full band of the Queen's Royal Regt. and the pipers of the Scots Guards "did their stuff" for an hour-and-a-half, and when finally the "old tub" started on her walk home, "Auld Lang Syne" by the Queen's band was a roaring success. Sergt Withers "makee velley big clacker" and helped the bass drums splendidly. Undoubtedly a send off which will be remembered for many a day!

Our "Jimmy" was very conspicuous; so, although we did not ken them a', we wish all the Signals a good trip, plenty of shore leave, and good stations at home. Cheerio, everybody! may we meet again.

Then, after the storm, the calm? Not much. Already one hears whispers of "only ten months." Had not this period of time a significant meaning to the writer, one might be pardoned for completely ignoring the remark.

Arrivals.—Capt D. L. Carnegie in relief of Capt Bridgland. Welcome, sir! It is hoped you will find much to interest you during your tour of duty.

Acknowledgment to all Units.—Under this heading we wish to tender our thanks for Christmas and New Year cards. It is fine business for us to record that all units did remember Hongkongites. Thank you, all! Your good wishes are doubly reciprocated.

Undetected.—Our heartiest congratulations to Sergt Bent on being awarded the L.S. and G.C. medal. (An appropriate ode may be had on application to our unit elocutionist.) Good luck, old man; and may you wear it many years!

Our Job.—From May till the end of December, over 120,000 groups have been handled by the Hong Kong short-wave W/T set, approximately 60,000 being transmitted. As a point of interest the cost per word *out* is about one penny, which includes the entire cost of installation of two stations and subsequent maintenance. This figure, coupled with the fact that messages are being handled to and from London, Egypt and India, causes the W/T operators to smirk.

The F.E.C. staff, however, go quietly on their way. Recently a considerable number of desk type phones have been received, thus enabling the much-repaired type 16 and 18 and wall phones to be replaced. It was hoped that a considerable amount of airline would be replaced by cable before the next typhoon season, but unless the big ship with the cable aboard arrives very soon, our estimates will have been in vain. Much good work is being done, however, by getting underground all the lines which cross the tramway trolley wires.

I hardly think Peter and Co. would recognise us these days.

Bullets.—Lost Chord. Christmas Cumshaws' end.

Personal.—Robbie wishes to thank Tommie at Colombo for the card and photo, and asks that he be remembered to all E. for E.S. people. Writing. KILOCYCLE.

Wellington Barracks, Feb. 10th.

Signals Association.—A meeting of the local Branch was held on February 4th, when a new committee was elected. Cpl Chapman was elected hon. secretary in place of Corpl Bowler. It was proposed that a new games tournament be held, and outings arranged during the forthcoming summer. It is hoped that we shall very soon again have a 100 per cent. membership.

General.—Winter has arrived with a vengeance. A fortnight ago we were congratulating ourselves upon the mild weather, but a crisp cold wind from the north soon changed our opinions. Great-coats and fires are greatly in evidence at present.

The three C sets were taken out on a tactical exercise on the 9th. One of these worked very well with the air. The other two were used for lateral communication. It is hoped to spare time from our normal duties to get them out in the country for further training and exercise before the hot weather begins.

Agony.—What about Darky's buttons and badges, Gunner?

Sergt Bent wishes to be remembered to the Malta Signal Section, and congratulates them upon the smart turn out of the football team. (Can they play?)

Corpl Chapman of this unit would like to hear from Corpl Poole, late 4th Divl Signals.

L/Corpl Harris sends salaams to L/Corpl Gould, late Eastern Command Signal Section, and would like to hear from him.

Jock Souter would like to hear from Jock Myddleton, somewhere in India.

Notes from Spike Island would be appreciated. What about it, Spike?

To Soofoo: Keep a watchful eye on Dickybird and don't let him stray from your wing, or he will go in search of nourishment.

This Month's Story.—"Where did the car hit him?" asked the coroner. "At the junction of the dorsal and cervical vertebræ," replied the medical witness. The burly foreman rose from his seat. "Man and boy I've been in this district for fifty years," he protested ponderously; "an' I never 'eard of such a place." DAISY.

Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, February 27th.

Not Yet.—We have very little to record this month—in print, anyway. The long expected reliefs are not due here until the middle of April; thereby delaying our homeward bound members yet another month. May 3rd is the presumed date of departure. Some of the said members' remarks on the subject, I fear, would not look well in print.

27th (F) Coy. R.E.—By the same boat are travelling the 27th Coy. R.E., also to U.K. We have been attached to this Company since our formation, but now we shall have to fend for ourselves. We wish them all the best of luck and a good station at home. St. George's will soon be desolate; old hands would hardly recognise it.

Stores, Handing-in of.—A certain I.R. was detailed to proceed to Boaz Island to hand in stores, one item being "barrow, drum, universal." On his arrival there he found the said drum barrow, already dismantled, ready for handing in. He carefully collected everything appertaining to it, including three pieces of iron which he thought must be the chassis. On arrival at the stores it was discovered that his chassis was three "brackets, insulator, angle." The R.A.O.D. storeman is still confined to his bed, but will recover.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1.

"On with the dance, let joy be unconfined" might well have been the slogan for the dance given by the sergeants' mess on Friday, March 2nd, at the headquarters of the Westminster Dragoons, Elverton Street. Despite the fact that Friday is a notoriously bad night for such affairs, it is pleasing to relate that there was a very good gathering, including several of our officers and the adjutant, whose scarlet mess kit added a welcome splash of colour to the scene.

Not only was there a good gathering, but what was more important still, the whole atmosphere was one of cheery good spirit from start to finish: a real Pickwickian Christmas party atmosphere, which would have daunted the most confirmed grouser, even if such had been tempted to use the soldier's privilege. If the dance was as big a success financially as it was socially, the mess should be well away with it. Anyway, here's to the next one.

The subject of social events cannot be dismissed without reference to the dinner held by the 6th Brigade Troop (better known as "the Shiny Sixth"). For some time past this bright and breezy little crowd have had to rub along without their officer, Mr. Messel, who has been absent in South Africa. He signalised his return by inviting his Troop to dinner, which took place on February 14th, the account of which did not come to hand in time for inclusion in last month's issue of THE WIRE.

Needless to say, practically all the Troop were present, as were the adjutant, Mr. Judd, S.S.M. Girdlestone, and the permanent staff. No gathering of this sort is considered complete without "Paddy Maginty's Goat." Mr. Messel congratulated the Troop on winning the signalling competition at camp last year for the second time running, and expressed the hope that they would do as well, if not better, this year. As a matter of fact they will have to do *better*, because Mr. Judd's Troop have taken up the gauntlet and are likely to offer very serious opposition.

The Troop are delighted to have Mr. Messel back with them again, and voted the whole evening an unqualified success, for which the admirable arrangements made by Sergt Hope were very largely responsible.

We have now started rides on Saturday afternoons with the 10th Hussars at Hounslow. The place is good, the horses are good, and the company is good. What more does anyone want? The only fear is that when the news gets abroad that these rides are so good, there will be a long waiting list, and the few wily ones who have so far insinuated themselves into the ride will get found out and crowded out.

Before the time comes round for the next issue of THE WIRE, Easter will have come and gone, and this opportunity is taken of advising our various friends that our address over the Easter week-end will be "c/o The 1st and 2nd Life Guards, Combermere Barracks, Windsor, Berks"—where, with the kind permission of the Life Guards, we shall be most happy to take in and "do for" any friends who find themselves in the vicinity.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Easter is upon us, and there remain only seven weeks before annual training. Drill attendances have been good and are constantly improving, and all signs point towards a very popular camp.

Headquarters were recently inspected by the Director-General of the Territorial Army, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Reginald B. Stephens, K.C.B., C.M.G. We all hope that his visit may result in the overcoming of many difficulties that lie in our way regarding accommodation, etc.

Very shortly the unit will lose two good friends in R.S.M. Hoitt W., D.C.M., and C.S.M. Keenan A. O., who are returning for duty with Regular Army units. Both have been with us for many years, and will leave behind them pleasant memories of good times and hard times shared with us. Their departure will be seriously felt on the social side of the unit, of which they were strong supporters. All of us, and particularly the older members, wish them God speed and success in their career. Whenever they return to Manchester, they will find a hearty welcome awaiting them in Burlington Street.

We welcome R.S.M. Grist G. H., who has joined the permanent staff from the 3rd Divl Signals, and assure him that any doubts he may have entertained about Manchester are entirely groundless. It is really a cheery and progressive place, with a climate every bit as good as London's.

No. 1 Company held a very successful hot-pot supper at headquarters on March 7th. The officers and about sixty n.c.o.s and men were present, together with a number of guests. After supper an entertainment was provided which not only excelled in witticisms and humour, but also in its diversity.

No. 3 Company, 2nd Corps Signals (S.R.)

Whilst it may be true that the Army marches on its stomach, this fraction of it certainly specialises in sandwiches. They are the common item in every scheme, big or little; and to judge from the latest returns, capacity grows with repetition. Their fame has even reached the "Brown Cow" at ——, but we will say no more. Sufficient unto the sandwich is the meat thereof!

The new store room provided by the Territorial Association is much appreciated. C.Q.M.S. Dagnall has laboured under many disadvantages hitherto, and our good wishes go with him in his new venture on Blackstone Edge. D.R.s, please note!

Found it!

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WILKIE & SOAMES LTD GREENWICH, LONDON, S.E.10.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

I am indebted to a correspondent for the following notes regarding the n.c.o.s course held at Bulford under the wing of their mother hen the 3rd Divl Signals.

"Under the command of Capt G. W. Odell (our adjutant) we raided our parent body, the 3rd Signals, at Bulford during the period 4th to 10th March. The strength of the raiding party was thirty-five, but during the carrying out of the raid the '3rds,' reinforced by a Mespot Draft, rallied and were able to inflict severe casualties on the raiders.

"Joking aside, however, we must say that our reception by the '3rds' was in true Signal spirit, and our thanks are perhaps best expressed when we say that a large number anxiously enquired as to the possibility of extending the course for another week, which unfortunately could not be done.

"The expressions on every hand would, if heard by R.S.M. Adams and Co., have raised a modest blush. Our thanks are also due to the 6th Field Brigade Artillery for their reception of some of our junior n.c.o.s, for whom accommodation could not be found in the Signals' lines.

"The greatest keenness was shown by all on the course, the first of its kind to be held under the eagle eye of a Regular unit, and members of the 43rd Signals assembled at Bulford from Exeter, Southampton, Plymouth, Crediton, Teignmouth, Topsham, Barnstaple and Bristol.

"The programme was thoroughly instructive, and the knowledge gained will be of immense assistance and add, we hope, to the efficiency of the unit. The W/T and signal office demonstration given by the 3rd Signals for our benefit was very much appreciated, and gave us an insight into the possibilities of Signals in the field.

"Capt R. C. Cummings, O.B.E. (O.C. No. 3 Company) paid us a visit towards the end of the course and found us all with our 'tails up!'

"Desiring to show the '3rds' that the '43rds' were hot stuff in the way of sport, a soccer match was arranged with one of their Company teams. Having carefully selected our referee for the occasion, our hopes ran high, but unfortunately for us he was not allowed to even officiate as linesman—and to cut a long story short, we were beaten by 4—0 by a team superior in every department of the game. A different story, we hope, will be told on some future date. Corpl Bill Easton, one of the old brigade, shewed some of the young 'uns how to do it, but they couldn't stick the pace! We wonder what he trains on?

"We had a field day for the Southern Command cross-country championship, and saw the 3rd Divl Signals romp home in no uncertain fashion. We congratulate our Regular comrades on their great effort, and we can assure them that no one appreciated their success more than their children from Wessex. Here's wishing them success in the Army championship! We have seen no finer display than the packing of the team on that run.

"The break up took place on the 10th, and everyone returned home after what was unanimously declared to have been the best n.c.o.s course of recent years."

There are a few things we should like to know.

What C.Q.M.S. Sweating (spelt with an *a*, please) said when he challenged one of the 43rd to 100 up for a bottle of pop, gave him 20 start, and lost by 44. (They look so easy, these country lads.)

What the "Volunteers for Mespot" said after "Dental Inspection," especially when one of the Volunteers heard the D.O. laying 4—1 the field on the occasion of the cross-country run?

Why the tailor failed to turn up to measure them for shorts?

Why the weights could not be taken for the camel saddles?

Just what was said exactly by those who were ordered extractions?

How many dentures were obtained free, to replace those carefully hidden in pocket handkerchiefs?

What a certain sergeant said when his bed fell over at about 11 p.m. and one of the legs knocked him in the eye?

Who jumped out of bed one night, shouting "snakes!" and subsequently found the snake in the form of ½ lb. of putty?

Which P.S.I. had been through Porton? and was it the same P.S.I. who was severely ticked off for *improper conduct* on the dental inspection?

How many took advantage of the very sporting offer of a certain C.Q.M.S. to change all shirts for greybacks? and what the storeman would have said when they arrived at the C.Q.M.S.'s stores?

After these, there are a few things we at home would like to know! These "Bulford Breezes" seem to have been most invigorating! Perhaps the writer of "Plain Tales" can tell us something about these mysteries next month. OLD SPARK.

Plymouth Sections.

We have now brought up our strength to the half century, in spite of departures to the Regulars.

The rifle shoot against the D.C.L.I. Terriers took place, but for a certain reason it is wise not to publish the result; and besides, we do not wish to put the wind up No. 1 Company! I hear that our team got sea-sick crossing the Tamar. Who said that the bridge was *unsafe?* Did he "read" it?

The n.c.o.s week with the 3rd Divl Signals appears to have been greatly enjoyed by all who went. Many tips were picked up, which will be passed on. The following queries arose during the course and have still to be answered.

Did the two Plymouth sergeants go to hear a buckshee concert or to stand to attention at the end of the show?

Did the goalkeeper see No. 4 go in? and how did he get through the back of the net?

Do barbers make good dental officers?

Congratulations to Corpl Ford E. on his promotion from lance-corporal. A well-deserved "leg-up." RUBBER NECK.

The Plymouth Sections send greetings to Capt A. Grist, M.C., and good wishes to him for the future.

They also learn with regret of the departure of C.S.M. Agombar G., No. 1 Company's popular P.S.I., and they wish him the best of good luck for the future.

Correction.—For "Greerly" in last month's note please read "greedy."

Other items must be held over till next month, as we have now used all the space we are entitled to this time.

OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6.

My efforts of last month duly appeared in print, and I suppose it is time that the tick-tack business started once more. (Loud moans from the P.S.: "What! you here again?")

Training.—On parade nights the drill hall is absolutely a hive of activity. This can be explained by the fact that Easter camp is in the offing. It is with pleasure that we learn that the scene is to be at Chichester—the acquaintance of which we made last year. It is pretty certain that there will be a "lovely war" provided the indent for good weather succeeds. Next month I hope to give full details of the various engagements both in the field and out of it.

A report is to hand that two of our D.R.s have taken up flying. It would appear that a telegraph pole loomed up in front of their barrow with disastrous results. However, the injuries were confined to the mechanical side, for which we are truly thankful.

Billiards Tournament.—The draw has taken place and has certainly evoked some surprise, judging by some of the remarks overheard ("What! me against him; strike me pink, he won't half get wiped up.") However, perhaps the winner will give the unit a surprise. L/Corpl Howell, who is devoting much time and energy to this, is deserving of our thanks.

Sergeants' Mess.—The mess was honoured a short time ago by a visit from Major Hitchcock, who will be remembered by the old stagers as a former adjutant. With him were Capt Reid and Major Keogh. The trio received a very warm welcome from a good muster of mess members, who kept the visitors occupied with plenty of yarns (and refreshments). The musical side of the evening was supplied by Sergts Tyler, White and Daniels, who worked with a will. As a side line Fred gave a first class rendering of "O Sol Mio," the appreciation of which by the members is uncertain. The mess welcomed the opportunity of wishing Major Hitchcock the very best of luck, as he goes on foreign service shortly. It is hoped that the next time he is in England the mess will again have the pleasure of giving him a welcome.

Following the report in a daily paper that the P.O. station at Rugby is now in full swing, a slightly bald old (?) gentleman is now supporting the bar. There will be no prize given for the solution of this mystery.

To B.B.—Is it true that No. 2 Company are bringing dart boards to Easter camp? If so, is this to be taken as a challenge? By the way, is your latest recruit a darts champion?

THE TYPEWRITER BASHER.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

Unit Dances.—A very successful dance was held at the King's Restaurant, King's Road, on Friday, February 18th, and we were honoured by the presence of our O.C. (Major J. D. N. Molesworth, M.C.) and Capt F. H. FitzHugh. A large number of other members of the unit were present, but not so many as we wished to see.

Another dance is being held at the same place on Thursday, March 15th, and those members and friends who were sorry they did not attend the last will be able to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Easter Training.—This is again being carried out at Chichester from 6th to 9th April inclusive, with Nos. 1 and 3 Companies from headquarters. This will be a chance for "the devil to cast his net." The result will be notified in next month's issue—if I'm here to tell the tale!

Congratulations.—All members of the Company extend their heartiest congratulations to our commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. R. E. Coleman, O.B.E., T.D., on his promotion to that rank; also to 2/Lieut W. Gilbert on his promotion to Lieutenant.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.—The annual dinner of the mess (R.A. and Signals combined) was held in the drill hall, Gloucester Road, on Saturday, March 10th. C.S.M. Mumford C. was in the chair. We were once again honoured by the presence of our O.C., Capt F. H. FitzHugh and 2/Lieut K. J. T. Boag, as well as the adjutant and officers of the R.A. Although it was rather cold when we sat down to dinner, it seemed much warmer on rising. This applies to those who were *able* to rise! Harry Lee and Co. may know something about this.

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is absolutely necessary, and butchers know that the best method is regular scrubbing with WILKIE & SOAMES blue mottled soap.

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Conclusion.—I must apologise for the scarcity of notes this month, but I want to leave room for headquarters notes! I shall be at Chichester to answer for this! B. B.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby, March 14th.

Company training is now in full swing, and everyone is striving his utmost in order that his Section may win the Jackson cup. This trophy is presented by our hon. colonel, Brigadier-General G. M. Jackson, T.D., to the Section which proves the most efficient during the year.

The annual dinner of the w.o.s and sergeants' mess was held at headquarters on March 3rd. R.S.M. O'Brien occupied the chair, and we were honoured by the presence of the O.C., Lieut.-Colonel L. J. Worthington, T.D., and the officers of the unit. Among the guests were R.S.M. Green, R.Q.M.S. Brown, and C.S.M. Johnstone (of the 49th Divl Signals), and Sergt Rhodes (of the 48th Divl Signals)—all of whom we were very pleased to welcome amongst us. We also had the pleasure of welcoming our future P.S. instructor, Sergt Bareham.

After an excellent repast a few toasts were honoured, and the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony. This was the first time the 46th had had the pleasure of hearing the inimitable R.S.M. (Dodger) Green, and they hope it will not be the last. He had them in roars, especially when giving some reminiscences. The remainder of the artistes acquitted themselves in a like manner, and the time for closure came all too soon. Everyone agreed that it was the most successful gathering yet held.

A most interesting innovation has arisen from a conversation during the sergeants' gathering. Wireless communication has been established between the 46th at Derby and the 49th at Leeds. Messages have been successfully exchanged, and it is hoped this communication will be maintained.

It is with great regret that we bid farewell to our P.S. instructor, Sergt Harris E. During his—stay in Derby No. 1 Company has made rapid strides. Despite the fact that several of the old n.c.o.s and men have left the unit, time-expired, the

numbers have increased until they are now approaching complete establishment. We wish him every success in his new home.

We welcome into the fold Sergt Bareham G. W. His first meeting with us was in very pleasant circumstances. We trust his stay among us will always be as pleasant. MEREBIMUR.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Aberdeen, March 13th.

Congratulations to our officers who so successfully passed their promotion examination. My power as a seer increases! Great credit is reflected on the adjutant who carried out a long series of lectures, etc., and the fact that no one failed to pass is sufficient evidence that our officers generally do well at anything they put their hands and minds to.

As anticipated, our whist team went into the final of the City shield with flying colours, but lost in that match by the narrowest of margins. Hard lines, chaps! Next year must see you in possession of the trophy. In any case, to be in the final two years running is not bad; we can't win everything.

Capt B. H. House has now returned from leave, so we can expect to be getting a trifle busy again. We trust he has spent a pleasant holiday.

Our rifle club has now grown to such an extent that we shall shortly need a range to ourselves; for what with team and section shoots, and the individual competition, the rifles are seldom allowed to get cold. However, this month sees all shoots at an end. Prizes will be distributed on March 30th.

D, H and No. 207 Sections are running neck and neck for the Section cup and medals, only two or three points separating each. This is just what is wanted, as the keener the competition the better the shooting. Soon we shall be able to challenge No. 2 Company's team; and maybe we won't get such a fright as we did last time.

Col. Hamilton Leigh has now relinquished the hon. colonelcy of the unit, after four years. He retires with the best wishes of the whole unit, who realise the tremendous amount of good work done by him and Mrs. Leigh.

Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E.—Colonel Leigh's successor—was formally introduced to the unit on Friday, 9th inst. I say "formally," as Colonel Nicol needs no introduction to the 51st. In making the introduction, Lady Provost Lewis (deputising for the Lord Provost, indisposed) spoke of the long and distinguished career of Colonel Nicol, and expressed the opinion that we were very fortunate in getting such an experienced officer. We agree!

(Left to right)—Lieut.-Col. F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., Col. J. A. Ogilvie, T.D., Lady Provost Lewis, Col. R. J. Nicol, O.B.E.
Capt. B. H. House *(standing in rear)*
[Photo by kind permission of "The Aberdeen Press and Journal".]

Colonel Nicol, in reply, said he hardly recognised himself as the gentleman in question, so eloquently did the Lady Provost extol him; but he was a very proud man that night, and assured all present that though he didn't have the honour of belonging to such a glorious Division as the 51st during the war, he considered himself highly honoured now to be a live part of it as our colonel.

R.S.M. Andrews, M.B.E., then called for three cheers, which were given with such a will that Tug's rhubarb has subsided again.

Dancing was then indulged in to a late hour, and for sheer brilliancy I declare the scene beggars description! Officers of all units were present, and the many-coloured tartans and mess dresses, coupled with the softer shades of colours worn by the ladies, was a sight never to be forgotten. Not for many a long day will we forget Colonel Nicol's reception.

Pip danced an eightsome reel; reely, he did. He fizzed and flipped from one to another and finally lost himself in some obscure corner. He hasn't quite recovered yet, but is practising for the sergeants' dance which takes place on March 23rd. Dumb-bells and skipping form his chief exercise. (Aldershot papers, please copy.) SMUDGE.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

When the lower scale of bounties for Territorials was announced last year, we expected that for a time at least it would have an adverse effect on recruiting; instead of which men are presenting themselves for enlistment almost every evening. We are fortunate to be in the position that we need only accept the type of man we think will be able, after a little training, to distinguish a dot and dash from a G.S. wagon.

Officers' Lectures.—A series of lectures during February was given by senior officers, and these were most instructive and very much appreciated.

Tactical Exercise.—A tactical exercise was held in the vicinity of Gleneagles on March 2nd/5th, and it was gratifying to see that seventeen of our officers turned out for the occasion. The scheme was worked in conjunction with the 156th Infantry Brigade and the 80th R.A. Brigade. The working out of the exercise was rather curtailed by the typical Highland mist that hung about the hills for the whole week-end; but even with the drawback of poor visibility, the need of co-operation between the different branches of the Services was quite patent, and much valuable experience was gained.

Sport.—The 52nd (Lowland) Division boxing championship finals were carried out at West Princess Street drill hall on February 25th. Our two entrants, after a good fight, were beaten in the semi-final stage. Better luck next time! Great credit is due to R.S.M. Terry, who did so much in the organisation of the tournament. The winners go to the London Stadium under his genial care on March 13th, and we wish them the best of luck.

Agony.—C.S.M. Revell and Sergt Cooper wish to be remembered to Sergt Billy Bent, believed to be breathing the sweet air of Malta. LOWSIGS.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

The time for writing notes has come round with amazing rapidity, and we're all behind again. There seems very little to report this month. The adjutant, assisted by C.S.M. Leckie, P.S., and L/Cpl Macmenimen T. A., of No. 3 Company, carried out a course of signalling of one month at the Depot of the Suffolk Regiment, Bury St. Edmunds, for regimental signallers of units in the Division.

Very good progress was made, and it is hoped that it will help considerably in the annual classifications. Several units of this Division were well up the roll in the Dartmouth cup last year, so this year they should stand more chance of being in the first three.

A very useful arrangement for indoor signalling has been invented at these headquarters, and proved a great success at Bury St. Edmunds. It is locally known as the "war-maccerflap" (patent applied for). Private view by ticket only. No dealers need apply.

The regimental dance was held at the Town Hall, Stratford, on February 29th, and was a great success. The company numbered about four hundred, and a very pleasant evening was spent. We wish we could have seen a few more officers present, but no doubt business kept them away. It was their loss, however, for it was one of the best dances of the season.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Fencing Notes.

During January the Fencing Club has unfortunately been deprived of the valuable services of 2/Lieut L. W. J. Dryland, who is now bound for India. It was due to his energy and perseverance that the Club was established in the Signal Training Centre, and his leadership has started us on a very successful season. The gap in our team is further increased by the departure of 2/Lieuts Bell, Hoblyn and Ponsonby.

The first match of 1928 took place at the S.T.C., when we were visited by Sedburgh School on January 26th. Signals won the match, scoring six wins to three in each weapon, sabre and foil. The S.T.C. team was as follows: Sabre, 2/Lieuts L. W. J. Dryland and G. D. Bell, and Sergt.-Instr. Tomblin (A.P.T.S.). Foil, 2/Lieuts E. J. Heap, A. V. S. G. Kemball, and J. C. D'A. Dalton (**R.A.**).

On Friday, February 3rd, we held our return match with the Royal Engineers (Catterick). The issue was very close, Signals just winning by the odd fight (14 to 13). The R.E.s were represented by Captains J. S. P. Tosh, M.C., and D. Morris, and Lieut A. J. H. Dove, in all three weapons. The results and our teams were: Foils, 2/Lieuts E. J. Heap, A. V. S. G. Kemball, and J. C. D'A. Dalton (R.A.); lost by 2 wins to 7. Sabre, Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., Lieut R. L. K. Allen (Norfolk Regiment), and Sergt-Instr. Tomblin (A.P.T.S.); lost by 4 wins to 5. Epée, Major R. P. A. Helps, Lieut R. L. K. Allen and Sergt-Instr. Tomblin; won by 8 wins to 1.

The Signal Training Centre has entered for the Army inter-unit fencing championship. As we were the only unit to enter from the Command, we have become the possessors of the Northern Command championship, and thus qualify to meet the winners of the Scottish Command championship in the next round.

The Northern Command bronze medal tournament will be held in York on 3rd and 4th April. This tournament constitutes an eliminating round for the Royal Tournament, and consists of individual competitions in foil, sabre, epée, and bayonet, open to all ranks.

S.T.C. v. Leeds University.—On Thursday, February 16th, we were visited by a foil team from Leeds University. The match took place in the squash racquets courts, both sides having three representatives. Each foilist met every man of the opposing team twice.

In the first round the best of nine points was contested for, but only three hits were required to constitute a win in the second round. The result of the first round was six wins to three in favour of the S.T.C. The second round gave a similar result, and the S.T.C. won the match by twelve victories to six.

The teams were as follows: S.T.C., Lieut F. B. Pinchard, R.A., 2/Lieut A. V. S. G. Kemball, and Sergt-Instr. Tomblin. Leeds University, Messrs. S. H. Barlow, Williams and Gibson.

The return match took place on Saturday, February 25th, when a team of four journeyed to Leeds. The fencing took place at Devonshire Hall, and was witnessed by a considerable number of spectators. A member of the Leeds Fencing Club refereed the fights.

The result was nearly a walk-over for us, as we won twelve fights out of the sixteen. The following constituted the S.T.C. foil team: 2/Lieut J. C. D'A. Dalton, R.A., Lieut R. L. K. Allen, Norfolk Regt., and Sergt-Instrs. Hart and Tomblin.

S.T.C. v. Bradford Fencing Club.—The S.T.C. received a visit from the Bradford Fencing Club on Saturday, March 10th, and the match took place in the gymnasium. The Bradford team consisted of five members, who inflicted defeat on us in all three weapons.

Sabre—Bradford 6 wins; S.T.C., 3. S.T.C. team, Major R. P. A. Helps, Lieut R. L. K. Allen, and Sergt-Instr. Tomblin.

Epée—Bradford 5 wins: S.T.C., 4. S.T.C. team, Major R. P. A. Helps, Lieut R. L. K. Allen, and Sergt-Instr. Tomblin.

Foil—Bradford 6 wins; S.T.C. 3. S.T.C. team, 2/Lieuts A. V. S. G. Kemball, G. H. S. Balmain, and J. C. D'A. Dalton.

Rugby Notes.

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Middlesbrough.—Played at Middlesbrough and won by the home team by 19 points to 3.

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Billingham.—Played on the Scotton ground; result, 3 points each. The ground was ankle deep in mud.

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Hartlepool Rovers.—Played at Hartlepool. Owing to half-term leave at the School of Signals, we had to be reinforced by several players of other units and by our "A" XV. players. The Rovers won a very one-sided game by 54—3.

Royal Signals (Catterick) "A" XV. v. R.A.F. (Catterick).—A most enjoyable game resulted in a win for us by 19—3.

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. The Border Regiment.—Played on Highlands; result, 6 points each.

Boys v. Barnard Castle School.—Played on Highlands. The Boys won easily by 24 points to nil.

Hockey Notes.

Owing to the severe climatic conditions very little hockey has been played since Christmas; but a welcome improvement in the weather enabled the S.T.C. v. Thirsk match to be played on Scotton ground on February 25th.

The S.T.C. side was in the nature of an experiment to try-out several of the new batch of young officers recently arrived from the "Shop"; hence several regular players had to stand down.

Signals pressed from the start, and for the first ten minutes Thirsk were confined to their own "25." A pass from the left put 2/Lieut Scarlett in possession, and a very nice piece of short in-and-out passing left him in the circle, whence with a good

shot he scored, putting us one goal up. Thirsk now pressed, but except for two short corners against us they did not look like scoring. Our halves and backs kept the enemy forwards well in hand, leaving our goalkeeper very little to do. A very fast first half left us leading by 1—0.

In the second half Thirsk pressed more than we did, but excellent clearances by Sergt Carpenter and 2/Lieut Gardiner, our backs, kept them out. In a break-away, 2/Lieut Scarlett netted with a magnificent shot, but gave sticks. Lieut Boyd broke through direct but over-ran the ball on the bumpy ground, and again we hit their goal-keeper in the chest with a hard shot from a corner. No further score resulted, so we were winners of an excellent game by 1—0.

Sergt Carpenter, at back, excelled and played the best game of his many good ones at Catterick. 2/Lieut Gardiner was excellent also at back, clearing well and quickly. Both backs covered each other well. The halves were excellent, too, hard-working and clearing well. Lieut Longden played an excellent game, feeding his forwards well and passing to his wings with good judgment. 2/Lieut Saunders played an excellent game at left-half, but his passes to his wing forward were mostly wasted by the inability of our outside-left to keep on side. The combination of the forwards was not good, but as it was a new line, and the ground did not lend itself to the short-passing game, perhaps this was to be expected.

The match was of value in that we have discovered some good talent in Lieut Longden, 2/Lieuts Ruck, Saunders and Gardiner, all of whom made a successful début in S.T.C. hockey. Mention should be made of the valuable services of Lieut Spencer, our education officer, who invariably turns out and most efficiently referees all our matches. We owe him a debt of gratitude, and his services are most welcome to the team:—Goal, Dvr Batcheldor; backs, 2/Lieut Gardiner and Sergt Carpenter; half-backs, Sergt Hall, Lieut Longden and 2/Lieut Saunders; forwards, Lieut Boyd, 2/Lieut Ruck, Major Drayson, 2/Lieut Scarlett, and Sigmn Gibbons.

S.T.C. v. R.M.A.—Played at the Stadium, Catterick, on March 3rd. This match, a most welcome addition to our programme, was arranged this year for the first time; and it is hoped to make it an annual event, played alternately at Catterick and Woolwich.

Capt Westropp, R.Signals, came up with the "Shop" team, and from what we had heard a hard game was ahead of us. The result, a narrow win for us by 2 goals to 1, was gratifying to us, but the state of the ground made good hockey difficult. Two days' heavy rain just before the match made the Stadium a sea of mud. In spite of this both teams played excellent hockey, and a fast game under the circumstances resulted.

Signals lost the toss and started off against the sun. A very early break-away by Lieut Boyd nearly resulted in a goal, but the soft ground in the circle made shooting difficult. For the first quarter of an hour Signals pressed continuously but could not pierce the Shop defence, their goalkeeper saving well.

The Shop forwards then got going, and our goal had a few narrow escapes, one shot hitting the post. Our backs and halves played well and kept the ball well away from our circle, and half-time arrived with no score.

Shortly after half-time a break-away on the right by 2/Lieut Ruck gave Lieut Boyd a shot which the goalkeeper half stopped, and 2/Lieut Scarlett, following up well, scored for us. The game was very even for a time, until a good run by the Shop left wing finished with an excellent shot which defeated our goalkeeper.

There was nothing now in the game, but just on time a break-away on our right by Lieut Boyd, and a centre right across the goal mouth, enabled Major Drayson to score, leaving us winners by 2—1.

Under the circumstances a draw would have been a fair result. The game was one of the best we have had, and it was a great pity that we did not have a hard fast ground. The Shop team were very fast and combined excellently, and it is hoped that next year many of them will be wearing the Corps colours. There was a good sprinkling of Corps supporters, including Colonel and Mrs. Clementi Smith. Capt Westropp and Lieut Spencer very ably refereed the game.

S.T.C. team: Goal, Lieut Hatfield; backs, Sergt Carpenter and 2/Lieut Gardiner; half-backs, 2/Lieut Saunders, 2/Lieut Knox, and Sergt Hall; forwards, 2/Lieut Ruck, Lieut Boyd, Major Drayson, 2/Lieut Scarlett, and 2/Lieut Heap.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Cross-Country Running.—After putting up a fine show in the inter-Company runs this season, we failed to start a full team in the final run, which was very disheartening, as those of our team who did run showed remarkably fine form—nine finished in the first twenty-one to gain Depot Battalion "Jimmies" for 1927-28. Corpl Morris (6th) and Sigmn Rushmere (9th) qualified for S.T.C. "Jimmies." Dvr Gaston was absent owing to sickness. Our final position in the League was fourth.

Corpl Morris and Dvr Gaston were selected to represent Royal Signals (Catterick) in the senior event of the N.E.C.C. championships at Newcastle on February 11th, and Corpl Morris was third man home for the Signals. Sigmn Rushmere ran well to finish twenty-fourth in the junior event.

An inter-Battalion run was held on February 28th to decide who should represent the Northern Command in the Army championships. The Depot Battalion team was composed chiefly of Mounted Wing men. Dvr Gaston (3rd) and Corpl Morris (6th) showed to great advantage in a race well won by the Training Battalion by 42 points.

Soccer.—We have commenced play in the S.T.C. Inter-Company League (1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions). Each Company has to find three teams, which is a splendid innovation, as it gives a larger number of men a chance to show their talent.

We started off well in our games with the School of Signals. The first eleven won by the odd goal, and it was a very good game. We sadly missed our Ton (Staples). Tinkler played a very good game, and kept the School in their own half for the better part of the game.

The second eleven won by 4 goals to 2, and played a good game. Monks played a fine game in goal, but the backs were rather weak and suffered from nerves. Manlove kept the forward line well fed, but they failed to take advantage of all their opportunities.

The third eleven only managed to draw. Burrows played a fine game at right back, and with more practice will work his way into the first team.

The following are the results in the three Leagues to date:—

1st League—Beat School of Signals by 1—0, and lost to F Company by 2—5 and to D Company by 0—1.

2nd League—Beat School of Signals by 4—2 and F Company by 6—2, and drew with D Company at 2—2.

3rd League—Beat F Company by 4—2 and D Coy. by 5—3, and drew with School of Signals at 1—1.

School of Signals, Catterick.

Soccer.—On Wednesday, February 22nd, we played C Coy. Royal Tank Corps in the Garrison League. We were obliged, owing to the exigencies of the Service, to field a team handicapped by the absence of the hard-headed community; but on a soggy pitch we managed to defeat our opponents by 4—0.

On Wednesday, February 29th, our three bands of stalwarts turned out to give battle to D Company in the Inter-Company League. The time-honoured process of "bringing home the bacon" was unfortunately marred by the performance of the second eleven.

D Company were unfortunate in that they were obliged to turn out a weakened first team, and the School promptly recognised the fact with a final score of 7 goals to 2. The result left one of our fraternity still more happy in that he had discovered that the goal was the proper refuge for the ball.

The second eleven lost by the odd goal in three. The game, played on the Whinney Hill ground, apparently a Stonehenge in miniature, proved a tale of two penalties. Ichabod! our seconds have yet to taste victory in the Company League.

The third team romped home with 11 goals to their credit and 3 goals on the debit side. The game was played under ideal Catterick "summer" conditions (need we say more!) on the Gorselands ground.

Rugger.—The third of our league matches was played on Wednesday, February 15th, when we met D Company. It had been raining all the morning, and although it cleared by 2.15 p.m. a terrific wind was blowing and continued to blow throughout the game. It had a marked effect on the 1st XV. game on the Headquarters ground, the wind blowing straight down the field. Consequently the play was all in one half, and the side playing against the gale was hard pushed to keep its opponents from crossing the line.

The School won the toss and took advantage of the weather conditions for the first half. Although the struggle was severe, we failed to touch down. The result might have been very different if one member of our team had not let us down by failing to turn out. We thus had only fourteen men throughout the match. In the second half the School played extremely well and prevented D Company from scoring a single point.

The game thus ended in a draw, neither side having scored. Sigmn Lawton unfortunately met with a severe injury to his ankle just one minute before time.

Our 2nd XV., playing in the wet and mud on Highlands ground, were only able to score one try and lost their match by 3 points to 11. In this game, also, we were one man short of our fifteen, one of the halves being ill and unable to play.

In both fifteens every individual played to the best of his ability and much energy was expended, but the members were unable to work as a team and thus full advantage could not be taken of the admirable individual work. The 2nd XV. still labours under the handicap of many of its members being ignorant of the rules of the game.

On Wednesday, March 7th, we played our fourth league match of the season. Our opponents on this occasion were E Company. Both games were hotly contested, but the School were unable to score in either. Although frequently on their opponents' line, our 1st XV. was unable to get the ball across. E Coy. managed to get over once in the first half, but failed to convert their try. The 2nd XV. had to fight against a much stronger side, but they did well to keep down the score against them to three tries. Results were: 1st XV. lost by 0—3; 2nd XV. lost by 0—9.

A Corps Signals, Ewshott.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Every Wednesday the whole Company turns out to a man and plays some game. Playing the Bedfords has been squashed a long time now. When I say the Company turns out I mean *everyone*, from the C.O., sergeant-majors, clerks and the cotton-wool section down to the boys. To see the Company on a Wednesday afternoon makes one wonder where all the sports kit comes from.

Next month the interest in games will be keener still, as we shall challenge the Divvies to mortal combat at Smallshot at every conceivable opportunity.

No. 3 Company are looking forward to jolly matches with the Divvies at basketball. They did challenge us, but we were deaf.

Soccer.—A Corps Signals team have played many matches during the season and to date have not won one. The score has always been "double figures against." It must not be taken for granted that this team is a "bake." It is not. Some people might turn up their noses at them, but they can certainly learn at least one lesson from them: they have *never* scratched a match—and that is more than a lot of teams can say.

Just to experience the thrill of winning, a match was played between the thin men and the fat men on February 29th. Both teams were composed of men who had never played football or who were known duds. The thin men won by 3—1; and to give the fat men a chance for their revenge, a return match was played on the following Wednesday for the final of the Wad-punchers' cup. Again the score was 3—1 in favour of the thin men. All the players enjoyed both matches and are now taking a keen interest in soccer. The star football players watched these matches, and learned a few wrinkles about scoring goals.

Rugger.—A Corps Signals v. 2nd Gordons, at Bordon, on 13th February, in the second round of the Command cup. The whole unit travelled to Bordon and witnessed this match, in which we lost by 15—3. Two or three days previously Lieut Boileau gave a lecture to the unit on the principles of rugger, especially for the benefit of those whose idea of the game was inclined to be hazy. Hence the unit travelled to Bordon possessing a fair knowledge of the game, and this came in very useful during the match. The game was very close all the way, and but for the support of the erstwhile lounge-lizards shouting "Come on, the Corps!" we would have been *badly* whacked. If support had decided the match, we would have won with a score of 90—0.

Not *one* man turned up to support the Gordons, and yet their barrack-rooms were only a few yards away from the ground. The linesman (who was in the Gordons) could not understand why we came all the way from Ewshott to see this game. But it was certainly worth it, and the team needed the support.

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Boxing.—The Smallshot Signals easily beat the 1st K.O.S.B.s in the second series of the Command team championship, at Bordon, and thus enter the semi-final.

The boxing match between A Corps Signals and the Depot R.A.M.C., Crookham, has been postponed until next week. A report of this will appear in the May issue.

The Aldershot Command easily beat the R.A.F. at Aldershot on February 24th. The Command team included *eight* men from the Corps, and all but one won their fights. Hence, without the Corps the Command would have been beaten rather badly.

Jimmies.—These have been awarded to the following, and the C.O. heartily congratulated them and hoped that many others would strive to obtain the same distinction in various branches of sport.

RUGBY—Capt Fuge, Lieut Boileau, 2/Lieut Hoysted, Signalmen Wood E. V. and Crowley, Drivers Ward and Prescott H. E.

SOCCER—Sgt Chumbley, Signalmen Edwards and Short A. B.

HOCKEY—Lieut Wasey, 2/Lieut Hoysted, Sergts Chumbley and Price, Corpls Smith H. and Schofield, and Sigmn Gregory.

BOXING.—Sigmn Morris.

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Sport.—Great interest is being taken in all Company trophy matches, which are rather prevalent at present, and they bring great excitement in their wake. Pleasing to say, support is plentiful and encouraging the teams to success. Keep it up, supporters! every one of you is needed. It isn't every day you lose your voice!

Football.—We played No. 2 Company on February 15th, and this proved a most exciting and successful game. Every man must be congratulated on his fine play and determination to win. The goal scorers were Lieut Thuillier, L/Corpl McClelland and Dvr Dimmer. Wonderful defence was put up by C.S.M. Eves,

L/Corpl Warner and Sigmn Innes, which certainly saved the Company from defeat. Result, 3—1.

Rugby.—This time we were not so successful. We lost by the narrow margin of three points to No. 3 Company in the hardest game of the season. It was mainly forwards' play and they stuck it well, but the pace proved too fast for the inexperienced players. Nevertheless, everyone played exceedingly well. We have one more game to play, and undoubtedly No. 1 Company will be the victors.

We played against No. 3 Company on February 12th and managed to turn the tables. After putting up a splendid show, we won by 5 points to 3. We are now looking forward to a victory over No. 2 Company. The work of the forwards was splendid. L/Corpls Christie and Myddleton put up a wonderful show. I can see the latter playing for the Army yet! Our three-quarter line are all soccer fans, but with a little more hand work they will do well. Dvr Joy was responsible for the try which L/Corpl Christie touched down, and Lieut Thuillier converted.

Hockey.—We lost against No. 3 Company by 0—4, but no doubt the result would have been different if our crack player, C.Q.M.S. Ruffle, had not been so severely injured. In the first half he received a hard blow on his ankle which crocked him for the rest of the game, but he stuck it well. That's the spirit we need.

Boxing.—The inter-Company boxing competition took place on March 6th. We were rather unfortunate to lose by the narrow margin of one point, No. 3 Company being the winners. But wait a bit! they had L/Corpls Rodda and Pinkney (both of them Corps boxers). Had there been a heavy-weight class the laurels would certainly have been ours. We had five finalists, of whom three were winners. Well done, No. 1 Company!

Sigmn Wood put up a splendid show against Sigmn Huggins (a boxer with some little experience) and won on points. Dvr Watson must be congratulated on his well-contested fight against Sigmn Robertson. He showed determination and grit throughout. (You're the kind of man we need, "Sparrow.") Driver Temlett won his contest easily. Dvr Mosley also put up a good show against Sigmn Fielding. L/Corpl Edgar was unfortunate in losing to Sigmn Wickert through a stinging blow to the ribs.

No. 2 Company.

Sport.—Although we are not exactly sweeping the board as we did last year, we are (I hope) giving a very good account of ourselves; and I still wish to impress upon all and sundry that we shall be there or there-abouts when the trophy is presented again. Look out, Threeco!

Cross-Country.—This took place over the same course as in the last two years. Our twelve to count finished in the first twenty, thus winning by 170 points from No. 3 Company, with No. 1 a good third.

Boxing.—In this sport we went down very badly. After holding the cup for two years, we could only claim a single point!

Soccer.—Luck (if such a thing exists) did not smile upon us in the three games played. We have lost two and won one. Results as below:—Versus No. 3 Coy., lost by 4—5; v. No. 1, lost by 1—3; v. No. 3, won by 4—0.

Hockey.—Here we have expectations up to the moment. We have played two games, and won one and lost the other.

Rugby.—This is the coming sport, and more are getting interested with each game, which I am afraid is played with much more vigour than science. Still, we all enjoy them. The games played up to the present are:—Versus No. 1 Company, lost by 3—15 and drew at 3—3: v. No. 3, won by 6—0.

We have to play No. 3 Company again, and if we win we tie with No. 1 for the cup.

No. 3 Company.

Cross-Country.—The trophy run was decided on February 21st and resulted in a very easy victory for Twoco, whom we congratulate on their splendid team. Unfortunately we were without three of our best runners—Dvr Pearce and Signalmen Robins and Newbury—and we were hard pressed to obtain the second place. Twoco set a very hard pace, and as expected it had the effect of causing half the field to crack up before half-way. Still, it was a very good performance on the part of our team, considering the small amount of training; and it certainly gave the majority that experience which is an essential factor in successful running.

Football.—Yes, the football cup is ours!—a fact made certain by a three-nil victory over Oneco, after a really hard game in which it was a treat to participate.

The following day we played and lost to Twoco by four goals to two, but our team were feeling the effects of the previous day's game and were much below standard.

Rugby.—Really, Twoco! I didn't know whether or not to put this match under one of my previous headings; but as *they* are such mild games as running and football, and as we played with that elongated sphere, I suppose I must write under the heading of "Rugby." But, my word! Two loose teeth, a barked shin, bruised ribs, and a piece bitten off my ear—and being a wing-three I kept (wisely) out of all the danger! It certainly was some game!

Lieut Morrison scored a good try. I've learnt since how it could have been prevented; but had I adopted that method, C.S.M. Purkiss, I'm afraid Mr. Morrison would have gone straight through and scored for *us*—and then a 6—0 victory for Twoco would have been prevented.

The game has certainly caught on well in the unit, and where at one time we had the greatest difficulty in raising a team, the enthusiasm is so great that it's a hard task for the selection committee now to pick the best team.

Boxing.—Heartiest congratulations to our boxers! At last we have managed to win the boxing cup; but, oh! what a narrow squeak! I'm afraid we were just a little bit too confident, and if it hadn't been for a really good win by our dark horse, Sigmn Newbury, the cup would have once again eluded us.

L/Corpls Rodda and Pinkney, and Sigmn Newbury, were winners, and Sigmn Huggins a very close loser; whilst Dvr Fountain and Signalmen Martin, Fielding and Foreman were all beaten but no disgraced. My word, Oneco! you did give us a fright. You certainly kept things very quiet, and nearly deprived us of what we thought was a sure thing.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

Football.—Phew! 3—0, or 0—3. Not that we are complaining. Every dog has his day. We didn't have our team on leave either, nor are we going to say we should have got the verdict in the first two rounds if the referee hadn't been thinking of the tea afterwards. Still, there it is; but we are jolly glad Eddie Troop live in hutches at Tidworth. You can't have too much distance between you after an affair like that! All the same, we should have beaten them if our chaps had only scored those two we missed in the first half, and had seized a few more opportunities in the second half—only they would stop every time the referee blew his whistle!

Of course, this isn't final. We shall make up for this on the 22nd, when we play the return game. Don't think we are going all that distance to let history repeat itself; and if there is any crowing to be done—just listen! We have always been the essence of modesty until now, but it doesn't pay.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

Football.—Of late the Troop appear to have shaken themselves together a bit and put their best foot forward. Since Christmas we have played five games, and three of these have brought victory to our credit.

The greatest of these victories was that against the Ordnance, who are at present second in the league table. But for that defeat at our hands they would have been at the top.

We have since played a return match, but our opponents were very careful in selecting a team that would leave no doubts as to the ultimate result. The Troop were certainly unlucky. Being smaller in numbers it is extremely difficult to raise a team. Two of our men were drafted away, one had to stand out owing to previous injury, and a fourth was injured just after half-time. An adverse result was inevitable; but we have two new lads who, once they get used to the play of the others, will make a material difference.

On February 15th we visited D Troop at Aldershot to play our annual soccer match. The game commenced with great gusto, and except for one or two break-aways play was generally in mid-field; and at half-time, despite brilliant runs on the part of both teams, the score remained at nil.

Shortly after half-time E Troop were awarded a penalty for an unintentional foul which proved rather unfortunate for D Troop, as Richardson took the shot and scored.

Later, Morgan scored again for E Troop with a magnificent cross-shot—always a menace to goalkeepers, but a joy to all veterans of the game. Within ten minutes Richardson scored our third and last goal, after a very brilliant run.

Richardson played a very clever game from the commencement, on several occasions getting very near to adding to our score. In my opinion he is inclined to be a little too vigorous, and he often finished a splendid solo run only to find himself in an awkward position from which to score.

Hudson played his usual dependable game at back, assisted by Hull, and (backed up by Edwards in goal) presented an insurmountable barrier to our opponents' attacks.

Edwards, if allowed to extend his service, should prove one of the finest goalkeepers in the Corps. Never indulging in fancy play and always employing safe tactics, time after time he saved the Troop from what might have been crushing defeat.

It was unfortunate for D Troop that Sergt Perryman, playing at back in their defence, was slightly crocked; also that they had to make last-minute changes which upset the best of teams. Never mind, D! let us hope that you are all fit when you visit us at the end of the month.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Rugby.—On Saturday, February 18th, the 3rd Divl Signals sent their team to play the Aldershot Combined Signals XV. A very good game resulted, in which the home team won by 16—6.

Although Aldershot showed superiority behind the scrum, the opposing packs were well matched and play was largely confined to midfield. A break-through in the centre by 2/Lieut Hardy enabled Lieut Danby to open the scoring for Aldershot with a try between the posts. The kick at goal failed (3—0)

Another good run by Hardy and Danby led to a try in the corner by Lieut Hall. Lieut Morrison failed to convert with a fine kick (6—0)

The Bulford forwards then rallied strongly, and after a series of good rushes L/Corpl Clubb went over on the left for a well-deserved try which was not converted (6—3)

The second half saw the Bulford forwards greatly superior both in the tight and the loose, and another determined rush ended in a try by Sigmn Harry. Thomson failed to convert with a good kick (6—6)

At this point it was anyone's game, and Bulford were unlucky to have two tries scored against them in quick succession. Hardy's speed, well backed up by Danby, enabled the former to score twice, Morrison converting in each case (16—6). Thus ended a well-contested game, in which the losers claim to share the honours.

Returning to Bulford with a determination to turn the tables in the return match, we played a very close game against the 9th Field Brigade R.A., and were distinctly unlucky to lose by 6—9.

A decisive victory by 34 points to 5 over the Somerset L.I., followed by the defeat of the R.A.F. Netheravon by 12 points to 6, preceded the second match against Aldershot Signals, played at Bulford on Saturday, March 10th.

Playing with the wind in the first half, the home team at once showed a marked advantage forward. The Aldershot backs were never allowed to get going, and Bulford kept up a continuous pressure. Following a loose scrum just inside the visitors' "25," L/Corpl Walters gained possession and dropped a goal. The ball cleared the bar by a few feet, thus giving Bulford a well-deserved lead twenty minutes from the start (4—0)

The home side kept up the pressure, and L/Corpl Tennant was several times prominent with breaks-through in the centre. At length another fine forward effort enabled L/Corpl Walby to score far out on the left. Thomson's kick at goal just fell short of its mark (7—0). Bulford thus crossed over with a lead of seven points, and clearly looked a winning side.

With the wind behind them Aldershot were several times dangerous, but never really looked like scoring. Hardy and Danby were too closely marked to make much headway in attack. With five minutes to go L/Corpl Cash broke right away and beat the full back cleverly, but Hardy brought off a smothering tackle, and although the ball crossed the line no try was allowed. There was no further score, and a very hard game resulted in a most creditable win for Bulford by one dropped goal and one try (7 points) to nil.

It is with regret that we realise the rugby season is almost over. This has been a most successful one for the unit, and the defeat of the Aldershot Signals came as a fitting end.

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We reached the third round of the Army cup before going down to a better team. Although we still look forward to several more friendly matches, we virtually wind up this season with a trip en masse to Twickenham for the Calcutta cup match on March 17th. It is needless to say how much we look forward to this all-important event of the rugby year. Let the better side win at all costs—but, come along, England!

Football.—The big event this month was the inter-Company matches for the unit shield. At the time of writing the results are:—

"A" teams—No. 3 Company beat No. 1 by 1—0, and No. 2 beat No. 3 by 2—0.

"B" teams—No. 1 Company beat No. 3 by 3—2.

These matches provided some of the most exciting football we have seen this season. In all cases, the teams went all out from the start. All the teams were very evenly matched, and in each case it was really the luckier eleven that got away with it.

In the "B" team match, No. 1 versus No. 3, the score was two all at time, and after extra time had been played, the result was unaltered. It was only after a replay next day that the match was decided.

Bulford was under its usual "month of snow" and a blizzard was on when No. 2 Company played No. 3. No. 2 secured a penalty in the first few moments, and after innumerable chances had been given away by both sides, they just managed to put another into the net towards the end of the game.

In the Salisbury Plain Area League we have only played one match, when we were badly beaten by the Cheshires, who are the hot lot of the area and are at the top of the league by a wide margin.

In the Garrison Company League, which contains seventeen teams, the positions on February 29th were: No. 2 Company, 8th, No. 1, 13th, and No. 3, 16th. All Companies have, however, gone up in the list since then.

Hockey.—Since last month the chief hockey interest has been centred in the inter-Company matches for the Company shield. In these No. 2 Company proved victorious, and No. 3 were second. All the matches were very closely contested, and what the teams lacked in skill they made up in energy.

The best match was perhaps that between No. 1 and No. 3 Companies. This game had to be continued for ten minutes each way after full time had expired, and No. 3 Company scored three goals in the last ten minutes, thus winning by 4—1.

Our unit team players still continue to disperse to the four corners of the earth, our latest losses being C.S.M. Grist and L/Sergt Standley, who have gone to the T.A. They will both be missed in the unit side.

Boxing.—The only boxing event of interest this month has been the Bulford Garrison novices' competition. Though actually an individual competition, units entered teams of fourteen (any weight) who scored points for their respective Companies.

The competition was a great success. The preliminary rounds were held in the R.A.S.C. gymnasium, and the finals in the Garrison theatre, on February 16th and 17th. We were second, the 6th Field Brigade having the highest score.

Sigmn Lynton won his weight after some short and swift engagements. Congratulations to Sigmn Wright F. on winning the best loser's prize. Our novices show great promise, and we hope to do well in coming events. The competition will, it is hoped, be repeated in future years.

Cross-Country Running.—As March is a busy month for this sport, it is hoped that the Editor will find room for this rather long report of the events of the unit.

The "unearthed poet" by the name of NAB has been discovered! We took him for a fourteen mile training walk, and he is now taking up subjects other than cross-country running for his poems.

When we commenced our training on January 1st we set out to gain four objectives in 1928, and have to date gained three of them.

First Objective (the Wiltshire County Championships).—The championships were held at Devizes on Saturday, February 25th, and the course was 7¾ miles over heavy ground, hills and plough. The team captured six counting numbers in the first seven team competitors home, and gained the honour of holding the first county championship. Gold medals were awarded to Signalmen Ward, Wood, Marples, Shaw, Lynton and Tibbitts.

The team placings were: 1st, 3rd Divl Signals, with 23 points; 2nd, Swindon Athletic Club, with 74. Our opposition was not strong, but it was a step in the right direction. Five of the members under training were not qualified to compete.

Second Objective (the Bulford and Larkhill Garrison Run).—This was held at Bulford on March 2nd, when the organisation of the run was undertaken by Signals. There were seven teams in the race, well supported by a large crowd. The order in passing a point some four miles from the start was received by wireless and broadcast to the spectators. The course was six miles five furlongs over a selection of all types of ground, plough, boggy, hill and grass track country.

Corpl Ivison beat L/Corpl Colvin (of the Sappers) by ten yards for the first place, with the time of 39 mins. 11 secs. Colvin ran tenth in last year's Army championships, and both men fought the race to the last ounce.

Colvin had been followed by five competitors of other units when the remaining eleven to count for Signals sailed into the finishing pen—all running together in a perfect pack. At least eight of them could have moved up to the third place, but the team had had instructions to finish together. Their finish surprised the spectators, who loudly cheered their arrival. "Barleux" was heard to say that "the team arrived looking like a well-trained beauty chorus from the Palace."

Team placings: 1st, 3rd Divl Signals, 155; 2nd, 3rd Divisional Engineers, 348; 3rd, 1st Medium Brigade R.A., 498; etc., etc.

The cup was presented by Colonel-Commandant R. G. Finlayson, C.M.G., D.S.O., and silver medals to Corpl Ivison, Signalmen Tibbitts, Wood, Marples, Ward, Salter, Shaw, Greatorex, Hawthorne, Johnson, Lynton, and Strickson.

The pack was unbroken throughout the course and finished in 41 mins. 30 secs. A complaint was lodged by one of the competitors that he objected to the pack singing, as it put him off his stride!

Third Objective (the Southern Command Championships)—The race was run at Tidworth on Friday, March 9th, over a course of seven miles. The whole of the course was grass track, which made the pace very hot.

The whole pack of fifteen held together up to the fourth mile, when it was reduced to twelve. During the last two miles the pace was strong, but nine of the pack held together and ran into the finishing pen unbroken, counting from 14 to 22. The remaining three followed very close on their heels.

Sigmn Wood led the pack in fine style and was well supported by Corpl Ivison, who had orders to remain with the pack and not to run out. Had he run out he would have followed Sutherland in the second place.

The team has received many congratulations, including a letter from the D.C.L.I., but not a word from Catterick! We have chased the Southern cup for four years, and have at last captured it. The names of the counting members are: Ivison, Wood, Ward, Salter, Strickson, Marples, Tibbitts, Greatorex, and Smith (forming the pack) followed by Lynton, Shaw and Hawthorne.

Fourth Objective.—We are hoping to put it across the T.B. team in the Army run, but there are strong rumours that if they are successful in the Northern they will scratch for the big race. It is sincerely hoped by all interested in cross-country and in past records that the information is false! Surely the T.B. will not throw in the sponge on the result of the last two Army championships, and join in the old saying that it is impossible for a mounted unit to do any good at cross-country running!

The aim of every unit should be for the Army championships, and not civilian events against such teams as "Darlington Greyhounds" and "Richmond What-Nots."

Billiards.—I think it is about time that billiards had its say! We have three teams in the unit, all of which are in a league—the sergeants' mess in the Garrison Sergeants' League; the corporals in the Garrison League; and the signalmen and drivers also in a Garrison League.

The sergeants' mess did well this year, and finished up third in the league.

At the present time the corporals have played four, won three and lost one in their league.

The signalmen have also played four, won three and lost one.

We have some new talent now, especially in the signalmen's ranks; so what about that challenge, sergeants' mess?

We are shortly commencing the inter-Company competition for the billiard cup. This will be a grand affair. No. 2 Coy. are at present the holders, but they will have to go all the way to retain it this year, I am afraid. The teams are comprised of five members: one officer, one w.o. or sergeant, one corporal or lance-corporal, and two signalmen or drivers.

No. 2 Company are finding it difficult to fill the "corporal or lance-corporal" position. After seeing a certain man (in a green jersey) playing in the men's room I would suggest making him a lance-corporal (whilst employed on inter-Company billiards).

Northern Ireland Signal Company

Football.—We recently entered the Garrison inter-unit football league, and have at present played four games.

The first was versus the R.A.M.C., to whom we lost by 1—11 on one of our well-known mud-heaps.

The second was versus B Company Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. The ground was in such a state that the referee watched the match from the touch-line. Again we lost, by 2—4.

Next we played C Company R.I.F., and after a hard and clean game we managed to draw at 2—2. Following this we drew with the Machine Gunners, also at 2—2.

Our team consists of nearly all new players, but good tryers who are every day getting more used to each other's play. Soon the team will be strong enough to wipe out our first defeat. Then we will be satisfied!

Rhine Signal Company.

First Round, Inter-Company Football Cup.—Royal Signals met the Casuals on their ground (which resembled a water polo pitch) on February 13th.

On commencing the Signals forced a corner, but this was cleared; the Casuals began pressing, and we found them shooting at *our* goalie. Signals soon turned the tables, however, and Funnell tried three shots in succession before Mayer scored twenty minutes after the start.

Mid-field play ensued, and from a break-away by the Casuals Higginson saved a very hot shot. The ball was kept in the Casuals half, and just before half-time Signals forced a corner, but this was cleared—and the whistle went for half-time with the score of 1—0 in Signals' favour.

On resuming the Signals pressed, and Funnell ran through to shoot just wide of the mark. Nash scored from a corner seven minutes after the restart. A little later Nash was left with only the goalkeeper to beat. The keeper threw himself at the ball, and unfortunately received a kick on the head which caused him to retire; Nash being rendered *hors de combat* with a knee put out.

After a five-minute stop the Casuals broke away and scored, and their goalkeeper pluckily returned to the field.

Mayer scored from a pass by Funnell, and Funnell reversed operations by scoring from a pass by Mayer.

End-to-end play ensued, and the Casuals just failed to score, though they forced a corner which was cleared. Signals again pressed, and Lieut McCormick scored from a pass by Mayer.

The Casuals goalkeeper was again compelled to retire, his injury still affecting him (he did well to keep on the field so long; well done!)

Signals still continued to press, and Mayer hit the goal post and then scored from the rebound.

Time was then sounded, and we ran out winners of our first round by 6—1. Well done, Signals!

The team comprised: Goal, Higginson; backs, Sergt Brandon and Corpl Devey; half-backs, Denton, Hills and Barnes; forwards, Funnell, Sergt Nash, Mayer, Lieut McCormick, Mundy.

Keep it up! We stand a good chance in this competition. The new draft arriving this week might strengthen two or three positions.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Hockey.—Owing to the recent manœuvres we have only been able to play one game of hockey since writing our last notes. We beat the 10/10th Baluchi Regiment by 4 goals to 3.

Boxing.—During February, "Toc H Week" in Bombay was celebrated with an all-India amateur boxing tournament. The unit sent two representatives in L/Corpl Podger (feather-weight champion of this District) and Sigmn Hutchison (runner-up to the Army bantam-weight champion at home during 1925, and champion of this District).

In the eliminating contests Podger met Denzil Martin of Bombay, and a very good contest resulted, Podger winning on points after an extra round. In the semi-final he met an old rival in L.A.C. Willison, R.A.F., of Karachi, and in this contest he broke three bones in his left wrist, but went on to win on points. He then had to meet Corpl MacKnight, Royal Ulster Rifles, in the final, but owing to his broken wrist he was unable to fight, MacKnight being declared the winner by a walk-over. (Hard lines, Podger!)

Hutchison in his first fight met E. Coustell (B.E.S. Old Boys, Bombay) and an extract from *The Times of India* says: "The bout between Hutchison and Coustell was a splendid one, both men boxing in fine style and hitting hard, and there was very little in it at the finish—Hutchison winning on points." In the semi-final he walked over N. Michael (B.E.S. Old Boys, Bombay), who scratched. In the final he beat M. Gregory (Armenian College, Calcutta) on points. The contest was the best of the evening, and an extra round had to be fought before Hutchison was declared the winner. The trophy he brought back with him holds quite a commanding position amongst the others held by the unit.

Rugby.—We entered a team in the Karachi open rugby tournament. In the first round we met the 31st A.C. Squadron R.A.F. from Quetta. The gruelling game was a test of endurance and determination, and although extra time was played the result was a draw of 3—3. The replay took place the following evening, and an even better game was witnessed by the spectators. The unit equalised two minutes from time by a penalty goal, and the whistle again blew with an even score of 3—3. Ten minutes each way of extra time was played, and the physical condition of the Corps team gradually overcame their opponents. The unit scored three good tries, which (owing to the treacherous playing conditions) were too difficult to convert, and we retired very deserving winners by 12 points to 3.

The following evening we met Karachi Gymkhana in the second round. Although feeling the effects of the previous two games we put up a splendid fight, but were outclassed and thoroughly beaten by our more experienced opponents, and forced to retire with 29 points against our 3.

The whole team were congratulated on their fine sporting efforts by the Karachi Gymkhana, who are expected to easily win the trophy.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

There is very little to write about this month in the way of sports, owing to the larger portion of the unit being out on manœuvres. Things are, however, gradually working back to normal again.

The selection committees of B Corps Signals and the 1st Indian Divl Signals are now preparing a football and hockey team to represent the Signals in the forthcoming Rawalpindi District tournaments.

The results to date of B Corps Signals hockey and football fixtures are as under:—

Hockey.—Defeated I.A.O.C. by 4—3 and 4—1; 3/9th Jat Regt. by 3—2 and 2—1; R.A.S.C. by 6—1; and 1st Indian Divl Signals by 2—1 and 2—0. Lost to I.A.O.C. by 1—5 and 1st Indian Divl Signals by 1—5.

Football.—Defeated 1st Indian Divl Signals by 2—1; and drew with D Coy. Royal Sussex Regt. at 1—1 and B Coy. Royal Sussex Regt. at 2—2.

Waziristan District Signals.

Sport.—The District sports are drawing near, and we hope to bring back a few laurels.

Our hockey team should stand a very good chance, as there are some very good players to represent the Division in the tournament. Our own hockey team here at D.I.Khan is in very good form, and with the return of Lieut McOstrich should make a very formidable side.

We are not doing much in the football line, which is rather a shame, as we have some good players here and there is no reason why we should not have a really good team.

Iraq Signal Section.

Sports.—Many readers of our notes must by this time have wondered what on earth has become of us. Well, I have been reluctant to publish the results before, as they have been anything but complimentary.

I'm afraid we have not exactly shone at football and hockey. At the same time, however, an excuse is quite in order: I must plead lack of numbers. Our strength compared with that of other units (except, of course, No. 2 Wireless Company) is very small, and although we do our best the results can be guessed.

Now that the football season has practically finished, the cricket fans are getting in as much practice as possible in readiness for the coming season. Last year we had the honour of winning the Air Force cricket cup, open to all Iraq, and this season great hopes are entertained of repeating that feat.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Football.—We heartily congratulate No. 1 Company on their splendid victory in the final of the Small Units cup competition. Last season they were runners-up; and this season they made no mistake about carrying off the trophy, winning the final by six goals to none.

Though we have ceased to have any interest in the C.E. cup competition, owing to No. 30 M.T. Company R.A.S.C. causing our exit therefrom, we look to No. 1 Company to keep the cup for the Signals. We won it last year, and were runners-up the previous season. So, No. 1, it's up to you!

Athletics.—Signalmen Elliott, Cooper, Hillier, Mains, Stone, Chaloner, Beeton, and L/Corpl Gratwicke, competed in the Italian sports at Cairo during the past month. Sigmn Beeton competed in and won three events—the 800, 1500 and 5000 metres—the first and last of them in new record times for Egypt.

Sigmn Hillier ran very well to finish a good fourth in the 5000 metres, whilst Sigmn Cooper plodded on to take sixth position.

Sigmn Mains was unfortunate in the pole jump, his pole breaking in two at his second jump and slightly injuring him.

Sigmn Elliott survived the first series of the 400 metres, but did not turn out in the second round.

Sigmn Chaloner failed to obtain a place in the 1500 metres, though running strongly.

L/Corpl Gratwicke and Signalmen Elliott, Mains and Stone put up a good show in the 400 metres relay against the Greek, Italian and Egyptian teams, finishing fourth in an exciting race.

The Company sports are due to take place at the end of March, and I hope to be able to give a full account in next month's notes.

Boxing.—We have lost a good boxer in Corpl Matthews, who has just left for England on posting to the home establishment. Our loss is their gain! In addition to being a good boxer, he is also a fine sprinter and footballer.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Cricket.—The combined R.E. and Royal Signals team has, unfortunately, not retained its form as in other seasons. Capt Bridgland's departure for U.K. is a great loss to us, but with the new players coming on we are hoping to recover lost laurels.

During the last month we have played Kowloon C.C. 2nd XI., Hong Kong University 2nd XI., and Hong Kong Electric Company. In the two first-named matches we met with defeat, but were successful against the Electric Company. This latter was our last league match of the season, and it was particularly gratifying to note that Signals made most of the runs. Sigmn Durand knocked up an excellent 50 by hard hitting, Captain Carnegie 27, Sigmn Penny 22 (not out), and Sigmn Waters 12.

Football.—Three matches have been played during the last month, resulting as follows:—

v. 20th Heavy Battery R.A., won by 2—1.
v. A Chinese XI., won by 3—1.
v. 31st Heavy Battery R.A., lost by 0—3.

Hockey.—A trial match took place on February 3rd, and resulted in a draw of 2—2.

Billiards.—The seniors entertained the juniors to a billiard match on January 30th at the sergeants' mess, which resulted in a win for the juniors by 81 points. Scores:—

Juniors—Spr Adams 150; Spr Earl 150; Spr Rogers 146; Sigmn White 133; Sigmn Hogg 150; L/Corpl Butler 138—Total 867.

Seniors—C.Q.M.S. Walton 118; S/Sergt Peachy 127; S/Sergt Bevan 150; Sergt Maynard 150; Sergt Harrison 91; Corpl Cartridge 150—Total 786.

On February 8th a return match was played in the juniors' mess, and the seniors had their revenge by 37 points. Scores:—

Seniors—S/Sergt Bevan 114; Sergt Maynard 150; Corpl Pycock 131; Sergt Harrison 122; S/Sergt Peachey 150; C.Q.M.S. Walton 150—Total 817.

Juniors—Sigmn White 150; Sigmn Hogg 95; Spr Rogers 150; Spr Earl 150; Spr Adams 137; L/Corpl Butler 98—Total 780.

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

Boxing.—The 54th Divl individual boxing championships were held at Colchester on February 25th. We had some rather bad luck in this function.

First, Sigmn Sawford of No. 3 Company, whom we were banking on, could not attend. When Lieut Lilley kindly called for him with his car to take him to Colchester, he was found on crutches suffering from sprained ligaments in the foot. Had he been able to fight, we are pretty confident that he would have appeared at the Stadium.

In the bantams, Sigmn Detenon was just beaten by Pte Taylor (1st Cambs) in the first series. Taylor was the finalist.

Sigmn Langley, No. 3 Company, was beaten in the semi-finals of the feathers by Spr Webb, R.E., after a very tough fight.

Sigmn Carty, in the light-weights, made a good show but was outclassed by Sergt Webb, R.E., and the referee stopped the fight in the second round.

Sigmn Pavey, who deputised for Sawford in the welters, was beaten by Pte Travill, 4th Northants, who won the final.

The Division having won the Scarborough cup for three successive years, a replica of the cup has been presented, and this is to be awarded each year to the unit gaining the greatest number of successes. We congratulate the 4th Battn. Northamptonshire Regiment on being the first winners of the trophy. Of the eight weights the 4th Northants won seven and the 1st Cambs the other.

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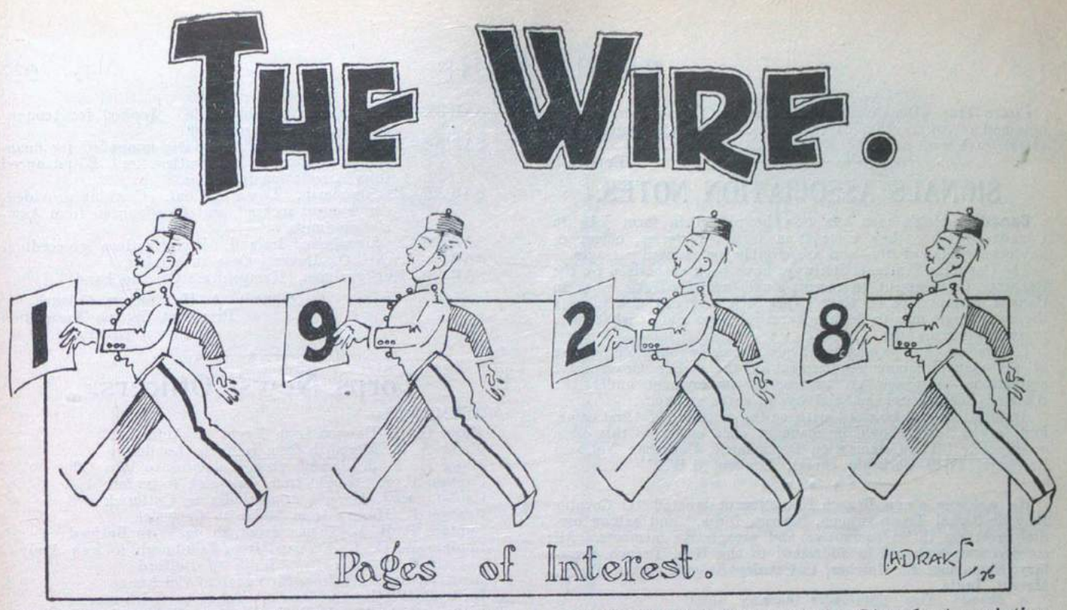

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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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. IX.—No. 99 MAY, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

The Executive Committee is anxious that articles of general interest should, in future, be more regularly included in THE WIRE. Such articles are available, but space cannot be found for them except by reducing to some extent that now occupied by Unit Notes under the headings of "Home Stations" and "Stations Abroad."

The Committee believes that the interest of the majority of subscribers and readers would be increased by the inclusion of these articles, and therefore appeals to Unit Correspondents to keep this in mind when compiling their contributions. *The object will be attained if correspondents restrict their notes to an average of about 500 words monthly.*

It is not desired to restrict the number of illustrations, or the accounts included under the "Sports" heading.

❀ ❀ ❀

The task of compiling the new Corps Promotion Roster (pocket edition) has now been commenced, and the publication will, we hope, be available for issue at a not far distant date. Will those Unit Representatives and others who have not yet submitted their orders please do so as early as possible, in order that we may be in a position to estimate bulk requirements.

❀ ❀ ❀

We have been asked to publish the following letter:—

Barking, Essex, March 26th, 1928

The Secretary, Signals Association.

Dear Sir—May I take this opportunity to thank you for the splendid appointment recently secured for me, and to ask if you would very kindly find space for this effusion in your next issue of the Corps Journal, in order that my pals in India and elsewhere may learn of my good fortune.

I left the Colours in January last, confident of securing immediate employment. The particular job I "had in line," however, fell through and I was left more or less "high and dry."

Not being a member of our Corps Association, I applied direct to a well-known London business house for an appointment under them as a wireless operator. After a short delay I received a courteous reply from the management, in which they referred me (as an ex-Signals man) to the Signals Association, who were then handling their vacancies.

It was with a certain amount of trepidation, therefore, that I approached the Secretary and put my case before him; and I must admit that I well merited the few pointed remarks he made concerning my non-membership. However, my application was at once taken up, and I ultimately secured the appointment at a commencing salary of £600 per annum for a three years' contract, plus an immediate outfit allowance of £50.

Needless to say, the first thing I did was to register my name as a member of the Association; and the second was to compose this somewhat disjointed epistle in the hope that it would convey to others what others had tried but failed to convey to me, namely, that the Signals Association is a real live show and not a mythical one. My chief regret is that I did not realise it whilst serving, and before I had occasion to appeal for its assistance.

I sail on April 14th, so by the time my old friends are perusing this I shall probably be sea-sick!

With all best wishes to the Corps and especially to the Corps Association,

Yours truly,
(Signed) C. F. VICKER, ex-Signalman,
B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, India.

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order.

EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Canada.—Single men can now be placed in farm jobs in Canada—whether they come from farms, factories, offices or any other walks of life—and are eligible for assisted passages.

The Canadian National Railways have been authorised by the Canadian Government to recruit single men for farm work in Canada, irrespective of their experience, and can now place a thousand single men in definite farm jobs—no matter what their present work may be.

This means that physically fit men, formerly ineligible because of the manual labour requirement of the earlier Government regulations, may now go to assured employment under the Assisted Passage Scheme and by an early sailing.

Applications will be dealt with on the principle of "first come, first served," and should be made at once either to this office or direct to "The Colonisation Department, Canadian National Railways, 17/19 Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1."

* * * *

We welcome a new Branch formation designated "C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop Branch, Meerut, India," and extend cordial greetings to its committee and prospective members. All correspondence should be addressed to the Hon. Branch Secretary, Signalman E. Hatcher, C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut, India.

* * * *

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following

BANKER'S ORDER MEMBERSHIPS:—
Lieut G. B. Ruck, Lieut R. Webb, Lieut N. I. Bower, Lieut G. H. S. Balmain, Lieut Hugh M. Langden, Lieut N. I. Pocock, Lieut P. J. Palmer, Lieut N. de la P. Tate.

* * * *

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:

1—Ex-Signalman ..... Automobile Association Road Patrol
2—Ex-Signalman ..... Automobile Association Road Patrol
3—Ex-Signalman ..... Automobile Association Road Patrol
4—Ex-Signalman ..... Domestic Service
5—Ex-Signalman ..... Porter—Lift Attendant
6—Ex-Signalman ..... Wireless Operator (Home)
7—Ex-Signalman ..... Wireless Operator (Home)
8—Ex-Signalman ..... Wireless Operator (Home)
9—Ex-Signalman ..... Post Office Engineering Department
10—Ex-N.C.O. ..... Post Office Engineering Department
11—Ex-N.C.O. ..... Motor Fitter
12—Ex-Signalman ..... Handyman
13—Ex-Signalman ..... Post Office Engineering Department
14—Ex-Signalman ..... Domestic Service
15—Ex-Driver ..... Porter

Also six ex-Royal Signals men placed with the Post Office as Postmen for the quarter ending 31/3/28.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Lieut G. B. Ruck, Lieut R. Webb, Lieut N. I. Bower, Lieut G. H. S. Balmain, Lieut Hugh M. Langden, Lieut N. I. Pocock, Lieut P. J. Palmer, Lieut N. de la P. Tate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut, India.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

APPEALS dealt with:—
SAB/304—Ex-C.S.M., R.E., Devon. Case referred to R.E. Association.
SAB/305—Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire. Applied for financial assistance. Investigations proceeding.
SAB/266—Ex-Signalman, Huddersfield. Applied for temporary loan. Not approved.
SAB/306—Ex-Signalman, Edinburgh. Recommended for financial assistance by local authorities. £5 advanced from Association funds.
SAB/307—Ex-Signalman. Down and out. Clothing provided, employment secured, and £5 advanced from Association funds.
SAB/308—Ex-Signalman, Ireland. Investigations proceeding.
SAB/45—Ex-N.C.O., Dover. Case in hand.
SAB/309—Ex-Signalman, Hampshire. Case in hand.

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

Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—
Major G. G. Rawson from Egypt to Aldershot
Major A. E. Meredith from India to London
Major H. A. J. Parsons from Catterick to War Office
Captain F. S. Straight from Catterick to Sudan
Captain A. J. Hannah from India to Catterick
Captain B. Hussey from Sudan to Catterick
Captain T. H. L. Turner from Shanghai to Bulford
Captain W. G. L. Kennard from Edinburgh to Iraq Army
Captain G. Tayleur from India to Bulford
Lieut H. P. Hart from Shanghai to Colchester
Lieut J. W. Gordon from Shanghai to Colchester
Lieut and Qr.-Mr. A. E. Winton from Shanghai to Colchester

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 16/3/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Captain A. Beatson-Bell to be Major 16/3/28 and remains seconded.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
47th (2nd L.) Divl Signals—Lieut W. H. Lloyd to be Captain, 17/3/28.
48th (S.M.) Divl Signals—Lieut D. B. Clayton to be Captain, 7/2/28.

War Office, 23/3/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—Frederic Lafargue Best to be 2/Lieut. 3/1/28.

War Office, 27/3/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Lieut.-Colonel J. Tennant, D.S.O., T.D., having attained the age limit, is retired and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 26/3/28.

War Office, 30/3/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Commands and Staff—
The undermentioned appointment is made at the War Office: G.S.O. 2nd Grade, Major H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., R.Signals, from Brigade Major, S.T.C., 16/3/28.
Royal Signals—Capt H. C. Carey-Thomas to be Major, 16/3/28
Establishments—The undermentioned appointment is made: Signal Training Centre, Brigade Major, Major G. E. Mansergh, M.C., R.Signals, 16/3/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Flight-Officer C. N. Stafford, late R.A.F., to be 2/Lieut. 31/3/28.
50th (N.) Divl Signals—J. B. Footner (late Cadet, Cheltenham Coll. Contgt., Junior Div., O.T.C.) to be 2/Lt. 31/3/28.

War Office, 3/4/28.

REGULAR FORCES—
Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. S. Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., having been three years unemployed, is placed on retired pay under the provisions of Article 547, R.W. for pay and promotion, 1926, 13/3/28.
Royal Signals—Lieut F. J. Wall resigns his commission, 1/4/28

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals—Major The Lord Basing (Capt. Res. of Officers) late 56th (1st L.) Divl Signals, to be Capt. with precedence as from 8/10/20, and relinquishes the rank of Major, 4/4/28.
53rd (Welsh) Divl Signals—Corpl A. P. Allan to be 2/Lieut. 1/3/28.
A. W. Bartholomew to be 2/Lieut. 2/3/28.

War Office, 10/4/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Major H. I. Allen, D.S.O., is seconded for service on the Staff in India, 10/12/27.
Capt W. G. L. Kennard is seconded for service under the Colonial Office, 2/3/28.

War Office, 13/4/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Major G. E. Mansergh, M.C., is seconded for service on the Staff, 16/3/28.

Plain Tales.

Intellectuals.—I think you will all agree that Drake's cartoon in the April WIRE is about the best he has done—and *that*, by the way, is saying a throatful. As a matter of fact I was on the point of asking him the well-worn Service question, "What about it?" Fortunately I held my peace—a very difficult business, too, you say. Yes, but don't interrupt.

It is certainly a fact that a much higher standard of intelligence is required to get a man up to the top of the Service ladder nowadays. Can a man who has never read "Lorna Doone" hold down a sergeant-major's job? Obviously not. Take a man who has never digested "The White Knight." Could one reasonably expect him to prepare an indent for a unit not existing in peace from a table out of E.R. Part I.? You must answer that yourself. The point is that these accomplishments, plus a few more like maths, history, boils, horn-rimmed spectacles and what-nots, are necessary to one's advancement. If the recruits are better equipped to obtain these honours, it behoves the old stagers to go after them tooth and nail before advancing old age creeps in and impairs the mental machinery.

No doubt you are amazed to find so much common-sense crammed into one paragraph. So am I. When I remember that it all came to me in a rush, with no outside help or anything, I almost blush.

And so on.

* * * *

Advanced Horticulture.—Ho there! Gardeners all. Down trowels!

Up to the present, or rather in the past, I have catered chiefly for the plodder, the vegetable enthusiast and the spud walloper. I now propose to lead you along the path to success in the flower world (sensation).

You all know what flowers are. I don't mean those things that Johnny Fr . . m . . t . e keeps showing me in his front garden. In the first place, to become a successful horticulturist you need infinite patience. That lets out about 75 per cent. of you.

A very suitable beginning can be made by constructing a rockery, or rock garden. You can let yourself go with these. No gentle touch is required here, but care must be taken to leave room for the flowers. First obtain some rocks or large stones. Chunks of cemented bricks and pieces of corrugated iron from local demolitions do not look so well, and should be avoided if genuine rocks are obtainable.

Fill the crevices with good leaf mould, loam, and sharp grit. Rub it through a sieve (not the rocks) to make it as fine as possible. I should add that the leaf mould need not be too sharp. If you are going to grow the beautiful androsaces or rock jasmines, add a greater proportion of grit, carefully sharpened, because these are partial to a light well-drained soil.

Gentiana verna also looks well in a rock garden, and likes a good handful of old mortar rubble and a few chimney pots. Asperula arcadiensis, otherwise known as rock woodruff, thrives well on a diet of granite chippings and spare steam roller wheels.

I strongly advise prospective flower gardeners to spend a few years in watching the efforts of their friends before taking up this hobby. Rock gardening is not a thing to be started in

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soldiers *do* care what sort of bicycle they ride, and well they may, for there are being sold to-day bicycles of doubtful origin and dubious quality at tempting prices. Don't be misled by their appearance in the shop; you have only one neck, so take care of it!

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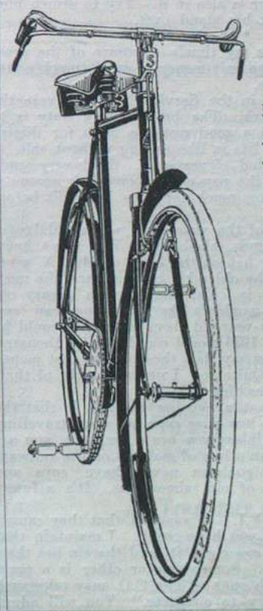

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a spirit of levity. At some future date I will go into the question of self-raising flowers. I may also dabble in hops. It is very likely.

* * * *

Musicians' Corner: III.—The astonishing success of my practical examples of modern music emboldens me to present further studies for my numerous pupils. However, somebody collared the India ink, so there is nothing doing for the moment.

I am often asked the question, "Who invented the saxophone?" Let me tell you once and for all; it was invented by Adolphe Sax, a Frenchman (tips), somewhere about 1879. He is dead now (more tips), so you can't do anything.

The inventor of the banjo was never discovered. He is probably still in hiding. I know a lot about the banjo. If I told you half I know about it, I should be shoved "right inside" without so much as my feet touching the floor. Neverthemore, the banjo is an essential part of a dance band, and in good hands it inspires the feet. No feet means no dance: result, no money. Banjoists would do well to remember that the fingers of the left hand should be slightly raised immediately after every stroke of the right hand. This only requires a little practice, and once acquired it improves the tone and volume to a very great extent. This applies particularly to the tenor banjo.

It has been stated that the present-day recruit is fairly bright. What better than for him to take up a profitable hobby? Study music and learn to play an instrument. A perfectly good saxophone may be obtained for £36, whilst I can give you the address of a firm who will sell you a banjo for £42. It is possible, of course, to purchase much cheaper instruments. Quite good ones, too, so do not be discouraged. These prices may surprise some of you, but they are actually taken from "The Melody Maker and British Metronome." This monthly publication, by the way, is a most interesting shilling's worth, and no musician should fail to get it. Those interested in gramophones will also find it a splendid guide to the purchase of new records.

I will answer questions relating to all musical instruments from Joe's socks to a Wurlitzer organ. Special note. A C. soprano saxophone can be converted to B. flat in ten minutes. Materials necessary: hammers, tele., sledge, one.

Tip to amateurs: If you are playing in a band, remember that the man in the next chair is also in it. Try to drown him. If this cannot be done, kick his stand over.

* * * *

Talks to Families.—Since my timely exposure of the great C.R.A. wangle, or pepper and salt money scandal, much water has flowed past A in B time.

The first duty of a bride in the Service is to cultivate the acquaintance of the pay clerk. The bridegroom's duty is to frustrate this. Thus we get a good working basis for dissension, without which married life is like an egg without salt. I know men who have married clever girls. Sad! very sad! They need never argue with the pay clerk about their accounts. Their wives can tell them how much they are in credit before they go to the office.

I believe this is the time of the year when wives indulge in new hats and coats. Husbands, shell out! You don't know the heartburnings that a new hat on the head of Mrs. X. gives Mrs. Z. Man is different: the older his hat becomes, the more he loves it—civvy hat, that is. You can't love a greasy old cap, S.D., because your O.C. wouldn't like it. A man can (and jolly well has to) wear a four-year-old civvy suit; but could he let his wife go to church in a 1924 model coat? No! a thousand times, no! All very well, you say, but these things cost money—where is it coming from? Quite so. I never thought of that. I must deal with this another time.

Have you ever thought what a peculiar thing it is that the higher the rank you hold, the less your expenses when travelling to a new unit on posting. Unless you are a sergeant, you are not entitled to much more than a box of matches on the railway. Presumably corporals and signalmen never have cups and saucers: they must drink out of old salmon tins. It's a funny world.

Do you deal at the N.A.A.F.I.? I was told that they cannot claim their money if they let you have credit. I maintain that this is entirely wrong. They *can* claim it, and therein lies their advantage over civilian firms. Somewhere or other is a paragraph in this connection which runs: "The C.O. may take such steps as he considers necessary to etc., etc." You will admit that when a C.O. starts taking steps, Corporal This and Sergeant That decide on the path of least resistance with a minimum of hesitation. However, it is very rare for a member of the Signals to be behind with his payments. In fact, I do not know of a single instance. (But then, you will be astounded to learn that there are a lot of things I don't know.

I don't know where *my* wife's new hat is coming from, for one thing.

* * * *

Powerful New Serial.—The Strange Case of The Flat Parsley. (New readers cut along the dotted line.)

"One o'clock," hissed Ukan Larfe, the greatest of all living sleuths (see adverts.), counting the sonorous strokes carefully. It wasn't one o'clock really, but Ukan had developed the habit of throwing people off the scent. He looked round suspiciously and, reassured that no one had heard him, set off in a south-westerly direction, clutching a bunch of green-stuff to his gent's natty suiting (50/-). Arriving at his flat in Clarges Street, he let himself in by the simple expedient of blowing the lock off the door with his .45 pearl-handled six-chambered O.H.V. automatic pistol, complete in plush-lined rexine-covered case with solid nickel locks, £2 10s. 6d. post free in the U.K. (Write for Folder B.)

"Okapi!" he yelled.

"Sir," said the Japanese servant, appearing miraculously from nowhere or other.

"My car."

"Pushed, sir; it's gone."

"Dash it! I must wait for the next one," he moaned, wringing his hands. He stood undecided for a moment, several frowns chasing each other across his inscrutable countenance and through his inscrutable whiskers. Some of the frowns fell to the floor. He picked them up with a muttered oath, a mocking laugh and a couple of sardonic grins, and replaced them. His lip also curled in a sneer. After a while he uncurled his lip.

"Okapi!" he barked; "you're a fool."

"Yes, sir; there's two of us."

"I know: you and your father," retorted the detective, and he strode off somewhat mollified. He sank wearily into his huge leather-covered hall stand and lit some pipes.

"This is a strange case, indeed," he mused. The Secretary for Foreign Opinions had sent for him the previous afternoon and had put him in possession of the facts. These facts, threaded carefully on a piece of spun-yarn, he now studied. Important plans relating to a scheme for the conversion of trousers S.D. to billiard table covers had been missed. Less serious, but regarded as significant, was the finding of the two dead bodies of several under-secretaries. Thrusting the facts into his breast pocket, he crammed his gent's Homburg (as now worn, 12/6) on his head and dashed into the street. Luckily a taxi was in sight.

He hailed it. "Follow that car," he ordered in an undertone.

"What car, sir?" asked the driver.

"Any car, you fool. Don't you know I'm a detective?"

He sank back on to the seat, but was corrugated—I mean galvanised—into action by a heavily veiled voice.

"Hands up!" cried the voice. Ukan raised his hands obediently, and a bony fist crashed on to his jaw, felling him like an ox or other feathered insect. His assailant, a left-legged macaroni bender from Pimlico, left the car stealthily and vanished into the shadows.

The unfortunate detective continued to recline on the floor, a piece of unwrinkled parsley protruding from each ear.

"Driver!" he moaned feebly. No answer.

"Oh, driver!" The driver continued to say nothing, only more loudly, and the taxi sped on into the night.

(To be continued)

BARLEUX.

Links with Dickens in Richmondshire.

BY SIGMN T. H. SPETCH.

The fame of Bowes, a straggling dale village, is immortal through the works of the great novelist Charles Dickens.

Dotheboys Hall stands at the end of the village, and is little changed from the description of the novelist. It is cold and dreary looking; the pump, the playground and dormitories are still there.

One can well imagine Squeers saying to Nicholas Nickleby, "Come in! the wind blows in at that door fit to knock a man off his legs." For the wind howls and shrieks over the bleak Stainmoor in winter with great force still.

Dickens wrote a letter to his wife from "The George," Greta Bridge, as follows:—

"Thursday, February 1st, 1838.

"The mail kept on well, however, and at eleven we reached a bare place with a house standing alone in the midst of a dreary moor, which the guard informed us was Greta Bridge. I was in perfect agony of apprehension, for it was fearfully cold and there was no outward sign of anybody being up in the house, but to our great joy we discovered a comfortable room with drawn curtains and a most blazing fire. In half-an-hour they gave us a smoking supper and a bottle of mulled port (in which we drank your health), and then we retired to a couple of capital bedrooms, in each of which there was a rousing fire half-way up the chimney. We have had our breakfast—toast, cakes, and Yorkshire pie, a piece of (pie) beef about the size and much the shape of my portmanteau, tea, coffee, ham and eggs—and are now looking about us. Having finished our discoveries, we start in a post chaise for Barnard Castle, which is only four miles off, and there I deliver the letter given me by Mitton's friend. All the schools are round about that place, and a dozen old abbeys besides, which we shall visit by some means or other to-morrow. We shall reach York on Saturday, I hope, and (God willing) I trust I shall reach home on Wednesday morning.

"Love to all friends.

"Ever, my dear Kate,

"Your affectionate Husband."

In another letter he describes his journey north through Grantham, and wrote: "As we came farther north the mire grew deeper. About eight o'clock it began to rain heavily, and as we crossed the wild heath there was no vestige of a track."

Space forbids my dealing with any more of the life of Charles Dickens in Richmondshire; but to any who are stationed in Catterick and are lovers of Dickens' works, I recommend a trip around those places visited and described by the famous novelist.

Why Dental Science endorses Gibbs Dentifrice

Because its fragrant foam surges into every crevice of the teeth—killing germs, removing "film," bringing safety at danger spots denied to the toothbrush.

Because Gibbs Dentifrice polishes the teeth to lustrous, pearl-like beauty without scratching or wearing—not even at the *danger line*, where the teeth meet the gums and the enamel is thinnest. *Because* Gibbs Dentifrice makes the gums firm, rosy and healthy. To use Gibbs Dentifrice thrice a day is to keep sound, pretty teeth for a lifetime.

Large size, 1/-; De Luxe, 1/6; Refills, 11d.; Popular size, 7½d. Dental Cream in Tubes 6d. and 1/-.

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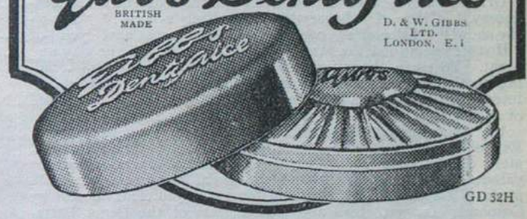


GD 32H

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. Class I. (R.S.M.)—

2306382 Edwards G. 17/2/28

Appointed Q.M.-Sergeant—

2306346 Purkiss P. 17/2/28

To be W.O. Class II. (Q.M.S.) (Foreman of Signals)

2306222 Weeks G. 26/9/27
2306425 King V. 2/3/28

To be W.O. Class II. (C.S.M.)—

2306291 Hailes C. 31/1/28

Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—

2307301 Evelyn G. 13/3/28

To be Sergeant—

2308854 Atkinson, F. 31/1/28
2308253 Wylie J. 31/1/28
2306759 Griffith, C. 31/1/28
2307356 Dunphy, J. 31/1/28
2306780 Hall H. 31/1/28
315023 Clarke, E. 31/1/28
2306271 Brotherton, J. 31/1/28
2306891 Morgan A. 31/1/28

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

2306518 Watterton O. 18/11/27
2309787 Lockyer F. 18/11/27
25'3067 Winteringham R. 31/1/28
2307416 Percy A. 31/1/28
2312338 Green, P. 31/1/28
2313800 Shirley, H. 31/1/28
2313059 Stainer, J. 31/1/28
2306518 Sullivan, R. 31/1/28
2314524 White A. 31/1/28
1860274 O'Rourke, L. 31/1/28
2315175 Flint, T. 31/1/28
4178303 Kelly J. 31/1/28
2312069 Swatton, J. 31/1/28
2313875 Tucker, S. 31/1/28
2306485 Hatherly, F. 31/1/28
7734091 Peachey, R. 31/1/28
739952 Deamon V. 31/1/28
2309300 Brooke G. 6/2/28
1406518 Ryan, R. 2/3/28
2312048 Thorpe, J. 2/3/28

To be Corporal—

2310949 Sharples H. 10/12/27
23033 Critchley E. 4/1/28
2310835 Wells A. 19/1/28
2306445 Smith, F. 20/1/28
2746102 Emsley C. 20/1/28
2314300 Bevis M. 23/1/28
2316034 Burgess C. 30/1/28
31016 Gallagher, P. 31/1/28
2315924 Stibbs, T. 31/1/28
2314835 Wicks, F. 31/1/28
2315256 Roberts, E. 31/1/28
2314200 Grocott, J. 31/1/28
390252 Saunders, A. 31/1/28
2306482 Donahue, J. 31/1/28
2315981 Cook L. 31/1/28
2314760 Easterling L. 31/1/28
2309629 Chadney V. 31/1/28
4680001 Stickley H. 31/1/28
2309830 Ekless F. 31/1/28
6132568 Slater F. 31/1/28
2309894 Phillips A. 1/2/28
2316014 Wilce L. 1/2/28
2314856 Crossley W. 5/2/28
2309329 Tennant R. 13/2/28
2312672 Robinson G. 22/2/28
2314636 Ayres W. 2/3/28
2314966 Newman, F. 2/3/28
2316173 Dicker A. 2/3/28
2306977 Russell S. 2/3/28

Discharges.

2306900 Sergt Chumbley W. 14/3/28
2311633 Sergt Redman C. 16/3/28
2307582 Corpl Horsey H. 22/2/28
1857284 Corpl Berry F. 2/3/28
312364 Corpl Harwood F. 13/3/28

Transfers to Army Reserve.

1417133 L/Sergt Peeke E. 7/3/28
2314606 Corpl Hollis F. 7/3/28
5718864 Corpl Coole R. 10/3/28
2314566 Corpl Charlesworth J. 20/3/28
2313849 Corpl Waldock C. 21/3/28
539240 Corpl Kelly E. 21/3/28

H.M.T. "DORSETSHIRE"

(Capt. Geo. English)

Southampton—Port Said—Aden—Bombay,

February 23rd—March 18th, 1928.

SHIP'S SONG (Tune, "John Brown.")

"And we pull the dampers out,
And we push the dampers in,
And the smoke goes up the chimney
Just the same....."

Amid tears and cheers we left Southampton for the far-flung outposts of the Empire on Thursday, February 23rd, in the good ship H.M.T. "Dorsetshire." We met several old faces from various Signal units who were wont to throw in their lot with us.

The first few days of our voyage were quite placid; both the Channel and the notorious Bay were in a most genial mood, which was more than we expected. Everybody quickly settled down to the routine of the ship, and followed our route with the aid of sundry maps and atlases. The atmosphere on the troop decks became quite thick with many heated arguments on geography. I never before realised how many budding mariners there were in the Army. They moved mountains, oceans, and continents from their respective places, to suit their own convenience, with the greatest of ease and rapidity. However, in spite of all their carefully-planned calculations, the ship still continued on her prescribed course.

Great rivalry existed between the various schools of "housey-housey." Cries of "Legsey-leven!" "Kelly's-wonk!" "Top-o'-the-shop!" "Doctor's orders!" and an occasional yell of "House!" pervaded the atmosphere at all hours of the day and night. To move about, one had to go warily for fear of treading on the many recumbent forms lying about the deck, gazing intently at their cards and checking their numbers with the aid of such things as pieces of orange peel, match-sticks, coins, etc.

We experienced fine weather, with all the elements of an English spring, as far as Gibraltar. We found life fairly easy, most of the time being our own with the exception of one parade (ship's inspection) and the usual physical jerks à la mode Niels Bukh—ably administered in judicious doses by Corporals Tanner, Read and Ellison, late of the Depot Battalion. Owing to the fact that to many of us P.T. is a pastime seldom indulged in, there were many aching bodies. We passed Gibraltar during the night of the 27th, and saw what little there was to be seen by moonlight.

By this time everyone had thoroughly settled down to the crowded conditions and various discomforts of life on a trooper.

An excellent programme of inter-unit sports was arranged by the officers. Colonel C. L. Day, R.Signals (officer i/c troops) took a great interest in the sports and presented prizes to the winners. The Royal Signals' competitors nobly upheld the prestige of the Corps by winning prizes in both individual and team events, and also winning the prize generously awarded by Colonel Day for gaining most points throughout the meeting.

This part of the voyage, from Gibraltar to Port Said, was mainly fine, with the exception of two days of high wind and rough seas which slightly upset the equilibrium of several among us. The diet on board was mainly of stew, and the cry went up from many throats: "What! stew for a change!" The tea was also a sore point with many: it was said to be ten degrees worse than that supplied by the N.A.A.F.I. The canteen was a one-man-power contraption. Some of us spent the greater part of our days in patiently waiting in a lengthy queue, hoping that they had not sold out by the time we reached the narrow counter—which was very often the case!

We arrived at Port Said in brilliant sunshine on the morning of the 6th March. The port looked very nice from the sea, and needless to say all the troops were on deck taking advantage of every viewpoint. Many of them were armed with cameras of all shapes and sizes, and no doubt many good snaps were taken. Our stay at Port Said was only of four hours' duration—but many officers, w.o.s and families took the opportunity of going ashore. A great deal of amusement among the troops was caused by the queer antics and gesticulations of the cheapjacks around the boat, endeavouring to rob poor Tommy of his hard-earned shekels. In one or two cases these enterprising individuals succeeded, but the comments passed by their victims, after sampling so-called "Turkish delight," were anything but complimentary. The swimmers diving for pennies were a source of interest to many who marvelled at their ability in holding huge quantities of coppers in their mouths.

At two o'clock we weighed anchor and commenced our journey down the Suez Canal. The scenery was rather monotonous in the daylight, but when the moon had risen it was magnificent.

The following morning found us entering the Red Sea, with the weather fine and rather warmer than in the Mediterranean. We were thankful to discard our serge for drill on the day following, but most of us found our sun-bonnets more a nuisance than a blessing. Sleeping down below became almost unbearable, and those who could find a square yard on deck took full advantage of it.

Another sports programme was arranged to occupy the time from Port Said to Aden. The Signals were unfortunate in being beaten by two points by the R.A.F. for Colonel Day's prize. We managed, however, to carry off several other prizes. The chief success was the catch-weigh tug-of-war, won in grand style.

After a quiet journey through the Red Sea we arrived at Aden at about 11 p.m. on March 11th. About a hundred and fifty disembarked, twenty-two of them belonging to the Corps.

Our third and last sports programme was carried out after leaving Aden. The Signals team more than held their own in most of the events, and were again successful in carrying off Colonel Day's prize for the highest aggregate.

The last stage of our voyage is now almost completed, and in consequence I am reluctantly compelled to bring these notes to an end. We are all eagerly looking forward to settling down in our new sphere. The voyage has been a pleasant experience, and we hope that some of those left at home will enjoy a similar trip during the next trooping season.

Tomdon.

SPORTS RESULTS.

First Sports (Southampton to Port Said)—No points were awarded for these sports, it being clear that Signals had easily carried away Lieut.-Colonel Day's prize by winning two events and being second in another.

Second Sports (Port Said to Aden)—As the results showed a close competition between units, the Sports Committee decided to give five points for a win, three for second place, and one point for each semi-finalist.

Unit	Strength	Tug-of-War 3-Relay Race	Tug-of-War (Catch-weight)	Legged Race	Wheel-barrow Race	Pillow Fight	Hop, Skip, Jump	Ttl.
R.A.F. ..	329	3	1	–	1	5	5	15
R. Signals	127	1	5	5	–	1	1	13
R.A. ..	203	–	3	1	5	3	–	12
R. Ulster Rifles	116	–	1	3	3	1	–	8
Wiltshire Regt.	72	1	–	1	1	–	3	6
K.S.L.I. ..	85	5	–	–	–	–	–	5
P.W. Vols.	102	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Manchester Rgt.	102	–	–	–	–	–	–	0

Third Sports (Aden to Bombay)—These were run on similar lines to the second Sports, and results were as follows:—

Unit.	Strength	Relay Race	Tug-of-War (Catch-wt.)	3-Leg Race	Hop, Skip, Jump	Ttl.
R. Signals ..	105	5	5	5	1	16
R.A.F. ..	235	1	3	1	5	10
Wiltshire Regt.	72	1	–	3	–	4
R. Ulster Rifles	116	–	1	–	3	4
K.S.L.I. ..	85	3	–	–	–	3
Manchester Regt.	102	–	–	–	1	1
R.A. ..	203	–	1	–	–	1
P.W. Vols. ..	102	–	–	–	–	0

This shows an easy win for the Signals. The writer, as a member of the Sports Committee, would like to thank all ranks who ably backed him up in his arduous task of running the men's sports.

J. M. C. H.

The accompanying illustration comprises a few of the snapshots taken on the voyage. These show (reading down the column in each case):—

Column 1—In the Mediterranean. Port Said. Wheel-barrow Race. Pillow Fighting over Mattresses. Pillow Fighting over a Bath. Watching the Pillow Fighting.

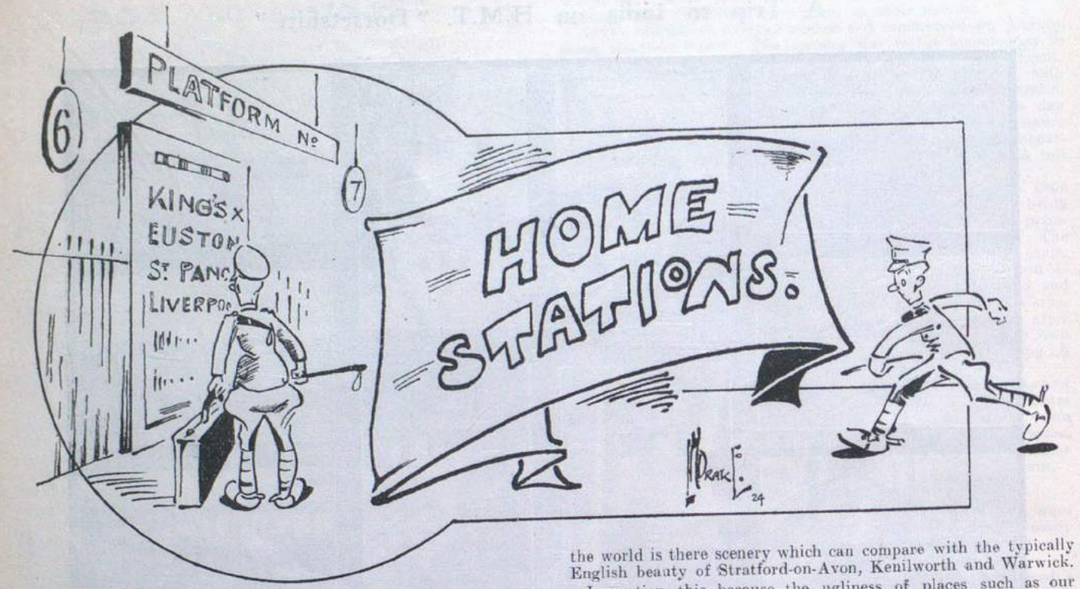
Column 2—Captain English. Treacle and Bun Race. Three-legged Race. Tug-of-War.

Column 3—First Officer and Troop Officer. Sack Race. Potato Race. The "Dorsetshire" at Bombay.

Column 4—Suez Canal. Perim. Signals N.C.O.s' P.T. Squad. Officers' Deck. The Fore Deck. Waiting for the Troop Train at Bombay.

A Trip to India on H.M.T. "Dorsetshire."

For details of the above snapshots see the accompanying article.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Unconscious Humour.—There exists in this camp a stretch of alleged roadway between the bus terminus at Kemmel Lines and Catterick Bridge, the condition of which is such that any speed in excess of three miles per hour leads to a sudden and sticky end.

Odd patches here and there over the two-mile stretch prove that a surface did in fact exist in some remote period. But rather excessive fair wear and tear, coupled with superb military sang froid, has produced something which even the most heartless of reliability trial organisers would blush to include in a route.

My choice of title, however, centres around the signpost which, standing gravely in the midst of all the turmoil, states with splendid solemnity:

> SPEED LIMIT
> 12 MILES PER HOUR.

Short Fairy Tale.—"I would like to do your guard for you."

Appointments and Promotions.—We offer our congratulations to the following upon their respective promotions: L/Sergt Morgan A. to Sergeant; Corporals Flint T. and Hatherly F. to L/Sergeant; L/Corporals Crossley W., Dicker A., Minchin C., Newman F., and Saunders A., to Corporal.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Barden R. J., Butler J., and Collett R. F., from D Company. Sigmn Smith A. W. from F Company. Signalmen Younie C. S., Waller R. A., Kennedy L. C., Green G. T., and Eccleshall G. E., from the Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Departures.—E Company's best wishes accompany C.Q.M.S. Walker C. and Sigmn Walsh H., who left us for Bermuda on 4/4/28, and Corpl Dicker A., who departed for Jamaica on the same date.

Home postings are too numerous to permit the naming of individuals, but those who left our ranks during the last month have our good wishes.

England, Home and Beauty.—During the Easter holidays I paid my first visit to "Shakespeare's Country." Nowhere in the world is there scenery which can compare with the typically English beauty of Stratford-on-Avon, Kenilworth and Warwick.

I mention this because the ugliness of places such as our much-maligned Catterick only goes to enhance the beauty of other spots. It therefore serves a purpose.

Congratulations.—To R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Clark on the birth of a son (William James) on 12/3/28. To Sigmn Swindells G. W. on his marriage on 20/3/28. To Sigmen Rutherford A. and Nicholson F. A. on their receipt of the 2nd class certificate of education.

Scholars.—I must devote a special paragraph this month to our representatives of the Army Educational Corps. Sergt.-Instr. Rind P. T. is permitted to re-engage for such term as shall complete 21 years' service. (He is getting Younger every day!) Sergt.-Instr. Moore W. E. has left us on discharge.

Discharges and Transfers.—C.Q.M.S. Mack C. G., discharged on expiration of Colour service. Signalmen Broad E. R. and Vale D. to the Army Reserve. Good luck!

Arrivals (C.Q.M.S.s).—C.Q.M.S. Keenan A. O., from the 42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals. (This should have been included under the Arrivals heading, but I invariably give C.Q.M.S.s lots of room to themselves!)

The Songsters.—We raise three harmonious cheers for the Signals Choir. Gargling in unison, they stepped right into the Swaledale Musical Festival and romped home winners by a short semi-quaver.

People went to Northallerton under the impression that the only beautiful voices in the Army are those found on the inventories of Company sergeant-majors, but when the choir stepped up and let loose a few bars, the majority were agreed that most C.S.M.s could do with a protracted course at the Kneller Hall.

To our congratulations to the choir we add our thanks to Mr. Ricketts, whose enthusiasm and tuition helped to gain the verdict.

L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—The boys have succeeded in providing hundreds of those changeable villas favoured by the members of the feathered persuasion. Yes, the trees which were planted and supported so scientifically by the Company have already commenced to bud, and will very soon be sporting their first covering of leaves in the camp lines.

The prelude to reveille nowadays is supplied unreservedly by the twitterers, who flock in their thousands round the barrack-rooms to take advantage of the beautiful natural perches placed at their disposal by the peacefully sleeping inmates. One of the boys in No. 1 thought he heard a cornerake bursting forth the other night, and quietly crept from his bed towards the window to get a first glimpse of this rare and noble bird; but on proceeding in the actual direction of the sound, he was hurt and disillusioned to discover that his cornerake cries were really tuneful snores emanating from the nasal protuberance of one of the senior boys.

Never mind! we hope eventually to hear the foliage of our chestnut trees disturbed by the vibratory song of even the sweet-throated nightjar—I mean, nightingale.

One of the approaches to the lines has had its beauty wonderfully enhanced by the addition of a long "crazy old-style timbered archway." The job has been rather a difficult one owing to the shortage of large nails, and the extraordinary positions it has been necessary to assume in order to knock in some of the nails (rescued from the camp byways), but the result has amply repaid the constructors for their exertions.

The senior n.c.o.s, on their way to and fro from the mess, always pass this natural-looking structure, so we hope that on moonlight nights the word "natural" (for some of them) will not necessitate the prefix "un."

Records.—The boys have lately acquired some new records for the Company. Here are the titles: Winners of the novices inter-Company boxing, cross-country and both junior and senior rugby leagues. Besides being winners, all four teams have been undefeated in these events throughout the season—a wonderful record indeed, considering the strength of the Company and the tender years of the performers.

Now we are preparing to put up a good show in the inter-Company athletics, and can assure other Companies that top-gear must be the rule if they wish to lower our colours.

Hockey.—Owing to the state of the grounds throughout the winter, there has been very little chance of teaching the young idea; but we hope later, as opportunity offers and grounds improve, to turn out some really good players. Our "hopes" already possess initiative, speed and stamina, and therefore only require the groundwork of the game to start them on the path to good hockey. We shall probably play some hockey during the summer evenings; the Catterick summer climate will be most suitable!

Cross-Country.—It was *very* tactless of us not to send a special messenger to Bulford to carry our congratulations to the 3rd Divl Signals cross-country team. We *did* notice that they won the Southern Command, etc., etc., and were very pleased about it—especially as so many of their best runners came from our nursery.

Our (Boys') Company ambition is to put one across Bulford Signals, but it appears impossible to arrange a fixture. With Corpl Ayres, L/Corpl Broadley, Sigmn Beale and twelve boys, Bulford would have to walk many miles after their little golf balls if they would to defeat us! Don't forget that we have won the S.T.C. championship for the last five seasons.

Perhaps, if the Bulford scribbler who (not knowing the financial situation) writes cross-country notes about the T.B. will cease to be so personal, we may send them some real live runners before next season!

LE CHEVAL NOIR.

School of Signals.

Arrivals.—L/Sergt Hindon W. (2nd Battn. Beds. and Herts. Regt.) for duty as an assistant instructor of signalling. Sigmn Allender from 3rd Divl Signals, and Dvr Drake from D Troop Cavalry Divl Signals, on 13/4/28.

Departures.—To Malta, on 30/3/28, Sigmn Keywood F. C. Sergt Tate H. E. (1st Battn. Royal Warwick Regt.) proceeded to Woking on 31/3/28 to rejoin his regiment, on completion of three years' duty at the School of Signals as an assistant instructor of signalling.

Six months ago Signalmen Peacock and Pountney left the School for probationary duty with the Royal Army Pay Corps, and have now been transferred to that Corps as from 31/8/27.

Territorial Courses.—The 23rd Signalling Course was marred by bad weather, but the students of the 24th Course are enjoying a very welcome change in occasional sunshine.

Regimental and Refresher Courses.—The 93rd Regimental Signalling Instructors' Course and the 53rd Refresher Course for Instructors and Assistant Instructors dispersed on April 12th, with the usual cycle of farewell visits to the corporals' and sergeants' messes on the evening prior to departure.

These visits were preceded by a grand parade, which would have proved very amusing for all in camp had not the scheme been kept so strict a secret. However, a few of us had the good luck to be passing within view of the officers' mess about five o'clock and could not fail to see the carnival parade. A very good show, but why not play a soccer match in the same kit?

F.-of-S. Course.—The following n.c.o.s have arrived for the 6th Foreman-of-Signals Course, and to them we extend a welcome: Sergt Potts W. B., 3rd Divl Signals; L/Sergt Tilford (junior) from India; L/Sergt Paterson, No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand; L/Sergt Thorpe, No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Coy., Blackdown; L/Sergt West, Depot Battn. S.T.C.; and Corpl Tate A. S. from the Boys' Technical School, Chepstow (formerly of E Company, Training Battalion).

Birth.—To Q.M.S. and Mrs. King V. J., a son (John) on April 3rd.

Sergeants' Mess.

Games Tournament.—A very enjoyable evening was spent in the mess when the officers of Nos. 93 and 53 Courses were our guests at a games tournament. The games included bridge, billiards, snooker, whist, darts, crib, and shove-ha'penny. Although most of the officers had never seen a shove-ha'penny board before, we regret to say that our guests won nearly every match. The Gunner officers were particularly brilliant at this game, while the Cavalry officers flicked some very good darts.

The latter part of the evening was devoted to an impromptu smoking concert, where again our guests were found to be equal to the occasion.

Of the officers of the School staff, Colonel Osborne (Commandant), Major Drayson (O.C. Regimental Courses and Chief Instructor), Capt. Charlesworth (Adjutant), and Captain Usher (Quartermaster) were present to swell the "part" singing contests and to render individual songs and (shall we say) reminiscences?

Next Month we hope to be able to give details of two marriages.

PETERKIN.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

No. 3 Company, A Corps Signals.

Haig Lines, Aldershot, April 14th.

General.—Well! at last we are firmly established in Haig Lines. Someone said the floors cannot be scrubbed. Is not that beastly? Interior economy thus loses an old friend. I consider the canteen and messes are not large enough for the Signals when they all move in here. I cannot imagine 150 corporals in the mess, or 900 men in the canteen queueing up for "breaks." Presumably some system will be adopted.

Scotsmen.—A cartoon in "Punch" the other week depicted a Scotsman extracting fiery liquid, per a mangle, from a whisky bottle cork. What lengths!

If a Welshman wants peace and a Jew money, why does a Scotsman desire the Jew's address?

Arrivals.—Sergt Knight, Corpls Prees and Tucker, L/Corpls Clark A., Lawson and Walsh M. S., from other climes. A hearty welcome is extended to them, and a wish that they will soon settle down in Smallshot!

Departures.—L/Corpl Thompson C. S., Signalmen Long S., Spear H., Gregory H., and Hutchinson A., to the land of dole and honey.

Birth.—To L/Corpl Murray A., a girl (Maisie Joan) at Aldershot. Cheer up, Tich!

Promotions.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Brooke G. and Cpls Gallagher P., Pagett W., Stibbs T., Smith H., Russell S. E., and Wilce L. C., on their respective promotions.

Corporals' Mess.—At last we have evacuated the imaginary mess at Ewshott and installed ourselves in a mess here. We hope, with the aid of the junior n.c.o.s of the Divl Signals when they arrive, to hold various functions and entertainments in the near future.

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By special request, here is a new rule: "No sheiking over the counter."

Tanks.—The Tank Signal Section have left us for their yearly period of convalescence at Pinehurst Barracks (Royal Tank Corps).

LULU.

A Corps at Intra.

1—And the children of Acor were fruitful and increased abundantly and multiplied; and the land was filled with them.

2—Now there arose a new king over them, one Se-es-oh, who, seeing his people roaming all over the land, was sore troubled.

3—And the new king went unto the King of Par, who was known unto his own tribe as the Son of Parkin, and communed with him as to the way in which to gather his people together in one barak.

4—And King Par spake unto Se-es-oh, saying "Verily I will build thee a house that will hold ten thousand times ten of your children."

5—And Se-es-oh spake, saying "You will build me a house that will contain all my tribe, both Acor, Fust-div-ee, Secon-div-ee and Cav, and thou wilt make it a posh habitation, yes?"

6—And King Par journeyed unto the four corners of the earth and studied under great teachers, and gained knowledge of building baraks, clinks and the like.

7—And it came to pass that one named Qu-em was journeying over the desert of Smawl, that is sometimes called Shot, and saw an old man digging on a hill with a shuval-ar-ee.

8—And Qu-em said "Who art thou, old baldhead, and what doest thou?"

9—"I come from King Par, and I am digging this hill away that a barak may arise for the people who worship the god 'Jimmy.'"

10—And there was a great stir in the land. And a certain sect called Em-qu did dream dreams of palaces and no parades.

11—And the old men did see visions and the young men did dream dreams.

12—And there was a steward named Haze who did sign on and dream of a cook-house with marble halls and pillars, an automatic rissole-maker, an automatic potato-peeler, and an automatic duff-destructor.

13—And there were many who said unto Haze, "Verily thou art touched."

14—And the sect called Se-ne-ors did dream of Berkeley chairs and hassocks; of laying back and drinking mede from a golden tank; of super-sonic heutrodyne radio sets; and nifty Nippies serving coronas.

15—And the sect called Clarks did dream of roll-top desks, green ink and nil returns.

16—Yea, even the long-faced chums did dream in their stalls of padded boxes, woollen rugs, and oat bins filled to the brim.

17—And the sect called Jankers did delight to dream of little cumfy bunks, spring beds, and buckshee scoff.

18—And seeing the multitude so contented, the Lord of the Hosts of Ushot said unto himself "Verily, this is strange; why is it they do not murmur as of yore?

19—"They all look pleased. Peradventure they are touched."

20—And thinking the people to be touched, the Lord of the Hosts said unto his chief disciple "Congregate the people every week, missing no man, on the day that is called Sat, and let them perform as was the ancient custom."

21—And the chief centurion, thinking likewise, did make the people perform on Woden's day. But it was of no avail.

22—And Qu-em, smelling a snip, did say unto the Lord of Hosts "When do we journey to the promised land, oh lord?"

23—And the Lord of the Hosts did then understand why the people were so strange.

24—"Verily, they are waiting for the promised land, and peradventure they think it will be a snip. Peradventure it will."

25—And the Lord of the Hosts gathered the elders together, and spake saying "Take heed to gird up thy loins and be ready to journey to the promised land on the fifteenth day of the moon that is called March."

26—And it came to pass that one named Mac did journey to Smawl and spy out the land.

27—And he returned and, sitting in a place called min-a-chur range, spake concerning the land of Smawl unto other spies, amongst whom were Malk-om, Ole and Ar-ve.

28—And he spake, saying "This land of Smawl is not a land flowing with milk and honey, as ye believe.

29—"Verily, it does not contain marble halls and palaces, nor does it contain that which ye believe.

30—"It is like unto the land of China, for all things are buckeree.

31—"Verily, there is a palace called Naf-ee, with marble halls and costly tapestries, but it is all buckeree. Yea, the front with its marble porch does face the incinerator, and the back which is of brick does face the street that is called Prince's.

32—"And the dungeon is built facing Mecca, where all believers pass by. And in it the beds are not of stone but of costly springs.

33—"Verily, it is a whited sepulchre; outwardly it is a clink, but inwardly it is a palace.

34—"And the shoemaker has no place to rest his head, nor the nappi, nor even he who fits raiment; for no barak has been set up for them.

35—"And by the palace of Haze runs a river for the people to practise felo-de-se.

36—"Yea, the palace for the centurions is like unto a clink, with iron bars and cells; even a river runs under the floor.

37—"And the house for the multitude of scribes of the Lord of the Hosts is like unto a barak-box. Many will be called but few chosen to live in this house.

38—"The palaces for the common herd are like unto the Ritz and number two score.

39—"And there is a huge desert by the street called Prince's for the people to perform on: and it is called Square."

40—And the spies did carry the news unto the Saddlers, who did broadcast it unto the four corners of the earth.

41—And it came to pass that on the fifteenth day the people of Acor did gird up their loins, and put their ammoes on their feet, and mar-chin-order on their backs, and prepare to set out to the promised land.

42—And the camels were loaded, and the people served with bully to sustain them on their way. And the youngest child did lead out the sacred llama to lead the people and preserve their luck.

43—Then the Lord of the Hosts appeared and spake unto the people, saying "The hour of deliverance has not yet come. Ye all must yet wait until the third day of the new moon."

44—And a great murmuring arose amongst the people, and many did say "Roll on," and some did even speak of their possessions and their check.

45—And the fat men did say unto the thin men "There is *no* promised land. We have been here since the Turk was slain and our prayers are of no avail."

46—And the thin men said unto the fat men "Be ye of good cheer. Ye have only waited for an evening. We have waited for this promised land since Noah passed his Groo-pee. But we do not murmur; we have faith."

47—And the fat men said unto themselves "Verily, they will need it."

SOOFOO.

1st Divisional Signals.

To all old Firstdivsigs and to fellow-Signals sweltering under a tropical sun, with desert, sandy plain or barren waste before you: Imagine showery days, green playing fields, a fine avenue of chestnuts (you will remember them along the Queen's Avenue) just bursting into blossom, and larks, finches and thrushes all full of the joy of spring; and then take comfort that the Homeland has not changed, and that you will enjoy all these things again some day—perhaps next trooper

Individual training has now ended, and those who aspire to greater things cherish the fervent hope that the Trade Board will not be too severe when the time comes for the test. The result, of course, depends chiefly on you who have been receiving instruction.

Collective training now being before us, Section work becomes the thing of the moment. Route marches, bivouacking, etc., add to the normal pleasure of a soldier's life.

U/L/Corporals Wellock, Lovett, Cole L. P., and Grainger H. have taken the first step leading to a successful career. Sergts Brotherton and Dunphy, L/Sergt Tucker S., Corpls Smith F. S., Robinson G. W., Easterling and Donahue have climbed higher to the ranks they now hold; and L/Corpls Evans, Curtis, Teanby, Millen and Pritchett now realise the benefits of being "paid."

Before these notes are in print we shall be acquainted with our new home. Some of the married families are already in, and are loud in praise of their new quarters. The unit will move in on April 24th, and we hope to give details with a few camera shots of all that we find interesting.

Sigmn Whatley N., at the last moment, took the place of Sigmn Jaggard and is now on the way to Sierra Leone. He will learn the good news on arrival that he has now been mustered as I.M.ii.

We sent off our final draft on March 30th: Sigmn Moylan to Sarafand, and Drivers Price, Smith S. B., and Simpson to Egypt.

The G.O.C.-in-C. and D.D.V.S. recently came to see our animals, and expressed their satisfaction at all they saw.

We continue to break monthly records in transfers to the Reserve or discharge, and now report for the benefit of old friends that L/Corpls Barge S., Castle E., Benfield A., Minett H. and Kimber, Corpls Charlesworth and Easterling, L/Sergts Redman C. and Stalley E. A., Dvr O'Neill, Signalmen Smith P., Seek J., Childs, Gardner, Horne, White and Cotterell W. have left us for civilian life.

With regret we report the passing of ex-Sigmn Fielden E. F. (at one time servant to Major Tillard). Although he had no actual association with this unit, on behalf of the Corps we helped to pay last honours to an old "Signal" by providing a bearer party at his funeral.

The Training Battalion has sent us Signalmen Denning, Dracup, Young, Sheldon, Wright, Blake S., Allen A., Roberts J., and Marchant T. From India came Signalmen White E. and Child A.; also Sergt Carpenter G., whom we are pleased to say has now been discharged from Netley.

RADIANCE TOFFEE
IN 1d. BARS -AND- IN ASSORTED PIECES BY WEIGHT

Y.D.G., Aden, Gibraltar, and all other stations where old Firstdivsigs sojourn and whose news we seldom find in THE WIRE: Can you not make us happy by "scribing" just a tit-bit for the Corps Magazine?

We were delighted to have among us the 3rd Divl. Signals cross-country team, who—the world now knows—competed in the Army championship. To the shoals of congratulations they have received on their place at the finish, we hasten to add those of the Firstdivsigs. We wish you further success in your ventures!

To their credit—reflected on the unit and Corps—we are able to record a Class i. award as a gas instructor to C.S.M. Shenton, and a "distinguished" award to L/Corpl Whitehead as an educational instructor. Sergt Blackburn R. passed out at the top of the driver mechanics Class i. course at Feltham. Sergt McGrath qualified as a fire fighter, and has now left us to perform provost duties in our new barracks.

L/Corporals Moore and Wheeler are at the A.S.P.T. as a preliminary to a P.T. course. Dvr Crowder successfully qualified as a selected cook.

Sigs., Peshdist—The rumour is correct. Very quietly done during a spot of leave in the great big wicked city of Lunnon. Percy is now with the 51st Signals at Aberdeen, and very very happy, one learns.

To Dvr Abbott—Jimmie has received your message.

Well done, Hong Kong! Your traffic does you credit. Page 119 of the March WIRE—bottom right—is worth reading, reading again, and memorising.

YA.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Aldershot, April 15th.

General.—The 56th Divl Signals (T.A.) arrived for their Easter training on April 8th. Many familiar faces were seen

this year. They indulged in one or two schemes, and it is hoped they benefited by them.

The 2nd Divl Signals move into Haig Lines, as our new barracks are called, on or about April 17th. It will be a treat for No. 1 Company to wake up after a rainy night and find their belongings without the aid of a rowing boat, as is often the case in the hutments of "A" Lines. Nocturnal visitors to the dust heap rejoice to know that it will still be near at hand when we move.

Our Dan has retired from motor racing, temporarily at any rate. There is a strong belief that it got lost in a traffic jam or was removed by a crossing sweeper.

An n.c.o.s ride has begun, and now we know what "soarer-still" feels like. Early every forenoon, like John Peel of old, all the junior n.c.o.s may be found circling right and left and thoroughly enjoying the thrills of jumping.

Arrivals and Departures.—Sergt New and Sigmn Yalden have rejoined us from their P.O. course; and Sergt Watts has left us to take up an appointment in the Territorial Army at Manchester.

Heard on a Trade Test.—Examining Officer: "Now, what is the 48-volt H.T. battery for on this A set?" Candidate: "To drive the generator, sir."

E.O.: "What!" C.: "Sorry, sir; I meant, to light the receiving valves."

Another candidate went into the Soldiers Home during a break hour in the recent Trade Test and idly fingered a copy of Byron's works. He left it open at this:—

"Farewell, farewell;
And if for ever,
Still for ever fare thee well."

A Section have found a new pastime, but they keep it dark: Mast drill. If you value your lives, don't mention it to Gunner or Bert.

CHECK PARADE.

"Minutes" blows; the spectres move;
The camp is all astir;
"Markers, steady," "On parade,"
"Answer your names," "Sir."

A Company of soldiers
Out on check parade;
"Fall out, specially annoyed,"
Leaves the ranks much frayed.

A much belittled Company;
"Orderlies of the mess,
Fall out," "To the rear, the sick
And lame," has made them less.

A little group of soldiers
Counting up the rest;
"All room orderlies, dismiss,"
Leaves neither smile nor jest.

Half-a-dozen soldiers
Looking very glum;
"Right wheel, quick march!"
Stables every one.

R. S. SOMERS.

[We suggest that the spring of the year is responsible for this.—ED.]

TEN LITTLE SIGNALMEN.

Ten little Signalmen reading in a line;
One got twenty-two per cent.—then there were nine.

Nine little Signalmen arriving very late;
The C.S.M. caught one—then there were eight.

Eight little Signalmen riding at eleven;
One of them went down the lane—then there were seven.

Seven little Signalmen leaping o'er the sticks;
One did a cat-jump—then there were six.

Six little Signalmen learning how to drive;
One made a mess of it—then there were five.

Five little Signalmen thought the run a bore;
One fell out for lemonade—then there were four.

Four little Signalmen going on the spree;
One saw the A.P.M—then there were three.

Three little Signalmen going sick with 'flu;
One found himself in dock—then there were two.

Two little Signalmen sitting in the sun;
One had too much char and wads—then there was one.

One little Signalman standing on the mat;
He'd overstayed his pass, and—that's that.

W. H. D.

No. 3 Company.

In the spring the Signals' fancy lightly turns to thoughts of schemes—and here we are again, safely emerged from our individual training and eagerly anticipating our visits to Pystock, Miles Hill, Tuppers and other famous spots which old Three-co-ites have fought for and wept over.

To those who succeeded in the Trade Board, congratulations! (names are too numerous to mention) and to the unlucky ones, sympathies.

Our new A sets have been taken into use and so far have fulfilled our expectations. May the lads on the keys remember the doughty deeds of previous years, and do their utmost to emulate them and keep up Threeco's slogan of "Ever through." The enclosed snap is of J Section, 4th Guards Brigade A sets.

"J" Section.

(Left to right)—Cpl Bartlett, Signalmen Morris, Martin, Thomson, Penny, Jenkins, Brown G, and Caruthers.

Sports chiefly have consisted of trophy and friendly games, an account of which may be found under Sports Notes. The Command and Army boxing has provided some real thrills and also esprit de corps. Well done! those Signal cheers for the Corps and our opponents were worth listening to, and did much to enhance our name of being good sportsmen.

Personal.—Colonel Willan. Congratulations on the achievement of a long-wished-for result: the Army boxing won by an Aldershot team.

Capt Spencer. Well done! we wanted the goods, and your unceasing energy and efforts produced them.

The team. Heartiest congratulations! May all the sergeant-majors remember that you *didn't* have Easter and will be in need of a rest by Whitsun.

Warcob. Please read our rugby notes. These are strictly copyright, and the reproduction of them in any way will lead to civil (or uncivil) proceedings.

R.Q.M.S. Purkiss. Congratulations on the production of the conventional sign for marshy land and A Corps Signals. (Congratulations also on your promotion; now for a life of ease!)

Sigmn Stuart. The finest heavy-weight fight seen in Aldershot for years—won by fitness and grit. My word, 'Tony, that Drummer must be a big one; he *can* wallop!

Driver Grainger. Splendid! twice it rested with you, and you never failed us. I think the P.R.I. should stand a course of Phosphierine, though.

Arrivals.—Signalmen French and Scriffens. May they enjoy their new sphere!

Departure.—Sigmn Whitehead. May he be worth the money he cost!

THREECO.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Haig Lines, Aldershot.

General.—The following appeared in 1st Cavalry Brigade Orders dated 5/4/28: "Colonel-Commandant F. W. L. S. H. Cavendish, C.M.G., D.S.O., relinquished command of 1st Cavalry Brigade on 2/4/28. Col. W. T. Hodgson, D.S.O., M.C., assumed command of 1st Cavalry Brigade on 3/4/28."

We take this opportunity of wishing the very best of luck in the future to our late Commandant, and of offering a hearty welcome to Colonel Hodgson.

The following extracts from Farewell Order, and letter received by our O.C. (Capt R. Sutton-Pratt) are included in these notes for the benefit of our past and present personnel:—

"Tuesday, 3/4/28.

"On relinquishing to-day the command of the 1st Cavalry Brigade, I wish to thank all ranks throughout the Brigade for the loyal support they have always given me. The past four years have seen many changes in the Cavalry. . . . I congratulate all concerned on the splendid spirit in which they have been accepted; a spirit worthy of the best traditions of the mounted branches. . . . It is with genuine regret that I relinquish my command, and in bidding you farewell I wish all ranks the very best of luck in the future.

(Signed) "F. S. H. CAVENDISH."

The following letter was received by our O.C.:—

"1st Cavalry Brigade,
"H.Q., Aldershot Command, 3/4/28.

"Dear Sutton-Pratt—I must congratulate you and all ranks on the excellent work and extreme loyalty which you have always given me while under my command. You took over a fine unit, and that unit, under your command, has fully lived up to its high reputation. I wish you all the very best of luck in the future.

(Signed) "F. S. H. CAVENDISH."

Moves.—We have done it at last! The whole of this unit moved from Gibraltar Barracks to Haig Lines, Aldershot (the official designation of Smallshot), on April 3rd. I am sure that we shall all like our new Signal home after having been dispersed so long.

Training.—Owing to the above move and the preliminary preparations, training has been somewhat interrupted, but in face of this the following (to whom we offer our congratulations) have been successful in the recent search for higher ratings:—Opr. W/T Class i.: L/Corpl Forrest and Sigmn Marsh. Class iii.: Sigmn Ferguson. Opr. V/T. Class ii.: Sigmn Swan.

Considering the short time we have had available for training, we are not too badly represented by having, out of eleven W/T operators, three Class i. and two Class ii. One only is Group E. To those who were not successful, we say "Try again."

Appointments.—L/Corpl Foy S., to the Corps roster, 1/1/28.

Arrivals.—L/Corpl James C. from S.T.C. riding course, and Sigmn Yent from G.P.O. course at Lincoln.

Non-Arrivals.—Our six-wheelers.

Departures.—F/S/Sergt Vanstone W. G. to 2nd Divl Signals, 5/4/28. Sigmn Ward A. to civvy street (glorious Devon), 3/3/28. Sigmn Thomson to Hounslow on a vocational (music) course. Dvr Drake to the School of Signals, 13/4/28. The best of luck to them all.

Our Day Out.—On March 30th we paid a return visit to E Troop at Tidworth, where we had the pleasure of showing them how to play football. Within the first ten minutes, with only ten men, Sigmn Marsden scored the only goal of the game.

We had a very enjoyable day, playing five games in all, the titles of which are as follows:—Kippers, by Sigmn Robinson, at Andover. Football, by the Troop, at Tidworth. Bun fight, by all, at the Ian Hamilton Institute. Kissing the rabbit, by Sigmn Pratt, in the bus (runner-up, F/S/Sergeant Vanstone). S'naughty but s'nice—???—at Basingstoke.

Instructions in playing any of the above games can be had on application to Trooper Don (don't forget S.A.E. and 5/- P.O.).

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It is regretted that we cannot make any use of the "neat and touching epitaph" promised us by E Troop. No doubt they will now require it themselves.

Poet's Corner.—In spite of my promise last month that this would not occur again, I must give you the latest one received:

"They can't be any dumber
Than little Lottie Skinner;
She thinks they ring dumb-bells
To call deaf mutes to dinner."

Heard This One?—M.O. (to recruit): "Have you any scars?" Recruit: "No, sir, but I have some fags." It is reported that the M.O. is now off the D.L.

Truthets.—The turning point with most men is when a pretty girl passes.

The friend who is not in need is a friend indeed.

The greatest fire escape is heaven.

Our nursery days are over (?)

Last One.—On coming home from school the other day, Joan said that she was having a new teacher from India, and she did hope she wasn't black. Joan, aged six, belongs to

TROOPER DON.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, April 14th.

General.—I'm certain it was only two days ago that I posted my notes for the April WIRE! Time, tide and the Editor wait for no man; so here's a few more items of varying interest.

Scanning the pages of the last issue, Coir noticed that Waziristan District Signals have lost one of their well-known sportsmen—L/Sergt F. Channel, at Razmak—and his deepest sympathy is extended, with that of Waziristan District Signals, to the parents and relatives.

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Heyward H. G. sailed on March 21st for Sierra Leone, for a second tour of duty. It's the three or four months' leave at the end of the year's tour that does it!

Arrivals.—We welcome from Sierra Leone No. 2310788 C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Aslett J. We hope his stay with this Company will be a long and happy one. At any rate, it *will* be for the next four months, which will be spent on leave! A little bird has whispered something—well, 'nough said. Cherchez la femme!

Mixed Doubles, No. 3 (Late Editions).—Prior to No. 7177728 Sigmn Donoghue S. J. departing for India to join the Divl Signals at Quetta, he decided to take unto himself a wife. Consequently a marriage was arranged which took place at the Congregational Church, Salisbury, Miss D. E. Billen filling the rôle of bride. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Charles Davis, of the Congregational Church. The comrades of Sigmn Donoghue who read these notes will join me in wishing both him and his wife every happiness in their new life.

Randomite.—The Bishop had been seriously ill, and hourly bulletins were posted up outside the palace:—5 p.m.: Bishop a little better. 6 p.m.: Bishop had a relapse. 7 p.m.: Bishop passed peacefully away.

Later in the evening an unauthorised bulletin was found added, which read: "7.30 p.m.: Great excitement in heaven. Bishop has not arrived."

COM.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

Individual Training.—All paid, all weighed, and off we go again. Some up, some down, some where they were. It was inevitable that there should be a few gems amongst the examination papers. I'd better tell you some of them. All genuine, according to the instructors. Who would doubt the word of an instructor, anyway?

1—When two currents of equal force meet along the same line, they tend to naturalise each other.

2—For a pole crossing, No. 4 gets hammer and jumper, No. 3 gets the bird, and No. 1 gets the beer.

3—The use of a choke coil in a Fullerphone is explained in the pamphlet. Why ask a Group E man?

I am very much afraid that the perpetrators of these went down. Heavily. They also went *up*, with hats off.

The Absentees.—No doubt they are very busy people, but that is not sufficient excuse for No. 2 Company absenting themselves from these pages. We were unable to extract any news re births, marriages, promotions, and suchlike disasters, from them last month. This means that people arriving in that Company do so unsung, unhonoured, un—everything.

A chap gets married, and no one knows about it.

Another has a birth in the family, and we miss the drinks round through not knowing.

Someone gets promoted—more drinks lost.

Then a lucky mortal wins a football sweep, and—well, ask yourself.

Something has got to be done about it. The pay clerk is too busy inventing explanations for No. 2 Company's downfall in the cross-country race. Still, somebody ought to do it.

Voices Off.—A communication has been received from an old Bulfordite, to wit Sigmn Wilson J.

He is in some outlandish spot referred to by Indian chaps as D.I.K. From the excellent photo enclosed it would appear that being on an outpost of Empire doesn't prevent the lads making the best of life. The photo shows a useful looking dance band combination of four, known as "The Savannas." He reports that they have an excellent connection in the district. Sigmn Wilson is very well remembered in this unit, and we are glad to hear he is helping to liven things up abroad. Who knows, they may include a saxophone in their band yet. Such things have been known.

We cannot furnish him with a photograph of the Ellis-Barl band, but it may be of interest to others besides Ginger Wilson to know the composition of it. For ordinary occasions it consists of piano, drums, alto and tenor saxophones, with alto doubling clarinet and soprano, and tenor doubling soprano. The latter uses a megaphone on rare occasions. For special binges a violin and a tenor banjo are added.

We hear that Sigmn Bennett (late Bulford violinist) is doing well at Jubbulpore. We shall have to advertise ourselves as an academy of music soon.

Spare Parts.—We used such a lot of space last month that I think we had better be a shade more brief this time. Let me just get these few remarks in, and then I will slide.

The unit offers its welcome to a very handsome Morris-Oxford saloon which has just been posted to No. 3 Company. It is unlikely that the lads will get rides in it as it is a private car. George's car (I say "car" for want of a better word) is expected to creep out into the open within a few weeks. I understand that he has made some startling alterations, not the least being a dredger arrangement trailing behind for the purpose of collecting the odd bits that usually fall from this vehicle. We understand that Sergt P. wishes to dispose of this car (that is the word he used, I think) in part payment for a set of aluminium saucepans.

An n.c.o. of this unit will give buckshee advice as to purchase and free tuition to anyone interested in the saxophone. Motive: desirous of training an understudy to fill his place at the end of the year. Apply now. Don't get left (advt.)

R. F. B.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on promotion: Sergt Hailes C. to be W.O. Class ii (C.S.M.) w.e.f. 31/1/28. Corpls Stainer and Kelly to be L/Sergeants. L/Corpls Tennant and Slater F. to be Corporals.

Marriage.—Sigmn Button A. to Gladys E. Brooke, at Dymock, April 7th.

Birth.—To L/Corpl and Mrs. Basted, a son (Samuel James), 24/1/28.

Course.—L/Corpls Chesters and Berriff, and Sergt McEwan P. attended No. 6 N.C.O.s W/T Course at Catterick for the period 13/11/27 to 16/2/28 and obtained satisfactory reports.

Departure.—Corporal McBride has left us for service in Jamaica. A first class cueist, who will be missed greatly.

Training at Bulford—III.

Suggested by an inter-Company Rugby Match in which skill gave place to enthusiasm.

This game Rugby, we're told, is for men fit and sound;
Its devotees need backbone and grit; I'll be bound
That by "grit" they mean dirt that's removed from the ground
To each man, where in lumps it doth cling!

Though this sport entails bruises and spilling of gore,
Though you may break your arm or p'raps fracture your jaw,
Do not grouse, but remember that's what you're there for—
In rugger the *game* is the thing!

On the joys of the game there's no need to enlarge,
For a "biff" follows bang and a "bash" follows barge;
You can have your face "lifted" quite free of all charge,
Though the method may agony bring!
As the crowd at their loudest both bellow and bawl,
Upon each other's necks these athletes fall,
And it's no odds at all if they have not a ball!—
In rugger the GAME is the thing.

The referee's there to be seen and not heard,
For the spectators barrack his slightest word;
Should he dare give a "foul," they all give him the "bird,"
With a few of its eggs thrown in!
If the team, feeling wrath or perchance seeing red,
Should not quite carry out all the rules, it is said
That they just carry out a few players instead!—
In rugger the GAME is the thing!

NAB.

ONE FOR THE LOSERS.

There were two teams from No. 1
Thought the shield a "snip"
To keep within their window
And justify their "lip."

However, in their meeting
With "2," it came to pass
Their hopes were rudely shattered:
The games were quite a farce.

So now, if you should hear them
Mention "footer" or the shield,
Whisper "No. 2 Coy."—Gee!
They'll wipe you off the field.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, April 15th.

Firstly (and a very pleasant firstly), here's a hearty greeting to the four officers and the hundred or so other ranks who have at last safely returned from Shanghai. A goodly number have already departed to civvy street for keeps, and several went straight from Southampton to the Army Vocational Training Centres at Hounslow and Chisledon.

The morning after the departure of this draft in February, 1927, a cap (S.D.) was observed on the roof of No. 2 Company office, where some carefree soul who had no further use for it had deposited it. Now that the draft has returned, I see that the roof is again decorated—this time by a topee. I wonder if it will remain as long as the cap did.

It was very kind of the authorities to provide cabins for the lads—what's that? no cabins? But there *must* have been, because all the suit-cases are labelled "Cabin!" It must feel grand to swagger across Liverpool Street in civvies with a sun-tanned phiz and a suitcase labelled "Cabin"! "Portah! Portah! fetch me a rickshaw—I mean a taxi, and take care with the jolly old parrots and canaries. What!"

Training.—Two Artillery Brigade Signal Sections have filed quietly away for training with their respective Brigades, one to Shorncliffe and the other to Woolwich. As the 4th Division concentration this year is at Colchester, we are looking forward to a fairly easy time (if we're lucky).

Wireless.—Blank blank blank blank.

Musketry.—Bah! shut up! But I insist—I want to say just a few words to record the unit's appreciation of Lieut.-Colonel T. H. L. Spaight's gift of a very handsome silver cup to be annually competed for by the Companies. Next month I'll tell you which Company has won the cup. (As a result of this paragraph, there will be a rush on the orderly room of people who wish to enquire which Company they belong to.)

Civvies.—(Penny plain, threepoundsten coloured.) The Headquarter Company paraded to-day in their civilian clobber. I was not privileged to see them, but I have it from a reliable source that they were voted good enough for Bond Street.

Good Lord! you don't think that Headquarter Company would be seen in such a *demode* place as Bond Street, do you? I would have you know that H.Q. prefer to be seen only in respectable places such as Artillery Folley and the road leading to Severalls.

A ghost was seen on this parade—the ghost of a heliotrope suit of plus fours, which occupied the blank file. The ghost was requested to take a pace to the rear and put his tie straight (at least, so I'm told).

Mind Development.—Lots of people in the Signals can do clever things such as sending on a key with one hand and holding the darned set together with the other, or talking to a squad about musketry when you know nothing about it; but it takes a woman to read one story from a book whilst listening to another on the wireless.

Please, when you enter the orderly room, tread lightly, as on two occasions recently the dust has been disturbed from ancient documents.

Also, will Sigmn Engleboob (alias Dingleberry, called for short "The Angel") please be careful when sweeping round the gas mask and tin hat under my table, as it would be a shame to disturb the little family of spiders in the left eyepiece of the former.

Files—Horse, and Returns—ditto.—I once asked in these columns what a "horse file" was. I was told in no measured terms. Now I am again worried. The Company clerks sit from dewy morn until starry eve and make out things called Horse Returns. These they render to the orderly room in great quantities.

I have appealed to everybody: "Would you like a horse return?"—and ever comes the answer, "What the —— do I want your —— horse returns for?"

A postcard to me will bring you a regular supply of the above. I will be glad to pay the postage to get rid of 'em.

Agony.—Will Geordie Booth (late of Catterick) and Sigmn Gee (of Aden) please drop that promised line to J. Chapman of this unit?

Venn joyfully informs Benje of Egypt Signals that he has returned to the fold.

Will George Saint please answer that letter from

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

Scottish Command Signal Company.

The Castle, Edinburgh.

This is Edinburgh calling all Signal units. Here is a summary of last month's weather.

A cyclone continued to hover around the Castle, accompanied by rain, snow, earthquakes, and heat-wave. Some dry periods were experienced, particularly within a radius of three yards of the barrack-room fire. This cyclone is expected to move in a circular manner for the next hundred years, but may pay occasional visits to Catterick. Further outlook rather unsettled; the sun may shine some time during 1936.

News Bulletin.—At a meeting of the Scottish Command cricket club, held last week, L/Sergt Foley and Corpl Wright H. A. were elected to represent the Signals in the team during the forthcoming season. L/Sergt Foley was also elected vice-captain of the team, and Corpl Wright as secretary and treasurer of the club.

Gib. T(r)opical: Did Daniel Dewar wrong and get Collard? That's all the news this month.

Here is one S.O.S.: L/Sergt White A. would like to know if Corpl Bennett still resides in the land of the Pharaohs.

Edinburgh station will now close down until next month. Goodnight, everybody—goodnight.

WEE RITE.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

Easter has come and gone, but what an Easter it was! Lucky were the people who managed to take a few days' leave. The poor unfortunates who stayed in Belfast got nothing more than rain. I believe Young Jock had to roll his Easter egg indoors, which was a pity, it being his birthday celebration. The rest of us managed to roll ours over the breakfast table—except Spag, who refuses to play with eggs.

We heartily congratulate Lieut and Mrs. Morton on the birth of a son, and Sigmn Mason on the arrival of a daughter. I hear there will be more to congratulate next month.

We also congratulate L/Sergt Shirley, Corporals Roberts and Wicks on attaining their present rank, and L/Corpl Cheel G. on his first step towards the baton.

One must not forget Sigmn Wilson A. on his remustering as lineman; and perhaps Gap will become a D.R. yet—who knows!

The recent moves have been chiefly inter-Company. Signalmen Stone, Bruton, Hardy and Roper have left us for the Lough Swilly Section to train as Outlaws; whilst Corpl Roberts and Signalmen Elliott, Edwards, Camp, Howard and Brennan have returned to become peaceful citizens.

We offer a welcome to Corpl Cahill, who has joined us from Egypt. Over Sigmn Elliott we shed many tears on his leaving for the School of Signals. We hope that both may soon settle in their new homes.

Numerous questions have been asked lately, such as why was a certain n.c.o. so polite on church parade. Perhaps it was his surprise at being there, or else the effects of the sermon—but that is hardly likely. Another question was what a signalman at Dunree was thinking of on Good Friday. Spag wants to know about some horse or other from Outlaws Pat O'Keath and Moby Dick.

Jock asks if the price of Egyptian stamps has increased. He will pay the difference if it has (not bad for a Scot!), if only Sigmn Wheller A. J. will *please* write.

Driver Salter J. asks almost the same thing with regard to Sigmn Hansford H.; whilst I myself wonder what has happened to the long-promised snapshots.

Sigmn Williams E. would like to see a few notes from C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, India, if they could spare the time from the horses.

L/Corpl Rastus Hampton would like to hear from Sigmn Denereauz, last seen in F Company, T.B. C. W. N.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, April 12th.

General.—Having emerged safely from the hustle and bustle of another month, and incidentally the Easter period, I find it is time to write up notes for the benefit of those who follow the doings of this tribe through the medium of THE WIRE.

The recent spell of sunshine and warmth was welcomed by one and all; it was a blessing in disguise, and proved the truth of that familiar slogan "Es ist schön im sommer."

It was very gratifying to note in the last WIRE that the Signals Association is by no means losing ground in the way of securing employment for ex-Signals. That it was able to register nineteen cases in one month should appeal to those who are non-members of the Association. Now what about it? C.S.M. Jones is always ready to enrol new members. Try it and (with apologies to Pears) "You will use no other."

The aforementioned spell of sunshine must have put off some of our n.c.o.s a wee bit. They seem to have been making their own arrangements, despite the fact that there is only one method of doing things, i.e., the correct one. It would of course be insane to mention names, and moreover extremely boring to readers, were I to relate each and every incident; but I'm sure that it is laid down that the guard report is to be addressed to the O.C., and *not* to the n.c.o. i/c police. (Strange how one gets "rumbled," isn't it?) The only other thing worth mentioning is that, owing to a little incident which happened, everyone is searching for the mysterious Dotzheim room.

Musketry, that necessary inconvenience, is now in full swing. Groups of pupils desirous of qualifying to compete at the next Bisley shoot, can be seen listening to their instructors with remarkable calm and patience. The instructors, on the other hand, appear to find it extremely difficult to remember what they read the previous evening in S.A.T., Vol. II.

Departures.—The Army Reserve is still drawing old blood from the unit, and we have said good-bye to the following:—Signalmen Edmunds W. H., Woolfall F. H., Attridge A. J., Denton G., and Evans C. F. Dvr Osland W. E. left this Command for No. 1 F.A. Brigade Signal Section, Newcastle-on-Tyne (ain't some folks lucky?) The one and only "Soss" (Sigmn Lawrence J.) has taken up residence at the A.V.T.C., Aldershot, to study the art of plumbing; while Sergt Chick W. E. (late orderly room sergeant) has shaken the dust of Rhineland from his feet and joined the 3rd Divl Signals.

And at this point I must insert the following: The (late) "little man in Germany" buys his "pretty green ink" from S. Avanzo, Hohestasse, Cologne. He presumes it can be bought in England, and suggests that enquiries there would have elicited this information more expeditiously and satisfactorily.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on being raised to the rank shown: L/Sergts Low G. A. and Winteringham R. G., and Corpls Critchley E. and Roberts S. W. There are others sweating.

Strength Increase.—Mrs. Penfold presented Darky with a daughter on 19/3/28, and we proffer our best wishes to the proud parents.

Pontoons Only!—Sergts Callegari F. C. and Tracey J. to complete 21 years with the Colours.

Education.—Congratulations to the following on being awarded their 2nd class certificates: L/Corpl Knight R. D., Signalmen Slight R. W., Tregoning H. M., and Owen J. F.

Erratum.—Under births in the April issue, for "Davey" read "Devey" (by special request, and for your humble scribe's safety).

This Month's Celebrities.—The exchange operator who remarked that he could get a certain number in "Dictionary."

The youth, being instructed in musketry, who replied to the instructor's question: "that rifling was—er—well, rifling a till."

Finis.—By the time these notes appear, the R.A. Brigade Signal Section will be safely encamped at Bitche, and the remainder of the Company will be preparing for a month at Tier Park camp. Br-r-r! it makes me shudder; I've had some. Bear up, my hearties, and remember it is quite a novelty to be able to poke your head through a lovely black cloud when emerging from a tent at reveille. Anyhow, "once seen, never forgotten" is the impression formed of this eternal playground.

BLANCO.

"TERRITORIAL" NOTES

[*ADDENDUM TO PAGE 186*]

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

51 Calthorpe Street, London, W.C.1.

I must open these notes with a hearty vote of thanks to the person responsible for issuing the weather ration at Easter. He certainly smiled upon us, and by his kindness enabled us to spend four very enjoyable days at Aldershot.

We put in some training at Lille Barracks as the guests of the 2nd Divl Signals, who are deserving of the highest praise for the way in which they made us welcome and worked with us during those four necessarily busy days. Here's to the 2nd Divl Signals!

During Friday and Saturday training was carried out on the renowned Dust Heap, the cable and telephone wagons being man-handled, while drivers rode disdainfully by with their horses all dressed up and with nothing to pull.

On Sunday a scheme was carried out towards Pirbright, which was highly successful and thoroughly enjoyed by everybody.

On Monday morning all ranks became jockeys, and wound up a grand time with a long ride in the country.

Although so much work had to be done, we still found time for the inevitable football match. On Sunday evening we met the Regulars, and after a very exciting struggle we retired beaten to the tune of three goals to nil. It was a very fast game, and I think all who saw it will agree that although beaten we were not disgraced. Until about fifteen minutes from time, when L/Corpl Jackson had to leave the field through injury, there was no score—and then three goals were scored in quick succession! The final whistle found both teams exerting every ounce of energy, and it is to be hoped that the fight will be carried on when next we visit Aldershot. Such games breed a fine spirit of comradeship between Regulars and Territorials.

Sergeants' Mess.—Since our last notes appeared two very successful dances have been held at headquarters, but the committee appeal to every member to turn up at these functions and help to make them even more successful than they have been.

During Easter nineteen of our members were the guests of the 2nd Divl Signals mess in their new barracks at Smallshot, and we extend to them our gratitude for many kindnesses shown to us during our visit. We congratulate them on having such a fine mess. The amalgamation of the three messes (the 1st and 2nd Divs. and A Corps) should result in a really happy family being formed.

The distance of the mess from our quarters made it necessary for us to travel for meals in one of the (to us) new Morris six-wheelers. This was looked upon as rather a novelty. I do not, however, think the failure of the bus was a sufficient excuse for certain sergeants being late on parade.

ADSUM.

Northern Command (India) "Signals Week."

Rawalpindi, March 28th.

A "Signals Week" for all Signal units of the Northern Command, India, was held here from the 14th to 20th March, preceded by two days "Combined Sports" for the 1st Indian Divl Signals and B Corps Signals—and all admit that the week was a great success. District Signals from the Frontier and the Cavalry Brigade Signal Troops sent in many entries for all events which, combined with those from the Rawalpindi Signal units, made a very good show.

The football shield, which has been in the possession of B Corps Signals since its introduction six years ago, passed to the 1st Indian Divisional Signals. The final was a well-fought match, but luck favoured the 1st Divl Signals after extra time had been played; a penalty was awarded them, from which resulted the only goal of the match. It was very hard lines. Sigmn Griffiths, the Corps goalie, had played an excellent game, and was in no way to be blamed for the goal; as a matter of fact, it was almost dark when the kick was taken.

The 1st Indian Divl Signals must be congratulated on winning the football shield and the British hockey cup, and also the jumping and tent pegging in the mounted events. They also did very well in the other events.

A word may be put in regarding the Rawalpindi District tournament, which took place a few days after the Signals Week. In this tournament the 1st Indian Divl Signals' British team won the District tent pegging. B Corps must now look to their laurels!

All the boxing events were won either by Kohat District Signals or Waziristan District Signals, who sent strong teams to participate. Some very good boxing was seen in the different weights.

All officers who served on the Signals Week committee are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

The officers were "at home" to all married warrant officers and sergeants and their families, at the conclusion of which the prizes were presented by Mrs. Morse.

The results of the various events are shown under Sports Notes.

THE WEEK'S PROGRAMME.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH.
Morning—Tent pegging (Rawalpindi units only).
Afternoon—British officers' polo match. British hockey.
Evening—Guest night for officers (Royal Signals only). All ranks whist drive.

THURSDAY, 15TH.
Morning—Tent pegging (all units).
Afternoon—British football. Indian hockey.
Evening—All ranks dance.

FRIDAY, 16TH.
Morning—Driving competition.
Afternoon—British officers' polo match. British hockey. Indian hockey.
Evening—Boxing.

SATURDAY, 17TH.
Morning—British hockey.
Afternoon—British football.

SUNDAY, 18TH.
Morning—Final of Indian hockey.
Afternoon—Final of British hockey.

MONDAY, 19TH.
Morning—Tent pegging.
Afternoon—Finals of British officers' polo and British football
Evening—Boxing.

TUESDAY, 20TH.
Afternoon—Finals of jumping, driving and tent pegging. Presentation of prizes.
Evening—Finals of boxing and presentation of boxing prizes.

The Sports Committee comprised the following Royal Signals officers: Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Heymann, O.B.E.; Major W. T. Howe, O.B.E.; Capt H. V. Smelt; Capt H. S. Morris (I.A.R.O. attached); Capt J. H. Lander (I.A.R.O.); 2/Lieut F. R. B. Moore; 2/Lieut F. C. Seely.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Thursday, March 15th.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of Douglas Arthur, only son of Sigmn and Mrs. Payton, at the Station Family Hospital, Karachi, on February 29th. All ranks of the unit express their deepest sympathy with the bereaved.

General.—Dancing seems to have been the popular amusement during the month. The sergeants' mess held one on Feb. 22nd; the Signals Association held a fancy dress affair on Feb. 29th; the corporals held one on March 7th; and the Signals Association held another on March 14th—so one can imagine that life is not too dull in A Corps Signals. All these dances were very successful; and we wish to thank the various committees for their untiring efforts, and assure them that we are looking forward to more in the future.

On February 27th the 4th Medium Artillery Brigade Signal Section joined us from Muttra, and they will remain here until the next training season. We extend them a hearty welcome.

Enclosed are some photographs taken during unit training, which we hope will be of interest to our many readers.

All our athletes, plus a few others, are in strict training for the assault-at-arms, which takes place on Thursday, April 5th. We are looking forward to some good results, but unfortunately the sailing of H.M.T. "Somersetshire" on the same day will prevent L/Corpl Podger, Tock, Gus, etc. (some of our best athletes) from taking part.

No. 1 Pack W/T Section building a road

The following are expected to leave here on the "Somersetshire": L/Sergts Booth, Newmarch, Davis, Jones C. E., Wintermere and Greening, Corpls Woolley and Hatch, L/Corpls Evans, Almond, Douglas, Blackwood and Boxall, Signalmen Cowland, Flitter, Stanton, Walker V. E., Ayres, Turner E. and O'Brien, for transfer to the home establishment or for discharge. Sergts Harvey and Gould, L/Sergts Male, Halfpenny, Fairman, Jones W. H. S., Andrews and Godbold, Corpls Carfrae, Howell and Bosworth, for six months' leave (and an extension for marriage where applicable).

Supplying Troops with Rations

We are looking forward to a fairly busy time in the "soldiering" line in the near future. Our anticipated programme is as follows: March 19th, G.O.C.'s annual inspection. March 31st, C.S.O.'s annual inspection. April 2nd and 3rd, S.O.-in-C.'s annual inspection. We hope to keep up our reputation, and to satisfy our departed members that we have not gone to the dogs.

Next month the Manora leave camp opens again, and many are looking forward to an enjoyable time in fishing and swimming.

The Quartermaster finds feeding the troops a dry job!

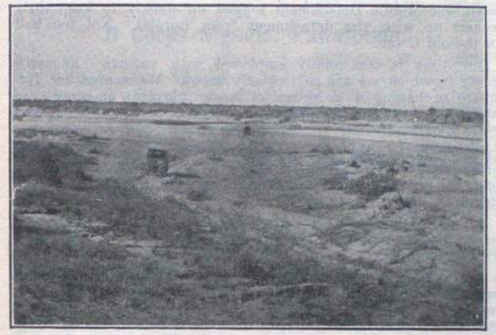
Arrivals.—We welcome the following from S.T.C., Jubbulpore, and hope that their stay will be a long and happy one: Sergt Diamond, Corpls Inglis and Rice, L/Corpl Yorke, Signalmen Hall, Smith T. C., Colston, Arnold, Court, Leake, Webb, Fearnley, Pickles, Squibbs, Brophy, Woods, Bainbridge, Cole F., Clarke E., Wills, Ellis, Shone, Fouracre, Coles E., Harlow, Holsey, Haines, Pearce and Clark A. H.

A Despatch Rider crossing the Hub River

Education.—Congratulations to the following on being awarded their certificates of education: L/Corpl Healey, Signalmen Webber, Wilcox and Snelgrove, 1st class (L/Corpl McKenzie failed in one subject only). Sigmn Jones D. G., 2nd class (distinguished in English, mathematics and map reading). Signalmen Coates, Sewell and Edmonstone, 2nd class.

Next-of-Kin.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Prickett on his marriage to Miss Violet May Austin at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Bombay, on February 22nd. Don't forget to take a season ticket for Ninety's Express!

Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Watterton and L/Corpl Smith E. A. on their recent appointments.



Crossing the Hub River—the commencement

Sergeants' Mess.—For the benefit of likely members who may join this unit in the future, I have been asked to advise them of the talent that is expected of them. The following is a specimen of the challenges trat we receive, and the sort of answer to meet the occasion. Of course, our modesty does not permit us to publish the results.

KARACHI STAFF AND DEPARTMENTAL CLUB.

To the President, Sergeants' Mess, A Corps Signals.

Sir—Having heard that some stars of the tennis world have *fallen* in your mess, and *Wat More* you can *cope* with us at billiards, I have been requested by some of our members—who think the tennis racket mightier than the sword, and the cue the means of getting their beer money—to challenge your distinguished mess at tennis and billiards on Saturday, the 10th inst., to be followed by a social and dance. Tennis at 4 p.m.; billiards at 8 p.m.; dance and social any old time.

If you accept the challenge, we shall be very pleased to see all the members of your mess and their wives and sweethearts. We don't mind if they bring both, *and* their friends.

Please furnish me with the names of tennis stars and the cueists.

A. COPE (*for* W. BUTCHER, Hon. Sec.)

PROLOGUE.

Scene: Sergeants' Mess. Seated at the round table are the powers-that-be, before whom lies a challenge from the Staff and Departmental Club. The president instructs his scribe to pen the following:—

Sir—Your challenge to tennis and billiards has started us thinking and planning your fate. With such a wealth of talent from which to select, it is really difficult to nominate our side.

With WATMORE our star, on whom you've been peeping,
Assisted by CHIMES—six points in our keeping.
We boast, too, of MALE who, assisted by JONES,
Could topple the pro's from their coveted thrones.

HARVEY and CATES I now wish to mention:
To "take off your boots" is their full intention.
FAIRMAN, who lately returned to the fold,
And HOLLOWAY are hot; so lo and behold!

WEDGBURY and ANDREWS: you've heard of 'em often—
Your hard courts and balls they are likely to soften.
WATTERTON, who is our latest addition,
With GOULD, will batter you into submission.

SHARDLOW and DAVIS—the next pair to name—
Intend to return with glory and fame.

This constitutes all who are known to our court.
Hope you'll be wiser with the lesson you're taught.

CURTAIN.

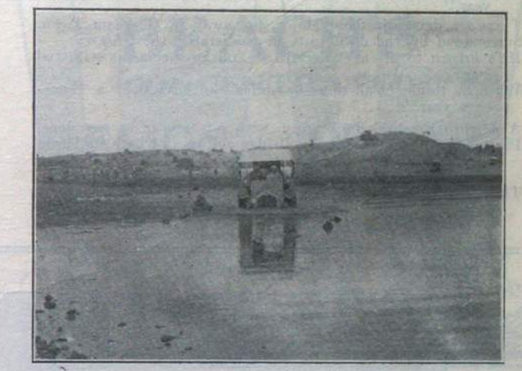
Scene Two: An ocean of green, surrounded by kushes, on which repose lengths of stick and round stones. In the kushes are six holes into which, with luck, the round stones are knocked, kicked or shoved. (These holes are *not* intended for cigarette ends, match sticks, etc.)

Supposing I say that at billiards we are hot,
You can take it for granted we are certainly not.
The scores of the games should be added by you,
And, to make matters even, divided by two.

– – – *END* – – –

In addition we can dance.

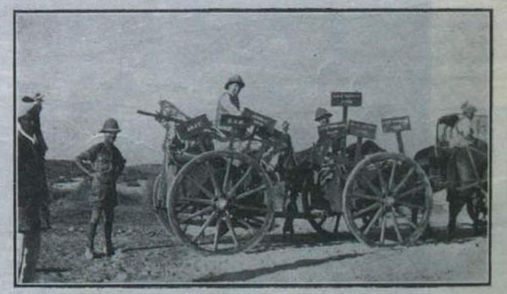
(Signed) ????????
Chief Scribe, Sergeants' Mess,
A Corps Signals.



Crossing the Hub River—after

Agony.—Corpl Williams would like Sergt Cayley (Cabeaux, the ex-Russian) to know that his bad wrist is holding out fine, although the Indian weather is right against sprained wrists, broken arms, etc.

League Notes.—Manœuvres will very likely take place at Sandspits during the next moon. No fasting! AKORPZ.



Clearing the Battlefield

"RECORDS."

(With apologies to all concerned and deepest sympathy)
(To J. SOAP, Esq.)

There's a dry-as-dust old Major, far away in Chatham Town,
Surrounded by the documents of soldiers of the Crown,
Who sometimes takes his pencil from behind his withered ear,
And poor old Joseph Soap is down to do a "buckshee year."

This dry-as-dust old Major is famed beyond the sea,
From Bombay to Bermudas, and from there to Enderbee;
There's none who knows his Christian name, and few that he is Brown,
To one and all he's "Records," and he lives in Chatham Town.
And sometimes, in exalted mood, he sneers a withered sneer
And pulls an H.B. pencil from behind a withered ear;
Then swaddies down in Jubbulpore, in D.I.K., and here,
Unpack their little sea bags for to do a "buckshee year."

Oh! he's famous up in Quetta, and he's known in far Baghdad,
For "Records" specialises in the Far East serving lad;
He waves his magic pencil and lo, it comes to pass!
And Joseph Soap, the time-expired, feels something of an ass.
The swaddies call him "Records," and sometimes something worse,
For swaddies are not mealy-mouthed and often swear and curse;
But the dry-as-dust old Major simply sneers his withered sneer,
And the swaddies east of Suez stay and do their "buckshee year."

There's a dry-as-dust old Major, far away in Chatham Town,
Surrounded by the documents of soldiers of the Crown;
He's known to all as "Records," and he sneers his withered sneer
When he thinks of all those swaddies who have done a "buckshee year."

And when I'm back in Blighty, with my term of service done,
I'll take a train from London Bridge and go to Chatham Town,
To sneer at this old Major—
This dry-as-dust old Major—
This Major known as "Records" and a man of great renown.

—KEYBASHER.

No. 2 Pack W/T Section, Fort Sandeman.

March 9th.

We regret our absence of notes, but as we are new arrivals in this place, matters could not be settled until we had relieved No. 3 Pack W/T on January 12th. Undoubtedly they were sorry (?) to forsake this Pathan-infested country. The station was taken over successfully by Sergt McKee i/c. After settling down, our Mobile Detachment togged up weekly to keep their peckers up with the detachment from Loralai. Not too bad for the old C set!

Our time is continually employed with various "he-man" sports in which we are particularly noted. We are rather fortunate in having a good set of soccer players, as shown in matches against the Gurkhas: won by 5—1, 5—2 and 2—1, and a draw of 1—1.

Tennis is the sport which we particularly enjoy. The tennis authorities at Wimbledon should seek further afield for exponents of this game. Sergt McKee and Jones A. indulge in boundary line principles.

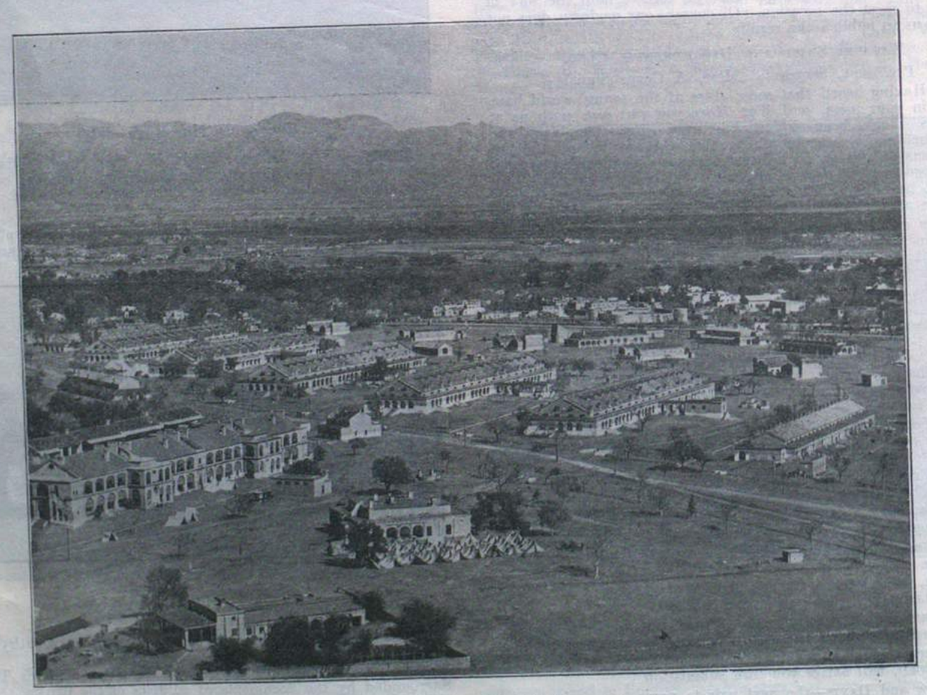
A rugby team from Zhob Area was selected to go to Quetta, but unforeseen circumstances intervened. Taffy and Jones are still bemoaning their acute loss.

Our bungalow gives one a vivid impression of a vast experimenting laboratory of photography and short-wave. The short-wave set is successful (we got Grimsby so clearly that the delicious aroma of kippers could be heard!). Short-wave stations in all parts of the world are clearly received. We hope in the near future to be able to transmit (China, note). Sigmn Raftery is the main conspirator, his accomplices being Sergt McKee, L/Cpl Healey, and Signalmen Andrews, Jones, Jackson, Brown and the Fitter, who is noted for his equestrian abilities (?) Photography plays a major part, and shortly we hope to form a camera club.

Birth.—On 7/7/27, to Sergt McKee, a son (Derek Peter) at Tidworth Military Hospital.

Agony.—Will Hamo (of 2nd Divl fame, believed to be in Karachi) communicate with Andy?

'ANDY ANDY.



Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi (B Corps Signals)
Taken from the air. Murree Hills (Upper Topa) in the background

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Cambridge Barracks, March 26th.

If it should ever happen—I say "if," by the way—that I have so many things to do at once that I don't know where to start, and should seek advice from anyone in the barrack-room, I should probably be told to go sick. Now, this is very sound advice under certain circumstances, but I fail to see how it is going to help me in writing these notes, as I have a fearful amount to write about.

We have had a "Signals Week" here, in which all Signal units in the Northern Command took part. It was a great success, and all ranks look forward to another next year.

I also sat for my 1st class examination last week. How strange that these great events seem to come in pairs!

I am sending an aerial photograph showing a portion of Cambridge Barracks for publication. The view comprises practically the whole of B Corps lines with the exception of Headquarters offices, the stables and the Indian rank lines. Old hands of Nos 1 and 2 Companies will easily recognise their old habitations. (Soft music and far-away looks, please.)

Trade courses are now in full swing, together with preparations for the annual move to the hills.

Much interest was centred in a certain lance-corporal during the early part of the month; he was awarded two days C.B. I wonder how he enjoyed it? I hear the sergeants are pulling up their socks now.

Prior to the "Signa's Week" mentioned above, the inter-unit sports took place (1st Indian Divl Signals and B Corps Signals).

General View of the Unit Parade Ground
Signals Inter-Unit Sports

All round the results were very good and are published in the Sports section. A snap-shot of the general view of the sports is enclosed. It may be mentioned that our Indian ranks did exceptionally well in their section of the events.

A very successful corporals' club dance was held during the month, with the usual aftermath of cold in the head (?)

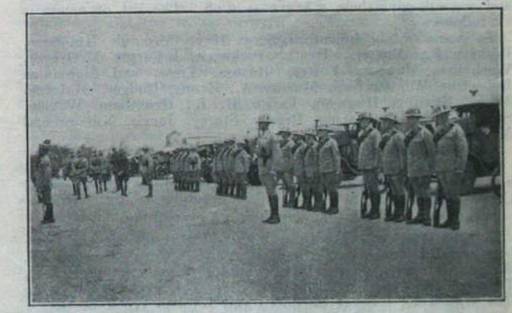
Inspections.—On the 9th inst. the unit was inspected on parade and at work by the G.O.C. Rawalpindi District, Major-General C. N. Macmullen, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O. The turn-out was well up to standard.

Officers.—We extend a hearty welcome to Major A. E. P. Mudge, O.B.E., who joined us from home on February 26th. We trust that he will have a happy time with the Corps in Rawalpindi. Major Mudge has taken over the duties of commandant of the unit.

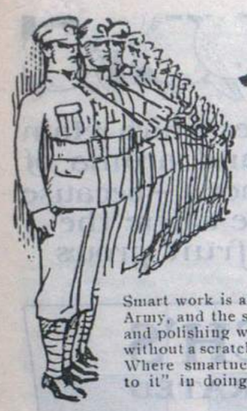
2/Lieut W. J. S. Gray has also recently joined us, and we hope he will have a jolly time here.

Capt G. Tayleur left us on February 25th for the home establishment. He has been a long time with this unit, and everyone was awfully sorry that he had to leave us. May he have a happy time at home, and soon get settled down to the Blighty system of weather.

Two other officers have moving orders also. Captain T. B. Ferriday has gone to A Corps Signals, Karachi, and Lieut L. A. Manly, M.C. (Lancashire Fusiliers) is leaving us early next month for a tour on the home establishment with his regiment. We are really very sorry to lose these two officers, who are much thought of by the unit in general. Our very best wishes for the future go with them, and we trust they will soon settle down in their new stations.



Portion of the Parade at the Inspection of B Corps Signals by Major-General C. N. Macmullen



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Lieut L. R. C. Watson has proceeded on eight months' combined leave ex-India. May he have a pleasant holiday!

Lieut R. H. O. Coryton has just returned from a veterinary course at Ambala. There can be no lead-swinging with our long-faced pals now.

Arrivals and Departures.—R.S.M. Cussens J. arrived during the week. We give him our very best salaams, and hope he will enjoy his stay with us. L/Corpl Sargeant and his wife arrived in February, and Corpl Jones T. A. with his family on the 24th inst. The hand of welcome is extended to both. Another Taffy in the unit. We are doing well!

On Monday next we say farewell to a draft of fifty odd, who leave us mainly for the home establishment. A number of old hands are naturally in this draft, so let the tankards be filled and we will give them a brave send-off. The list of names is as follows:—

To home establishment: L/Sergt Hoy, Corporals Hutcheon, Beckett F., Masters, Heath, Pickwick, L/Corpls McGregor, Washburn, Mowatt, Foster, Ruston, Trew, and Signalmen Robertson W., Puchini, Murray A., Evans, Rodger, Malvern, Moore, Stirling, Hugman, Taylor H. L., Grantham, Watson, Smith C. E. M., Warner, Rigsby, Storey, Jarvis, Nursaw and Munn.

To Army Reserve: Sigmn Wilcox G.

On furlough: C.Q.M.S. Tourle, Sergts Judge, Murphy, Payne and Storr, L/Sergts Bremner, Galtress, Goodman, Drudge, and Corpl Elkins.

We wish them all the very best of everything.

Congratulatory.—The following are the results of the October examinations: Special certificate, U/L/Corpl Howard W. Sigmn Tomlinson passed in one subject (economics); stick it, Tommy! 1st class certificate, F/S/Sergt Hamper, Sergts Judge and Wainscott, L/Sergt Shepherd and L/Corpl Wood E. G.

Our best congratulations are extended to the successful candidates. What a relief it must be to know that wet towels and mid-night oil are discarded at last!

We also congratulate Sigmn Finn J. A. on attaining the dizzy heights of U/L/Corporal.

Kennel Club.—The dog show mentioned last month went off very successfully. I have heard of no severe casualties and presume it was a peaceful affair. In common with all people who write tips in respect to favourites, I was quite wrong in my forecast of the champion dog. Anyhow, I know I did just what the big racing writers do in the papers, so I'm satisfied "Charlie's Arry" will probably live to win yet.

ECHO.

Agony.—Tubby, Quetta: What about that answer?—Tug.

Corpl Taylor (Ginger), of Peshawar District Signals (attached on a course) sends best wishes to all 3rd Divl Signals at Bulford.

Peshawar District Signals.

March 19th.

General.—This week the English mail arrived, bringing copies of THE WIRE for March; and it was a rare sight to see everyone perusing his copy. I'm sure that at least half of them will find their way back to England again!

The sight of our contributions brought to mind that it was nearly time I sat down and scribbled some more notes for another edition; so here goes for a few from our high-speed 30 in. American typewriter, 1925 model.

Signs of the forthcoming summer are already in evidence, and soon we shall be sitting under a fan and wondering why a generous Government, in their endeavour to let us see the world at their expense, decided to send us to a place like India. I have been reading "The Broken Road," by A. E. W. Mason, and it seems that there *are* compensations in store!

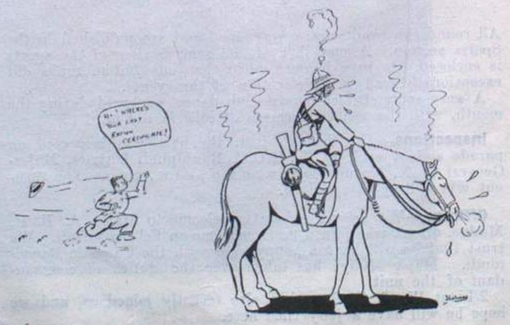
At present only a few of the unit are away attending courses for higher ratings, but soon the majority will be gone—and then we hope to publish a few details of their successes.

One of the members on a course has to be able to ride a motor-cycle to get his higher rating. When he mounted his cycle the whole unit stopped working to watch his graceful form careering around the square. Luckily he had no accident and so proceeded to 'Pindi. Let's hope he returns a B.i man.

During February we spent a very eventful week at Jallozai, taking part in the inter-Brigade manœuvres. The Peshawar Brigade Section proceeded with their Brigade, and No. 1 Company formed Neutral Signals. Neutral Signals did have a cushy time! They had a permanent camp at Jallozai, and never left it except for the purpose of laying lines and repairing others that had been broken.

The busiest persons in camp, I think, were the Headquarters staff. Why, they even had to do guards; and to a certain young man whose last guard was done somewhere in the region of 1921, it came a trifle rough. Still, as previously remarked, life *has* its compensations!

One of the despatch riders, when out at night, managed to lose his way. Another D.R. was sent to retrieve him, and during the attempt *he* had an encounter with a black bear. At least, that was what he told us on his return. Another man, on guard, thought that he saw a whole tribe of loosewallahs arising out of the darkness; but alas, it was only a pack of piehards!



Our noted C.Q.M.S. (whose photo appeared in the March issue) was greatly in his element with his rations and last ration certificates. A mounted lineman, having been out all day in the broiling sun, arrived about 5 p.m., and the first words that greeted him were "Where's yer last ration certificate?" I have heard people say that they would commit murder for less than that! The accompanying sketch (drawn by our eminent draughtsman) will clearly emphasise the facts of the L.R.C.'s.

At the conclusion of the manœuvres we were congratulated on the success of the communications, considering the difficulties we were working under.

Green Ink.—Mention of Green Ink reminds me that we have some of his celebrated ink in Peshawar. We trust that the man from Rhineland has an inexhaustible supply of it.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the undermentioned, who picked up a stripe (unpaid) the other week: Signalmen Arnold R., Birkett F., Clackett W., Greatorex H., McCullagh W., and Pendegast R.

Departures.—Three old stagers left this unit for pastures new, after spending several happy years here, and we trust they meet as good a lot of fellows in their new home as they left in their old: Corpl Freemantle G. and Signalmen Rose S. and Tipping F. to the 3rd Indian Divl Signals, Meerut.

Arrivals.—Our best wishes are extended to the following, who have arrived to swell our merry throng (don't forget to join the Tennis Club, will you?—those two chips will come in very handy): F/Sergt Preston from the U.K. Corpl Sabine and Signalmen Beasley J. and Tranter from the 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut. Sergt Powles from A Corps Signals, Karachi.

SIGS-PESHDIST.

Kohat District Signals.

March.

The main item of interest this month has been the "Signals Week" in Rawalpindi. Some of us wished that Pindi were a little nearer so that we might see some of the sport and fun, and we hope to see full accounts of the happenings in THE WIRE. As far as we are concerned we feel a little regret at not having done better. Briefly we fared as follows:—

Football—lost to B Corps Signals by 2—4.
Hockey—lost to 1st Divsigs by 1—2.
Polo—lost by a point.
Boxing—won four weights.

In the football and hockey we were far from disgraced, though beaten, and live in hopes of bringing the cup back to Kohat. As the winning units will doubtless give us full descriptions of the games, we need not give details here.

In the polo, which was a league, the issue was in doubt right up to the last minute of the last game; and the goal scored in that last minute, which made the game a draw, decided our fate—and the cup went west.

In the boxing we did exceptionally well, and the following out of eight entries won their fights: Cpl Theobald P., welter; Sigmn Pascoe G., fly; Sigmn Doncaster H., feather; Signalman Bowles E., light-heavy.

We have had several new arrivals. Firstly, to 2/Lieut J. M. C. Hoblyn and 2/Lieut J. N. Barker we offer our welcome, and wish them a pleasant stay with us. The same wishes to the following: C.S.M. Edwards F., Lance-Sergeants Greenall J., Justice A., and Humphreys J., L/Corp's Shaw W. and Tant H., Signalmen Pybus R., White C., Badland L. and Ashworth L., all from 1st Indian Divl Signals, Rawalpindi. Corpls Hamilton C., McLachlan P., and Coy C., L/Corpl Laery F., Signalmen Green E., Pinn P., Sammon J. and Bent J., all from the Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore.

The following left us on permanent transfer to 1st Indian Divl Signals, Rawalpindi: C.S.M. Jones T., L/Sergts Madeley T. and Freeman K., L/Corpls Weeks G. and Cave A., Signalmen Ashpool T. and Brown F.

A dance for the Signals Association was held on February 24th in the new Staff and Departmental Club. Luck was somewhat against us, as towards evening the rain set in. Despite this, however, there was a goodly crowd braving the elements. A very enjoyable time was spent, and the financial result indicates a small cheque being sent for the funds at home.

Our congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. Keepen A. T. on the arrival of a daughter (Muriel) on March 4th.

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3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

March 14th.

General.—Many things have happened in the unit since our last contribution.

The camp season has come and gone, but owing to inclement weather it ended much sooner than was expected. That portion of the unit detailed for camp started off joyfully, in fine weather, to march the seventy miles to the rendezvous. They had not, however, completed the first day's march before rain began to fall. The march was continued the following day, but when the rest camp was reached rain still fell in torrents and showed no signs of abating. Roads were reduced to quagmires, and parts of the camping ground resembled small lakes—portions of men's kits were actually seen floating about the encampment! Finally, as torrential rain continued, the manœuvres were abandoned and the troops ordered to return to barracks.

Much as the camps are enjoyed, ordinarily, everyone was thankful to get back to the comforts of dry clothing and beds. It must be recorded that the Wireless Section—though they have not had the apparatus long—successfully maintained communication between the outlying camps and the home station at Meerut.

Our band has been very busy during the winter months, having obtained numerous engagements. Though amateurs, they certainly can give a first class performance. They are much appreciated wherever they are engaged, and were specially complimented on the programme they rendered at the Officers' Club, Roorkee.

Throughout the cold weather they have given weekly dances in Meerut. These proved a great success, and incidentally provided funds which, together with sums raised at Christmas, enabled the unit to remit £15 to the Benevolent Fund of the Association. Two members of the band will be leaving us shortly. They will be sorely missed, but we hope to fill their places from a draft from the Depot which has opportunely arrived.

The move to the hills (Ranikhet) takes place at the end of March. We hope to do well in the field of sports, having on a former occasion carried off the Depot cricket cup. Much of this period will be spent in individual training, thus affording all ranks an opportunity of improving in their trade and obtaining a higher rating.

All ranks of the unit extend a very hearty welcome to Capt J. W. Bailey, M.C. (lately arrived from the 1st Indian Divisional Signals) and trust he has a pleasant stay with us.

The departure of Capt A. J. Hannah for the home establishment is regretted by all ranks, who wish him every success in Blighty. He has been with this unit for five years.

Congratulations to Sergt Richardson, who recently passed the S course at the Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore, with the high percentage of 81.

We now have as neighbours C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, from Risalpur. This is all to the good, especially for sports, as it gives us greater strength and will enable us to turn out some good Signals teams in the future.

Overheard in the Sergeants' Mess.—One member said that he had, at camp, read the Stevenson panel from an aeroplane, 2000 feet up, at the rate of seven words per minute. The comments of the others present are unprintable.

Arrivals.—From Signal Training Centre (India): Corporal Abrahams, Signalmen Goode, Hutchinson, Norton, Pelling, Dodd and Lloyd.

Departures.—Major F. O. St. John, D.S.O., M.C., proceeds to U.K. in April on six months' leave. Lieut H. G. G. Niven, Royal Berkshire Regt. and Indian Signal Corps, also to U.K. on eight months' leave.

To Army Reserve: L/Corpl Turner H., Signalmen Rick and Grace. To A Corps Signals, Karachi: Corpl Rice J.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

March 8th.

General.—The unit has just completed the move from Roorkee to the above station, after many days on the way.

Part of the Troop took the horses by road to Meerut, a distance of about sixty miles, and good weather for the first few days enabled all to enjoy the grand open spaces. The last night in camp was spoilt by a heavy downpour of rain, and a certain junior n.c.o. was found during the night enjoying himself in digging trenches. The remainder of the journey was, however, completed without mishap. The horses were in good condition on arrival in Meerut, and the men were glad to see a lively station after such solitude as Roorkee possesses.

After a few days in Meerut the party left for Sialkot, and after a twenty-six hours' journey the destination was reached. Much was expected of this new station, but it's yet to be found! The only thing found to date is a sandstorm. Still, all ranks are by now settled down and enjoying what there *is* to be found and seen.

Riding drill is in full progress, and nearly all ranks are being initiated in the art of riding "Saugor fashion." Plenty of the roughs are enjoying the fact of being made into horsemen. "What say, Bill?" The famous cup of this Troop has at long last been lost by Ding'eberry Day. The T.T. Racer has now taken possession.

Arrivals.—All ranks welcome the following to this unit: Lieut F. P. L. Gray, from C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Signalmen Beresford, Williamson, Webb and Tovell from A Company, S.T.C. (India), Jubbulpore. Sigmn Radford from A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Departures.—L/Sergt McLennan to B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. Sigmn Roodhouse to U.K. Sigmn Roebuck to Jubbulpore on a course. Sigmn Williamson to B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur. Best luck follow all! and good prospects to Tich Roebuck on his A.ii Fitter-Signals course.

Sergeants' Mess.—Although the number of members is only eleven, a start has been made by taking over the building vacated by B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop. It is hoped that more will be heard of us in the near future. Four members are due for leave and home establishment next month (so our little family will be smaller than ever!): Sergt Hinds W. and A/Sergt Shiner A. J., for six months leave. L/Sergts Nichols J. and Reat W. to home establishment.

Training.—Technical training is now one of the main items on the programme, and the buzzer, flags, etc., are doing plenty of work for the forthcoming Trade Courses at Upper Topa. Good luck to all ranks on their respective courses!

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

March 21st.

General.—The periodical change-round of the Cavalry Troops has just been accomplished, and for the next three years we expect to remain at Risalpur.

Judging by the number of grumbles heard, the Troop in general wish they had been able to remain at Sialkot. However, everyone seems to be making the best of things, so we may expect to settle down fairly comfortably.

En route from Sialkot to Risalpur

The motor-cycle fiends decided to attempt the journey by road, and the betting was fast and furious—not on the probable winner, but as to whether any of them would arrive at Risalpur. The favourite, an A.J.S. Combination (Sigmn Dirs up) had a slight disagreement with a steep bank and retired early. Corpl Mitson, riding an A.J.S., eventually turned up o.k., but the others turned up in tongas. L/Sergt Handley should have won the cup if we had had one. He was not expected to turn up alive, but he managed to get his Zenith-J.A.P.-Triumph as far as Nowshera. We are still wondering how he did it!

Tea at Nowshera en route to Risalpur

During the change-over period we were enabled to play the other Troops at football, hockey and tennis. We beat A Troop at hockey and tennis, and lost to them at football. C Troop beat us at football and drew at hockey.

Whilst at Sialkot we combined with A Troop and challenged the 4/7th Dragoon Guards at football, and after a splendid game we beat them by 5—2.

'Pindi Week has been the main feature, but we regret to say we were not able to pick up any laurels. Kohat District Signals vanquished our hopes at hockey, and after a well-fought game

Our Football Team

the 1st Indian Divl Signals beat us at football. Those who saw the game appreciated the wonderful display of goal-keeping by L/Sergt Handley, who undoubtedly saved us from a smashing defeat.

In the local Scissors football cup tournament, we have won through the first round by beating the 17th Pack Battery R.A.

A goal scored during the Cup match with 17th Pack Battery R.A.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Signalmen Head G. and Titt W., from Jubbulpore—two more for the "circular motion."

Departures.—By the time these notes appear many of the Troop celebrities will have left us for U.K.: F/Sergt Prince, Sergt Peters and Corpl Collins, on six months leave. (Needless to say they are not (?) envied. We trust Honiton Coll will not develop a more pronounced Devon accent, or we shall have to employ an interpreter.) Sergeant Shilton, L/Sergts Brett and Ramsden, L/Corpl Coffee, and Signalmen Robinson and Barden to home establishment. (We hope they will not get the "call of the East" too soon.) Sigmn Partington departs for civvy street.

W. C. M.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, April 5th.

General.—Now that manœuvres are over, the pressure of trade has given way to the annual inspections. On Friday last the unit was inspected by the Chief Signal Officer, British Troops in Egypt (Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O.), and judging from the manner in which our commanding officer congratulated the unit after the inspection was over, the C.S.O. must have been well satisfied. Now we have a few days' rest for the Easter holidays, and then prepare for inspections by the D.D.M.S. and the General Officer Commanding, which we hope will be as satisfactory as the last one was.

Apparently the unit acquitted itself well during the manœuvres. Never once did the communications fail, either by wireless or line telegraphy—and the weather was not especially selected for the occasion, either. The three Brigades which form the Egypt Garrison were well served by Signal offices established by the unit at Mena and Helwan, line and W/T telegraphy, telephony and D.R.L.S. each being used—which speaks well for the class of operators at present with the unit.

Departures.—How often in THE WIRE do we come across the term "Our loss is somebody else's gain"; but how often is it as sincerely meant as it is in our loss of Corpl Ryan P. M. J., who left for the U.K. on March 26th? He is still known at the Depot in spite of the fact that he has been in this country nearly as long as the Pyramids, and no doubt we shall hear something of his activities later in the sports pages. He was never a man to blow his own trumpet, and I sincerely hope he will forgive me when I tell the world, and the unit lucky enough to obtain his services at home, a few of his activities.

He has played for the Army in Egypt at cricket, and is just as much at home with the bat as with the ball. In fact, last season he established records for the Abbassia Garrison both in the number of runs made and the number of wickets obtained in one match.

He has played for the Corps in Egypt in each of the following branches of sport: cricket, football, rugby (at which game he was undoubtedly the best back in Egypt), hockey, billiards and tennis (at which he appeared with Major G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., in the finals of the Command championship doubles). He has also represented his unit in athletics and swimming, and has figured on the programme of Corps concert parties. Gee! what a record! Well, cheerio, Pat; all ranks of the unit wish you the best of luck with your new unit in the home establishment, and tender their very best thanks to you for all that you have done in the field of sport for Egypt Signals. They hope to hear more of you later.

We also said goodbye with very deep regret this week to Lieut W. J. Pearce, R.Signals, an officer who was well liked by all ranks, and whose place it will be difficult to fill. He always had the welfare of the unit at heart, and will be greatly missed. To him all ranks also wish the very best of luck on his retirement.

Under this heading we can also place our commanding officer, Major G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., R.Signals, but this is only a temporary affair, as he is proceeding to the U.K. on four months' leave. We all wish him bon voyage and a safe return, and hope that he will enjoy his holiday in the vagaries of the English "summer."

Congratulations.—We congratulate Capt R. G. L. Giblin on his gameness and the pluck he displayed in the final of the Command team boxing championships, in which we lost to the 1st Pack Brigade R.A. by the narrow margin of two points (17 to 19). Perhaps a quotation from the "Egyptian Gazette" would not be out of place here: "There was a time when officers' contests were a farce, but last night at the final of the team championships, the fine showing in the three officers' contests quashed this idea. Especial mention should be made of the contest between Lieut Sergeant, R.A., and Capt R. G. L. Giblin, R.Signals. The captain was outclassed, being repeatedly floored only to come up for more. A gamer fighter was never seen in Abbassia." Well done, sir! When it is known that he was up against an inter-Services champion who has recently joined this Command, the pluck he displayed can be all the more appreciated.

Considerable notice is also being taken of Sigmn Andrews, our middle-weight, who has improved wonderfully during the past year and won all his fights during the team championship contests this year. Keep it up, Andy, and your Army championship will be assured next year.

Publicity Note.—Several complaints have recently come to my ears of men wishing to insert notices in THE WIRE and not knowing who to give them to. Any one who has such notices, or any matter for inclusion in the unit notes, should trot along to No. 3 Hut and give them to

F. H. D.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, April 5th.

Burying the Hatchet.—Our warriors returned to barracks once more on the 15th of last month, looking like walking advertisements for somebody's sunburn cream. "All handsome men are slightly sunburnt"; but our greedy handsome ones can

peel it off by the yard, particularly from around the knees. An enjoyable few weeks playing at manœuvres on the desert works wonders on those pale faces and milk-white knees, doesn't it, Tudie? No! don't ask the M.O.!

Spit, Wind and Polish.—These, with great sighs of relief, ceased on March 31st, when the annual inspection by the C.S.O. was held. Everything passed off o.k., and we received complimentary remarks.

Embarkations.—Major G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., left us on March 27th for U.K. on posting to the 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot. 2nd Div.! you've the chance of a lifetime to bag the Aldershot cricket trophy now!

Corpl Paddie Cahill also left by the same boat for wetter climes, he having already passed the necessary "browning" stage.

A Roland for an Oliver.—Though I ought to have said Sigmn Bates L. G. for Sigmn Shepherd G. M., as we swopped the former for the latter with Palestine Signal Company on March 9th. Is there such a thing as a gain on exchange? Some of us are still wondering!

The Long, Long Trail.—Now being followed by L/Corporal Chas. Phillips, as he left us a free man to go out into the hard cruel world on March 23rd.

Those Crippers of Batons tightened their grips on perusing Daily Orders during the past month. Sigmn Wright H. H. H. has quite a decent grip on a paid single one—back from February, too! L/Corpl Collins D. J., with a "pooh! I knew it was coming" expression, calmly sewed on the second; and L/Sergt Coleman M. J. went up to a full-blown "sarj."

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sigmn George Francis Leney, late of K Section of this unit. His death occurred after a very short illness in the Ras el Tin Military Hospital, Alexandria, on March 19th.

His burial took place with full military honours in the Hadra Military Cemetery, the funeral being attended by a large number of comrades from his old unit, in addition to those in others.

Prior to his illness Sigmn Leney had been employed for several years as despatch rider at the Alexandria Headquarters. He was very well known and liked in the district, his death coming as a great shock to all. We take this opportunity of tendering our deepest sympathy to his relatives in their great loss.

Dad! Dad! Dad!—Did you see Corpl Tinie Joyce look round then? Yes, it's true! one toddler, complete, arrived to his better half on the 3rd of last month. Pauline Joan, we salute you!

A Bit o' News.—In case you don't all know, a Greyhound Racing "*Synagogue*" has been formed in Cairo. That's straight from the horse's mouth—or rather, the driver's (and an M.T. one at that!)

From Sailor to Pollie.—Write to me, please, there's a good girl, and don't forget Mary!

A Day at the Races—or, rather, the Company sports. Some very interesting things were seen on that occasion. Signalman Chaloner took up sprinting and bagged a trophy (only a pocket knife; still, some of you jealous ones haven't even that!) The Black Panther panthered in third in the mile, and was awarded a running vest to cease panting. Buck collared a couple of firsts and hasn't ceased writing home yet. *Wasn't* she pleased, Buck? (Yaas, I think so!)

Our Post Orderly ceased custard scoffing at the C.E. Institute in order to give a demonstration of how easy it is to go heavenwards unaided. K Section's stars, Goble and Beach, gave demonstrations of hurdle bashing and smashing, and how to run backward faster than others can run forward. Sigmn Gough, to console him, was allowed to win the consolation race. Yea! they telegraph soldiers, they be wonders, they be!

ART.

Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

I must apologise for the absence of news from Shanghai during the past few months. Our late correspondent informed me that notes were despatched, but they evidently failed to reach their destination.

Since the last notes from this unit appeared, there have been many changes here. The Force is now a mere skeleton of its former self, and work has correspondingly decreased. Shanghai has returned to normal conditions, and in consequence life has become extremely monotonous. The Wireless Section manages to find sufficient to do in endeavouring to bring the extremities of China a little nearer to each other.

During the past five months the unit has been playing a game of musical chairs, with troopships taking the place of chairs. Four officers and 130 o.r.s have been eagerly awaiting the order to embark for home. Several attempts were made to get on departing troopers, but without success. However, at last a kindly M.L.O. found he had insufficient troops to fill a ship, and the Signals were requisitioned to act as ballast on the "City of Marseilles."

The detachment embarked on the afternoon of February 27th, and the march from camp to the wharf, through the main streets—a distance of about seven miles—will remain one of the memories of Shanghai. The band and drums of the 2nd Welch Regiment brought them along the first half of their march, and then handed over to the band and drums of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, who played them to the wharf.

The following day, at noon, the troopship was given a real Shanghai adieu. Communication between friends on ship and shore was maintained by innumerable streamers; a band was playing on the wharf; and Chinese crackers were bursting everywhere. The sigh of relief from those on board as they waved a soldier's farewell to Shanghai could be heard many hundred yards away! Just as audible were the sighs of regret from those unfortunate enough to be left behind!

Many who have left for home will be returning to civil life as soon as they reach Old England's shore. We wish them all the best of luck, and trust they will all find employment. We should like to remind one of them that our prayers will be for a hard winter and plenty of burst pipes!

For the information of those concerned, outstanding chits are being tied up in bundles of ten and forwarded to home addresses.

THE GRIFFIN.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, March 1st.

General.—The annual three-day race meeting took place this month, and quite a lot of interest was centred therein.

The classic event was the Hong Kong Derby, and the big cash sweep that was drawn with it caused not a little interest. Sweeps were drawn on all races, the values being between $1000 and $5000. The Derby gave the biggest prize, the lucky drawer of the winning ticket receiving $7400. Nearly everyone in the colony, from the coolie to the taipan, had his little flutter.

On February 10th Hong Kong harbour was graced with the simultaneous arrival of two great touring liners—the "Belgenland" (flagship of the Red Star line), and the "Empress of Australia" (flagship of the Canadian Pacific fleet), carrying about seven hundred people, mostly from the "Yewnited States." Seldom have I seen so many pairs of horn-rimmed "specs" in the colony at one time.

W/T.—It is recorded that the short-wave W/T is still "doing its stuff." From May 1927 to February 1928, inclusive, the following groups have been sent to and received from Shanghai, Shameen (Canton) and Tientsin: Out, 75,045; in, 80,215.

Congratulations.—To L/Sergt Bowler on his appointment to that rank.

Arrivals.—The wife and daughter of Sergt Withers arrived here on February 18th per s.s. "City of Marseilles." All ranks extend to them a most cordial welcome to "this island of horrible smells." May their stay in the colony be a pleasant one!

Still They Come!—H.M.T. "Assaye" called here on its way home. On board was R.S.M. Fry, from Shanghai, who gave us a look up; and from what he tells us, we may expect to see quite a number of S.D.F. Signals on the "City of Marseilles" when she calls here homeward bound.

By the same boat Pte Peters (transfer from the Queen's Royal Regiment) leaves us. We wish him the best of luck, and hope that he will make a success of his new venture. The "City of Marseilles" being probably the last trooper this season, quite a number of this Section will be patting themselves on the back and looking forward to the first trooper of next season.

Agony.—Baldy of this Section wishes to be remembered to Lulu, and will be writing as soon as he has scrounged some writing paper and envelopes from the Y.M.C.A. He is now waiting for someone to give him a four-cent stamp!

Works!—On February 25th and 26th, the Section were engaged on the submarine cable connecting Hong Kong with Kowloon. The cable had to be diverted to allow of dredging operations. This necessitated a length of 2100 yards being joined to the existing cable, and the whole being pulled up and laid again in horseshoe formation. The time taken was six hours. It rained heavily the whole time, but everyone worked hard and cheerfully until the task was concluded.

DAISY.

Aden Signal Section.

April 3rd.

"All Men are Liars."—I'm sorry, but it can't be helped. Shakespeare is (at least, I hope so) responsible for that quotation, and I heartily agree with him. When I was a youngster the person responsible for my education gave me to understand that Aden was "the Gibraltar of the Red Sea," with the result that I thought—and I've never heard it contradicted—that this place was situated at the mouth of the Red Sea and within reasonable distance of Somaliland. It might be to Captain Webster, Capt Malcolm Campbell, and Major Seagrave, but to the likes of you and me the distance is about a hundred miles—which does not compare very favourably with the position of Gibraltar. I suppose the reason for the general assumption of Aden's position is that few people come here to verify their early instruction, and I don't altogether blame them.

Why We Came.—For some reasons, which have no doubt been fully explained in certain daily and weekly periodicals, it has been decided to exclude this station from the jurisdiction of the Indian Government as from April 1st, 1928. The old Section of twelve British and forty-seven Indian ranks will cease to exist on April 8th, when the Indians will leave for India and some of the British personnel will be absorbed in the new establishment. In the meantime twenty-one British ranks have arrived, and the new Section will be thirty strong.

How We Came.—An ocean greyhound upon which was painted "Dorsetshire"—although I strongly suspect that, upon closer examination, the word "Mayflower" might be discerned—brought twenty other ranks from England and one from Egypt.

Who's Who.—The following have arrived from stations as shown: C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Terry from Scottish Command Signal Company. Signalmen Buckwell W. G., Whiting W. G., Smith W., Henderson J., and Williams T. from A Corps Signals, Aldershot. Signalmen Bartley H., Kneller W. K., and Smith C. T. from 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot. Sigmn Yelloly E. from 2nd Divl Signals. Signalmen Akehurst R., Hodge W. and Steele H. from 3rd Divl Signals. Sigmn Gee W. from 4th Divl Signals. Signalmen Nicholls G. R., Mason R., and Young F. C., from Eastern Command Signal Company. Sigmn Gwynn A. from No. 2 A.F.A. Section, Edinburgh. L/Sergt Murray H. from Depot Battalion, Catterick. Sigmn Wells T. H. from North Ireland Signal Coy. C.Q.M.S. Markham from Egypt.

A "Bird" in the hand

is worth two in the canteen! This handy 1½d. packet contains the exact quantity of powder to make a perfect Bird's Custard. It's so easy, no measuring! You just tip the whole packet into the basin.

One 1½d. packet makes enough Bird's Custard to give a helping all round the family, because "Bird's is a better quality."

Tins, 1/3½; silvered boxes, 1/- & 6½d.: pkts., 1½d.

C3154

Plague.—Upon arrival at Port Said we were informed that bubonic plague was rife at our destination, and the R.A.F. personnel en route for Aden were inoculated as we passed through the Red Sea. The day following our landing we also were inoculated; and that, coupled with the fact that the whole of Steamer Point is still out of bounds, has to some extent taken the gilt edge off the pleasure of arriving in a new station. The plague appears to have confined itself to the native element, and as no deaths have occurred for the past fourteen days we are hoping the restrictions will soon be removed.

Aden-on-Sea.—The late Lord Roberts is reputed to have said that those who had served in Aden would surely go to heaven, as they had already been in the other place. Although I cannot imagine a person coming here for a holiday, I don't think I would make such a drastic statement. It is, however, rightly referred to as "the barren rock of Aden."

The use of condensed and aqueduct waters does at first cause a good deal of inconvenience, but these are soon taken as a matter of course.

Sea bathing is by far the most popular recreation, and each evening finds the whole Garrison indulging in the briny.

There appears to be a sufficiency of organised sport, football being played the whole year round; cricket and cross-country are now receiving their share of support. The McEwan athletic cup is to be competed for on April 12th, and the Signals will for the first time compete as a separate unit.

Far and Near.—Will India (ex-"Dorsetshire") let us know the ultimate fate of Topliss?

The best of luck to Egypt Signals in the Command all-round competition.

THE "TERRIERS"

2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1.

Whenever anything is going to take place, it is almost invariably the subject of earnest discussion for some time before the event, and is equally invariably the subject of much comment afterwards.

Our Easter training was no exception to the rule. For weeks past, when any two or three were gathered together, it was a safe bet that Easter training was the topic of conversation—for those who have previously participated, usually joyous plan-making; and for the new members, a perhaps somewhat anxious speculation as to just what was going to happen, and how they were going to fare when mixed up with a first class crack Regular cavalry crowd. Now, there is no speculation—merely an exuberant delight at having been able to be present for four glorious days.

The first mounted parade took place on Good Friday afternoon, and for many of us it was a first experience of pukka troop drill. When it is added that the drill took place in Windsor Park, in about a foot of perfectly good mud, it will be realised that it was an experience not altogether devoid of terrors. However, no one had a mud bath except the horses, which had to be washed down on return to barracks.

On Saturday and Sunday, signal schem were carried out. In the main these represented three Brigades in communication with Brigade Headquarters by visual signals; advanced Divisional Headquarters were in communication with the Divisional Headquarters by wireless. The stations moved out from barracks and took up positions from map references given to the n.c.o.s before leaving. It is an unfortunate thing, but even on 1-inch scale Ordnance maps the exact location of trees is not shown, and it not infrequently transpired that the ancient oaks of Windsor blocked the line of vision of some stations. As it was a great deal easier to move the station than the trees, the said stations were moved accordingly until they secured an uninterrupted view of the desired objective. After a little re-adjustment of this nature all the stations set to work, communications were established, and messages came and went both swiftly and accurately.

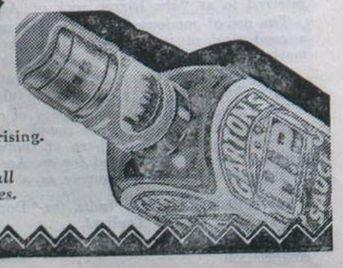
It is understood that the schemes were carried out to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, for which no small credit is due to our long-suffering friends the Permanent Staff. To Sergt Moran, however, we think the palm should be awarded for thinking so electrically in Irish and expressing himself so fluently in English whenever anything happened not quite according to schedule.

So much for Saturday and Sunday. Monday morning, in accordance with time-honoured plan, was devoted to an equestrian display. No less than three hours were devoted to riding and jumping, and it speaks well for the standard of riding attained that the experts among the Life Guards spoke in ungrudging praise of the performance of our youngsters.

Altogether Easter training was a great and glorious success, and that it was so was due in no small way to the well-nigh perfect weather that prevailed during the entire period. Plenty of sunshine all the time, bright and cheerful but not sultry.

Just before going to press the writer has heard a dreadful rumour that we are to be mechanised. For a regiment that prides itself on its equestrian abilities and has won praise as indicated above, such a suggestion is appalling. We fear however that, unpalatable as it sounds, it is all too true. Just how far this mechanisation is going, or what sort of mechanical mounts we are going to have in place of our old long-faced friends, is not known with certainty at present. Doubtless we shall have more to say about this matter by the time of our next issue. To many who get to like and know their mounts during camp the change will not be welcome. There is a certain satisfaction in looking after a live animal who has carried one well—but little in becoming a hand-maiden to something between a Ford tractor and a tank. However, all is for the best in this best of all possible worlds; and whatever the future holds in store for the 2nd Cavalry Divl Signals, they will surely meet it with the same spirit that won the laurels held by the Middlesex Yeomanry.

ALWAYS
with fish, flesh fowl or cheese—a little
H·P
The Sauce of Healthy Appetite!



H.P. imparts to every meal a wealth of flavour and fre hne s—the difference is surprising.

Obtainable at all canteens and stores.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

During March Nos. 2 and 3 Companies held hot-pot suppers, followed by entertainments arranged by R.Q.M.S. McVittie with his usual skill. Mrs. Bragger's hot-pot was a masterpiece not equalled even by Mrs. Beeton. That these suppers were enjoyed by our members and their friends is proved by the considerable increase in the strength of the unit this month.

We welcome Sergt Watts R. S., who joined our permanent staff from Aldershot just in time to spend his Easter holidays with us. The 2nd Divl Signals are surely eyeing us with suspicion, because if we grab many more of their members they will have to put up the shutters through lack of support. It would be a charming gesture if they made up our stores deficiencies in the same delightful way.

No more coughs and colds among our gallant sergeants! no more sitting about in draughts! At long last they can sip their milk in warmth and cosiness in the small room which has now been connected with the dairy. The recent meeting of the mayors of Liverpool and Birkenhead under the Mersey was a child's affair compared with the dramatic encounter between Sergeant Rowen and his messmates when the last brick was knocked out of the hole in the wall! But what a pity that this hole can't be brought along to camp!

When the turnover of the canteen increases by about 400 per cent. in one month, we begin to suspect that something has happened there, too. That something is our friend Mr. Bragger, who during the few weeks he has been with us has made the place fit for heroes to stay in. Have *you* been in the canteen lately? No? Well, you *are* behind the times!

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

C.S.M. Agombar G., who has been No. 1 Company's permanent staff instructor since 1923, retired from the position on April 4th, and he takes with him the good wishes of the whole unit for his success in civil life. He was deservedly popular with all ranks and has left a pleasant memory behind him.

He was a good soldier and just the type of man Territorials like. The boys of No. 1 Company rolled up in large numbers on April 2nd to say goodbye, and he had a demonstration of real good feeling which has seldom been our lot to witness here. He will, we know, cherish the tokens of our goodwill.

He has had twenty-two years of Army service, as follows: Enlisted with the Dragoons of the Line, 4/4/1906; served in India from 7/11/07; transferred to the Army Reserve, 25/2/13; mobilized with his regiment, 5/8/14, and went to France with the B.E.F. on the 20th of the same month; transferred to the Royal Engineers, 26/2/15, and has been with Signals ever since.

Messages have been received from the officers and n.c.o.s of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, wishing him good luck.

Annual Regimental Ball.—The second annual ball, held at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter, on Thursday, April 12th, was a brilliant triumph, thanks to the admirable arrangements made by the P.M.C. (Capt R. C. A. Cummings, O.B.E.). It is hoped that the Royal Corps of Signals Benevolent Fund will benefit by the success of this function.

The assembly numbered two hundred, and included the C.O. and officers of the unit, officers from the 4th Devons, Wessex R.A.M.C., Royal Devon Yeomanry, 54th Brigade R.A., and 3rd Field Brigade R.A. Others present included the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Exeter, the Sheriff of Exeter, and Brig.-General the Hon. Leslie Butler (secretary, Devon T.A.A.)

The Press description of the scene is as follows: "The hotel and grounds presented a brilliant appearance, with the Palm Court a 'crystal palace' of blazing light, and fairy lamps gleaming among the shrubs, climbing over the house walls, and in the ferns and foliage of the parterres. The Palm Court was furnished as an attractive drawing-room, decorated with banks of massed flowers and plants, and enlivened by the display of regimental silver of which the Corps is justly proud."

Capt A. W. Roberts, M.C. (our late adjutant), writes from Peshawar, India, in a happy strain. His old friends will be glad to know that he has arrived safely with his family, and that so far all goes well.

He has paid his first visit to the Khyber Pass, and he did *not* go in a tank!

When you leave the Army, why not be a SALESMAN?

An instance of a Service Man who became a **STAR Traveller**

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Amongst them have been a number of Service Men. *E.g.*, Corporal B——of the Rhine Signal Co., who was without any commercial experience, took the Attwood Training: and within a week of completing the Course, he was placed by the College as Travelling Salesman with a large and well-known Motor Accessories Firm.

All Mr. Attwood asks from a man he accepts for training is ambition, backbone and grit. In every body of men there is always a certain percentage who will make successful Salesmen. In the Forces this percentage is higher than usual—because of good health, outdoor life, and a wider experience of men than that of the stay-at-home.

The Course is conducted by post. By studying it in your spare time, wherever you may be, you will (like many other Service Men taking the Attwood Course) ***be ready for a good post directly you return to civil life.*** You will then be introduced and recommended to progressive firms with **actual SALARIED vacancies** for Salesmen.

Send a postcard for free booklet "The Profession of Salesmanship," and ask for particulars of what we have done already for Service Men.

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In closing his letter, he says he is off to learn "more language." What a vocab. he'll possess before he has finished!

All the troops here send him greetings.

Another interesting letter received is from Sigmn Selley, at Jubbulpore. He, too, likes India, and was particularly pleased at having recently met Capt C. A. Murray (our first adjutant).

Congratulations to Lieut W. J. L. Cornelius on the recent happy event. Well done, Corney!

2/Lieut E. G. B. Moss has completed his course with the 3rd Signals and the Royal Tanks Corps, and we wish him success in his forthcoming examination for entry into the Regular Army.

No. 1 Company is forming a little Section at Barnstaple Post Office. Five members of the staff are now of us, thanks to the efforts of 2/Lieut J. M. Molland, M.M., who is probably well known to those of Signals who were in the Boer war and the Somaliland campaign.

OLD SPARK.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

General.—Well, I have left things rather late this month, but I must do my best to find something to talk about, I suppose.

Courses.—On April 2nd we started three more courses of instruction: an advanced W/T course, an advanced V/T course, and a beginners' V/T course. All these are getting very well patronised. All men who enlisted this year are attending the last-named course, and it looks as if very shortly we shall have most of the Divisional Signals qualified in some trade or another.

T.A. Training.—The Divl Signals started drill on Wednesday, April 11th, and all ranks are very interested, to judge by the numbers putting in an appearance. Keep it up!

Revolver Competitions.—Two revolver competitions were held on Wednesday, April 11th, by several officers of the unit, the first being held at 7.39 p.m., and the second at 9.4 p.m. These were a great success. Congratulations to Capt J. Barclay on making such a good score with his left hand (we are hoping he will do still better with a little more practice). Who fired the last shot?

Sergeants' Dance.—The last dance of the season, held in the sergeants' mess on Friday, March 23th, was very well patronised by our members and their friends. We were very pleased to see several officers turn up. Those who stayed longest enjoyed themselves most, according to what I heard next day.

Supplementary Reserve.

Here we are at last!—the lost legion. This being the first appearance of notes from the unit there should be plenty of news, but I am sorry it has to be cut down, or we shall not leave room for other units in the Corps Own Mag.

Greetings.—Before we mention our units, we send our best respects to No. 2 Company 2nd Corps Signals S.R. (our sister Company across the border) and hope to spend a happy time with them in camp some day.

News.—Now to let you know all about us. The Company was formed in November, 1924, but was only a skeleton in those days. Since November, 1925, we have grown into a large family of 360 strong, consisting of three Airline Sections, three Cable Sections, two Telegraph Sections, and two Headquarter Sections. Under the care of our O.C.s, Major J. W. Robertson, D.C.M., and Major J. Cameron, O.B.E., officers and permanent staff instructors, both units have been brought to a high standard of efficiency in all departments. The last three camps have helped us in this respect, as all the family have been able to train together; and during the coming camp we expect greater results from every Section.

Training.—Training started on April 16th, and will continue on Monday and Wednesday evenings, with rides out on Saturday afternoons. The programme of training shows that a lot of work has to be got through.

Musketry.—This has just been completed. Courses were fired on the miniature range. The results were not so good as last year, when we fired on the open range at Dechmont. Congratulations to Signalmen Baxter, Beattie C. L. and Blair W. on obtaining the highest score—76 out of a possible 80.

Riding.—The riding school has been in progress since January, and attendances have been low up to the present: but now the light evenings are coming along we are hoping for a big turn out (so roll up, you would-be Steves, and see what R.S.M. Terry and Sergt Cooper can do for you).

Agonies.—C.S.M. Peat W. would like to hear from Lofty Scrivens, believed to be residing within the vicinity of the 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.

Sergt Cooper V. wishes to be remembered to C.S.M. Williams R. G. and Sergt Hope C., the latter believed to be in India. He would like to hear from them.

Extensions.—Congratulations to R.S.M. Terry, who has been given permission to extend his service for another year. All ranks wish him the best of luck. (Stick it, George!)

Congratulations also to Sergt Wylie J., who has been given permission to extend his service to complete 21 years. (Let us hope he will see it out with us!)

What We Want to Know.—Did C.S.M. Haggart give the horse a "sweetie" when he hung round its neck in the riding school?

Is it true that Pipe-Major MacKenzie has composed a new piece of music to play round the above w.o.'s tent at reveille during camp this year?

Obituary.—The P.S. tender their sincere regrets to all concerned by the death of C.Q.M.S. Squirrel.

LOWSIGS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, April 13th.

The absence of our notes last month was regrettable but unavoidable. We hasten to make amends.

We have lost one of our officers, 2/Lieut J. H. Lock, who has left us for the Royal Air Force, in which he has been commissioned. We wish him the best of luck in his new sphere.

Two other officers have also been transferred to the Reserve of Officers, but we shall not lose sight of them altogether, as they reside in the locality and still belong to the unit.

Capt C. P. Wall left us on reaching the age limit. He has a long record as a soldier, starting in the Regulars in 1897, seeing service in Somaliland and during the Great War, and having been with this unit since 1921.

Lieut W. R. Hawkins, who was commissioned during the Great War, is the other officer who has gone to the Reserve. He has been with us since 1922. He is shortly to join the ranks of the benedicts, and we wish him all happiness.

In February eight of our officers went to Chester and Preston for their promotion examination, and we are glad to say they maintained the reputation of the unit, all passing. Our adjutant, who has coached them during the winter, obtained .8 himself; and one of the captains is said to have only just failed to obtain the same high percentage. Congratulations to them all.

The spring training has been busy and profitable. Various week-end courses have been held, and interesting experiments in cable laying with mechanically-towed vehicles were carried out by volunteers. The unit generally has benefited greatly by the training, and the results should be apparent in camp.

The mechanisation of A, D and H Sections will help considerably on our schemes. We are left with a hundred horses, however, so the annual circus will take place as usual during the first three days of camp.

Miniature rifle shooting has afforded a good deal of interest of late. Under the charge of Lieut Hayes the unit club has really got going, and the Salmon trophy (a cup presented by Capt H. Salmon, M.C., a friend of the unit) has been shot for. It was won by the officers' team, G Section being the runners-up—only three points behind.

We much regret to record the death of Sigmn Poole, of No. 2 Company. A cheery, keen Territorial, he will be missed by his Company. He was only twenty-two years of age. Our sympathy is offered to his father and brothers in their loss. The unit was represented at the funeral by a large contingent of n.c.o.s and men.

THE LEEK.

[*See also* 5GTH DIVL SIGNALS NOTES *on page 172*]

Depot Battalion, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Hockey Match v. Ripon.—After the severe climatic conditions existing in Catterick since Christmas, we were at last able to resume the Battalion fixtures. Our own ground had not recovered from the recent snow, but the Ripon ground was in excellent condition, and we had one of the best games we have played this season.

Signals lost the toss. From the bully off even play ensued, but a break-away on our right and a centre by 2/Lieut Patterson nearly led to an early goal. The Ripon goal-keeper was pressed for a period and a short corner nearly opened the score. After fifteen minutes a short bit of combination by our forwards enabled Lieut Boyd to score our first goal. This was followed by a hot attack on our goal, Dvr Batcheldor saving in excellent style twice in rapid succession. Sigmn Hellier next got away on our left, and again we just failed to score. Our defence had the enemy forwards well held, Sergt Tovey, 2/Lieut Gardiner and 2/Lieut Worrall all clearing well. Another short bit of combination between 2/Lieut Patterson, Lieut Boyd and L/Corpl Davis led to an excellent goal by Lieut Boyd with a first-time hard shot. Major Drayson followed with a shot which hit the goalkeeper. L/Corpl Davis, following up well, scored and put us three up. No further score resulted up to half-time.

On resumption Signals were hard pressed, the Ripon forwards giving our defence little rest. Twice our defence was pierced owing to mis-hitting, and two good goals were registered rapidly against us. Our forwards then got going, and from a good centre by 2/Lieut Patterson, Major Drayson scored our fourth goal, followed by another from 2/Lieut Worrall with a good solo effort from the 25 line. Sigmn Hellier hit the post with a good back-hand shot, and the unevenness of the circle scored us a few rugby goals—well over the top.

The result—5–2 in our favour—was a fair representation of the game, which was good, clean and fast. 2/Lieut Patterson played well at outside right, but does not combine enough with his inside forwards. Sigmn Hellier and L/Corpl Davis played a good hard game on the left wing. Both the backs (Sgt Tovey and 2/Lieut Gardiner) were good, clearing well to the wings. 2/Lieut Worrall played an excellent defensive game at centre-half. Sergt Hall and C.Q.M.S. Hayter opened up the attack excellently, but still require to watch their opposing wing men more closely. Dvr Batcheldor was excellent in goal and gave one of his best exhibitions this year.

Team: Goal, Dvr Batcheldor; backs, 2/Lieut Gardiner and Sergt Tovey; half-backs, C.Q.M.S. Hayter, 2/Lieut Worrall, and Sergt Hall; forwards, Sigmn Hellier, L/Corpl Davis, Major Drayson, Lieut Boyd, and 2/Lieut Patterson.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

A Day at Ampleforth College.

Ampleforth College v. F Coy. Boys and ex-Boys.—On March 14th the ex-boys and boys cross-country and boxing teams went by Karrier lorry to Ampleforth.

At 12 noon a four-mile road race took place and resulted in a win for Ampleforth. The order of finishing was: 1, Signalman Beale; 2 and 3, Ampleforth; 4, 5, 6, Ampleforth, Boy Dobson, Boy Humby (inches separated these three); 7 and 8, Ampleforth; 9, Boy McCulloch; 10, Boy Hilliar. Result: Ampleforth 24; Boys and ex-Boys, 31.

Unfortunately Boys Weeks, Roberts and Roderick were not available, as they have lately gone to Liverpool on the G.P.O. course. Our three Army runners, L/Sergt Cotterell, Corporal Ayres and L/Corpl Broadley, started in the race, and finished a good 400 yards in front, but of course they did not count for our team. The three received a great ovation from Ampleforth.

At 1 p.m. we were entertained to an excellent lunch, and at 2.30 p.m. our twelve boxers prepared to level up matters. They won by seven fights to five.

Boy Gartery (10 st.) was our first in the ring, and he obtained a points decision v. Gerrard.

Boy Kerr (8 st. 6 lb.), though up against a much taller boy in Tweedie, soon began to pile up points and won comfortably.

Boy Horne (10 st. 9 lb.) just lost each round, Rooke-Ley winning a points decision.

Boy Lennon C. (8 st. 4 lb.) lost to Cricue, but put up a very plucky fight.

Sigmn Harbin (9 st. 9 lb.) was much too good for Hortop, and the fight was stopped in the second round.

Boy Hurley (9 st. 3 lb.) just won each round against Hayes.

Boy Statham (9 st.) lost the first two rounds against Larios, but in the third round he scored at will. Larios, however, refused to be put out, and just obtained the verdict.

Boy Thom (9 st.) lost a very close fight against MacDonald. If he had attacked just a little more, he must have got the verdict.

Boy Barlow (9 st. 5 lb.) had no difficulty in beating De-Guingand in every round.

Boy Bird (6 st. 1 lb.) put up a splendid show against a more experienced boy, but Binfield won a close fight.

Boy De-la-Hey (7 st.) surprised a good many people by his form against Leeming, and won very comfortably.

Sigmn Fraser (9 st. 9 lb.) out-classed Gordon, and the referee stopped the fight in the second round just in time to save Gordon from a short sleep. Gordon has the reputation of being the best boxer that Ampleforth has had for some years.

After the boxing Father Maddox congratulated the cross-country runners and boxers on the excellent show they had given, and said how delighted they all were to have seen Sergt Cotterell run.

Major Cobb (who had refereed the boxing) replied. He thanked Ampleforth very much for their hospitality, and he hoped that these contests would become annual events. This suggestion was received with great applause, and arrangements have already been fixed for next year at Catterick.

At 5.30 p.m. we commenced our return journey, after spending a thoroughly enjoyable day.

School of Signals, Catterick.

Rugby.—On Monday, April 2nd, we played our last Company League match of the season. Our opponents on this occasion were F Company, and both games were hotly contested. Several times our 1st XV. nearly got over our opponents' line, but never succeeded in scoring. F Company scored just before half-time, converting with a fine place kick. During the second half we had three more points scored against us, F Company thus winning the match by 8 points to nil. Individual efforts in the 1st XV. are still excellent, but combined work remains very weak.

Later in the day a very fine and exciting game between the 2nd XV's took place. Our team played hard against a well-combined fifteen, the game ending in a pointless draw.

Soccer.—We have completed our Company League programme in a most satisfactory manner.

On March 20th we met the Dismounted Wing. Our 1st XI. overwhelmed their opponents to the extent of 8—0. The second string tasted their first victory by defeating the Wing 2nds by 8—1, thereby justifying the directors' bold policy in buying expensive artistes from the 3rd XI. The 3rd XI. continued in a winning vein, and after a hard struggle finished winners by the odd goal in five.

On March 27th we met E Company in three matches. The 1st XI. match ended in a goalless draw after what was probably the hardest and cleanest Company match of the season. We pressed desperately in the last fifteen minutes, but the E defence held out. The 2nd XI. match was not so hard, and we eventually emerged victors by 9—3. The 3rd XI. won by 5—1. This match was marked by the first appearance of the "Mystery Man" (and the mystery remains unsolved).

On March 31st we concluded our league programme by contesting the day with the championship aspirants, F Company. The first team took a long time to settle down, and half-time arrived with F leading by one goal. The second half, however, was a different matter, and with F Company tiring we over-ran them and scored four times. The second team were engaged in a sensational match, which ended in a victory for us by 8—6. The thirds completed a successful season with a victory of 6—2.

A review of the league season results offers pleasant reading. When the news was first received that the School had to provide three complete teams, there was much headshaking by the critics, who averred that it simply could not be done. The "Management," however, thought otherwise and, with the aid of the Company nominal roll, uprooted talent that had been buried years and years ago; and the results are that the 1st team share championship honours with E Company, the 2nd team finished second in their league, and the team that (according to critics) was going to afford most amusement, finished joint champions without suffering defeat. Bravo, the Thirds!

Aldershot Command Signals.

Boxing Notes.

Congratulations to Egypt Signals on entering the semi-finals of the team championship by their splendid victory over the 1st Brigade R.H.A. No. 1 Group, Aldershot (we are now divided into two groups) have drawn a bye in the first series of the Aldershot team competition.

The hard training that our boxers have done since October last is now beginning to bear fruit, as witness the results in the March issue of THE WIRE and the following.

On February 16th Sigmn Stuart met P.C. Clifton of the P.L.A. (amateur heavy-weight champion, 1925). *The Times* said of this fight that "Stuart at least extracted a full effort from Clifton, who, having been outpointed in the first two rounds, fell back upon heavy countering with the right as his over-confident opponent came in. These blows, supported as they were by a veteran experience and a powerful physique, soon began to accomplish the downfall of the young Army champion." Stuart lost in the fifth round.

Royal Signals, Aldershot, v. Catterick Garrison.—On 17th February, at Catterick, Signals won this match by 17 points to 15. Our team did not fight up to their usual standard; the long journey north seemed to have unsettled most of them.

Light—Dvr Baker lost to Sigmn Govier (T.B., R.Signals).
Middle—Dvr Benjafield beat Sigmn Chapman (T.B., R.Sigs.)
Fly—Sigmn Hamilton lost to Boy Kerr (T.B., R.Signals).
Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda walked over. L/Corpl Wallis scratched owing to injury.
Welter—Sigmn Taylor lost to L/Corpl Dow (Cameronians).
Feather—Sigmn Thomas lost to Sergt Fleming (Middlesex Regiment).
Light—Dvr Grainger beat L/Corpl Dewbery (Cameronians).
Bantam—Sigmn Hogg lost to Cpl Connell (The Cameronians)
Welter—Corpl Langley beat Bdr. Lacey (20th Bde. R.A.)
Middle—Sigmn Moore beat Sigmn Pyke, (D.B., R.Signals)
Welter—Sigmn Wheeler beat L/Cpl Williams (T.B., R.Sigs.)

Oxford and Bermondsey Old Boys' Competition.—On 17th February L/Corpl Howard won the open novices heavy-weight competition. Sigmn Fielding lost in the first series of the open feather-weights.

Mayor's Hospital Tournament, Derby.—On 20th February our team captain, L/Corpl Rodda, in beating Guardsman Hogan, provided the sporting public of Derby with what was described as "the best fight ever seen in Derby." Keep it up, Rodda, and bring back to Signals another amateur championship this year.

Hull Police Tournament.—On 22nd February L/Corporal Howard added another prize to his collection by beating P.C. Kavanagh in a six-round contest.

Army Officers v. Belsize Club.—On 23rd February Lieut E. S. Cole knocked out Mr. Cohen in the second round.

Aldershot Command v. R.A.F.—On 24th February Signals provided six representatives in the Command side which won by 25 points to 19. The Signals representatives' results were:

Feather—Sigmn Thomas and his opponent were disqualified for holding.
Light—Dvr Grainger beat A.C. Asplin.
Welter—Corpl Langley lost to L.A.C. Garrett (R.A.F. champion)
Middle—Sigmn Moore beat L.A.C. Clapp.
Light-heavy—Lieut E. S. Cole beat A.C. Walker.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat A.C. Cahaline.

L/Corpl Rodda was selected, but owing to an injury to his hand he could not take part, and Lieut Cole took his place at a moment's notice. Can any one beat this for a sporting effort? He fought on the previous night in London. On the afternoon of the 24th he did an hour's hard boxing training. After this he changed into football clothes and played a hard game of rugger in an inter-Company match. Then he had a good dinner, and went to bed tired out. At 9.30 p.m. Capt Spencer rang him up on the telephone and asked him to come to the Maida drill hall and fill in a breach. This he did, though feeling very sore, and won!

Whilst we have *this* spirit in the Corps we have nothing to fear, and can always feel proud when we hear the "Come on, Signals" cry at any of our sporting matches or our work.

Royal Fusiliers Tournament, Hounslow.—On 24th February Sigmn Wheeler lost in a six-round contest to Pte Cromey (runner-up to Army champion, 1928).

Army v. Civil Service.—The following represented Signals in the Army team in a match at the Stadium Club, London, on March 1st:—

1st Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda beat Mr. W. A. Reeves on points.
2nd Light-heavy—Lieut E. S. Cole beat Mr. J. R. Regan on points.
Light—Dvr Grainger lost on points to Mr. J. J. Williams.
Welter—Sigmn Wheeler (his opponent did not turn up)

R.A.F. Tournament, Farnborough.—On 1st March, Sigmn McCreeth, in a six-round contest, beat L.A.C. Spencer, R.A.F., on points.

Second Series, Aldershot Team Competition.—On March 10th the 1st Battn. K.O.S.B. met No. 1 Group Royal Signals at Bordon. This team contest ended in a victory for the Signals by 29 points to 14—a result that was not altogether expected, as the K.O.S.B. had won their previous match against the Royal Sussex by a somewhat similar margin of points. Our team fought with a determination to win, boxing and fighting better than on any previous occasion this season. Results:—

OFFICERS.

Light-heavy—Lieut Hall had no opponent.
Middle—Capt Spencer beat Lieut McAlester.
Heavy—Lieut Cole beat Lieut Simpson.

OTHER RANKS.

Bantam—Sigmn Hogg beat Boy Lee, this fight being stopped at the commencement of the second round.
Feather—Sigmn Thomas beat Pte Simpson.
1st Light—Dvr Grainger lost to Corpl McFarlane.
2nd Light—Sigmn McCreeth beat Pte Hardwich.
3rd Light—Dvr Baker beat Pte McLachlan.
1st Welter—L/Corpl Wheeler beat Pte Lacey.
2nd Welter—Corpl Langley beat Pte Hamilton.
3rd Welter—Dvr Benjafield beat L/Corpl Robertson.
1st Middle—L/Corpl Moore beat Corpl Pratt.
2nd Middle—Sigmn Taylor beat Bandsman Gray.
Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda beat Pte Conway.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat Pte Solley.

Imperial Services Championships, 1928.—Held at Halton Camp, on March 14th and 15th. Well done, Rodda and Stuart! two more I.S.B.A. championships for the Corps—and first class champions, too! It was only by a very small margin of points that Mr. Cole lost in the final; otherwise we could congratulate yet another champion.

Rodda, by magnificent boxing and fighting, gave the best display of the evening, and in the third round he knocked out his very plucky opponent with a perfect right hook to the jaw.

Stuart, too, fought splendidly, and his opponent shared the same fate as Rodda's.

Mr. Cole was beaten in the final by a more experienced boxer, but there was nothing in it. If only he and others would remember that the shortest cut to an opponent's jaw is a straight left or right, then there would be different verdicts on many occasions!

Semi-Final, Aldershot Command Team Competition.—We met the Gordons on March 22nd, and gained the right of meeting the Seaforth Highlanders in the final. Results:—

OFFICERS.

Light-heavy—Lieut Cole beat 2/Lieut J. H. Sinclair, the fight being stopped by the referee in the second round. Our representative proved far superior to his opponent.
Middle—Capt H. A. Spencer won his fight very quickly, his opponent (Lieut C. A. Rowe) being unable to withstand his attack. This fight was stopped by the referee in the first round.
Light—Lieut D. G. P. Hall was knocked out in the second round by Lieut J. A. Lawrance, the latter rallying quite surprisingly.

OTHER RANKS.

Bantam—Sigmn Hogg was beaten by Pte Garland after three hard rounds.
Feather—Sigmn Thomas was beaten by Pte Waring, running a very close fight.
Light—L/Corpl Grainger fought very well against Pte McLean, but failed to secure the verdict. Sigmn McCreeth beat Pte Clements after three quick rounds. Dvr Baker beat Private Milligan on points, boxing his man well for three rounds.
Welter—L/Corpl Wheeler beat Pte Walker, very coolly boxing his opponent. Corpl Langley carried the fight to L/Corporal McIntosh and kept it there, winning on points after the full distance. Dvr Benjafield was beaten on points by Pte Goudie.
Middle—L/Corpl Moore was beaten by Sergt Jamieson, this being an exceptionally tight contest. Sigmn Taylor beat L/Corpl Hamilton after a very good fight.
Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda beat Pte Colley on points.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat Pte Campbell on points.

Final, Command Team Championships.—On March 23rd, we met the 1st Battn. Seaforth Highlanders, and with some points to spare we won the Command shield. Results:—

OFFICERS.

Heavy—Lieut Cole beat Lieut Grant, winning in his usual good manner.
Middle—Capt Spencer was unopposed, his opponent being unable to appear.
Light—Lieut Hall beat Lieut Innes after three plucky rounds.

OTHER RANKS.

Bantam—Sigmn Hamilton was beaten by Pte Millar.
Feather—Sigmn Thomas beat Pte Farquhar, putting his man down twice.
Light—L/Corpl Grainger beat Pte Healy on points. Sigmn McCreeth was beaten by Pte Hilton on points after a very hard struggle. Dvr Baker was beaten by Corpl Conner.
Welter—L/Corpl Wheeler beat Pte Tomlinson in the second round. Corpl Langley beat Pte O'Dell, winning well. Dvr Benjafield was beaten by Corpl Rawlinson, this contest being very nearly drawn.
Middle—L/Corpl Moore beat Sergt McIntosh after a splendid fight. Sigmn Taylor secured a knock-out in the first round against Pte McGee.
Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda fought a very hard contest with Drummer McAulay, and boxed a very hard opponent exceedingly well.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat Pte McLeod, boxing well against a hard hitter.

Semi-Final, Army Team Championships.—On March 22nd, in the semi-final against the Loyal Regiment, our team won by one point. Every fight was very hard—our opponents proving, as they have ever done, a very tough proposition. Our team may congratulate themselves on beating the second-best team entered. Results:—

OFFICERS.

Light—Capt Spencer beat Lieut J. W. E. R. Gainher.
Middle—Lieut Hall was beaten by Lieut H. C. D. Huxham.
Light-heavy—Lieut Cole was beaten by Lieut Scoales.

OTHER RANKS.

Bantam—Sigmn Hogg was beaten by Sergt Haslam
Feather—Sigmn Thomas was beaten by Pte Haddock.
Light—L/Corpl Grainger beat Pte Kelly. Sigmn McCreeth beat Pte Lomax. Dvr Baker was beaten by Pte Gatley.
Welter—L/Corpl Wheeler beat Pte Hawnton. Corpl Langley beat Corpl Mitchell. Dvr Benjafield was beaten by Private Bouvier.
Middle—L/Corpl Howard beat Pte Harrison. L/Corpl Moore was beaten by Pte Taylor.
Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda beat Sergt Cook.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat Pte Barber.

As may be imagined, there was great excitement during the last fight (L/Corpl Grainger v. Pte Kelly)—the result of the match depending upon it. Some of the team preferred to wait in the dressing-room for the result rather than sit and watch!

Final, Army Team Championships.—Although the East Lancs. were not quite so tough a proposition as the Loyal Regiment, nothing was given away in the final on March 23rd, and almost as exciting a night occurred again. Results:—

OFFICERS.

Light—Capt Spencer beat Lieut Manlove in splendid fashion.
Middle—Lieut Hall, fighting 2/Lieut Davidson, had no easy task, but he kept going well and won.
Light-heavy—Lieut Cole beat Lieut Thatcher, the latter not being of the same class as our representative, who boxed extraordinarily well.

OTHER RANKS.

Bantam—Sigmn Hogg lost to Drummer Bennet, a very clever boxer; this fight was one of the best of the night.
Feather—Sigmn Thomas was beaten on points by L/Corporal Holcroft.
Light—L/Corpl Grainger's fight with Pte Jupp was very keenly contested (both men knowing how much it meant to their respective teams to win, this being the last fight of the night), and L/Corpl Grainger secured the victory. Sigmn McCreeth beat Pte Ramsden, after three good rounds. Dvr Baker beat Boy Quilter on points after an almost even affray; Boy Quilter proved he was certainly only a boy in rank.
Welter—L/Corpl Wheeler fought Pte Mason, his usual coolness serving him in good stead against a cunning boxer. Corporal Langley was beaten by Pte Bailey; it was difficult to determine who won this fight from the spectator's point of view, there being some very quick in-fighting. Corpl Head (East Lancs.) secured a knock-out against Dvr Benjafield in the second round, after some hard hitting.
Middle—L/Corpl Howard had bad luck against Corpl Benson, being disqualified for hitting low; this being a case of the opponent moving and it being impossible to "pull" the punch. Sigmn Taylor was beaten by L/Corpl Papworth after a good struggle.
Heavy—Sigmn Stuart beat Drummer Kennedy, this fight being commented on by the referee. Sigmn Stuart had probably one of the hardest fights of this season, there being really hard hitting and some speed for the weight, our man wearing better than the East Lancs. representative.

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Light-heavy—L/Corpl Rodda boxed Corpl Langton and secured a good win.

Future Fixtures.—On April 24th we are due to meet the winning team of the R.A.F. inter-Services competition for the Sassoon cup.

On April 25th the Signals will be represented by the following against the British Police at the National Sporting Club: Lieut Cole, L/Corpl Rodda, L/Corpl Howard, Sigmn Stuart.

After these events, the team will rest on their laurels until called upon to hold their shields, and they certainly deserve a rest, having fought many fights and lost few.

No. 3 Company, A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

Rugby.—With the aid of Lieut A. S. Milner and Signalmen Jones T. B. and Prentice—not forgetting Corpl Jessop—we just managed to beat No. 1 Company on April 11th. The result was 25 points to 3.

Soccer.—After No. 1 Company had "seen our boots off" twice, we eventually beat them on April 11th by three goals to one: a really good performance.

Congratulations to the Royal Signals (Aldershot Command) boxing team on winning the Army inter-unit boxing championships. Well done! I think L/Corpl Grainger deserves congratulations on the two splendid performances he put up.

1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

Hockey.—A scratch Royal Signals team entertained Godalming one fine Saturday afternoon in March, and after a well-fought game the score stood at four goals all. A feature of the match was constructive criticism by the captain of the team during the half-time interval, the benefit of which was observed during the second half of the game.

Firstdivsigs have been unfortunate in their selection of Friday as hockey-ground day, the state of the ground interfering with most matches. In the Company Hockey League No. 1 Company retain their position at the head of the table, but we miss such stalwarts as Capt McDonald and F/Staff-Sergt Brown.

Unit colours have been awarded to C.Q.M.S. Hocking, L/Cpl Wardley, and Signalmen Corcoran and Stokes, and a "date-bar" to Sergt Smart A.

Football.—No. 1 Company were successful in the Company football shield competition, which has now been closed for the season.

Unit colours were awarded to Drivers Baker and O'Neill, and Signalmen Brough and Archer; L/Corpl Kneller receiving a "date-bar."

No. 3 Company, 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.

Rugby.—A splendid victory over Twoco gave us second place in the rugby cup, and added to our chance of securing that all-important trophy. A well-fought-out strenuous game that might have gone either way, although full credit must be given to our forwards, who rose splendidly to the occasion, and also to Sigmn Wild, who played a really brilliant game and scored the all-important goal that won us the match. This ended our trophy rugby for the season, the standard of play having improved a hundred per cent. since last year.

All Signals rugby enthusiasts will join with us in congratulating Capt Mathew on his brilliant try for the fifty-per-centers on his first appearance for that side. It really has been a strenuous season.

Football.—Trophy football being won, our fans have since added to their laurels by defeating Oneco, Bagshot, and the Terriers (during their stay with us). So far the new talent have acquitted themselves well, but they must get down to it if they want a place in Threeco's team—a fact made evident in that we have nine unit players in the Company team.

Hockey.—Yet another cup added to the list! Full credit to the team for their decisive victories, which left nothing to doubt, all games being won by a four-goal margin. Here, again, we have a reputation to keep up; so come along, you new Threeco-ites, and get cracking if you would win a place in our team.

Athletics.—Here, at last, is a chance for *everyone* to shine, and all who have been supporters may now do their share at something. Each man is only allowed to compete in two events, so the necessity for raising a large team may be realised. Prior to the inter-Section and Company sports in June, training will take place and every assistance and facility will be given to intending competitors to improve their style and ability.

The events in the inter-Section sports will be as follows:—100, 220, 440 and 880 yards, mile, long and high jumps, hurdles, shot, and tug-of-war. Owing to the large number of events every man will be required to do *something* for his Section, so start early and get fit for whatever events you intend to go in for. Shorts and vests may be obtained from the Company stores; times and places for training will be notified in Company Orders.

Cricket.—Yes, it will indeed be a hard task to get a place in the team, as we have some real good cricketers; but, there, they have all been starters, and after all what makes a good cricketer but practice—practice—and then a little more practice. Nothing definite is yet known, but by the time this is published nets will be available, and it is up to all budding enthusiasts to get out and get as fit as they can. Here, again, facilities will be given for training, and with such stars as our O.C. (Capt Mathew) and Capt Barclay in the Company willing to help, one may be sure of some real good tips if there to receive them.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

Point-to-Point.—The annual point-to-point race for the Royal Signals (Reg. M.) challenge trophy (presented by Colonel H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O.) and for the Royal Signals subalterns' challenge trophy (presented by Lieut E. L. Ridley-Thompson, The Queen's Bays) was run on April 4th at the Royal Engineers' meeting, held over the Arborfield Course. The course was 3¼ miles in length, and there were thirty-four obstacles, most of which were fairly formidable. Result:—

1, Capt C. P. Prescot's "Mars VII."; 2, Capt R. Sutton-Pratt's "Viscount"; 3, Mr. M. S. Wheatley's "Wyck"; 4, Capt C. M. F. White's "Robin Hood"; 5, Mr. W. D. Weir's "Westmead"; 6, Capt R. F. H. Nalder's "Polly"; 7, Mr. C. C. Danby's "Wobley"; 8, Mr. W. M. Ponsonby's "Wainfleet."

Mr. J. C. Hardy's "Wanda," Mr. L. de M. Thuillier's "Bhalu," and Capt C. P. Prescot's "Wag" also entered.

The ground was very slippery, but there was very little grief during the meeting. The race was run at a good pace, Captain Prescot's "Mars VII." winning from Capt Sutton-Pratt's "Viscount" by five lengths; a distance separated second and third.

The Royal Signals challenge trophy passes from Major O. P. Edgcumbe (last year's winner) to Capt C. P. Prescot, and the subalterns' challenge trophy from Capt R. Sutton-Pratt (last year's winner) to Lieut M. S. Wheatley.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Army Cross-Country Championships.—The unit team made a brave fight at Aldershot on March 20th and gained fourth place, having raised the unit eight places from the result of last year's Army run at Colchester.

It is interesting to note that if Broadley, Cotterell and Ayres had been in our team and not run as individuals, we should have finished very close to the Cornwalls with second place.

The unit team was represented by: Corpl Ivison, Signalmen Wood, Salter, Ward, Greatorex, Marples, Shaw, Hawthorne, Lynton, Tibbitts, Strickson, Smith, Johnson, Lapper and Knight.

Corpl Ivison remained with the pack. Wood ran out, but he fell back on the pack at the third mile, and Ivison then went forward but was too late. It is regretted that the pack smashed itself at this point, and in the last four miles the running for the team became an individual one.

It was hard luck, as the team had learnt the value of packing in the Southern Command run. We think it would have finished third if it had held together.

Ivison, Salter, Ward, Wood and Greatorex finished inside the first forty home.

Inter-County Cross-Country Championships.—Wood, Ward, Salter, Marples, Tibbitts, Greatorex, Shaw and Smith were selected to represent the County and were awarded County badges.

Inter-Company Run.—The conditions for the run were that a team should consist of thirty starters, of whom twenty should be counting numbers, over a distance of 4½ miles. No. 3 Coy. proved the winners, followed by Nos. 1 and 2. Sigmn Salter was first man home, with Sigmn Wood a few yards in the rear.

General.—We hope to include a photograph of the running team in the next issue of THE WIRE.

Signalmen Wood and Salter are retiring into civil life within the next two months. It will be a sad blow to the team to lose two strong supporters, but we have made up our minds to hang on to the cups we have won this year and fight out our victories again to the last ounce.

There are still a number of dark horses hiding up in the unit, and we feel sure that they will come forward and give their support next year.

Northern Command (India) "Signals Week."

The following are the results of the "Signals Week" held at Rawalpindi on March 14th—20th.

Mounted Events.

Jumping (British)—1, Sigmn Dunmore, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 2, Sergt Collingwood, B Corps Signals; 3, Corpl Searle, B Corps Signals.

Jumping (Indian)—1, Hav. Gul Mawaz, 1st Indian Divisional Signals (first horse); 2, Hav. Gul Mawaz (second horse); 3, Hav. Bir Singh, B Corps Signals.

Tent-pegging (British)—1, Sergt Stroud, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 2, L/Corpl Watts, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 3, Sergt Bracken, B Corps Signals.

Tent-pegging (Indian)—1, Sub. Khan Mohd, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 2, Sigmn Umrao Singh, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Peg-driving—1, B Corps Signals; 2, B Corps Signals.

Hockey (Finals).

British—1st Indian Divl Signals 2, Kohat District Signals 1 (after extra time).

Indian—B Corps Signals 4, 1st Indian Divl Signals 1.

Football (Final).

British—1st Indian Divl Signals 1, B Corps Signals 0 (after extra time).

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Boxing.

Bantam weight—Winner, Sigmn Pascoe, Kohat District Signals; runner-up, Sigmn Lovatt, B Corps Signals.

Feather weight—Winner, Sigmn Doncaster, Kohat District Signals; runner-up, Sigmn Lane, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Light weight—Winner, Sigmn Clarke, Peshawar District Signals; runner-up, Sigmn Leslie, Waziristan District Signals.

Welter weight—Winner, Corpl Theobald, Kohat District Signals; runner-up, Sigmn Clarke, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Middle weight—Winner, Sigmn Foster, Waziristan District Signals; runner-up, Corpl Mitson, B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Light-heavy weight—Winner, Sigmn Bowles, Kohat District Signals; runner-up, Sigmn Bowler, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Best loser—Sigmn Lane, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Sigmn Lane won two fights in the evening, but was unable to fight in the final owing to a fractured thumb. He thoroughly deserved the best loser's prize.

The annual exhibition by "Bawachi" Nelson and Budho proved one of the best fights of the evening.

Polo Tournament.

The first Signals tournament for the Heymann cup was held. Three teams entered for the event, which was run on the American system: all teams played each other. If two teams were level as to wins at the end, the winner to be the team scoring the greater number of goals (including handicap). The teams were:—

Kohat District Signals.—Back, Capt E. M. Pyster, 1; No. 3, Lieut R. W. Morgan, 2; No. 2, Capt F. J. Allen, 0; No. 1, Capt H. D. Orr, 0.

Rawalpindi Signals.—Back, Lieut C. W. Knight, 1; No. 3, Capt I. F. G. Hall, 1; No. 2, Capt M. V. Smelt, 0; No. 1, Capt W. D. McGregor, 0.

Signals Remnants—Back, Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Heymann, 2; No. 3, Lieut F. P. L. Gray, 0; No. 2, Lieut R. J. N. Solly, 0; No. 1, Major J. A. F. Mair, 0.

Kohat District Signals
Left to right—Capt. Allen, Capt. Orr, Lieut Morgan, Capt. Pyster

Kohat District Signals v. Rawalpindi Signals.—Rawalpindi Signals received ½ goal on handicap.

1st Chukker.—Both sides started with scrappy play. Rawalpindi, being used to the ground, first got together, with the result that they had the best of the game. Rawalpindi ½; Kohat nil.

2nd Chukker.—A good chukker, play being up and down the field. Knight saved his side on two occasions from what appeared to be a sure goal for Kohat. Towards the end of the chukker McGregor scored with a very good shot. Rawalpindi 1½, Kohat nil.

3rd Chukker.—Kohat started off well with a run down the field from the throw-in, but Allen shot wide. The remainder of the chukker was even and no goals were scored. Rawalpindi 1½; Kohat nil.

4th Chukker.—Both sides had many shots at goal, but all went wide. Play was very even, with the result that no goals were scored. Rawalpindi won by 1½ goals to nil. Knight and McGregor both played a fine game; the latter, who only started a few months ago, showed great progress.

Rawalpindi Signals
Left to right—Capt. Smelt, Capt. McGregor, Capt. Hall, Lieut. Knight

Kohat District Signals v. Signals Remnants.—Remnants started ½ goal up on handicap.

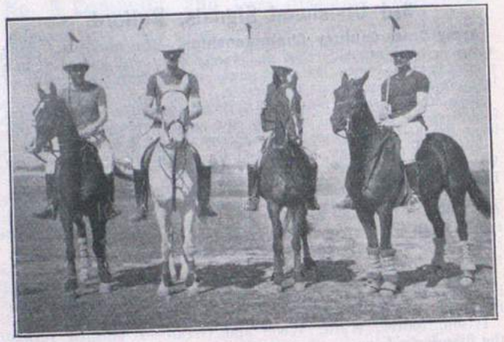
1st Chukker.—The game started with up and down play, but Kohat gradually worked the ball up the field, Allen scoring with a long shot. Just before time Morgan scored again. Kohat 2; Remnants ½.

2nd Chukker.—An even chukker, resulting in no score. Kohat 2; Remnants ½.

3rd Chukker.—Very quickly after the commencement Morgan scored with a good back-hand shot. Towards the end of the chukker Allen scored from a melee in front of goal. Kohat 4; Remnants ½.

4th Chukker.—Kohat started off by taking the ball down the field, Allen sending the ball wide. The Remnants team then got better together, making a good run, but failed to score. Kohat 4; Remnants ½.

The feature of the game was the play of Morgan, who is the best Signal player in the Command. The Remnants were handicapped by the absence of Solly, who had hurt his hand, Manly taking his place.



Signals Remnants
Left to right—Lt.-Col. Heymann, Major Mair, Lieut. Solly, Lieut. Gray

Signals Remnants v. Rawalpindi Signals.—1st Chukker.—Remnants started to press, but hit behind twice. Knight got possession of the ball, making a good run, but just missed the goal. This was a slow chukker, the Remnants having slightly the better of the game. Rawalpindi nil; Remnants nil.

2nd Chukker.—The game started in scrappy fashion. The Remnants cleared but Knight got possession and scored. From the throw in Remnants got going and Gray scored. Play for a time was up and down the field. McGregor finally got away and scored after a good run. Rawalpindi 2; Remnants 1.

3rd Chukker.—Both sides started off keenly, playing together much better than in the first two chukkers. The Remnants got away, but Solly failed to score. From a foul the Remnants got a sixty yard hit, but the ball hit a pony and after a melee it went behind. From the hit out the Remnants got going and Gray scored with a good shot. The hit out gave Rawalpindi a run, but Gray relieved, and Solly hit up to Mair whose shot went wide. Rawalpindi 2; Remnants 2.

4th Chukker.—From the hit out Rawalpindi got going, and McGregor took the ball the whole length of the field, but Heymann cleared, and Solly after a really good run scored a fine goal. (The score now left the game in a very exciting position. If the Remnants scored again, they won the cup on goals; if Rawalpindi scored, they won the cup on a win and a draw; but if neither side scored, Kohat won on goals.) From the thrown in after the last goal the Remnants got going, but the shot went wide. From the hit out Solly got possession, and after a fine piece of work just missed the goal by inches. Knight now went to No. 1, and only one minute was left to settle the winner. Knight met the ball from a hit out by the Remnants and scored a fine goal from a very sharp angle fifteen seconds before time, thus winning the cup.

The finish of the tournament was most exciting right up to the last second. The cup was presented by Mrs. May-Somerville, of Probyn's Horse, whose husband has done so much to coach our players in Rawalpindi.

Sam Browne's Cavalry, who are stationed in Rawalpindi, supplied umpires and gave us every assistance; in fact, the success of this initial tournament was largely due to them.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

The following are the results of the inter-nnit sports held on March 12th and 13th:—

100 yards—1, Sigmn Perry, 1st Indian Divl Signals (11 secs.); 2, L/Corpl Skipper, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 3, Sigmn Lane, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

One mile—1, Sigmn Hugman, B Corps Signals (5 min. 11 secs.); 2, Sigmn Cummings, B Corps Signals; 3, Sigmn Dowe, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

High jump—1, Sigmn Silver, B Corps Signals (5 ft. 3 in.); 2, Sigmn Williams, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 3, Sigmn Walker, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Three-legged race—1, L/Corpl Cackett and Sigmn Grant, B Corps Signals; 2, Signalmen Thompson and Tutt, B Corps Signals.

440 yards—1, Sigmn Lane, 1st Indian Divl Signals (55 1/5 secs.); 2, Sigmn Hoggarth, B Corps Signals; 3, Sigmn Tilbury, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Long jump—1, L/Corpl Cackett, B Corps Signals (17 ft. 9½in.); 2, Sigmn Grant, B Corps Signals; 3, Sigmn Thompson, B Corps Signals.

220 yards—1, L/Corpl Skipper, 1st Indian Divl Signals (24 4/5 secs.); 2, Sigmn Thompson, B Corps Signals; 3, Sigmn Hoggarth, B Corps Signals.

Three miles—1, Sigmn Hugman, B Corps Signals (20¾ mins.); 2, L/Corpl Wheeble, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 3, Sigmn Hoggarth, B Corps Signals.

880 yards—1, L/Corpl Skipper, 1st Indian Divl Signals (2 min. 19 secs.); 2, Sigmn Lane, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 3, Sigmn Hugman, B Corps Signals.

Sack race—1, Sigmn Clarke, 1st Indian Divl Signals; 2, Sigmn Greaves, B Corps Signals; 3, Sigmn Thompson, B Corps Signals.

120 yards hurdles—1, L/Corpl Hayler, B Corps Signals (21 secs.); 2, C.Q.M.S. Tourle, B Corps Signals; 3, Sigmn Silver, B Corps Signals.

Old soldiers' race—1, C.Q.M.S. Tourle, B Corps Signals; 2, C.Q.M.S. Freeman, B Corps Signals; 3, C.Q.M.S. McKenna, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Relay race—1, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Tug-of-war—1, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Ladies' race—1, Mrs. Stevenson; 2, Miss Kettringham.

Girls' race—1, Dora Jeffrey; 2, Betty Hughes.

Boys' race—1, Dennis Kettringham; 2, Hilary Marshall.

Peshawar District Signals.

Tennis.—The official designation of our club is Peshawar District Signals Junior N.C.O.s and Men's Tennis Club, and it ain't half some club, too!

A handicap tennis tournament was held early in February, and the following succeeded in carting off the pots: Singles, Sigmn Clackett. Doubles, Signalmen Tipping and Parrack. Congratulations are offered to them; and if they ever step into the shoes of Mdlle. Lenglen, let's hope they remember their humble beginnings on our rough and ready courts! Won't it be an honour for the next generation to say that Monsieur So and So learnt his tennis on our courts.

During the last heavy rains a portion of the court wall fell down; but don't be alarmed, you budding Tildens—we'll soon get it repaired for you!

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

The Troop played B Troop at hockey, tennis and football, but could only manage to win one of the three games. Nevertheless, everyone enjoyed the spirit displayed between the two Troops.

The hockey was won by three goals to nil, but the score was as expected, being in favour of B Troop. The tennis was also won by them. But at the premier game (football) A Troop won by three goals to nil.

Another interesting point was that a football team, picked from both Troops, met the regimental team of the 4/7th Dragoon Guards. Signals ran out victorious after an excellent game, the score being five goals to three.

We are sending a football and a hockey team to Lahore to compete in the District cup, and in our next issue of notes we hope to describe our victory (or, may be, loss).

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Congratulations are extended to Sergt Wrightson and Corpl Luck upon the receipt of a soccer referee and hockey umpire badge respectively.

The unit sports trophy is being hotly contested by teams recruited from all members of the unit, including C.Q.M.S.s

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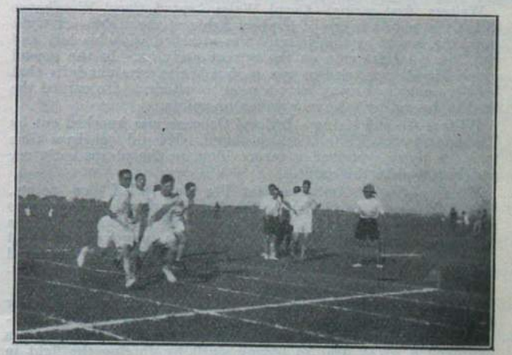
Some excellent games have been witnessed, and a very high standard of play maintained. Conjecture is rife as to the winners of the hockey, but the final of the football has already been played. "F" team (captained by Sergt Hebberd) defeated "D" team (Corpl Luck's) by two goals to one, after a very exciting struggle.

The task of the sports committee in replacing players who are going home has been considerably lightened, as the arrival of some new blood has given a fillip to both hockey and football. We have great hopes, therefore, of making a few additions to our collection of trophies this year.

Three teams (two British and one Indian) entered for the District open mile relay race held at the sports of the 1st



Handing over after first run of 220 yards in the Open Mile Relay Race

Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment. One British team obtained a first prize, and the other second place. The Indian team ran third in their class.

Signalmen Winterford and Leach both fought in special contests in the Meerut boxing tournament of the 4th Q.O. Hussars. Each of them lost on points by a very narrow margin. Sigmn Cleary also entered his name, but was disappointed in not getting a fight. Better luck next time!

The Corps in Egypt.

Boxing.

Congratulations to every member of the Corps team on the splendid performance in reaching the finals of the Egypt Command tournament, and only losing by the narrow margin of two points. By their fine show we secured sixteen valuable points for the best all-round unit sports trophy.

The Command Semi-Finals took place on March 24th, and we defeated the Somerset L.I. by 18 points to 17. Details of the contests are given below:—

OFFICERS.

Heavy—Lieut Bell beat Lieut Harper (S.L.I.) on points. He was by far the better boxer, and easily outpointed his opponent in every round.

Welter—Lieut Kennett beat Lieut Firbanks (S.L.I.) on points. This was one of the finest officer fights ever seen in the Command, and it roused the spectators to a great pitch of enthusiasm. Both boxers know a lot about the game, and it was only by a very small margin that Mr. Kennett gained the verdict.

Light—Capt Giblin lost on points to Lieut Beer (S.L.I.) The latter is a boxer of some reputation, and his strong attack and superior boxing knowledge enabled him to win by a rather large margin of points.

OTHER RANKS.

Fly—Dvr Abbott lost on points to Boy Palmer (S.L.I.) There was little to choose between these two, and it appeared that Abbott had done sufficient forcing of the fight to secure the verdict; there being great surprise when the contest was awarded to the S.L.I. representative.

Bantam—Dvr Burnham lost on points to Private Lancastle (S.L.I.). This was a very close fight, and it was only the Somerset man's better condition in the final round that enabled him to get the verdict.

Feather—Sigmn Ledsham lost on points to L/Corpl Sherston (S.L.I.). Ledsham's unorthodox stance greatly puzzled his opponent, and he had him guessing several times. Sherston, however, attacked hotly during the last round and obtained a points verdict.

Light—L/Corpl George knocked out L/Corpl Williams (S.L.I.) in the second round. George was by far the better boxer and outclassed his man from the start. After flooring his opponent twice in the second round, he gave a fine right to the chin that left no doubt in the minds of anyone as to who had won.

Welters (first string)—Corpl Wales beat L/Corpl Woodhouse (S.L.I.) on points in one of the best fights of the night. Straight from the sound of the gong Wales attacked with his left and had the Somerset man on the retreat early on. In the second round Woodhouse tried to mix it, but Wales' straight lefts that kept his opponent away were a treat to witness. He earned the verdict by rather a large number of points.

Welters (second string)—L/Corpl Osborne was knocked out by Pte Baulch (S.L.I.) in the first round. He did not have time to settle down, received a severe blow in the plexus early on, and had to take the count.

Middles—Sigmn Andrews beat Pte Fry (S.L.I.) on points. This fight was a revelation to the Corps supporters. Fry, who is one of the best boxers at the weight in the Command, was expected to win easily. Andrews, who has improved out of all knowledge, attacked from the start, and being a vastly-improved two-handed fighter he scored points easily in each round, winning by rather a large margin.

Light-heavies—Sergt Wheeler lost on points to Pte Butler (S.L.I.). These two are old rivals, and at every previous meeting Wheeler has won. This time, however, Butler (who has improved a great deal in boxing skill) by forcing the fight in the first two rounds, earned sufficient points to get the verdict. Wheeler easily got the final round, though it should be mentioned that he was suffering from a badly damaged hand before he entered the ring. The next meeting between these rivals is being eagerly looked forward to.

Heavy—Sigmn Richards won on a disqualification over L/Cpl Perkins (S.L.I.). Perkins, in his anxiety to get the fight over quickly, rushed at Richards and after flooring him twice and being ordered to stand back, failed to do so. He was again ordered to stand back, but as he still stood over Richards waiting to hit as soon as the latter rose, he was disqualified and received no points.

Final of Command Competition.—The final took place at Abbassia, Cairo, on March 30th, our opponents being the 1st Light Brigade R.A. (holders). The contests were very eagerly fought, and we only lost by two points (17 to 19).

OFFICERS.

Heavy—Lieut Bell beat Lieut Whitehead (L.B.) on points. Mr. Bell was much the better boxer, and by means of his straight left he easily secured the verdict.

Middle—Lieut Kennett knocked out Lieut Lewer (L.B.) in the second round. Mr. Kennett easily took the first round by a large margin, and attacking hotly in the second he applied the closure midway through the round.

Lights—Capt Giblin was knocked out in the third round by Lieut Serjeant (L.B.). Mr. Serjeant was by far the fitter and better boxer, and though he floored Capt Giblin several times in the second and final rounds, the latter's wonderful pluck and determination to "stick it out" won him the admiration of the whole crowd. It was a splendid example of a man not knowing when he is beaten!

OTHER RANKS.

Fly—Driver Garnham (L.B.) beat Dvr Burnham on points. Garnham, who has had years of experience at the game, knew rather too much for his opponent, and though Burnham tried all he knew, his rival got the verdict on points.

Bantam—Dvr Abbott was knocked out by Dvr Lewis (L.B.) in the second round. The result of this fight came as a great surprise, as Abbott was expected to win. He certainly won the first round, but in the second he received a strong right to the point that caused him to take the count.

Feather—Sigmn Ledsham lost on points to Dvr Fry (L.B.). There was little to choose in the first round, but in the second and third the attacking and forcing of the fight by Fry enabled him to get the verdict by a close margin of points.

Light—Corpl George beat Farrier Stock (L.B.) on points. This was one of the hardest-hitting fights of the night, both giving and taking severe punishment. George, however, took each round by a small margin and secured the verdict.

Welter (first string)—Corpl Wales lost on points to Gunner Lyne (L.B.). This was a very close fight, and though Wales took the first round by means of his strong left-handed attack, Lyne kept close in for the remaining two and by means of forcing the fight took the points by a narrow margin.

Welter (second string)—L/Corpl Osborne lost on points to Gunner Broad (L.B.). Another close contest, with little to choose between either. Broad—a strong forceful fighter—however, was always just a little ahead on points and secured the verdict.

Middle—Sigmn Andrews beat Gnr Grieves (L.B.) on points. Andrews again surprised the crowd by beating a much more experienced boxer. At the rate he is improving, we shall expect to see him Command champion next season. Grieves, who was regarded by his supporters as a "cert" winner, was outboxed and outfought by only a recent beginner at the game, Andrews securing the verdict rather easily.

Light-heavy—Sergt Wheeler knocked out L/Bdr Watson (L.B.) in the third round. Wheeler, who was still suffering from a badly damaged hand, had all his work cut out to win owing to his injury. Watson actually had him down for a count of seven in the third round, but Wheeler's ringcraft on rising kept him clear, and biding his time, he applied the closure with a beautiful double-left close to the end of the round.

Heavy—Sigmn Richards was knocked out in the first round by L/Bdr Walsh (L.B.). The latter was much too good for Richards, and quickly vanquished him.

Athletics.

The Company meetings have been held, and though no new talent has been unearthed we hope to have a better team for this year's Command than we had last season. The destination of the all-round sports trophy will rest on the results of the athletics, and we hope that at long last we shall bring the trophy to the Signal barracks.

The Corps runners did very well in the all-Egypt open cross-country race of nearly eight miles at Alexandria on April 1st, and finished second, losing by only two points. Sigmn Beeton was again first man home, winning by over half-a-mile in the new record time for the course of 41 mins. 7 secs. Signalman Cooper was ninth, Dvr Hammond tenth, and Oldale twenty-first, with Shepherd thirty-first.

At the Military Police Command sports, two days later at Gezira, Sigmn Beeton won both the mile and four miles. Strong opposition was expected from some of the Lancashire Fusiliers, who are now in the Command, and Bandsman Hipperson was second to Beeton in the mile and fifth to him in the four miles. Sigmn Cooper was sixth, and Hammond, Hillier and Oldale next, in that order. Had there been a team race in conjunction, the Corps would have won easily.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Football.—During the past few weeks the team have been going great guns in the football world, and have established a precedent by winning the small units football competition for the first time, after being knocked out in the final last year.

Our Football Team

Back row (left to right)—Cpl Ryan P. M. J., Signalmen Dickerson G. H. A. and North S.
Middle row—Sigmn Dawson A. V., C.S.M. Burgess J. A., L/Sgt Solly W., L/Cpls Thomas A. J. and Edge T. L., Sigmn Ford J., L/Cpl McKail C., Sergts Donaghy M. B. and Bawden A. E.
Front row—L/Cpl Powell H. B., Major G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., Cpl Holness A. H., Lieut C. F. Newsom and Sigmn Terry F.

As previously stated in these pages, this competition is open to all units in this Command, and the Infantry and Cavalry enter teams by Companies and Squadrons. The competition started with fourteen leagues, and the winner of each league then entered a knock-out system. We won our league quite easily, and in the eliminating stages the results were as follows:

First round—Versus H.Q. Squadron The Royals, we won by 11—0.

Second round—Versus A Company The Royal Scots, the holders of the cup and the team which defeated us last year in the final to the tune of 5—1. This time we made no mistake and won the match by 1—0.

Semi-final—Versus B Company, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, we won by 3—0.

Final—This match was played on the Slade Ground and attracted a large crowd of spectators, as we were up against 30 M.T. Company R.A.S.C.; but we were not taking any chances, and won to the tune of 5—1. The team fully deserved to win by this margin; in fact, had our forwards shown a little more steadiness in front of goal and not slackened off in the second half, they could have run the score into double figures.

After the match the cup and medals were presented by Mrs. Waters-Taylor, the wife of the A.Q.M.G. The British Troops in Egypt.

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SHARP'S SUPER-KREEM TOFFEE

All ranks join in congratulating the team on their splendid performance in winning this cup, and we hope that it may now find a permanent home in the Signal barracks.

Athletics.—The unit held its annual athletics on March 28th, with a view to finding new talent if possible and selecting the representatives for the annual Corps sports on April 11th.

This was a very good day's sport, and some good performances were seen. Nos. 2 and 3 Sections came out on top in the inter-Section competition with 57 points to their credit. H.Q. and No. 1 Sections were second with 27 points, and B Cable Section third with 15 points.

After the events had finished Mrs. Tillard, wife of the officer commanding No. 3 Company Egypt Signals, kindly distributed the prizes. The winners of the respective events were:—

100 yards—1, Sergt Jennison (10 4/5 secs.); 2, Corpl George; 3, L/Corpl Dunn.

220 yards—1, Sergt Jennison (25 1/5 secs.); 2, Corpl George; 3, Sergt Barnham.

440 yards—1, Sergt Jennison (1 min.); 2, Corpl George; 3, Sigmn Andrews.

880 yards—1, Corpl Wales (2 min. 20 4/5 secs.); 2, Signalman Andrews; 3, Sigmn Chambers.

Mile—1, Dvr Stillwell (5 min. 23 1/5 secs.); 2, Corpl Frommel; 3, L/Corpl McKail.

Three miles—1, Dvr Stillwell (18 min. 1 3/5 secs.); 2, Sigmn Woolley; 3, Sigmn Brice.

Hurdles—1, Sigmn Connaughton (17 3/5 secs.); 2, Corpl George; 3, Sigmn Andrews.

High jump—1, Sigmn Connaughton (5 ft. 2 ins.); 2, Sigmn Gibson; 3, Sigmn Andrews.

Long jump—1, Sigmn Connaughton (19 ft. 4 ins.); 2, Sergeant Jennison; 3, Sigmn Davies.

Putting the shot—1, L/Corpl McKail (30 ft. 10 ins.); 2, Sigmn Connaughton; 3, Sigmn North.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Company Sports.—The Company sports took place on the Corps ground on March 28th, and considering our small numbers some very fine performances were seen. In the detailed results given below the same old names appear again, with very few fresh ones. However, a good sprinter was found in Signalman Rolls, whilst some really fine jumping was done by Signalman Brooker, who (with no training and in rubber shoes) cleared 5 feet 3 inches and possibly could have done more if necessary.

100 yards—1, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 2, Sergt Wheeler; 3, Sigmn Rolls.
220 yards—1, Sergt Wheeler; 2, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 3, Sigmn Rolls.
440 yards—1, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 2, Sigmn Holman; 3, Sigmn Backhouse.
880 yards—1, Sigmn Cooper; 2, Sigmn Backhouse; 3, Sigmn Hillier.
Mile—1, Sigmn Beeton; 2, Sigmn Hammond; 3, Sigmn Powell.
Three miles—1, Sigmn Cooper; 2, Sigmn Hillier; 3, Signalman Hammond.
High jump—1, Sigmn Brooker; 2, Sigmn Adams; 3, Signalman McKeer.
Long jump—1, Sigmn Elliott; 2, Sigmn Smith J.; 3, Sigmn Bodimeade.
Putting the shot—1, L/Corpl Williams; 2, Sigmn Brown R.; 3, Sigmn Jager.
Hurdles—1, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 2, Sigmn Goble; 3, Signalman Mains.
Obstacle—1, Sigmn Smith J.; 2, Sigmn Omond W.
Backwards race—Sigmn Beech successfully defended his title.
Consolation race—1, Sigmn Gough; 2, Sigmn Chaloner.

Sigmn Beeton retains his form well, and again won the big cross-country race at Alexandria (open to all Egypt) on April 1st. Three days later he competed in and won both the open mile and four miles at the Military Police Command sports, this being the fourth successive year he has won the open events at these sports.

Sigmn Cooper is showing great improvement, and came in ninth in the cross-country race at Alexandria and sixth in the four miles at the Police sports. Dvr Hammond filled next position to him on each occasion. Sigmn Hillier is another discovery, and he improves every time he turns out.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Cricket.—On Saturday, February 18th, the Signals played the R.E.s in an eight-a-side cricket match. Plenty of good sport was witnessed. The match resulted in a win for the Signals by 61 runs. Scores: R.E.s—L/Corpl Goodger 45; Lieut MacDonald 16; Sapper Betts 9; Sapper Earl 17; Sapper Rimmel 1; Sapper Peters 5; C.S.M. Kennard 0; Sigmn Wilkins 8; extras 15—total 114.

Signals—Sergt Bent 3; Sigmn Turner 2; L/Corpl Butler 41; Sigmn Walters 52; Sigmn Durand 40; Sigmn Penny 13; Sigmn Hogg not out 0; Sigmn Hutchcroft 0; extras 24—total 175.

Tennis.—On March 1st the finals of the Garrison tennis tournament were completed. In the doubles S/Sergt Waterfield and Pte Lake (R.A.O.C.) beat Sergt Trumper and Sapper Adams (R.E.) by 6—1, 6—love. Thus ended our interest in the tennis championships! Another pot is now missing from the cupboard—only to be regained next year, with a bit of luck.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals, Cardiff.

The Football Club finished the season with a friendly match at Blakeney (Glos.) on Good Friday. Ha! what an outing! The team was met by the Silver Band, and selections were played before and after the match. Tea was provided, and a great day was spent. The result was in favour of the home team by 2 goals to nil. All the arrangements were carried out by C.Q.M.S. Williams R. E., assisted by Sergt Burton.

The following is our record for our first year in the Cardiff and District League: Played 22; won 4; drawn 9; lost 9. Considering the great difficulty of starting and organising a football team in a T.A. unit, C.Q.M.S. Williams and Sergt Burton are to be congratulated on the results of the first season; and we all hope that the team will prove even stronger next year.

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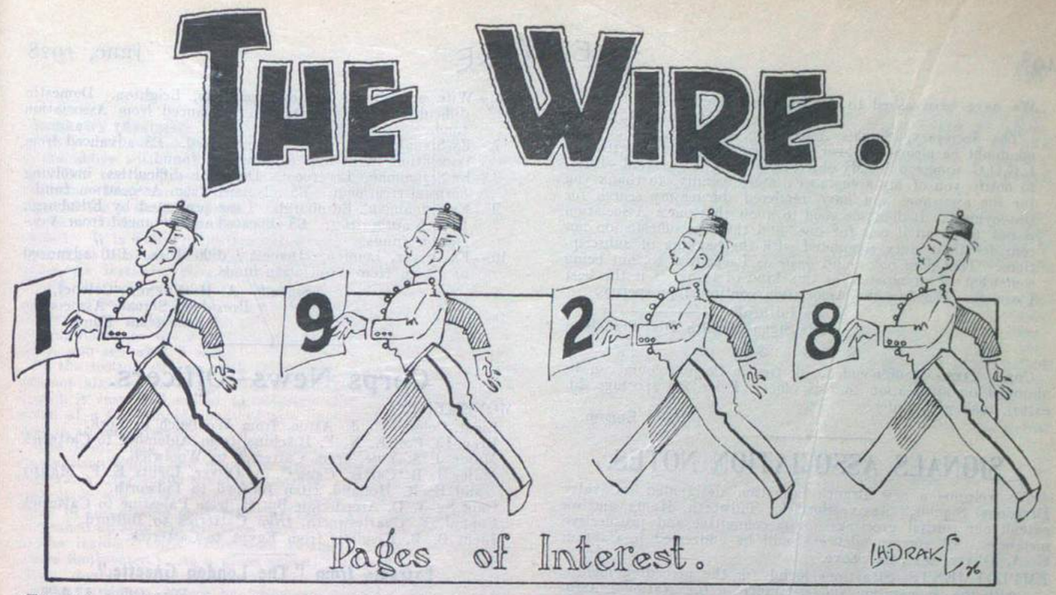

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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.
Telephone: Victoria 2081

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Twelve Months 7/0
Six Months 3/6
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Post Free, home or abroad.

THE TREASURER,
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION,
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VOL. IX.—No. 100 JUNE, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

The new Corps Promotion Roster (pocket edition) is now in the hands of the printer, and will shortly be available for distribution to those who have already sent in their orders. Will those who have not yet submitted their requirements please do so without delay, as the supply is limited. Price 1/- per copy (post free).

❀ ❀ ❀

A correspondent has asked us to notify readers that he has four copies of the 1927 bound volume of THE WIRE for disposal. Application for same may be made through this office.

❀ ❀ ❀

The following is published by special request: "To 'The Corps in Egypt.' Heartiest congratulations on winning the best all-round unit shield. May it remain a permanent fixture!—JONAH, ex-J Section, Egypt Signals."

❀ ❀ ❀

In our issue of September last we published an article by Capt. J. L. McKinlay, M.M., of Western Australian Signals, entitled "Signalling Down Under." Readers will be pleased to know that a second interesting article has now been received and will shortly appear in our pages.

❀ ❀ ❀

We welcome to our ever-growing list of readers the 1st Australian Divisional Signals, Paddington, New South Wales, and extend to them our cordial greetings.

Extract from a recent issue of *The Times*:—

FRONTIER LAW.

MAHSUD METHODS OF PROTEST.

From our Correspondent.

Lahore, May 10th.

A curious case of Frontier law has come before the Peshawar Bench. Shahir Khan, a young Waziristan Mahsud, six months ago fired three blank shots at Signalman Howell on the Razmak road. His defence when tried was that as there were no Courts in Waziristan, it was a recognized custom to call attention to a grievance by firing blank shots at people. He contended that he was entitled to the post of havildar in the local Irregulars, but had not obtained it, so he fired at a pedestrian to "make a noise" on the subject and to persuade the tribal authorities to put him forward for the post.

The Political Agent sentenced him to five years' imprisonment for criminal intimidation, but Shahir Khan appealed to the Judicial Commissioner at Peshawar, and a full Bench in the Commissioners' Court has acquitted him. The main point at issue was: Who was threatened and why? It was decided that the intention was to threaten the Government, and the question then arose whether the Government was jurisdictionally present on the Razmak road in the person of Signalman Howell to be threatened. The Court held that the Government was present, but that the fact of shooting at the signalman did not mean that the accused would repeat the performance.

We should be glad to know if Signalman Howell, as an accredited representative of the British Government, should in future be accorded a salute of twenty-one guns.

We have been asked to publish the following:—

London, 15/5/28.

The Secretary, Signals Association.—Dear Sir,—You will no doubt be pleased to hear that I commence work with the L.G.O.C. to-morrow. My object in writing is two-fold—First, to notify you of my acceptance; and secondly, to thank you for the assistance you have rendered during my search for employment. It does one good to know that one's Association is out to do all it can for one, and that the officials do not consider their duty completed with the banking of subscriptions. That does not sound *quite* as I meant it to, but being somewhat of an amateur at this kind of thing, it is the best I can do. Wishing the Association continued prosperity,

Yours faithfully, ———
Late Signalman 4th Divl Signals.

❀ ❀ ❀

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order.

EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

We welcome a new Branch formation designated "Cavalry Divisional Signals," Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, Hants, and we extend our cordial greetings to its committee and prospective members. All correspondence should be addressed to Captain C. A. Oliver, M.C., as above.

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:

Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-N.C.O.	Telegraphist, G.P.O.
Ex-Signalman	Domestic Service
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-Signalman	Butler-Valet
Ex-N.C.O.	Agricultural Employment, Canada
Ex-N.C.O.	Officer's Valet
Ex-Signalman	Domestic Service
Ex-N.C.O.	Domestic Service
Ex-Signalman	Hospital Attendant
Ex-N.C.O.	Surveyor's Assistant
Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-Signalman	Attendant
Ex-N.C.O.	Railway Porter
Ex-Signalman	Railway Porter
Ex-Signalman	House Porter
Ex-Signalman	

Total 22

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
P.R.I., 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
P.M.C. 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals, Exeter.
Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta, India.
Signal Section, Malaya, Singapore.
P.R.I., Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

APPEALS dealt with:—
1.—Ex-N.C.O., Dover. Domestic difficulties. £6/16/0 advanced from Association funds as a loan.
2.—Ex-Signalman, Blackdown. Application for loan. Case in hand.
3.—Ex-Signalman, London. Financial difficulties. £3 advanced from Association funds and employment secured.
4.—Ex-N.C.O., London. Acute domestic and financial difficulties, involving medical and hospital treatment. £22/3/2 allocated and advanced from Association funds.
5.—Widowed mother and family of ex-Signalman (deceased). Domestic difficulties. Case in hand.
6.—Wife and family of ex-Signalman, Brighton. Domestic difficulties. £5 allocated and advanced from Association funds.
7.—Ex-Signalman, London. Unemployed. £3 advanced from Association funds and employment found.
8.—Ex-Signalman, Liverpool. Domestic difficulties, involving hospital treatment. £5 advanced from Association funds.
9.—Ex-Signalman, Edinburgh. Case presented by Edinburgh Branch authorities. £3 allocated and advanced from Association funds.
10.—Ex-Driver, London. Domestic difficulties. £10 advanced as a loan from Association funds.

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

Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—
Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Aston, from Woolwich to York.
Brev.-Lt.-Col. E. N. F. Hitchins, from Aldershot to Catterick
Major J. S. Yule, from Catterick to Woolwich.
Major J. R. Carter, Capt C. A. Oliver, Lieuts E. F. Maltby and H. R. Holland, from Bulford to Tidworth.
Capt St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler, from Palestine to Catterick
Capt J. F. Charlesworth, from Catterick to Bulford.
Lieut B. B. Kennett, from Egypt to Catterick.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 17/4/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt B. Hussey, M.C., ceases to be employed with Sudan Def. Force, 1/4/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Major G. R. Nichols resigns his commission, 18/4/28.

War Office, 20/4/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. r. Tweedie-Smith to be Lieut. 8/11/27.
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lt C. N. Atkinson to be Lt. 1/7/27
H. W. G. Westlake to be 2/Lieut. 1/2/28.

India Office, 20/4/28.

COMMANDS AND STAFF—
The undermentioned appointments have been made in India:
G.S.O. 2nd Grade, Madras District, Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, 20/1/28.
Asst. to S.O.-in-C. (G.S.O.2), Major W. E. Pain, M.C., R.Signals, 10/12/27.
Bde.-Major, 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade, Major H. I. Allen, D.S.O., R.Signals, 10/12/27.
The undermentioned officers have vacated appointments in India:—
D/C.S.O. Northern Command, Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, 20/1/28.
Asst. to S.O.-in-C. (G.S.O.2), Major H. I. Allen, D.S.O., R.Signals, 10/12/27.

War Office, 1/5/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt F. S. Straight, M.C., is seconded for duty with Sudan Def. Force, 5/4/28.
Lieut R. H. Gem to be Captain, 1/5/28, with regimental seniority 9/5/21 (such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay).

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
51st (H.) Divl Signals—Lieut A. H. Lennie to be Capt. 24/2/28

War Office, 4/5/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
Capt W. M. Miller, M.C., to be Major, 16/3/28.
Lieut H. P. Hart, M.C., to be Captain, 1/5/28, with regimental seniority 9/5/21 (such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay, or retired pay).

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Major F. Penfold resigns his commission, 5/5/28.

[*Continued on page* 206.]

Plain Tales.

Musketry (Revised).—"Blessed are they who expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed." Having delivered himself of the above witty and original phrase, the author unbuttoned his collar and prepared to justify the prophecies of his fellow students. They are all convinced that musketry holds heaps of material for a Corps Journal.

I have no doubt that the little red book covers most of the subject. It is well written and the explanations are lucid. However, there is much that might have been included. In Care of Arms, for instance, they might have added: "On no account should the bolt be used to drive nails into wood, plaster or brick." "Soldiers should, whenever possible, avoid poking the fire with the muzzle of the rifle." Further, "The practice of carving names on the woodwork should be sternly discouraged." Well, you see what I mean?

In the section dealing with Quickening Exercises, the writer has not allowed his imagination to run away with him. This section is very well suited to ordinary units, but no account is taken of a fast-running body of men like the Signals. My own idea is an improvement.

The front rank of the class should leave their rifles and ammunition behind and march to a point about 500 yards away, preferably over rough ground, trenches, and barbed wire. The rear rank will then dismantle the rifles, burying the various parts in the ground at 20-feet intervals. The ammunition may be packed up and sent by goods train to Pimlico, clearly labelled on the inside, "Caps, Hurricane, Prismatic." (See if *that* becomes moth-eaten.) At a given signal, the front rank will turn about, double to their quarters, wash, shave, change into plain clothes, write an article on "Sergeant-majors I have kissed" (not more than 500 words), recover their ammunition and rifles, assemble, and fire ten rounds, charger and all.

I think the rear rank might go to the pictures whilst this is on.

• • • •

Haughty Culture.—This is something to be very carefully guarded against. Perhaps you have met the man who inveigles you into his alleged garden and makes you feel a worm, just because you only grow good honest cabbage whilst he grows pâte-de-fois gras or cavaire or something posh. Don't get like that yourself. Always remember that a turnip is a radish's grandfather, and that the plural of radish is radii, the final i being silent like the sugar in the men's tea.

We digress. Getting back to the question of flowers, now that we have dealt with vegetables! (Haven't we?) Let me advise you to start growing your pea sticks right now. In a short time sweet peas will be looking for something to climb up. You will be in a quandary if there is nothing for them.

I sincerely trust that your rockery is doing well. My neighbour, a very decent chap, brought about a ton of stones, rocks, chalk, concrete slabs, etc., from his allotment and put them on my garden during the night. Modest fellow. I wasn't contemplating a rockery, though, and I thought the seeds I had sown the week before would have some difficulty in coming up. I therefore put as many as possible in his car, a good number in his porch, and the remainder through his front windows. Dear! dear! how we laughed over it. What, after all, are a few stones between friends?

Well, time is short. The year creeps along, as years will. Day breaks, and nobody mends it. Night falls, and never a soul thinks to pick it up. All seeds should be in by now. If not already in, plant them quickly, drawing the hand away sharply after each seed has been dropped in its place. Canterbury belles should not be showing just yet, and any tendency on their part to thrust through the ground should be checked with a good rammer, obtainable at any shop where they sell them.

Some misunderstanding appears to exist regarding the correct method of planting carrots (grubus asinine)—a very hardy flower. Materials necessary: a gimlet for the hole, and a small mallet. The carrot should be gently tapped into the hole to ensure a correct fit. Your neighbour will also have a fit if he sees you.

Don't pamper your plants and flowers. Salisbury belles should be treated with soft sifted soil (in a sock).

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Readers may communicate with me on horticulture. I will answer if I have time. Each query should be accompanied by a money order for about £5 obtainable at any good Post Office. (N.B.—On production of about £5.)

* * * *

Musicians' Corner: No. IV.—We have now progressed to the stage where we can begin to form our orchestra. This requires very careful consideration. Your men need to be good musicians. Teach them to name the instruments on sound from a gramophone record. In time they will be able to distinguish between a muted trumpet and a saxophone.

It is an advantage if they all play different instruments. A band of piano, drums and five triangles in B flat is no less ghastly than piano, drums, alto sax, tenor sax, soprano sax, clarinet, banjo, trumpet, trombone, tuba, banjo again, and four violins, all playing the piano part.

The first thing to do is to sound the market. How much can the local committees afford to pay? What is that, divided by five? Not enough! Right; then you want only four. Start by sacking all the people who think they can play the drums. Now, four pianos won't do; nor four drums. No; what you want is four, all different, but all able to play something else. I'm sure you are finding this information of the greatest value.

The next thing is some music. This is much better than individual members playing what *they* know and leaving the others to "muck in," as it were.

Having obtained the music, tear it up and buy something more modern. Those were last year's copies, you silly thing! Who is? You are, and blow you. I shan't tell you any more now until next month. I'll bet that's made you wild.

Tip to amateurs: When in doubt, lead trumps.

* * * *

The Strange Case of the Flat Parsley.—New readers, pass right along the car. Synopsis of previous chapters, see April WIRE.

Ukan Larfe felt the back of his head tenderly and discovered that he had a pronounced swelling on his forehead. (The fool!) He dragged himself to his feet, no one else's feet being available, and gazed through the window of the fast-moving taxi. Should he chance it?

The thought fascinated him. He was not wanting in courage of a certain kind. Judging his time carefully, he opened the door and slid quietly into the road, the rear wheel passing over his neck with scarcely a sound. He rose swiftly, put a handful of coal on the fire, poured himself out a banana, and rang the front door bell of Sir Goofus Gooly's town house. He was admitted in less than half an hour and conducted to the morning room, where Sir Goofus and his daughter Claribel were lunching in evening dress.

"My dear Ukan," cried the surprised Sir Goofus, the peas rolling off his knife with a clatter.

"What, the old Goof," replied Ukan, grasping his friend's hand in cultured tones.

"Good evening, Mr. Larfe," said Claribel. Ukan blushed, stammered something about it having been a fine day, when he knew dashed well it had been raining like blazes since yesterday, and flopped into a chair.

He had always had a sneaking regard for the beautiful daughter of Sir Goofus. As he gazed at her now, with his soul in his eyes, and a pea recovered from the floor in his mouth, he could not help comparing her with other girls he had met. Her beautiful white arms held his gaze for a moment. True, one was a bit longer than the other. That little wart on her nose; how he loved it. Those thick glasses shielded two soft eyes—one brown, one blue. So original!

"Well, Ukan," roared bluff old Sir Goofus; "how goes it?"

"Pretty well, Goof; only I am engaged on a difficult case at present." Ukan looked under the table and fixed a false beard into place. "You never can tell," he muttered in an assumed voice.

"Doing yourself proud these days, Goof," he said, looking approvingly at the handsome furniture. Sir Goofus preened himself. "Yes, my lad." He slapped the arm of a huge leather chair. "Bit of good stuff here. Expensive? yes, but last a lifetime. Last a lifetime."

Ukan cut a long slit in the chair and examined a handful of the stuffing through a microscope. "Not bad," he admitted grudgingly. He extracted another handful and examined it through a telescope. After a while he gave a little grunt of satisfaction, and a sort of half snort (probably of gratification).

In the palm of his hand lay a small piece of parsley, its surface innocent of wave or ripple. He looked up sharply and fixed Sir Goofus with his steely eye (the disengaged eye being closed). That worthy smiled a sickly smile and nodded feebly in the direction of his daughter.

Ukan transferred his gaze to Claribel. Her face was the hue of ashes. She clutched the edge of the mantel-piece with her teeth, slipped, made another ineffectual grab, and dropped to the floor in a dead faint.

Years of training enabled Ukan to think and act swiftly. Placing his revolver on the table so that it pointed straight at Sir Goofus, he threw a bucket of sand over the unconscious girl. Without waiting to see the result of his action, he grabbed his revolver, shattered a large mirror, and rushed upstairs. He climbed through a skylight on to the roof and made his way gingerly to the edge. Pausing only to fire a few shots down the chimney, he slid down the drain pipe and reached the street in safety. He stopped for a moment to change his beard, socks, and false teeth; then, satisfied that he was not being followed, he took a tram and went to Highgate.

Authors, note! This will have to do for the time being. I'm blowed if I know what he has gone to Highgate for. Must have a pretty good reason. I mean, you know Highgate, I suppose?

(To be continued).

* * * *

CORRESPONDENCE.—Ned, Shipton on Wallop: Yes, it is quite in order to wear an Austin Seven with a sports coat. Write again.

BARLEUX.

With the Forest Fire Patrol, Saskatchewan.

By CAPTAIN A. R. ST. LOUIS, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

Eight hours in a mixed passenger and freight train! The air had the sticky clamminess of a steam laundry, and my shirt and collar clung in a damp embrace of discomfort. The conductor's cry of "Big River" came as welcome as the proverbial flowers in May!

So I dismounted at Big River, the gateway of the great Churchill. There was little to suggest its past glory of lumber camps and saw-mills. Now, it stood quiet and serene! just a little jumping-off place on the fringe of northern wastes.

My luggage being loaded on the Ford truck that was waiting for me, we sped along the road in fine style and soon reached the Air Station, a mile and a quarter away. Right on the shore of Ladder Lake it stood, a pleasant jumble of friendly tents. Out on the lake rode the planes at their moorings, peaceful and motionless, with nothing to suggest their roaring speed and agility. More like old Spanish galleons they looked in the gathering dusk.

Typical Air Force hospitality welcomed me and showed me my comfortable "digs," and soon we were sitting down to a splendid dinner in the mess, which (like everything else around) seemed to have a history. Reminiscent of the old show boats that plied the Mississippi, this was an old scow that was towed around the adjoining lakes and served as a travelling hotel to lumber jacks coming from their jobs with their pockets lined and their appetites whetted. To use slang, many a "hot" party must have been "thrown" there that make present-day ones look like "back numbers." Shootings were not uncommon, and men were noted for their steady aim.

After a pleasant evening in this atmosphere we turned in, and awoke next morning for a real "he-man's" breakfast. Preparations were being made for the day's aerial patrol. Fuel, sleeping bags, emergency rations and fire-fighting equipment were loaded on the plane. The equipment was of the latest type: a small gasoline fire pump capable of forcing water through 1½ in. hose for any distance up to a mile, together with some 4000 feet of hose. This pump is capable of a water pressure of 90 lbs. to the square inch and a fire stream from the nozzle of about 50 feet. The pilot, the District Fire Chief and my humble self made ready for the trip. Clad in leather suits and decked with life-belts, parachutes and leather goggles, we looked like Lindbergh set for his trans-Atlantic flight—or perhaps mummies of ancient Egyptian kings come to life.

"The mechanic's set for you," said the pilot; and my chest swelled visibly until I learned that this exalted position beside the pilot entailed cranking the engine. Crawling through a conglomeration of wires and struts, I followed the instructions of our captain and got the thing started. Off it went with a rushing roar that vibrated to my very soles. "O.K.?" quoth the pilot, as I crawled in. "Yes," I yelled in reply, trying to coax a cheerful grin. The plane tore across the water, gaining speed as it went. For ten seconds I was lost in the dual task of watching the pilot handle his wheel and gazing at the panorama of scenery that tore past us. My impressions at this moment may be likened to an Irish stew, and not a few of many varied thoughts may be considered just as doubtful as some of the ingredients of that most beloved of Erin's dishes. Then, as the machine picked up speed, it rose slowly in the water on to its step. Faster and faster it tore and gradually slipped off the water, and we were suspended in mid-air, the roar of the engines making a veritable windstorm around our helmeted heads.

Slowly (it seemed) we climbed, and the view of the surrounding country spread itself wider and wider before us until it disappeared in a hazy mist many miles away. When the altimeter indicated a height of 1100 feet, the pilot stopped his gentle circling and headed the machine for the north. I reached for the map which had been given me and tried to pick out the larger bodies of water and so gain an idea of our course. My plotting must have been amateurish, for the pilot let go the controls and, leaning over towards me, pointed out several features noted on the map. (My stomach gave several violent lurches, and I had hazy visions of the machine hurtling its way through space toward the hard, hard ground. However (wonder of wonders!) nothing happened, and much to my surprise the machine kept perfectly steady. The nervousness that had been vaguely asserting itself at the start vanished, and I settled down to enjoy the trip to the utmost.

Safety at the danger line

Where the necks of the teeth meet the gums and the enamel is thinnest—there is the danger line.

Be safe! Do as Dentists do and advise. Use Gibbs Dentifrice three times a day.

Its fragrant antiseptic foam seethes into the tiny crevices, kills germs, removes impurities and polishes to pearl-like lustre without harming or scratching the precious enamel.

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

GD 45L

Our course was north over Lac de Laronde and then slightly east-of-north to Smoothstone Lake, a distance of some seventy-five miles. Luckily the wind was with us, and the pilot, by making weird signs and pointing to the map and clock, indicated that we would be there in some fifty-five minutes. He also had a little book with him, and he wrote messages to me much in the manner of the little notes we used to write surreptitiously to each other in school. When I had read a message, I wrote the answer on the back and passed it to him again. He would sometimes print with his finger on the windshield, and by following the sign I could make out what was printed. But this was all mild compared with the weird signs that went on between him and the passenger in the front seat. It all seemed very funny to me, but the participants semed to understand perfectly and would answer each other with broad grins of understanding.

Slowly the countryside slipped by in an array of matchless beauty. Lakes, large and small, unfolded themselves, with the shimmering strings of little rivers winding their way between them. Areas of trees, green and verdant, were followed by patches of what seemed grassland, dotted with queerly regular clumps of trees.

The shade and density of the forest changed from rich emerald (birch and poplar) to a dark purple-like green (pine and spruce, thick on the lake shore). Then that tragedy, the north woods, presented itself—the ravages of fire never so poignant as when viewed from the air. Vast and desolate, with trees scattered like tiny burnt matches—charred fragments of what might have been sheltering walls or crisp white newspapers. Here and there were patches of green, survivors of the merciless flames, which stood in stark contrast. Think of the vanished wealth represented by these vast stretches of ravished forests! Looking at them now from the air, appreciation of the necessity for our Government to plan vigilant watch over these forests, which represent so much of the nation's wealth, struck me with new force. This unceasing panorama of forests, alive and dead, followed by the spectacle of the hardy

fire-fighters battling with living sheets of flame, was a wonderful insight into the great drama which is being enacted daily by the forces of the Forestry Service in defence of one of our greatest resources.

One of the duties of the occupant of my exalted seat was the letting out of the radio aerial from a reel situated at my right-hand side, fastened to the hull of the machine. Prior to leaving the ground I had been given instructions on how to do this, and when after five minutes in the air the pilot pointed to the reel, I carefully remembered what I had been told and proceeded to unwind the aerial with its trailing lead weight through the faring tube in the bottom of the hull. A quick glance assuring the pilot that all was in readiness, he quickly turned on a few gadgets on the dash board and started pressing away at a telegraph key fixed on a stand at the right of his seat. Later he held a microphone to his mouth, and I could see his lips moving as he talked back to the station at Big River. This set was capable of sending from the air up to 350 miles, and kept the Air Force commanding officer at the base in constant touch with his aircraft. Similarly, when fires were spotted, all particulars were sent back to the base, where a larger machine stood ready to take fighters and pumps to the fire if necessary.

Far on the horizon Smoothstone Lake, our destination, loomed blue and tree-surrounded, and curling from their midst a column of smoke which thickened as we approached it. The machine was throttled back and soon we began to lose height, closing in great circles around the fire. The smoke rose thick and stifling, and only glimpses of the earth below were discernible through its haze. The fire was roughly a mile wide, and it had apparently burned over a stretch parallel to the lake-shore for about two miles. Only a few minutes elapsed before we alighted a few yards from shore and with a burst of engine ran up on the sandy beach.

From the smoke four or five very black fighters emerged and greeted us, helping to tie up the machine by ropes from the wings to nearby bushes. In a short time the pump and hose were unloaded under the direction of the occupant of the front seat, our fire chief. The engine was carried to a point on the beach adjoining the fire, from which the men started to lay hose lines. The little engine was laid close to the water, and with a short intake pipe run into the lake was ready for business.

Curious, as always, I went into the bush to get a "close-up" of the fire. Walking over the burned portion to the far side and then working up to the flank, we were upon it. The roar of the fire filled the air with a malicious banging crackle, and the heat filled our lungs and assailed our bodies with waves of giddiness. However, the fighters received the onslaughts of its breath with stoical indifference, and dragged the hose fearlessly to within a few feet of the flames. The water on the fire sent up clouds of hot steam and added a sharp hiss to the already over-burdened medley of sound.

To stay long was impossible to me. The cool breezes of the shore were welcome, and the yellow stretch of clean sand looked like a haven of bliss as I approached, making an appropriate setting for the pilot, who had succumbed to the caressing lap of the water and was giving a splendid imitation of one of "the three Graces"—which one, I am not sure. I wasted no time in joining him. Far from the maddening throng and the chance of meeting one of the feminine sex, the absence of the conventional suit proved luxurious and cool, especially after the angry heat of the flames. A widening circle of soot followed my first plunge into the water.

When our fire chief and front seat occupant returned, a peaceful scene greeted his smarting eyes. Two white savages reclined on the sand, smoking an after-swim cigarette. Black hot soot covered him, but oh! what a smile. With a flash of white teeth in his blackened face he reported joyfully that the pump and hose were going to turn the trick, and that if the wind did not rise the men would have the fire under control by the next morning. My first thought on hearing this was a bit of sympathy for the fighters, who still had eighteen or twenty hours' battling with smoke and heat; and my second was one of relief that I did not have to stay and play with them.

The fire chief followed our lead by having a dip, and the pilot and I started to cook a bite to eat. Ambrosial odours arose, or at least they were ambrosial to us, and we enjoyed a feast seemingly fit for the gods. Our natural bathing suits afforded great freedom of movement and added a note of novelty to the proceedings.

The watch on the pilot's wrist now stood at 1.30, and with the knowledge of still more flying to be done that day, he broke up our little after-dinner tête-a-tête—and we quickly prepared to leave, putting pots and pans in the machine.

From Smoothstone we flew over Dore Lake, Lac la Plonge, and so on north to Ile-a-la-Crosse, where we landed at the settlement. Here I was left with the Hudson's Bay factor while the machine took a ranger and a load of supplies up to Beaver Lake, some seventy miles further north.

The aircraft returned late, so it was decided to stay at La Crosse for the night. The plane made a short flight, notified Ladder Lake of our decision by radio, and asked them to "listen in" the following morning.

The next day we started back, calling at three ranger stations where rangers were flown over their areas. Late in the afternoon we passed over Smoothstone on our way home.

The fire was almost out; only a few small puffs of smoke circled up from two or three spots. Descending to 500 feet we could make out the rangers and their canoes on the shore line. Waving lustily, we received an answering signal in kind and headed homeward.

About seven o'clock Ladder Lake loomed in sight, and within half-an-hour we were seated for dinner, which was followed by bridge and conversation—largely conversation on my part, as the two-day trip was a novel, even thrillirg, experience for me.

The next morning I again sat in the train headed for Prince Albert. I had had only forty-eight hours with the Saskatchewan Aerial Patrol, but it is a period that is stamped indelibly on my mind, never to be forgotten.

Big Game Hunting in Egypt.

Keen-eyed, watchful and alert, Tap Nayr, the famous big game hunter, sat outside the door of his shack in the heart of the district of Nogylop, Egypt. For hours had he sat thus, awaiting the coming of the wild beast he had set his heart on shooting.

Several days had elapsed since he first discovered the animal's spoor in the vicinity of his quarters; and only the day before he had caught a glimpse of the animal close to the fence around the compound, and noticed what a splendid skin it possessed.

The day was very hot, and Tap paused in his cleaning to wipe away the sweat from his handsome and sunburnt face, whilst he pondered on some of the deeds on the football, rugby, hockey and cricket fields that had made him famous throughout the land of Nogylop. His great objective in life now, however, was to obtain the skin of the wild beast on whose track he had set out.

Suddenly he started, for he had heard a sound close to the wire fencing that surrounded the compound. Swiftly and silently he darted round his shack and loaded his gun. Slowly he peered round the corner and was gratified to see, not more than twenty paces away, the animal he had been tracking for days.

Remaining as quiet as a mouse he watched the animal sniffing the ground close to the building wherein his meals were cooked by his faithful servant Mahdlo, who had been warned, owing to the ferocious nature of the animal, to keep out of sight.

The creature slunk across the path into the shadow of the hut that held the food supplies, and darted upon the waste food left lying on the ground to attract him.

Tap Nayr slowly raised his gun, and resting it against the corner of his shack he aligned it on the animal. At last his chance had come! The animal was probably one of the finest of its species in existence, and he was going to be the slayer! What a trophy the skin would make for presentation to his comrades' mess! Yes: this was certainly his lucky day.

Suddenly the wild beast raised his head and sniffed the air, doubtless getting a scent of his pursuer. Now was the time, thought Tap, and, holding his gun as steady as a rock, he gently squeezed the trigger. A thunderous roar awoke the echoes as the charge exploded, depositing its load of buckshot in the animal's body, causing it to give one great leap into the air and to fall down writhing in its death agonies.

Hardly had the echoes died away when a tremendous cheer arose on all sides. Britishers and native servants poured out of the compound buildings into the roadway, where the body of the animal lay, all of them eager to pay homage to the now famous Tap Nayr.

With a modest smile, and an expressive "Alone I did it!" wave of his arms, he pushed his way through the excited crowd to his shack, there to clean his faithful gun and seek the sleep he so justly deserved.

[Five minutes elapse.]

Machmoud the sanitary wallah approaches the Signals' cookhouse at Polygon, and removes from the roadway the carcase of the dead wild dog (pi-ard, if you like!) that the n.c.o. i/c regimental police has just shot. An order decreeing that all stray and unmuzzled dogs are to be destroyed has been faithfully complied with! ART.

The Third Relief.

The prevailing epidemic of crook plays has prompted the production of "The Third Relief," a thriller which I have pleasure in presenting to the public for the first time.

Eighteen murders, twenty-three suicides, an explosion in a bakery at Minehead and the execution of two malefactors, in the second act, provide moments of tense excitement in a play which for sheer diabolical horror has yet to find its equal.

Needless to say, the rights throughout the United Kingdom are, if anything, rather more than reserved.

* * * *

SYNOPSIS.

Thomas Beale, guard of the 5.18 p.m. from London Bridge to Crystal Palace, is found lying on the floor of the brake-van shot in the back. Later that day the police find the broken blade of a fretwork saw lying between the metals three hundred yards from Bellingham Station.

THE THIRD RELIEF.

A Play in Three Acts.

ACT I.

Scene: Baker Street Station.

Sentry: "Halt! who goes there?"

(A body falls on to the verandah).

Sentry (mechanically): "My beat extends from the S.A.A. store—"

Enoch Sullivan, a professional mesmerist of Erith, is found in Corporation Street, Birmingham, hanging by the neck from a lamp standard. At the subsequent inquest police evidence proves a cousin of the deceased to be one of the Shropshire Sullivans.

ACT II.

Scene: A Grocer's Store in Cardiff.

Customer: "——and two pounds of loaf sugar."

A Miss Simmonds, the cashier, is found lying dead on the floor of the cash desk. A wet umbrella is under the till.

Assistant: "Will that be all, madam?"

A canary in No. 15 Myrtle Villas, Sydenham, dies suddenly.

INTERVAL.

ACT III.

Scene: Oxford Circus.

B.B.C. Announcer: "Here is the second general news bulletin."

A well-dressed man boards a No. 8a bus and books to Purley. His terribly mutilated body is later found on Wimbledon Common. The Surrey police effect the arrest that evening of Ralph Abbot, antique dealer, in whose possession they find a registered envelope containing a pair of broken pince-nez. The package is addressed to a Mrs. Norcross-Bell in Burma.

Orderly Officer: "What would you do in the case of fire?"

Sentry (mechanically): "No. 1 post all correct, no prisoners."

The trawler "Jess," of Dover, founders off Beachy Head with the loss of fifteen hands.

Company Orderly Sergeant: "Come on! put these lights out; (aside) that's another one over."

An elderly woman is knocked down and killed at Lee Green. Her maiden name was Pike.

Customer: "What is the price of those pink carnations?"
Seedsman: "Three shillings a root."
Customer: "It is rather more than I am prepared to pay."

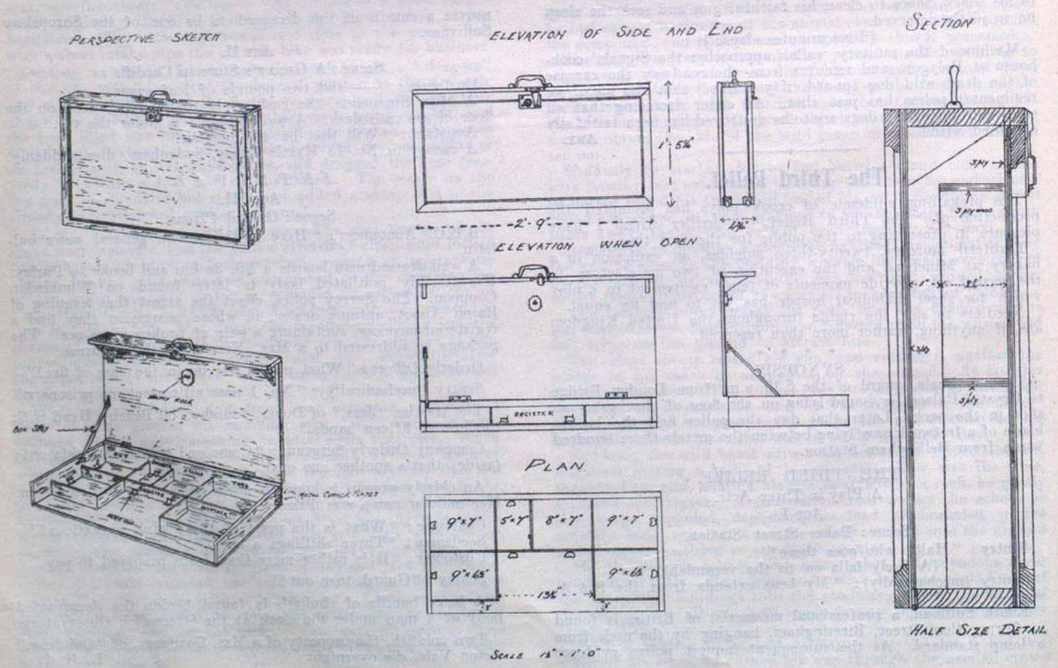
Sentry: "Guard, turn out!"

A large bundle of rhubarb is found beside the decapitated body of a man under the clock at the Greenwich Observatory.

Two goldfish, the property of a Mrs. Gardener, of "Oakdene," Acton Vale, die overnight L. H. D.

A SIGNAL COUNTER CLERK'S BOX.

Photograph and Plan of a Signal Clerk's Portable Registration Box designed by Captain P. Jennings, M.C., Royal Signals and used with success during last year's Summer Training at Shorncliffe.



Esprit de Corps.

The English translation of the French term "Esprit de corps" (meaning the spirit of brotherhood) does not convey the same meaning to Englishmen as the term proper does to French folk.

If a person were to ask you to explain the meaning of "Esprit de corps," your answer would be "Well—er. . . it means the spirit of brotherhood." The person would seem puzzled and would probably ask, "Cannot you explain better than that?" You would reply, "Well—er. . . ." and then stop, it suddenly dawning on you that although you had used the term for years, you did not know the real meaning of it, or that you had never thought of the phrase long enough to make you curious as to how and why it was originally coined.

You have undoubtedly seen scores of examples of esprit de corps, but have failed to recognise them in the same way as a person who thoroughly understood the meaning of the words and instantly connected each example with them.

Esprit de corps is more noticeable, perhaps, in the Army than elsewhere. The spiritual virtue of self-sacrifice insisted on by all who indulge in sport in the Army is so delightfully noticeable that it forms an excellent example of esprit de corps—or "team spirit," as it can be called in its application to sport.

Every man who is specially brilliant at some particular sport or pastime has to decide at some time or other which shall have first call—the Corps or the private club to which he belongs. Much generally hangs on this decision: the Corps may become famous on the one hand, or its efforts pass unnoticed on the other.

When a man refuses to play or fight for an individual honour and plays for his team—for the sake of the Corps—then one begins to realise what a lot of explanation is required for this French term.

The Aldershot Signals boxing team afford an excellent example of the team spirit. Would they have won the Army championship if they had considered themselves first and the Corps second?

Every man in the team has at some time or other received tempting offers to box elsewhere, and every member has given the same answer without thinking what he would g With these men it is always "Come on, the Corps!"

I spoke some time ago of Captain Spencer "digging up old bones." He did more than I expected. Directly he arrived in Aldershot from Catterick, he nosed round and gathered together a bunch of likely lads—diamonds in the rough, mostly—and appealed to them to help him to capture the Army cup. For months these men trained every day, mostly at night in their own time, and often after a day's scheme; and at times it must have seemed wearisome—but they stuck it!

Having procured the raw material, Captain Spencer commenced to mould it. Match after match he arranged for the team, and because the team invariably lost some people probably thought him a little mad.

I was down at Portsmouth when the Corps fought the Navy, and (sitting among some of the "locals") I heard one person say to another, "The Signals must be mad to take on the Navy. Why, they are just like lambs led to the slaughter!" I smiled. The Navy that night beat us (on paper), but they got a shock. They certainly did not expect the good clean boxing and hard hitting they received.

Captain Spencer, contrary to expectations, only smiled when a seemingly unpopular decision was given against his team. The more the Signals lost, the more I began to understand that smile. If it could only have spoken, it would have told the world that these lost fights were doing more than anything else to build up the team spirit; to train each man individually (and prevent such a thing as swelled head); to train the men to fight as a team; and to accept defeat with all praise for the winners. It was this that stood the Signals in such good stead as time went on.

The second time the Signals fought the Navy at Portsmouth, they won. They also fought them at Chatham twice—winning one match and losing the other; and contests with the London Fire Brigade and the Northern Command provided a lose and a win respectively.

Finally Captain Spencer challenged the Aldershot Command. This proved a wonderful match in every way. Aldershot was confident of beating the Corps, but recognised it as being a good team of clean boxers. We shouted till we were tired, "Come on, the Corps!"—and the Corps came on, defeating the Aldershot Command by 17 points to 13. It was a wonderful match—a match worth anything to see. This is where the hard training told and where the team spirit was so conspicuous.

Following this match the Aldershot Command fought the R.A.F. at the Maida Drill Hall on February 24th, and no less than seven of the Aldershot team belonged to the Corps.

The Corps team won its way easily to the final of the Command team championship by defeating the 2nd Gordons. In the final the 1st Battn. The Seaforth Highlanders were beaten by seven points, thus qualifying the Corps for the semi-final of the Army championship.

Thursday, April 24th, was the day fixed for deciding who should enter the final. Boxing commenced at 2 p.m., and the Aldershot Signals having moved into Smallshot Barracks on April 3rd, it was but a step to the Maida Drill Hall. Thirty fights had to be decided this day, and this necessitated such an early commencement. The four teams competing were the 2nd Battn. The Loyal Regiment versus The Corps, and the 2nd Battn. The East Lancs. Regiment versus the 1st Battn. The Northumberland Fusiliers. On paper this seemed a peculiar draw to many, and the Loyals were strong favourites for the cup.

The first fight was between Captain Spencer and Lieut J. W. E. R. Gairner. It was good to see Captain Spencer get into the ring and show the team (that he had worked so hard to train) how to win. This was an example of the team spirit which is so encouraging to a man who, when he wants to give up, thinks to himself, "I must not let the team down."

The first fight was won by a quick knock-out, and the match proceeded with great excitement amongst the large audience until the close of the afternoon session, when the score stood at 9 points to 6 against the Corps.

Boxing re-commenced at 7 o'clock the same evening before a crowded house, and as each verdict was given many people began to say "The Corps will surely lose!"

I was sitting near the ring, hoping that our luck would change. Out of a total of fifteen engagements we had won but one and lost six, with eight left to decide. This meant that the Corps had to win the whole of these eight fights to secure a victory. What a task! I felt as if I could not bear to see the Corps lose: it was heartbreaking.

The eighth fight (that is, the first of the last eight) was between Sigmn McCreeth and Pte Lomax. I had seen McCreeth in action before, and was not very hopeful. It was almost certain, judging by the way the fights were going, that he would lose, so I got ready to slip out. (Such a result would have brought all our hopes to the ground, and I could not sit there and see the Corps beaten.) The first two rounds were very even, and the excitement was so tense that the drill hall seemed like a graveyard on a still night. The third round commenced and was similar to the first, when like a pistol shot McCreeth dropped Lomax with a blow on the point. It happened so suddenly that everyone was amazed and sat dumbfounded for several seconds. Then the storm broke and the Corps went mad, cheering like men possessed. It was wonderful!

From then onwards the team spirit exerted itself and they fought like giants, sweeping everything before them. So they won one, lost six, and then performed a miracle by winning the last eight fights! The points were: Signals 23; Loyals 22.

When the final of the Army championship commenced on the following evening, the general opinion was that it would be a walk-over for the Corps. It proved very much the reverse, however, for the 2nd Battn. Lancs. Fusiliers were very stubborn fellows and also possessed a great amount of the team spirit. They were dogged and would *not* lose.

The match was not so uphill as on the previous night, but many anxious moments were experienced. A disqualification lost the Corps a valuable point (this was real hard luck, as the foul was a sheer accident—but a foul *is* a foul). This made the points level, with only four to be decided. The next fight we lost and were one point down, with three to decide.

We won the next, and felt certain of the following bout, but we got a nasty shock. Kennedy dropped Sigmn Stuart for a couple of seconds in the first round, and again in the second. Returning to his corner after the second round, Stuart must have received a "severe rep" from Captain Spencer, for in the third round he boxed Kennedy off his feet and won with a few points to spare.

The final and deciding fight was between L/Corpl Grainger and Pte Jupp. Grainger received the verdict after a wonderful fight which completely knocked the stuffing out of both men. Thus the Corps became famous by winning the Army team championship.

If members of this wonderful team had put themselves first and the Corps second, what would have happened? The Corps would certainly not have won such honour.

Captain Spencer and each man in the team are wonderful examples of esprit de corps or team spirit. They have done what no other team has done—they set themselves the task of winning the cup, and by sheer hard work and strict training as a team, have accomplished that which many thought was impossible.

I wonder if this team spirit will capture for us the Army football cup next year, the athletic cup, and all the other cups and shields that are to be won! If we can win the Army team boxing championship, we can do anything.

There is a brand new house built for displaying cups, shields, and the like, and its capacity is limitless. At present it is empty. It wants filling. That house is called The Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Haig Lines, Aldershot.

SOOFOO.

So this is Equitation!

There is a proverb that a horse thinks one thing, and he who saddles him thinks another. From one's experience of a Yeomanry Signals riding school, one would add that he who rides the horse thinks still another thing; but what he thinks counts least of all! Perhaps that is why he is not mentioned in the proverb. Yet the rider is certainly supposed to have his own idea and to impress it on his steed. All right! We will, therefore (while the horse smiles indulgently) consider the riding school from the recruit rider's point of view.

The outstanding feature of the riding school is (Allah be praised!) its carpet of good thick soft tan, though one soon comes to suspect that this shock-absorbing floor is laid more in the interest of the canteen than of the recruit's precious anatomy. Have you noticed the quality of the thirst raised in an hour of the dust of the school? Even so, there is something lacking. A few thousand downy cushions might with advantage be affixed to all those wall boards, which sound so frightfully hard under the impact of skittish hoofs.

But we must not wander. We have to consider the practice of equitation in a Yeomanry Signals riding school. The recruits have arrived in the stable where the horses to be ridden stand tail to manger, with saddles on, each secured with a snowy pipe-clayed rope. With pathetic confidence the newest recruit asks a groom to put him on to something kind and obedient, and the groom solemnly indicates the nearest animal, declaring that he is easily the best in that or any school. A fellow-groom, overhearing, remarks "Blimey!" in a tone of shocked surprise and amusement, whereat the first man begs the nervous inquirer not to mind his mate, who sometimes tries to be funny. At the same time the noble beast lays back his ears and shows the white of his eyes, and the comforter observes soothingly that if that fine horse has one fault it is that he is a bit over-shy of strangers. So, for better or worse, the victim accepts his fate and leads it forth.

Down one side of the school a rough line is formed. Most of the horses seem bored, but one or two, whom prudent recruits have tried privily to square with sugar in advance, show some interest and nuzzle hopefully round their benefactors while the stirrup leathers are being adjusted. Now the riding master is settled on his openly contemptuous steed, and on the order "Independently, mount!" the fun begins—for the horse of the newest recruit! The raw one, left foot in the stirrup, right foot energetically hopping, follows the sidling flank of the animal round and round, until the horse wearies of the dance, kicks up his heels, and pulls free. That little matter settled, he stands, a picture of tranquillity; his rear presented to the waiting instructor. Reproached gently by that patient man, he consents to remain still while the pupil scales the height to the saddle, and is then hauled into the middle of the arena by an assistant instructor. The rest of the ride move off. In the meantime the already sweating beginner is trying to find his right stirrup by furtively waggling his foot. Suddenly an impatient kick results in his jabbing a spur into the horse, and the indignant beast rears up and decants him on to the tan. Off then come the spurs, which the raw one has not, of course, started to win, and should not have put on.

The assistant instructor waits politely. So does the horse. The rest of the ride are doing "Circles Left" at the walk. Up into the saddle again goes the newest recruit, while his mount scornfully champs his bit. Now he is bidden to "walk him quietly forward." It sounds easy, yet though he squeezes with his knees until he is purple in the face, nothing happens at first. Quite suddenly the horse starts away at a swinging trot, the rider all bunched up and bouncing, with chattering teeth, and clinging for dear life. The trot becomes a merry canter, and all is lost for the newest recruit, who, now lying back and hauling desperately at the reins, goes lolloping round on the near side of the ride, cutting every corner shorter and shorter, until an extra sharp turn unships him again.

Now the blood of the newest recruit is up properly! With grim mien, though a bit painfully, he climbs back to the saddle, vowing beneath his breath that he will "learn" that horse. The horse senses the changed atmosphere, too, for he consents to walk up and down with the utmost decorum. Some further trouble comes when the rider is directed to make him trot, for doubtless the horse hates to feel the rider bouncing as much as the rider hates bouncing himself; but things on the whole are distinctly better for the newest recruit. So much so, indeed, that he begins to fancy himself no end, until he gets another fright when, told to fall in behind the ride, he finds his mount joyously bent on taking and holding the lead. In due course, however, this royal progress brings him duly into the rear, and there he rides, serene at last, and fairly swollen with pride.

There we will leave him. Not for him yet the frightfulness of trotting without stirrups; the thrills of school jumps with dropped reins, sometimes on an unwilling mount; the horribly violent exercise of "Change horses to the front!" Poor beggar! There is much pain and travail in store between now and the time when he will make his horse think what he wants him to think. Yet one takes leave to doubt if there is any man who has gone through it who will not tell him, and mean it, that it is all well worth while!

E. E. P.

CORPS NEWS—OFFICERS.

[*Continued from page* 198]

War Office, 8/5/28.

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Territorial Decoration upon the undermentioned officers under the terms of the R.W. dated 13/10/20:—

Royal Signals—43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals—Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C.

53rd (Welsh) Divl Signals—Capt R. E. Evans, M.B.E.

War Office, 11/5/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Establishments—

The undermentioned appointment is made: Major J. S. Yule, O.B.E., R.Signals, to be Supt. (Cl. Z) Signals Exptl. Establishment, 3/5/28.

Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Aston, M.C., R.Signals, relinquishes his appointment of C.E.O., Signals Exptl. Estabt. (Cl. V) 3/5/28

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut G. Barton, from 52nd (Kent) Medium Brigade, R.A., to be 2/Lieut. 12/5/28.

54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—Leslie Henry Gentry (late Cadet Corporal Chigwell School Contgt., Jun. Div. O.T.C.), to be 2/Lieut. 2/2/28.

War Office, 15/5/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. B. Salmond, on completion of 4 years' service as a Regimental Lieut.-Colonel, is placed on the h.p. list, 15/5/28.

Major G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., to be Lieut.-Col. 15/5/28.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 15/5/28:—
J. G. Deedes, M.B.E., and remains seconded.
P. A. Hitchcock, O.B.E., M.C.
C. P. Prescot.

E. Lancs. Regiment—2/Lieut C. G. Moore is seconded for service with the R.Signals, 19/4/28.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Appointment.—2308424 Sigmn Phillp appointed L/Corporal on the Corps roster w.e.f. 31/1/28.

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Wain a daughter (Cynthia Doris), at the Married Families Hospital, Catterick Camp, on April 12th (a future soprano for the Richmond Operatic Society).

Marriages.—Dvr Groves L. J. to Norah Florence Harrison, at Hipswell, on April 7th. Dvr Gaston W. W. to Lily Florence Bridger, at Stockwell, on April 8th.

Death.—It is with profound regret that we announce that No. 310250 Sergeant Clarke E. W. passed away at the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, on April 23rd, from a perforated gastric ulcer and general peritonitis. He is sincerely mourned by all ranks, and our deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives. He was buried at Hipswell with full military honours on the 25th.

Arrivals.—From India, Corpl Heath A. W. and L/Corporal McKinnon M. C. A hearty welcome is extended to all other arrivals, too numerous to mention.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Quite True.—The recruit of to-day is an inventive genius. He is never at a loss for convincing and conclusive proof of his freedom from guilt. I have great pleasure in presenting the following case in support of my statement.

The man turned out on parade in an untidy and dirty condition, and duly appeared before the Company commander. "You are charged with being dirty on parade. Have you anything to say?" "Well, sir, you see, it was like this. *I fell in on the wrong platoon.*"

I think the answer is, "Because the higher, the fewer."

Movements (Officers).—A welcome is extended to Lieut.-Col. E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, who has arrived at the Signal Training Centre.

It is with regret that we lose Major J. S. Yule, O.B.E., Royal Signals, who has left the Signal Training Centre on taking over an appointment at the Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich.

Our good wishes to Major Yule are coupled with those we extend to Major H. C. Carey-Thomas, R.Signals, who has taken over the duties of Officer i/c Training, S.T.C.

Birth.—We offer our congratulations to Major and Mrs. R. E. Barker upon the birth of a son on March 16th.

Do You Know?—

1—Where the battle of Waterloo was fought?
2—Who invented the left-handed spanner?
3—Where flies go in winter-time?
4—Who Mr. David Lloyd George is?
5—What the square root of 835,496 is, and why?
6—Where my wandering boy is to-night?
7—Who wrote "The Merchant of Venice"?
8—What was his father's name?

The answers appear overleaf.

Dirt and Daisies.—Cinderella has nothing on the guard commander and his retinue to-day. The area of mud in front of the Training Battalion guard-room has been liberally and effectively covered with a dressing of cinders, and all concerned may now rest assured in the knowledge that the sentry is moving freely without fear of the works becoming gummed up. This, I hope, will dispel the general belief that the guard-room compound was being prepared as a dirt track speedway.

Marriages.—Our hearty congratulations to Corporals Gladwell T. and Page W. upon their respective marriages.

Departures.—Corpl Hall F. to Headquarters B and C Troops, Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth, on May 1st.

Arrivals.—The following have arrived from overseas: Corpls McMillan D. and Emblem R., L/Corporals Boxall, Stapleton, Mowatt, Woolley, Whittall, Benson, Hutcheon and Washburn, and Sigmn Matthews.

Arrivals from the Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, become larger in number each month; so if anybody wishes to know of other additions to our ranks during the past month, they are advised to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Transfer to Army Reserve.—Our good wishes accompany Cpl Crossley W. H., who left us for the Reserve on May 10th.

SOAP FLAKES

are the safest soap to use in washing woollens, silks and all dainty fabrics.

If you would guarantee harmless washing be sure to

SEE YOU GET WILKIE'S SOAP FLAKES

which are entirely free from injurious chemicals. They are the perfected product of over 100 years experience in soapmaking.

WILKIE & SOAMES LTD GREENWICH, LONDON, S.E.10.

Do You Know?—Answers.

1—Don't you know?
2—Go on. I'll buy it!
3—Fancy asking that!
4—Isn't he a politician or something?
5—You give it up? Well, I never!
6—Probably at the Newbigging Hall.
7—Shakespeare.
8—Shakespeare.

Appointments and Promotions.—L/Corpl Boxall C. to be Corporal. Signalmen Mottram J. and Fletcher E. S. to be L/Corporals. Sigmn Fletcher has also to receive a pat on the back for his recent advance in trade classification.

Letting the Cat out of the Bag.—Enquiries are being made at Catterick about the mystery of the adjutant of a certain Divisional Signals at Aldershot, and the office cat. Are the R.S.P.C.A. doing anything about it? and what happened to the very important secret document?

Not Accepted.—Constable: "Where is your light?" Motor-Cyclist: "I am hiding it under a bushel." The fine of three guineas subsequently imposed strikes me as being a trifle severe.

Very Short Fable.—Now, when Ali Baba fell among the den of thieves, he noticed that each one wore three stripes and a crown.

* * * *

Yes, I think so. Give the man a purse of gold.

L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—All ranks are interesting themselves in some branch of sport, in order that a good foundation may be laid for the Company's athletic strength.

Nightly, groans and bursts of respiratory activity can be heard from the direction of the N.A.A.F.I. If one were to visit the scene of action, one would find the mighty "strong in the musc" members of F attempting to lay low, by means of a tug-o'-war rope, a magnificent tree which borders the lower cricket field. May their efforts be unsuccessful! The said tree, during the summer months, supplies a welcome area of shade which is highly appreciated by members of the court of King Willow.

Up on the top sports ground, sprinters whiz by in bewildering fashion, while friends of the distance runners peg up their various laps on the club crib board. Shots go hurtling through the air to descend on the green with a dull thud; and pole jumpers leap over the bar to return to as near the centre of gravity as possible in much the same way.

We do not wish to pass any information to other Companies through these notes regarding the merits of our performances; but we can say, merely as a point of interest, that the sports ground people, after having seen one or two of our enthusiasts in action, are thinking of adding another few feet to the long jump pit and the high jump standard. Some of the junior boys have put up some splendid performances during the Company trials, and in one or two cases have been selected as team members. Keep it up, juniors!

Gardens.—What does a working man do when he cannot pay his rent?—Hops!
What makes a chattering woman speechless?—Hops!
What makes a flea so popular in a crowded tramcar?—Hops!
What are the latest additions to the pergolas in our Company gardens?—Hops!

Yes, and they will be a wonderful sight in a few weeks time, providing of course they are not wholly obscured by the clambering hordes of non-A.T.A. members anxious to obtain a real live badge of office.

Apart from joking, though, the hop is a beautiful plant, and will add greatly to the entrancing loveliness of our central park. Of course, we have "only heard" that a special treatment of the flowers brings another "in-trancing" effect; but as we are merely boys, we are pledged to admire only its beauty as a plant.

In conclusion, we ask those units who are contemplating practice fire alarms to send their hose and bucket parties up to the Boys Company lines, and imagine that our garden is the seat of the conflagration.

Marital Establishment Increase.—L/Corpl Broadley J., after a visit to St. Hilda's Parish Church, Darlington, was duly accepted as a worthy addition to the benedicts platoon. He will be remembered by all old S.T.C. members as a runner of great merit, and we all join in wishing him success in both ventures in the future.

Births.—Sergt Payne and Corpl Catchpole have lately become fathers of very junior daughters, and L/Sergt Buhlmann also brought on to the roll a junior boy. All three bid fair to become vocalists of renown at a later date, and are fully justifying their existence.

Departures.—To A Corps Signals, Signalmen Catt and Smith A. T. To 1st Divl Signals, Sigmn Marchant. To 3rd Divl Signals, Signalmen Barlow and Melmore. To 4th Divl Signals, Sigmn Smallwood. The Company wish them all the best in their new spheres of action.

LE CHEVAL NOIR.

"Simkin," the racehorse owned by our O.C., Major F. R. Cobb, has ceased to be the Company's chief equine interest owing to the fact that he has been posted away to a new owner. We can only hope that his stay has been a pleasant one, and that our loss is someone else's gain!

Sergeants' Mess, Training Battalion.

The recent delivery, in a more or less plain van, of a small body of old masters, complete with the brushes and paraphernalia of their craft, has resulted in the re-decoration of the mess. And a very excellent job they have made of it!

One or two, I noticed, handled their brushes in a manner somewhat gauche, but the earnestness with which they applied themselves to their task counteracted any deficiency in finesse. So here we are, all as fresh as paint.

The whole-hearted enthusiasm of a number of members helped the exterior of the mess to keep on level terms with the interior, and they have imparted a very spic and span appearance to the gardens.

The question of the supply of motive power for the roller in the preparation of the tennis court led to a small debate, but I understand that the entertainments committee have the matter in hand.

In connection with our gardens, I am asked to make the following announcement: Will members desirous of having their photos taken in close proximity to the beans kindly forward their applications to George.

The final of the mess billiards handicap, between Q.M.S. Clark W. and L/Sergt Drake L. H., has yet to be decided.

L. H. D.

Corporals' Mess, Training Battalion.

Since our late correspondent gave us an idea as to how notes should be compiled, no one has had the heart to undertake such a difficult proposition. I think Krim sent in about 3000 words, but by the time they had passed the Editor about three lines were printed, and reading those we thought the Editor must have a kind heart. Krim was rather sore about it, but when we had read them we were more so.

We trust that Ginger arrived in India quite safely, and also that Jock's webs are not too bad.

We have had several additions to the mess lately: L/Corporals Gerrish, Phillips, Mottram and Fletcher (local promotions, on which we congratulate them), and Corpl McMillan, L/Corporals Whittall, Boxall, Woolley, Brudenall, Mowatt, Foster, Ford, McGregor, Stapleton and Benson from India. We trust they will find our little place to their liking.

Everyone will congratulate George on obtaining a 1st class certificate of education, together with two "d's." "Since using your wonderful banana oil I have derived great benefit, completely outwitting the schoolmaster and the examiner. I have also introduced your prescription to a friend of mine, Jimmy, who is desirous of proceeding on a map reading tour."

Here's the worst! We have been invaded! Eye-witnesses will confirm the following: Latest Push Penny Competition. The entry card gave promise of a great tournament. Among the entries were Newmarsh (Palestine champion), Widgery (East of Suez), Grainger (Middle-East champion), Barlow (ex-naval champion), and Catchpole (Richmond and District champion), together with several non-title holders.

Once again form was confounded and the champions were gradually eliminated. The final was contested by two unknowns, but the crowd waxed enthusiastic in hopes of a small one with the winner. "One to go!" Would she do it? Yes! "You win, lady!" the umpire remarks; and the crowd, ever chivalrous especially to the fair sex, cheer lustily.

A few disgruntled remarks were heard from the martinets, such as "What are things coming to when a woman wins a man's competition?" Nevertheless, 'tis true. Jimmy says that things are rather dull, and he would be extremely pleased if someone would perform a hair-raising feat in the mess.

Congratulations to Corpls Cornish and Page on the occasion of their marriage. The best man at one of these weddings was so entranced that he will not settle down until *he* is married. He goes about on his motor-cycle in hopes of finding the lady!

Country walks are very popular these days, and the excuse is "training for athletics." One notices that there is a person who cannot get any weight off!

Spare Electron should have more than !!!! for W/T, surely, after all that swotting.

What about a line, Krim and Teddy? By the way, your record is still standing.

Let's all go to Mary's house. No, Mary is here!

School of Signals.

Officers: Postings.—Capt St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler, Royal Signals, joined the School on April 29th from No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand, in relief of Capt D. A. L. Wade, M.C., R.Signals, posted to the War Office for employment with the R.E. Board.

2/Lieut C. G. Moore, East Lancashire Regiment (seconded R.Signals) joined from Pembroke Dock on April 19th for attendance at No. 16 Q Course.

The Speckless Cleanliness of a Butcher's Block

is absolutely necessary, and butchers know that the best method is regular scrubbing with WILKIE & SOAMES blue mottled soap.

Women who have used it once for washing clothes never use any other, because it gives a lovely lather, is economical, and leaves clothes beautifully clean and white.

WILKIE & SOAMES' BLUE MOTTLED SOAP

MADE BY

WILKIE & SOAMES LTD. GREENWICH, LONDON, S.E.10

On completing his three years' tenure as adjutant, School of Signals, Capt J. F. Charlesworth, R.Signals, has proceeded to Bulford for duty.

Lieut L. V. Younie, R.Signals, has assumed duty as adjutant.

Assistant Instructors.—Sergt Tovey J. (1st Battn. Wiltshire Regiment) returned to his unit on April 29th after three years duty as an A.I. at the School. His relief, Sergt Aitkenhead H., has joined from the 1st Battn. Royal Ulster Rifles.

Education Certificates.—Sergt Shaw W. J. (Loyal Regt.) was awarded a 1st class certificate. Sergts Conway R. H. and Aitkenhead H. passed in three subjects of the 1st class certificate examination.

Postings.—Sigmn Vosper from India. Sigmn Elliott from Belfast. Sigmn Scutt L. V. and Dvr Schofield from 4th Divl Signals. Sigmn Chaplen from Sarafand. Sigmn Allender H. from Bulford. Dvr Drake W. A. from Aldershot.

Extension of Service.—Drivers Moxon J. E. and Shakeshaft W. to complete twelve years with the Colours.

Transfers to Army Reserve.—No. 722410 Dvr Wood J. P. and No. 2315169 Dvr Thompson R. W.

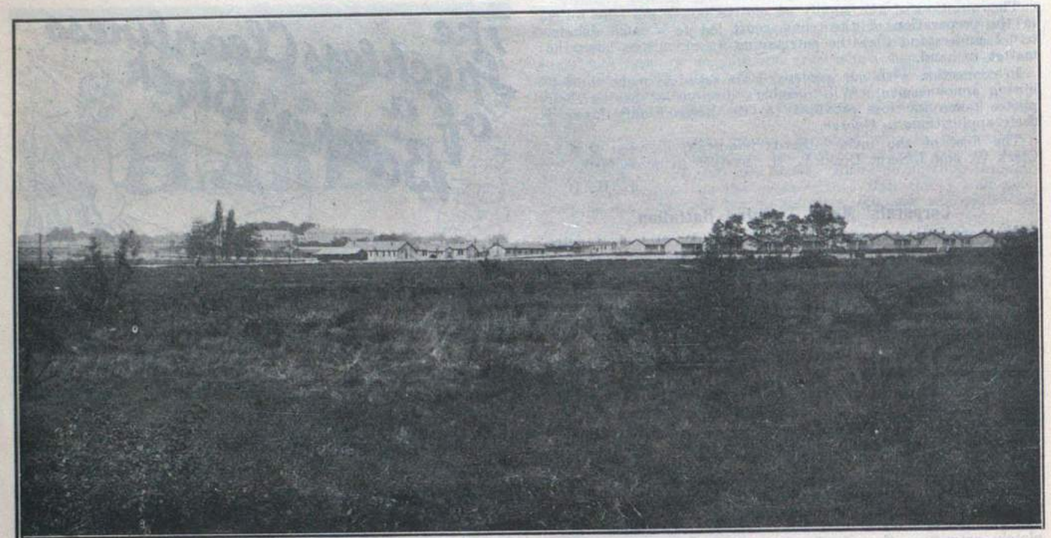
Appointment.—U/L/Corpl Clements H. E. H. to be L/Corpl on the Corps roster, 6/2/28. Congratulations!

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of the twin sons of Dvr Thompson R. W. Dvr Thompson has left the Colours to take up a good job in civil life in London; and all members of the School staff will be glad to hear that the Signals Association assisted him financially prior to his leaving us.

Foreign Language Examination.—Lieut F. C. Curtis, Royal Signals, passed the 2nd class interpretership in French at the recent examination held in London.

By Request.—Sigmn Revill H. S. wishes to congratulate L/Cpl Hampton (Northern Ireland Signal Company) on his recent achievement.

Has the Bishop arrived, Coir?



Smallshot (from the Wireless Station)

Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals.

Corps Dinner.—We are looking forward to seeing many old friends from field units at the Corps dinner to be held in the Newbigging Hall on Thursday, June 28th.

Marriages.—Sergt Shaw W. J. (2nd Battn. The Loyal Regt.) at Bradford on April 21st. Sergt Conway R. H. (1st Battn. South Wales Borderers) at St. Aubyn, Devon, on April 25th. Heartiest good wishes for the future to both couples.

We have a further marriage to chronicle—one which will be of interest to all n.c.o.s and men who have had dealings with the educational branch of the S.T.C. at Maresfield and Catterick during 1923–1926. W.O. II. (Education) Le Grys A. J., A.E.C., to Miss E. M. Swanson at Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, on April 10th. A suitable congratulatory cable was sent to the bride and bridegroom from past and present members of the S.T.C. sergeants' messes.

PETER.

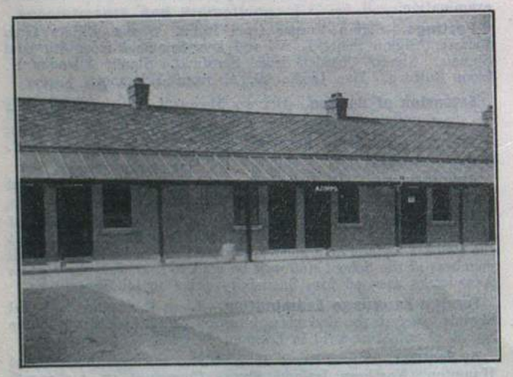
ALDERSHOT NEWS.

A Corps Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company.

General.—I suppose you are asking why there were no notes last month? The end of the financial year, the move to Smallshot, and the after-effects of Christmas (or something or other) were the cause of my being late in getting up my aerial and finding the pukka wave-length. Now we are settled down to pre-war soldiering (we must be—the Corporals have had a mess meeting!) with a few rumours of war in the air to keep tongues oscillating.

Their Majesties the King and Queen will inspect Haig Lines on May 17th, and we are pleased to be "at home" with a barracks like Smallshot. Even the llama is getting excited.



Offices of A Corps Signals, Haig Lines.

The Stables of A Corps Signals.

We possess what is perhaps the best institute in existence: a veritable wadpunchers' paradise. Not only is the institute itself a hundred per cent., but we have a very old friend in the manageress—one who is known by a large number of the Corps, who will be glad to know that we are being well cared for. Miss Brundenall, we wish you every success.

Here you see a photograph of four brave lads sweltering in the heat in one of the outposts of the Empire. The place they are holding up is Danger Farm, Trawsfynydd. The man with the funny hat is a transfer from the Flying Corps by the look of things.

"Our Home" at Camp

Corpl Smith, Signalmen McEvoy, Barlow and Wyatt.

Arrivals.—Lieut.-Col. J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., assumed command of the unit vice Major C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., on May 7th. Now we shall shine still brighter on and off the field!

Corpl Smith C. O. from Palestine. Corpl Nicholls, L/Corpls Wheeler and Batten, Signalmen Knight, Huss, Hugman, Taylor H. L. and Grantham from India. Sigmn Easterby from Malaya. Sigmn Poulton from "The Rock." Q.M.S. Purkiss all the way from 2nd Divl Signals.

Departures.—R.S.M. Edwards to 2nd Divl Signals, after many years in A Corps. Sigmn Wood E. V. and L/Corpl Trench (Mabel) to the great unknown.

Promotions.—R.S.M. Edwards, L/Corporal Denton D. W., U/L/Corpls McKowin, Butler and Dennett.

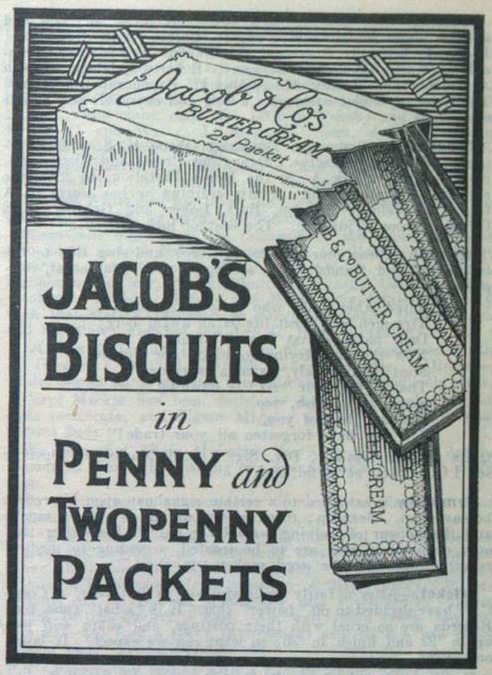
Educational Training.—The following are a few "gems" picked up from recent 2nd class examination papers:—

1—Mercury is commonly called *Gimmy*.
2—King Theodore was *excelled* to the Seychelles.
3—The *gold*-studded chair is at present in the officers' mess, Catterick.
4—Route to Australia: Through the Bay of Biscay to Gibraltar, along the Mediterranean to *Portslade*.
5—Life of a sailor compared with that of a soldier: The rocking of the boat upsets sailors, so they are not so healthy as soldiers. Soldiers have nice football and tennis pitches; sailors do not. The life of a soldier is very interesting to one who takes *soldering* as a profession. A soldier can go out every night after tea, which is not very often; a sailor goes on a four-year cruise, but it is more of a pleasure trip.

This Month's Prize Stories.—Lieut Roue-Key (S.R.) came to us for a fortnight's course of soldiering. The Company commander gave him some verbal instructions (on a bit of paper), telling him not to be afraid to ask questions about anything he did not know. Lieut Roue-Key asked so many the first day that Captain Bur-Goo got fed up with answering such silly questions.

Lieut Roue-Key: "Do I go on adjutant's parade to-morrow, sir?"
Captain Bur-Goo: "Of course, of course."
Lieut Roue-Key: "And to whom do I report?"
Captain Bur-Goo: "Shepherd of the hills."

* * * *



Lieut Sparks to Cable Section storeman: "What is that?"
Syd: "P.O. 44, sir."
Lieut Sparks: "Well, take it down to the saddler's and have that little hole on the side patched up."

Stop Press.—When visiting the Zoo, look out for our llama. He has finished his "six" and is now doing his "reserve" in scattering the crowds in London. He will get his name in "The News of the World" before very long.

SOOFOO.

No. 3 Company.

Well, fellow mortals. May is here! What a re-"leaf," eh? Both for the trees and the wireless ops (Nos. 1 and 2 Light Sections for a period of convalescence). Some chappie with a Heath Robinson intellect suggested initiating Jackie—the canteen idol—as the May Queen, but thank heaven the ceremony was *non est*. The Crookham Chronicle reporter almost turned up, but his tandem broke down at Breezy Opening. "June"-o, we are experiencing summer weather nowadays? I have not enquired what is wrong with David, but will "leaf" this paragraph for

Nature Notes.—I had nothing to do one night—yes, actually nothing to do—so I took a walk along the Aldershot sea-front up to the pier. I hope Smallshot residents can follow me, but for this walk one starts at the top of Murray's Road and goes east. If there is an easterly wind blowing, though, it is advisable to walk west. Well, here is what my interest in Mother Nature discovered for me:

Deep in the gloomy labyrinth of the watercress thicket, where high hedgerows are now verdant with lesser tangletwine, climbing clodwrinkle and wild waspdribble, the erstwhile slingwing is resting after testing the nesting. Among the elm tops hard by the leadswinger's merry note, varying from a light liquid (mist, I expect?) to a thick fluid (castor oil?), blends with the perfume of the Aldershot Se—ah, nearly!—of the parting day, and as night falls with a sympathetic crash, the soft-footed fag-scrounger sallies forth to pick up its evening victim.

No, sir, this is *not* an extract from John Ruskin!

Arrivals.—No, not in black bags, but in patrol hats and khaki: Sergts Knight and Newman, Corpls Davis, McLachlan, Pickwick, L/Corpls Braywood, Ferdinando and Mathews, Signalmen Catt, Dockerell, Dunmore, Robertson, Roger, Smith A. T., Swinson, Murray, Miles, May F., Payne and Quaintance. The Company's best wishes for a long and enjoyable stay in our new abode.

Departures.—Signalmen Tomlinson, Wood H. S. and Bowering to the Army Reserve. Strangling Crosse and Blackwell's, now. L/Corpl Clark A. to the Depot Battalion, to show the recruits some stuff about infantry training he has learnt in A Corps. Signalmen Breedon, Burt, Dover and Golding to E Cavalry Troop, Tidworth. The best of luck to you all!

Interval.—Clear your throats, A Corps, and sing this to the tune of "Tired Hands" (with apologies to Al Piantadosi, composer):—

"Tired other ranks who exist in A Corps
Tire men who treat life as an awful bore;
Drill parades that I can't number;
Now they are trying to pinch our slumber.
Mast drill weekly, twice a morning;
Thank God their "six" is dawning.
Sweat and polish, too,
Demand they of you,
Till you have forgotten all your trade!"

Quite pathetic, isn't it, Div. Sigs.? Still, Marks and Spencer sell I.G. buckets at 2s. 9d. each!

Sympathy is extended to a certain signalman upon his recent bereavement. Bear up; think of the saving of a 1s. a month and the honour of walking *behind* the band! Remember that only deep-voiced men are to be trusted, according to medical reports. Many a true word spoken "in chest!"

Cricket.—After a fairly successful season last year, A Corps C.C. have decided to do "batter" this. It is "a-bat" time, too! Records are so cruel with their postings, and chaps *will* join up in '22 and finish in '28; so what can we expect? It bowls one over!

Have you heard about the dentist who was prevailed upon to function as umpire between the Bagshott Blues and Minley C.C.? Well, he annoyed the spectators because of his frequently drawing stumps.

Coffins.—At the express wish of Will E. Snuffit, the eminent Frimley undertaker (the fellow who makes dying a pleasure) I am advertising his wares. "All kinds of coffins in stock—in walnut, firewood and orange-box. The latter type are with hot-water bottle and electric light for those going heavenwards. Those in firewood are asbestos lined, packed with ice, and two spades for the personnel going downwards. He has a few second-hand ones for some tired signalmen. Drage system!"

Notice.—The Crookham Cockle Club issue the warning that all cross-legged cockles caught in the Aldershot area are to be dumped into the Basingstoke Canal at high tides.

Gardening Notes to Married Personnel.—What was that: they need it? Don't hold potato seeds up by the tails in a naked light. The eyes have a tendency to become crossed and resent rough handling. 11.59 p.m. on June 5th is the time to sow cocoa-nut seeds in a warm greenhouse. If you do not possess a greenhouse, stick to daisies and buttercups. Crazy paving may be reared with success in a cool frame and well hardened off in a heated greenhouse. After three months, cool off and break up into desired shapes with a blunt hatchet.

Congratulations to L/Corpls Nicklen, Redgewell, Thompson W., Parsons, Humphries, and to U/L/Corpls Edwards, Smith A. T., Slater (4th Divl Signals, please note), Strangwick E. and Strangwick R. Don't forget to study "Hints for Young Lance-Corporals," by Jack the Ripper—price 2d. nett, bound in morocco. They have their confederates chosen for them by the "agency." Bags of A.F.s B.252's, eh? Poor wicked signalmen! Sic est vita. N'est-ce pas? Ma'alesh!

I will conclude this effort by offering Lieut.-Col. J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., the best of welcomes on his taking over the unit from Major C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C.

LULU.

A Corps at Intra.

1—And it came to pass that the Children of Acor did gird up their loins and leave the land of bondage, whilst the Pack did yet sleep.
2—And the tribe that was ruled by one called O-penspay-cees did rouse the Meddics and say, "Verily, we journey to Smawl; get thy cymbals and rejoice."
3—And they who worshipped the god Pol-tus did beat the drum and blow the trumpet, and did even fone the sax.
4—And the tribe did march out towards the promised land.
5—And they journeyed on, taking no heed of the comely dames that did entice them to linger, nor did they stop to even water their camels.
6—And after many leagues the rain came to drive the Children of Acor back. But the Lord of the Hosts sayeth unto them, "Be of good cheer; follow me and I will show thee a land flowing with milk and honey."
7—And they journeyed on and on. And at last they reached a road that is called Prince's and beheld the promised land, flowing with mud and water.
8—And all with one accord fell on their marrow-bones and recited the Wadpuncher's Creed.
9—And they beheld the huge desert called Square and did marvel, saying "There will we dance to please our master."
10—And they marched on, exceeding glad.
11—And after they had passed the desert they came unto their own palaces, which numbered two score, and straightway filed in and unrolled their praying mats.
12—And after they had marvelled and marvelled, one more learned than the rest did say "We will go and see the other palaces."
13—And they did, but some did get chased.
14—And after Easter week was passed the Tribe of Secon-div-ee did come and house themselves in Smawl, on the twelfth day after Easter Eve.
15—And when they saw Acor performing on the desert they marvelled, saying amongst themselves "What manner of people are these that do perform on holy days?"
16—And on the seventeenth day after Easter Eve the Tribe of Fust-div-ee did come, and they also marvelled at Acor.
17—And Ce-es-oh came and said "Captains of the hosts shall do this and that on certain days; Essems will be known by the week; they that are called Sarge shall command guards; Naiks shall sleep with the horses on certain nights; and the lesser Naiks shall learn to guard. Verily I have spoken."
18—And the Captains of the Hosts did say amongst themselves "Verily this is a strange land."
19—And Essems did murmur and say "This is no land of milk and honey."
20—And they that are called Sarge did purge, but it was of no avail.
21—And the Naiks were exceeding glad, saying "Verily it is a snip." But one called Eeth said "I cannot do this thing, for I am sore afraid."
22—But it was written "Thou shalt do this and thou shalt do that." And it came to pass that Eeth did obey the Lord, although there was fear in his heart.
23—And when the sun rose up he departed to fill himself, for he was a-hungered.
24—And the lesser Naiks did chuk-a-chest and did do guard—yea, even Spekky—with joy in their hearts and ammoes on their feet.
25—Now there was a certain place in the palace of Naf-ee called Sol-jers Room. And one Rasp said unto the venerable Scruff, "Verily this is a strange place, O lord; peradventure it is for Captains of the Hosts."
26—And Scruff replied saying "Nay, nay, it is for Oldsweats; for those only who can frothblow. Thou are not qualified to enter."
27—And Rasp departed, weeping, wailing and flogging his kit.
28—And there was yet another place where Naiks, both large and small, were wont to congregate.
29—And the place was holy, as even they that are called Sarge could not enter.
30—And in this place was one who did act as steward, or nippy, who was named Jak-he.
31—And one Zimz said unto the Naiks "Look on me, for I am a sheik."
32—And they all with one accord replied "Verily thou art an asphalt arab or boulevard sheik as thou sayest."
33—And Zimz was exceeding glad, for he desired to take unto himself a wife.
34—And he put on his civvies and anointed his head with oil; and he went along the highways and the byways, saying to all who passed: "Look on me; am I not like unto the great Ru-barb Vas-er-leno?"
35—And one approached him, saying "What a noble face thou hast, lord; thou wilt surely win the hand of the fairest in the land.
36—"Thou art like unto Adonis; thine hair is the finest spun-yarn, and the Naf-ee perfume on it is as rare as Ce-be.
37—"Thine eyes sparkle like Woolworth gems and are blue as glue.
38—"Thy skin is as soft as Don-ate, and the freckles thereon like unto autumn leaves.
39—"Thy raiment could only have cost a king's ransom; yea, it must have cost a quid or even less.
40—"Thy feet are shod with the finest ammoes; verily, thou art a prince amongst men.
41—Follow me, O lord, and I will take thee unto the fairest in the land."
42—And Zimz followed as in a dream.
43—And he heard a voice that was gentle and sweet, and a dainty smell of roses did greet his nostrils.
44—And the voice said "Look on me, O lord; I am thy slave."
45—And Zimz opened his eyes and saw standing in front of him—Jak-he.

SOOFOO.

1st Divisional Signals.

It all happened in two days, and in equally quick time we have settled down. "McGrigor" and "Gibraltar" are now things of the past, and we find our new home in Haig Lines much more agreeable.

Headquarters closed down in the old barracks at 9 a.m. on April 24th and re-opened simultaneously at our new headquarters. No. 3 Company moved the same day, followed by Nos. 1 and 2 Companies on the 25th.

So, at long last, Signals at Aldershot are now all together—and we hope "the merrier we shall be" by reason of it. Accomplishments—social, technical and sportive—should especially receive a fillip because of our close proximity to other Signal units.

A brief description (the Editor requests brevity) of the lay-out may be of interest to those who were formerly acquainted with Aldershot and also to those likely to become acquainted.

The lines are divided by an avenue (Prince's by name) flanked on one side by cook and bath-houses, barrack-rooms, institute and M.I. room. On the opposite side we find the offices (set in a square—we are *vis-a-vis* the 2nd Divl Signals), guard-room, stores, M.T. sheds and sergeants' mess, whilst immediately behind these buildings are to be found the resting-places of old friends, to wit the stables. Roads bearing such distinguished names as Kitchener, Cavan, Morland, Murray, and Fowler, intersect the barracks—a reminder to future generations of distinguished commanders of the Great War of 1914–1919.

The playing field at the west end of the lines is not quite complete, but it has the appearance of being the finest regimental sports ground in the Command.

It is at this time of the year that we say au'voir to compatriots who belong to the Brigade Sections, for they join their Artillery or Infantry Brigades and get the opportunity of enhancing the reputation of the Corps.

L Section (Lieut Danby) and G Section (Lieut Hardy) moved off to Bordon on April 30th and are happily ensconced in the quarters lately occupied by the R.E., where (so it is reported) they are having a very happy time.

Sigmn Westbrook J. has joined the School of Cookery to learn the intricacies of the culinary art.

L/Corpl Howell (of the 44th) was with us from the 16th April to 5th May, and he "wants to come back as soon as possible"—those were his parting words.

We were happy to see once again Captain Price and Lieuts Baxter and Martin, Supplementary Reserve officers who attended for annual training. Lieut Martin enrolled as a member of the Association before leaving.

Our "warning order" appeared in the April issue, and here is the first batch of results: Signalmen McKillop, Smith, Grant and Taylor, operators wireless, class ii. L/Corpls Brown L. and Greig T. and Sigmn Hawkes, operators signals, class i. L/Corpl Wardley L. and Sigmn Nicholls, operators signals, class ii. Sigmn Pettit, wheeler, class ii. Sigmn Smith G. operator visual, class iii. L/Corporals Stubbs H. and Millen G., Signalmen Greenaway, Harris and Herbert, linemen, class iii. Sigmn Day W., lineman, class i. Signalmen Best R. and Forsgate F., electricians, class iii. L/Corpl Teanby and Signalmen Evison C. and Walker J., despatch riders, class iii. Sigmn Capon W., despatch rider, group E. Sgm Glass, clerk, class iii.

L/Corpls Bastin W., Whitehead R. and Wheeler P. have received pay for their stripe during the month.

L/Corpl Whitehead has taken the C. and G.I. radio communication final, and we wish him success.

Space will not permit the inclusion of the names of those who joined us from India for transfer to the Reserve, but F/Sgt Pummell, Corpls Murphy W. and Murphy J., L/Corpl Gray, Signalmen McVicar, Pullen, Churcher, Annells, Collins, Fresle, Hookway, Puchini, Tracey and Hales have joined for duty from that station, preceded by Sigmn Kenneally from Malaya and Signalmen Fletcher and Lee L. from Gibraltar.

L/Corpls Easterling, Benfield and Mortimer, Signalmen Smith P., Gardner F. S., and White W. have left us for the Reserve, whilst Sigmn Langridge has been discharged as medically unfit.

Corpl Mackie has been fortunate enough to obtain his 1st class certificate, and Sigmn Midgley and Dvr Maycock now possess 2nds.

We hear that Their Majesties the King and Queen are to honour us shortly by visiting our new barracks. Of this more anon.

To end our notes, an open letter to our friend Blanco (in view of Rhine notes in the May WIRE) is appended:—

"Dear Blanco—Whilst quite disinterested as to whether green ink is best, I do really think that it was a faux pas for our "little man *no longer* in Germany" to ask you to tell us it could be obtained from a native of that country. It certainly *can* be obtained in England, and I venture to suggest that British quality is best. Ah, well; nine years they say it was—too long a stay; environment may have a bad effect upon one! Yours, BLUE-BLACK."

P.S.—Forgive my ending with a nom-de-plume, won't you?

YA.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

As a Company we are like the Old Empire, all scattered. F and A.F.A. Sections are with their Brigades at Blackdown—rusticating in the country, I was informed. Let us hope their rifles are not also rusting, as we expect great things from the Company on the range this year.

E Section have again taken up their summer residence at Brighton. We all scan our morning paper to see if any soldier has swallowed his false teeth that way. What is the view over the wall this year, Jonah?

The remainder of the Company are gallantly carrying on with duties at Smallshot, and are allowed at least one night a week in which to visit the canteen. We are wondering if the nearness of the canal accounts for our small number decreasing yet again by two; these drivers *will* go to wash harness. We can occasionally see our Company commander falling himself in and marching off, complete, to represent the Company on a unit scheme. Keep it up, sir; they will all be home soon.

Sports.—Unfortunately we cannot at present take our usual part in this section, but we hope in July to give an account of ourselves. A word to our Sections away. At present we hold the athletic cup, and it is up to us all to keep it. Don't forget, No. 3 Company are quite willing to grab it, so don't give them the chance.

Arrivals.—Sergt Archer, Corpl Hitchins, L/Corpl Clarke and Sigmn Hawkins from abroad. We hope they have a long and happy stay with us.

S.O.S.—Sigmn Hardy would like to hear from L/Corporal Marshall, somewhere in Egypt (any hopes?). L/Corpl Girdwood would like to hear from Corpl Lowe, last heard of in Germany. Come on, Arthur; Brighton is still in the same place, and so is Conway.

NICK.

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Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, May 15th.

Hail the Corps!—From an existence on paper we have now blossomed forth in the full glory of Cavalry Divisional Signals. As everyone knows, D and E Troops have been going since the war, and now we are as complete as we shall be. But, oh, what a difference to the Cavsigs! no long-eared friends, but iron steeds. Should we now get fellows who cannot "fork a steed," we can simply issue a grease gun in lieu of a dandy brush. We are nicely settled in, being accommodated with the 3/6th Dragoon Guards; and I should like to thank them for the splendid way in which they welcomed us and did all they could to help us.

The Pioneers!

Advance Party of the Cavalry Divisional Signals, landed 1st May.

What's in a Name?—The official title as given above effectively disguises the real identity of the new unit. The Experimental Armoured Force Signals, as it is more popularly—albeit unofficially—known, has grown in less than twelve months from the Mechanised Force Signals of 1927 at Bulford to its present status. It is now for every man to prove the sagacity of such a speedy development by endeavouring to surpass this year the not insignificant work of last.

"Jack of all Trades."—Several of us are performing duties new and unfamiliar. Our ration clerk, for instance, roams about with furrowed brow, ruffled hair, a bundle of papers in his hand, and somebody else's pencil behind his ear, asking such things as "If two pounds of sugar last one man seven days, how many pounds are required for forty men, ten of them being Scotsmen?"

Then some of us became furniture removers. The furniture was soon moved. So was Dinty when a careless fellow put a wardrobe on his foot. So was the C.Q.M.S. when he saw what was left of the furniture. He also explained that although he wanted the furniture moved, he had intended that the front door paint should have been left where it was. The door was quite upset about it—in fact it was almost unhinged.

In a few Words.—A portion of the Great Southern Railway passes behind our barrack rooms. Hut orderlies should remember that the trains run over sleepers.

We do not take whiskey neat, but at the same time we dislike soda in our tea.

It is better to be carried into a hospital than to be carried out of one.

Our Restaurant.—The opening of our dining hall—mess room isn't the word—proved quite an event. On entering one naturally looks round for the head waiter to conduct one to a table. The colour scheme resulting from the combined effect of the curtains, lamp hangings, flowers and the works of art—not just pictures, please—is a veritable feast for the eye, and in no way diminishes the pleasure of a nicely cooked feast for the stomach. Everyone appreciates the pains taken by their officers to produce such a comfortable mess.

Arrivals.—Everyone.

Departures.—The writer now takes his. Cheerio!

NABAD.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, May 14th.

General.—Once more it is time for notes to be submitted for the June WIRE, after delaying the ordeal for want of inspiration. As I scan through Part II. Orders I find a few interesting items, as follows: During the past month Salisbury has had another livener with the second Headquarters dance. General Sir A. J. Godley, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C. (G.O.C.-in-Chief, Southern Command) and other officers of the Headquarters staff were present. The dance went off with the usual swing, like most military dances, the attendance numbering about 200—a great decrease compared with the last one. This was caused through the committee deciding upon a limited number of tickets being sold. The Blackbirds orchestra of the 5th Battn. Royal Tank Corps, from Tidworth, supplied six hours of good music.

Sporting Times: Tennis.—Southern Command Headquarters staff held their first American tournament of the season on May 1st. Lieut.-Colonel Stanbury (Royal Engineers) and Sergeant Graham K. G. (Royal Signals) were successful in winning.

Mixed Doubles: No. 4.—No. 2310788 C.Q.M.S. (Foreman-of-Signals) Aslett J. scratched from the singles and entered the mixed doubles with Miss K. Harris, of Dover. They passed into the second round at the Church of Our Lady and St. Martin, Dover, without the loss of a single game. "A love set!"

Birth.—Congratulations to Mr. R. Gilder (S.B.O. of this Company) on the arrival of a son and heir. The three valve set is now complete, Dick!

Randomites—(1) Safety First.—A hard-faced old woman, carrying a heavy bag, entered the carriage of an express and placed the bag immediately above the head of an old gentleman whose head was swathed in bandages. As the train moved on its way, the old gentleman glanced up at the bag with evident mistrust. "Is this bag safe?" he enquired nervously. "Certainly!" snapped the woman; "it's locked!"

(2) A Double Event.—Asked the prosperous city merchant of a friend, "Is it correct that your clerks get a fortnight's holiday every year?" "A *month*," was the reply. "What!" exclaimed the merchant in a tone of surprise; "a month!" "Yes!" said his friend; "they get two weeks official, and two weeks unofficial when I go for mine!"

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

The Armoured Force.—A considerable number of our lads have been posted to the new "Army on Wheels." We wish them all the best of luck, and trust that they will make a name for themselves.

Under the following officers who have gone from here, this should be a foregone conclusion: O.C., Major J. R. Carter, O.B.E., R.Signals. Capt C. A. Oliver, M.C., R.Signals. Lieut H. R. Holland and Lieut E. F. Maltby.

Their appearance in the pages of THE WIRE is awaited. Come on, the Corps!

Visitors.—Not all our old friends return to Bulford to see how we are faring. Well, you can't blame them. However, we were very pleased to see ex-Q.M.S. Forward R. V., his wife and family, turn up last Sunday on a flying visit. They only set out in their car (make a note of that) for a few miles run, but decided to give us a look up. Mr. Forward is in business on his own round Bournemouth way, and judging by appearances is making a good thing of it. We hope they will give us the "once over" again before long.

One of these days we shall have Mr. Sam Spreadborough up to see us. You never know. He is always promising.

Perhaps Darky Warden may drive up in a Hispano Sitzler or something; or we may see Jock Campbell on a Scotch car—I mean a Morgan.

They all know that a welcome awaits them here, whenever they feel the urge.

Sergeants' Mess.—Quite a lot of activity here these days.

A most enjoyable smoker was held on Saturday, April 28th. The object was to give the Armoured Force a send-off.

Someone was remarking only a short time ago on the absence of "talent" in the unit. Of course, a lot depends on what you mean when you speak of talent. Now take Sergt Chick (but bring him back). He is, you will agree, a talented pianist, but he refuses to play syncopated music. There's always a catch in it somewhere. Myself, I am gifted with a hard neck. That's a talent. The conjurer was talented in the same way.

A social evening on May 6th gave us all a pleasant hour or two. Portions of the band failed to arrive, including the pianist, but Mrs. Hailes came to the rescue with great success. Monologues were popular (especially whilst the artistes were singing). One of the best was "The pink eye of the little tin clod," which nobody recited, much to the relief of those who were expecting it. The star turn of the evening was a sketch. No one knows what it was all about, but C.Q.M.S. Sweeting was attired as a lady of the Mrs. 'Arris type. If you haven't seen Joe dressed as a lady, you haven't lived! To those who were not present we tender our deepest sympathy. Another will be held on May 20th, which should be an even greater success because Barleux has promised not to blow his saxophone.

The Sale of Work and Jumble.—Held on Saturday, April 28th, this was an event of outstanding importance. I nearly forgot it, too!

The sale was held in the Garrison Institute and was opened by Mrs. Earle, the wife of the C.S.O. Southern Command. The place was literally packed, and when the opening ceremony was concluded the rush was something to be seen—at a distance.

The organisation of the sale was in the hands of Mrs. A. C. Allan, the wife of our C.O. She was ably assisted by the wives of the officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and men of the unit.

Amongst the attractions were the following: Jumble sale, bazaar, clairvoyante, lucky dips, raffles, dancing, cabaret show (with conjuror), produce stalls, china and glass stalls, auction sales and detectives. The last-named went down in the first onslaught and were seen no more.

The receipts were in the neighbourhood of £70, of which £56 was clear profit; a very good show indeed.

The object of the sale was to obtain money to be devoted to something in the new Garrison church, such as the installation of a window or some other such suitable object. Now that a larger sum than was anticipated has been obtained by local efforts, however, the matter has been referred to the Corps Committee with a suggestion that the sum raised should be used as the nucleus of a fund to provide a War Memorial to the officers, N.C.O.s and men of the Signals, 3rd Division, who gave their lives in the Great War. The decision of the committee on this matter is awaited.

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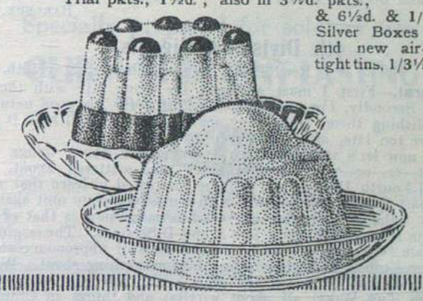


B.33d

Through the Keyhole.—I wasn't supposed to hear this, but here it is. Believe it or not, as you will.

Scene: A Company office. Period: Friday, April 20th, 1928.

C.S.M.: "There are a lot of passes for Wembley on your table, sir."

O.C.: "Oh! what's on at Wembley?"

C.S.M. (slightly dazed): "Cup final, of course, sir."

O.C.: "Final of what?"

There was a silence for a little while, unbroken save for the scratching of the O.C.s pen. The C.S.M. sat on the step outside and took in great gulps of fresh air.

Le Cheval Noir.—Thank you for those few nuts. We are surprised to learn that Le Cheval is able to send people to new units. Records must have moved!

Hard Neck.—This month's prize is awarded to the man who, having completed his musketry, endeavoured to hand his rifle into stores because, as he said, "There is to be an inspection of rifles this morning, and mine is pretty awful."

Musketry.—Except for the casuals, we have completed our annual musketry. (Laus Deo!) We will not go into details regarding the result. I mean, there is nothing to be gained by creating envy amongst other units. You can't all be as good as us.

Now, wait a minute, while I get a large megaphone. Never mind, I was going to tell you who made top score, but on second thoughts I won't ruin his reputation for modesty.

Arrivals.—The following have joined the fold from various units both at home and abroad: Sigmn McKechnie. Signalmen Worth, Goldsby, Ralph and Sergt Shilton. Corpls Jones and

Newmarch and Sigmn Nursan. Signalmen Ayres, Flitter and Dow. Sigmn McCormack. Sergt Chick, C.Q.M.S. Hoitt, and Sergt Naylor. Sergt Betts. Signalmen Johnson, White A. J., White A., Lloyd A., Vine J., and Wright W.

Departures.—Sigmn Holliday A. to the Army Reserve, April 24th. L/Sergt Standley to the 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals (T.A.), April 4th. Sergt Laing to the 48th (S.M.) Divl Signals (T.A.), April 30th. Sigmn Wareham to Army Reserve, May 4th.

Births.—To Dvr and Mrs. Lee, a son (Reginald Ernest), on April 22nd. Congratulations! To Sigmn and Mrs. Traynor, a son (Arthur James), on April 2nd. More congratulations!

Marriages.—Congratulations to the following, who have joined the ranks of the "married pads" (keep it dark about the C.R.A.): Sigmn Ferris to Nellie Blanche Keswick, 7/4/28. Sigmn Button to Gladys E. Brook, at Dynock, 7/4/28. C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Aslett to Kathleen Mary Harris, at Dover, 25/4/28.

Extensions of Service.—L/Corpl Franklin and Corpl Butler have signed on for another "six," making them up to 12 years.

Appointments.—Congratulations to A/L/Corpls Jackson and Ray on being appointed to that rank. Keep it up!

Agony Column.—Will Sigmn Pearson, Singapore, write to Fairy and Jock at Bulford?

BARLEUX.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, May 15th.

General.—First I must apologise for being late with these notes. Secondly, I must thank the Editor for his good nature in publishing them, when they are so late. (I shall hate it if they *are* too late, after all that!)

And now let's see how much I can get in about things of interest—er—er—well, perhaps there are, scattered about, a few old Fourth Divites who will be interested to learn that we are at last about to settle down as an almost complete unit again.

I say "almost," because our establishment now is that of a complete Divisional Signals, less A and D Sections. The original A Section (Wireless) are split up in all sorts of unpronounceable places in China. D Section I fear I know nothing about. Will some kind soul of A Section grab a pen and tell the world (through THE WIRE) all about wireless and things in China? What about it, Spill? Have a heart, now!

We have at the moment three Sections away from the fold. F Section, under Lieut H. Gough, R.Signals, are with the 18th Field Brigade R.A. at Woolwich; E Section, under Lieut K. Holmes, R.Signals, are with the 2nd Brigade R.A. at Shorncliffe (I hope they have better weather than we had during last summer concentration at that delightful spot); and to-day Corpl Ekless and ten of the lads proceeded by road to Aldershot as the 1st Medium Brigade Signal Section.

Sergt Harris E. W. G., late of the T.A. permanent staff at Derby (whom I forgot to welcome last month) is in charge of No. 3 Company wireless, and has commenced training with the redoubtable h'Ack sets. By dint of combing out all the specially employed departments, he has got together some thirty or so operators W/T, and by now is in the thick of it: theory, procedure, and all the rest of it. A tidy-sized job for one n.c.o., when you consider that several of his class have not touched wireless for ages. Be careful, you chaps, and don't go jamming GFN. Give the Air Force a chance—they only deal with a few kilo-watts, remember; and people are rather apt to forget the power behind an Ack set. Honestly, though, I did once see an Ack set with considerable power behind it—a pack pony had just "booted" it a few yards.

Corporals' Mess.—The mess, on Thursday, May 10th, gave a dinner and smoking concert to celebrate the return of the S.D.F. Signals. Owing to leave and unforeseen circumstances, only two of the returned n.c.o.s were able to turn up to the dinner, but we were glad to have the opportunity of entertaining the n.c.o.s of No. 2 Army Co-operation Squadron, R.A.F., who were attached to the unit for a few days training.

The whole show was voted a great success, and the mess was honoured by the presence at the smoker of Major R. G. Williams, M.V.O., R.Signals (second-in-command of the unit), Captain M. Duncan, R.Signals, Captain and Adjutant H. P. Hart, M.C., R.Signals (the last two officers having recently returned from Shanghai), and R.S.M. Fry T. J. and C.S.M. Stockwell J. (also late members of the S.D.F. Signals). Time will not permit of my describing the whole of the proceedings, but everybody was happy. We were greatly indebted to Sigmn Morris and his banjulele, Corpl Ekless and L/Corpls Page and Garratt (members of the "Queries" concert party), and Sigmn Ryan, for their songs and turns—all jolly well done.

Agony.—To Shanghai: Weller will write next issue. Darky Parkes would like to hear from Maggie Marshall.

THE SPARE ELECTRON.

Sergeants' Mess.—A very enjoyable evening was spent in the mess by the officers, members and their wives and friends, on Saturday, May 12th, when a smoking concert was held as a welcome to the mess members who had recently returned from Shanghai. Local talent provided us with song and music, and we were treated to a very pleasant quarter-of-an-hour by Capt L. B. Nicholls, R.Signals, in "Songs at the Piano." We adjourned for dancing at about 11 p.m., and carried on until midnight.

After "The King," three toasts were given during the evening: "The Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Shanghai Defence Force Signals"; "The Officers"; and "The Corps, Past and Present." The latter was very ably given by Major R. G. Williams, M.V.O., R.Signals.

The proceedings opened fairly quietly, but warmed up considerably later on; and I don't risk contradiction when I say that everyone spent a very happy evening.

The absence of Frank Beau-Land was noticed by many, and we are still awaiting to hear from him anent the subject, as we think an explanation is due.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

It seems very much as if summer has come at last, and with it, of course, all the usual training. On April 24th and 26th the Company proceeded to Kinnigar for the annual firing. The weather being fine, the average was quite good, Corpl Roberts making "bullets" as usual. We were rather amused, on our return journey, at a blind man who stopped to watch us march past—until he remembered his "trade."

On April 20th the Company held a dance in our own lines. This proved a very entertaining evening to all, and well compensated the committee for the trouble they had undergone. The decorating was done by Sergt Beverley and Signalmen Stevens and Cowan.

During the interval we were entertained with songs from Master G. Swift, Mrs. J. Dalzell, and Corpl Roberts (of concert party fame), whilst Sigmn Cowan provided the music. In fact, as usual, the Radiations were well to the fore.

The catering was admirably carried out by Sergt and Mrs. Beverley, to whom great thanks are due for the way in which they overcame the difficulties of a surplus number of people.

The evening was satisfactory to such an extent that the company would not leave until two hours after time, and then only on the understanding that we would hold another dance at an early date.

Consequently, on May 11th another dance *was* held, this time in the Garrison gymnasium, the committee in charge being Sergt Sheale, Sergt Beverley, Corpl Roberts, Signalmen Stevens and Cowan. It had been looked forward to, with the result that 250 people attended and were well satisfied. The credit for decorating the gymnasium—no small job—is due entirely to Sigmn Stevens, with the able help of the drivers.

Sergt Sheale was in charge of the bar, Sergt Beverley, Corpl Roberts and Sigmn Stevens acted as M.C.s, and Sigmn Cowan brought his Radiations dance band to provide the music. I noticed with pleasure and surprise the ex-G.U.M. of the Radiations (L/Corpl Cheel) drumming away in fine style. It is another case of "From G.U.M. to Star," as a well-known sergeant once said.

Everything went well, but the dancers did not go until 4 a.m., and then with the hope of yet another dance. That of course remains to be seen, as it entails so much work before and after for such a very small number of workers.

It will be a great surprise to many to hear that at 2 p.m. on May 4th a two-minute silence was observed whilst L/Corporal Stockton F. went to his doom, with Sigmn Williams E. as his best man. The N.A.A.F.I. will greatly regret his taking this step, but all the same we congratulate him most heartily and wish him all possible luck in his new adventure.

We welcome to the Company Signalmen Goody, West, Revelle and Thompson from Catterick, and L/Corpl Smith on his return from his course.

During the month we have said goodbye to Corpl Wicks and Sigmn Worth, who have completed their engagement. L/Corpl Wootten has also left us to take up a position in civvy life. To them all we wish the very best of luck!

I must congratulate Sigmn Stone on the birth of a daughter. He must feel quite proud now!

News is very rare from the Lough Swilly Section, but I hear that a certain signalman recently went to see a well-known billiard champion play, with the result that he now wants to challenge the world.

Sigmn Stevens would like to hear from Sigmn Warren E., last heard of in D Company, Maresfield, in 1925.

C. W. N.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, May 14th.

General.—The annual musketry has come and gone, and although I am unable to give the names of the top scorers I believe they were extremely "jammy." The new Table B, complete with gas mask and rather antiquated ranges, seems to have got one or two down. The D.R.s and others who prefer a revolver fired their practice on the 11th inst., and Capt J. L. Henderson, R.Signals, is to be congratulated on his score. Well done, sir! The question of who should be the chief executioner at the next dog-destroying day is obviously settled.

We are now emerging from an extremely cold spell of weather which occurs annually and is known as the three ice days. Last year we were in Tier Park for this freezing spell, but this year we have allowed an infantry battalion to have first innings.

Social.—The fortnightly dances still continue, and the one held on April 24th was quite a bumper affair. Crowds rolled in from the various units in the Garrison and went away thoroughly satisfied with the evening's happenings.

During the evening we were treated to a novel, unusual and very interesting musical interlude by L/Sergt Rumble L. A. on his Hawaiian steel guitar. This accomplished player (of Hilo and Tilo fame) deserves the highest praise for the manner in which he manipulates his instrument. Entirely self-taught, he has the abilities of a professional player, and will undoubtedly go far in the musical world when the opportunity presents itself.

Training.—The 19th R.A. Brigade Signal Section are at present in camp at Bitche, France, with the Gunners, while the Sections remaining in barracks are enjoying schemes, etc.

The annual camp which begins on June 1st is now being considered, and stores are being overhauled and lists of requirements drawn up; in fact, everyone seems very enthusiastic about the whole affair (?)

The individual training seems to have been of great use to the unit, and here's wishing those candidates for higher ratings the best of luck.

Arrivals.—Sigmn Baker W. H. (Doughy) rejoined from a G.P.O. course at Peterborough, looking none the worse for his spell of civvy street. Corpl Salmond G., who attended No. 93 regimental signallers course at the School of Signals, came back to the fold simply bursting with knowledge, only to find that the visual ops' course had finished. Being a qualified A.I., he is now assisting in the annual classification of infantry signallers. Congratulations, Sammy!

Officers.—Capt F. J. Darby and 2/Lieut K. J. T. Boag, of the 44th (H.C.) Divl Signals, are at present with this unit for instruction, and we trust that they will return to their unit fully satisfied with all that they have seen and heard.

S.O.S.—To Signals, Gibraltar: What about some notes?

Appointments.—Heartiest congratulations to the following, who have succeeded in gaining the first step to the inner circle (ahem!): To be L/Corporals, Signalmen Taylor W. D. and Knight R. D. Sigmn Mundy J. left for Bitche with an unpaid one up.

Green Ink.—To Signals, Peshdist: Dear, dear, dear! Fancy you possessing some of this famous (?) ink; but still, I rather doubt if there are many units which do not. The query regarding the inexhaustible supply will probably be answered by the owner, who has left this station.

Ask at the Canteen for

DON

BOOT POLISH

Specially prepared for soldiers' use.

QUICK·BRILLIANT·LASTING

Made by the Manufacturers of

BLANCO

Used by H.M. Forces for over 50 years for cleaning equipment.

Departures.—These are becoming more and more numerous, and if some one doesn't soon "bounce," there won't be enough left to do a guard. Our best wishes go with the following: Cpl Austin A. E., and Signalmen Holmes H. W., Moody J., Tye E. W., Johnson C. B., Bush J. and Manuel J. W., to the Army Reserve. Sigmn Davis B. T. purchased his discharge. Sigmn Smith S. to the A.V.T.C., Chisledon.

Marriage.—L/Corpl Hart W. J. to May Hicks, on April 9th. We proffer the usual compliments.

The Easy Way.—Officer taking particulars of his Section for compiling the annual drafting return. Enter Sigmn A.

Officer: "Do you volunteer for draft?"

Sigmn A.: "Yes, sir!"

Officer: "Where do you want to go?"

Sigmn A.: "Sierra Leone, sir."

Officer (pushing his cap to one side): "Oh——! I can't spell that; you go to Bermuda." And he promptly made the entry against Sigmn A.'s name.

Finis.—Having filled the post of chief scribe for some considerable time, I now have to lay down the pen and proceed to Catterick, to be kicked into the cruel hard world for a period of six years on the Reserve and an indefinite period on the dole (I wonder?)

Tubby, of No. 3 Egypt Signals: Please note that dog-ends, etc., will be gratefully received.

With best wishes to the Company, I am now going to creep.

BLANCO.

Keep what you want, cast what you can, and expect nothing back once lost or once given.

* * * *

A storm at sea, a vine-wasting tempest, a disappointing farm, or a reputed "bad station," cause no anxiety to him who is content with "enough"!

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

April 12th.

General.—News is very scarce this month, but to show that we have not forgotten our usual contribution, we will do our best. We have asked our local readers to help us by including a few fairy tales, but so far there has been no response. Many are afraid to say too much, as some of our recently-departed ones are due to return in about six months, and we are sure they will want to see this issue in case we put in an article entitled "A Soldier's Farewell."

The loss of several members who left us for the U.K., and about half of our Indian ranks on annual leave, leaves us rather quiet.

We are at present holding our annual musketry course, and we hope that our average does not drop, in spite of Tich and Gus having left us for the U.K. Most probably they will do their shooting at Bisley, or else fire their complete course in one night at one of the local fairs. I believe, though, that Gus is much better at rings.

Owing to ill-health L/Sergt Greening was unable to proceed to the U.K. on the "Somersetshire," but we hope he will be fit enough to travel on the last boat that leaves Bombay this month.

In conclusion to our General Notes, I should like to inform our recently departed that the word "sheik" is a forgotten password.

Knob On!—Congratulations to Sergt Diamond on being presented with his 1st.

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Harlow, a son (Patrick William). Congratulations to the proud parents.

Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on their recent appointments. May they all prove a credit to the Corps. U/L/Corpls Wallace F., Robinson H., Waite N., Henderson W., Murray T., Gibbons E., Webber F. and Shorrock L.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following to the unit, and hope that their stay will be a long and merry one. From B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, Capt T. B. Ferriday. From Jubbulpore, Sergt Loton, Signalmen Cooper G., Oates and Stanley. From U.K., Sergt Wilson and family, and Sergt Vic Bardoe and wife. From Aden, Sigmn Farrell.

Revenue Dodgers.—Sigmn Arthurs would like to hear from Sigmn Holder, late of A Corps Signals, Karachi. (Next boat, Billy.) Sergt Diamond would like to hear from Meg. Sigmn Harwood would like to hear from Sigmn Porter C., late of Catterick. Sigmn Hockley would like to hear from Sigmn Manning, late of Gibraltar. Sigmn Drury would like to hear from Bob Cook, late of Hertford.

AKORPZ.

Peshawar District Signals.

April 11th.

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome 2/Lieut F. C. Seely, R.Signals, to our midst, and trust that the terrors of the Sunny East will not disturb him in any way.

In gaining one popular officer we had to lose another, and it was with regret that we bade farewell to Capt E. L. Farnall, R.Signals, on his reposting to the 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

Promotions.—We are pleased to announce the promotion of Lieut J. Hawke, Cheshire Regiment (Indian Signal Corps) to be Captain, with effect from 17th October, 1927. We trust that although we are now surplus with captains, we shall still retain his services for a long while.

General.—Troopers may come, troopers may go, but we stay here for ever. Of course, I am not referring to that class of trooper who will soon be termed "robots," but the trooper when you can see khaki drill tunics, spine pads and sun glasses thrown about the bungalow with the remark "I shall not need that this year." We have sent our last batch of "time-ex" men to the United Kingdom by this trooper, and now we have to settle down in the cool and shady spots of Peshawar for another date season and wait to see what the next trooper brings us.

Last week, twenty-seven men of the unit left for the United Kingdom per H.M.T. "Somersetshire." Fourteen were for the home establishment, six for transfer to the Army Reserve, and seven for six months' leave. We trust they all succeed in their new spheres and that they will remember the times they spent in Peshdistsigs.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following on their reposting direct from the United Kingdom, and trust that by now they have settled down to the glories of the East. F/Sergt Preston J., Sergt Goodman L. and wife, Sergt Waller J., wife and two children, Corpl Dodds W., wife and child.

Old hands of the Signals will recognise the above new arrivals; and really, we must say that it is just like old times again to see them all creep here.

Greetings.—I'm sure it will interest all to hear of the whereabouts of a certain Nobby Morris, whose address in 1922 was "Bye-Products, Maresfield Park," that bracing camp in Sussex. Well, he is to be found in the vicinity of the Angel, Islington, and he sends his best respects to all who may remember him.

Wireless.—Another one! Sigmn Flavell would like to hear from Sigmn Carter E. A., last heard of at Jubbulpore (when the band broke up.)

PESHDISTSIGS.

Waziristan District Signals.

Dera-Ismail-Khan.

General.—Consternation reigned here for a few days owing to our Signals Association president, Capt G. C. Winckley, M.C., coming a bad cropper on the race course. We condole with him on the loss of his charger, but are pleased and thankful to see him on his feet again.

Brighter D.I. Khan.—An attempt was made by the members of the corporals' room to start community singing. All went well until our pseudo-Scotsman began to give us a tender and heart-rending solo, whereupon the president (a gentleman of Napoleonic stature and bristling toothbrush) effectively snuffed the singer with the gramophone horn. This highly diverting interlude was immediately followed by a unanimous rendering of the call of the East, "Bearer!"

Columns, Colds, Corns, etc.—Several of us went out on column recently for five days. We travelled in six-wheelers and suffered intensely from B.T.B.s" (balloon-tyre blisters).

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome Lieut C. Bowman-Vaughan from the 1/1st Punjab Regiment, also 2/Lieut Carpenter, R.Signals, from home. We hope their sojourn with us will be long and happy.

We heartily regret the departure of the following to the U.K. and home establishment: L/Sergt Flett, Corpls Benson, Ford, Clutterbuck, Robson, Ferdinando and McLachlan, L/Corporal Tomkins, Signalmen Lawrence, Atkins and Griffiths.

Leave in U.K.—We hope our adjutant, Capt G. B. Rowley, will have a pleasant time on leave, and we look forward to his return—although probably he does not.

We also wish Corpl Mansfield, Signalmen Wootten and Edmunds a pleasant time.

VAT.

Razmak Brigade Signals.

General.—We are very busy at present in preparing for column. Sets are being overhauled, and the men are hard at work on training. A certain signalman is imparting a brilliant polish to some queer instruments known as D.iii's. Keep it up, Dutch; we are known as the "Fighting Seventh," but we will show the "Shiny Seventh" up yet.

Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold Signalmen Mills, Paterson, Bisby, Richardson and Harwood. Cheer up! you only have to serve two years in Razmak before a change.

OSCILLATOR.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

A special parade was held at Meerut on March 21st on the departure of General Sir G. de S. Barrow, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, and Major-General Sir G.Mc.K. Franks, K.C.B., commanding Meerut District. The unit paraded with the Infantry Brigade. A special Command Order was afterwards published, congratulating all ranks on parade on their fine turnout and soldierly bearing.

All ranks of the unit extend a hearty welcome to Capt J. W. Bailey, M.C., who has joined us from the 1st Indian Divisional Signals; also to Lieut R. H. Copeland and 2/Lieuts D. M. Smyth and L. W. J. Dryland, who have arrived here from U.K.

Our best wishes go with Capt W. M. Miller, M.C., on his posting to the 4th Indian Divl. Signals. He has been offic'ating Commandant for the last year, during the absence of Major F. O. St. John, D.S.O., M.C., officiating Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command.

It is extremely unfortunate for the unit band that the pianist, Sigmn Gearing, should have been admitted into hospital with enteric just before the move to the hills. He is now on the road to recovery, and we hope soon to be able to re-commence the Old Comrades Association dances which were such a success last year.

Congratulations to Farrier-Staff-Sergt Wilsmore on his promotion.

Ranikhet.—The unit made its annual pilgrimage to the hills and is now stationed in Ranikhet. After several days of packing and of feverish anxiety concerning the probability of having to march up to Ranikhet from the railhead, we finally left Meerut on the night of March 27th.

We arrived at Bareilly early next morning, transferred our baggage to the narrow-gauge railway, and left for Kathgodam (the railhead) about 9 a.m. Here we once more transferred our baggage, loading it this time into lorries. We then loaded ourselves into other lorries and began the final stage of our journey, very thankful to be spared the five days' march which has been our lot on former hill moves.

How easy it is to travel by lorries! We are becoming quite expert at the loading and unloading of baggage, and the way our stores were handled this time was pretty to watch. It was noticed, however, that certain items of married families' baggage, and boxes marked "this way up," seemed always to suffer most from the gentle (?) handling.

The journey to the hills—even to those who have made it several times—is always interesting. The scenery is magnificent. The road winds steadily upwards for miles through thickly wooded country. The hills rise very steeply on one side, while on the other the hill-side drops thousands of feet to the valley below. The road is none too wide—and at times we went perilously near the edge. A few more inches and we should have been sent hurtling down the khud. There have been several landslides, and in places, though dozens of labourers were at work shovelling rocks and debris out of the way, the roads were not quite clear and consequently the going was very rough and bumpy. Still, we suffered no serious injury, and though the journey was somewhat trying to the nerves we treated the whole affair as a joke.

We passed one baggage lorry which had shed its off wheel and came very near to toppling over the edge of the khud. We waved cheerily to the two men of the baggage guard and went gaily on our way (little dreaming that this particular lorry contained our bedding).

Eventually we reached Ranikhet about seven o'clock in the evening, and on hunting around for our beds we discovered with dismay that they were contained in the broken-down lorry already mentioned. We did not expect the lorry to arrive until the following morning, and so prepared for a cold and uncomfortable night. Fortunately, however, the bedding arrived about

an hour later, and it was not long before we were wrapped in our blankets and all our troubles forgotten.

Since our arrival we have been chiefly employed in squaring up and in completing the telephone lines left unfinished by the advance party. Training for higher ratings has commenced, and the era of text-books, note-books, and training manuals (to say nothing of headaches) has arrived.

Arrivals.—Sergt Eyres A. and family from Aldershot Command Signal Company.

Departures.—To U.K. on six months' leave: C.Q.M.S. Munn and family, Sergt Foot and family, Sergt Kelsey and family, Sergts Andrews, Evans, Gardner and Barber, and Corpl Nesbit. To the home establishment: L/Sergt Wheeler, Corpls Luck, Brett and McMillan, Signalmen Allan, Beck, Cooper, Cheeseman, Hadland, Edwards, Goldsby, McVicar, Ralph and Stanton. To the Army Reserve: Corpls Lucas and Trudgett, Signalmen Clarke, Cope, Baker and Stringer.

INK.

Kohat District Signals.

People usually talk about the weather at this time of the year, but we Kohatites are unusual. Suffice it to say that we have been cold and hot, wet and dry, swimming and sweating, all within the space of about a week. I said we were unusual!

We have been busy this month. Pucca! We have just found out what good shots we aren't. We fired our musketry, revolver and rifle courses during April. Some of us are trying marbles in future. Parades were at 06.30 hrs.

I heard someone say that he was firing his course on the night of the 9/10th April. Still, as Shelley has it, "the early bird catches the bull"—or some such creeping thing. Our poet said:

"By the struggling moonbeam's misty light
They arose from their couch of retiring;
They marched up quietly at dead of night.
So eager were they for the firing."
(Apologies to Wolluf).

Anyway, the final results for the British ranks were: Marksmen, 2; firsts, 31; seconds, 32; thirds, 1 (he opened up a "banking" account).

Goings.—We said goodbye to twenty-one of old F on April 2nd, when they left us for embarkation on the "Somersetshire." Nine have gone to civvy street and twelve want to soldier on in Blighty. They all have the best wishes of the "lads who stuck it" behind them.

L/Sergt Cadell and Sigmn Darlington left us for 1st Divl Signals, Rawalpindi, the former going on to Australia for a wee furlough.

Four others of ours have gone home to have a look round and bring back the latest fashions.

Comings.—We welcome into our midst (everyone says that, don't they? It sounds so nice): Sergt/Instructor King L. J. (A.E.C., from Bombay), who takes the place of W.O.II. Hopewell, transferred to Calcutta. Long may he reign!

We also greet the following from Jubbulpore: Signalmen Bent J. J., Morris H., Marshall F., Hayes W., Gardner W., Perks C. A., and Eaton A. C. We hope their stay on the Frontier will be—as long as ours, and as happy.

The Ladies.—We lose our last touch of brightness on April 27th, when the ladies go to Khyraghalli for the hot weather. The "better halves" have to stay on the plains. Ugh! now I've done it!

Social.—A very enjoyable afternoon was spent when the sergeants' mess and the men combined in a "chummo-chummo" tennis-at-home. The tennis was redolent of centre court play at its best, and everyone had plenty of games owing to the able and judicious management of Tricky Lewis.

The ladies (they keep cropping up!) dug out their Mother Beeton's and prepared a glorious tea; we had an abundance of everything nice, and iced it. Some of our lustier trenchermen refused to be "at-home" for about a quarter-of-an-hour, until they had really sampled it and passed it as fit for consumption by the rest of the gathering. Hats off, then, and "Merci, mesdames."

Sergeants' Mess.—Hush! They are very proud lately—very proud—because someone threw out a challenge between the Staff and Departmental Club, the R.A.F. and the Signals Messes at football, hockey, tennis and billiards. And we have won everything with the exception of tennis, when we lost to the R.A.F.

You agree, then, that there is really need for cautious approach to such champions. You should see their chests! We missed Cos in goal and Whacker at hockey, but we did well, perspired much, and imbibed deeply—did we!

A very pleasant and convivial week was spent during the time of the tournament, for the more serious work of winning was spiced with dinners and dances; and everybody went away feeling that the Signals *could* entertain.

Boxing.—We sent Corpl Theobald and Sigmn Pascoe to the Northern Command boxing at Rawalpindi, and although we heard of hard hitting and good fighting they had not the luck to lift the "coops." Hard lines!

Birds.—Our "hill parrots" have left us for Parachinar. Some are trying to march it; some couldn't; some wouldn't—but as they are still continuing their perambulations, we will pass on a few impressions of the trek in our next.

WOG.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

April 10th.

General.—Nothing very exciting has happened since our last notes. Not even a sandstorm has visited us, so our peaceful little home has not been disturbed, and things in general have been running very smoothly.

Riding drill is the biggest thing these days, and great improvements can be seen daily round the ranch. The Roughs are very sorry because their leading star has been taught the fine art of giving medicine to the weaklings. Great things were expected of him, and his tales of hard riding were known for miles. (We all know your *pop* was a big jockey from way back.)

Some wonderful tales are still being told by members of the Troop; all are trying to win the "most wonderful cup." Dingleberry Day and Nimmo are easily among the leaders, for the tales they tell are really worth listening to!

Training.—Many aspirants are busy swotting up for the Link Courses at Upper Topa, and by the way they keep their heads in so many various books, none mean to leave without higher ratings.

Arrivals.—Corpl Redworth, Signalmen Smith C., Sullivan and Suteliffe from A Company S.T.C. (India), Jubbulpore. All ranks wish them a happy stay with the Troop.

Departures.—Sergt Hinds W., A/Sergt Shiner A. J., and Cpl Murphy J. on six months' leave in U.K. L/Sergts Reat and Nichols and Sigmn Chandler O. transferred to home establishment. Sigmn Brierley for discharge. The best of luck to them all, and to Sigmn Brierley a good job in civvy life.

Courses.—The undermentioned are expected to leave Sialkot at the beginning of May for Link Courses at Upper Topa: L/Sergt Udale, L/Corpls Manning S. and Hall F., Signalmen Davy A., Mills T., Williss, Semmence, Naisbitt G., and Westgate S.

Vocational Courses.—Signalmen Jackson and Boyle (Paddy) to the Government Dairy Farm, Sialkot. Corpl Nimmo G. to the Power Station, Sialkot. It is rumoured that the former two are going to open a dairy at Victoria Park. Is this true?

Agony.—To Barleux: Very sorry to have to tell you that our Speed King has dispensed with his wonderful speed bus.

Aden Signal Section.

More about Aden.—I am sorry I cannot write anything of such interest that the reader would forget himself and show this to a non-subscriber, but that is not all my fault, because Aden is only Aden after all.

You may wonder what we do to justify our existence. Well, we do just as you would were you placed here—latitude 12.47 N. (Indian units, please note this modesty.) We also work a few exchanges, maintain lines, and look after the pigeons. I'm not going to write much about those pigeons, but I hope Records send out a chiropodist next trooping season. You would have to see them in action to fully understand anything I write. I'm pretty confident that if they had to do a day flight they would need a topee and spine pad. At walking they are worth a try-out for the next Olympic games. They should do well as a team, because they pack so well.

I remember Tom Webster once caricatured Mr. Tippler arriving home late, but he would have to get up early to catch our birds, because if they do return they arrive with the milkman. Mind you, I wouldn't say anything against them; but if the saving of my life depended between those birds and a brandy and soda, I would choose the b. and s. every time.

Of course they have their uses. For instance, supposing you couldn't read a map, take your bearings from the sun, or fathom the stars, you have only to look on the ground and you will surely see their feet marks leading back to Steamer Point. They seem to have been well trained in esprit de corps, too, because quite a few frequent other lofts and in turn hold guest days in their own.

Their morals are beyond me. I know of a case—No, I won't cite it, but watch the feathered world. Discipline is bad, and I have good cause to say that. Why, there is one bird suffering from a broken leg; and in all seriousness I ask how can a carrier pigeon break its leg in the execution of its duty? (Is this a record, please?) Now that bird was "tossed" in the correct manner, but it arrived back with a broken leg, which proves it must have walked—and it is a rather high official at that. It was tossed in the approved style, I am prepared to swear—grasped firmly but not maliciously, swung round a few times, and aimed at the sky with the soldier's usual farewell.

But perhaps pigeons do not interest you. Really they have no interest for me, but once I notice a surplus in establishment I hope to get my thieving irons at work, and if successful I might be able to describe them in the nude later.

Educational.—A few days ago I dropped across some correspondence relating to a recent 2nd class examination. One of the questions appears to have demanded of the candidates what lessons were derived from "Treasure Island." One candidate answered that it taught one to defend oneself against pirates. If such is the case I would suggest that a book dealing with land sharks be used for alternate examinations.

That's the lot!

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo.

General.—With the passing of collective training, we entered the inspection season with full hopes of coming through this polish period with flying colours. The inspection by Colonel Powell, C.S.O. Egypt, passed off o.k., and the annual G.O.C.'s inspection was held on Friday, April 27th. I have not seen the report, but he seemed quite satisfied with all he saw.

All tradesmen are watching and waiting for Orders stating "The u/m n.c.o.s and men will commence a re-classification course," and no doubt by the time these notes appear we shall be tied up with formulæ and diagrams. Sergeant Rushworth, having recently arrived from the School of Signals, will no doubt twist us up with his new ideas, as inventions take a long time to arrive here.

Congratulations.—The Company offer the usual congratulations to the following lance-corporals on attaining that rank. By using their nick-names, no doubt they will be better known by the old members of the Company now freezing in Blighty. They are L/Corporals Razz Dawson, Dixie Knight, and Matchless Rossen Hart. Anyway, here's the best for the future!

Congratulations also to C.S.M. and Mrs. Burgess on being presented with a brand new 1928 pattern son (Peter Gerald). We heard from one of the n.c.o.s that while riding his H.D. combination through the Garrison he passed the S.M. pushing the aforesaid son from the M.F. Hospital to his quarters, and that the new arrival was so fine, bonny and heavy that the pram wheels were tyred.

Dope, Class i. Mk. iii. Star.—We have heard of people being placed in prison for *taking* dope, but could anyone tell me if there is anywhere to place a person for *being* a dope. I will not mention any name, but anyone who has spent three days or more with the Egypt Signals will know who it is. The following message was lately received: "Sigmn G. F.———lost kit bag en route to Alexandria, believed to have gone to Ismailia." Dope again! First, batteries at Constant; socks at Port Said; Black Beauty in Cairo; kit bag at Alex. Oh!

At Last.—After six years of very close shaves the "best all-round unit" cup has at last come to rest with the Signals, which is really its proper place. The destination of the cup was undecided at the start of the athletics (the last competition of the season), and it was essential for us to finish above the Royal Scots in these sports. This we did, finishing second to the Lancashire Fusiliers' Army championship team.

Congratulations are offered to the whole team and all who took any part towards winning the cup. Special mention must be made of Sigmn Beeton, his splendid win against Sergt Day in record time, and his run in the 880 yards team race; also of Sergt Jennison, not only for his short distance running but for his organisation and training of the teams. I am sure it was the proudest moment of Major Tillard's life when he was presented with the cup. The only thing we should like to have seen would have been Mr. Kennett in the canteen that evening. But he did his share, and no doubt he feels rewarded for his efforts. For details see Corps Sports Notes.

Heroes.—Two well-known members of the Company, Cinder and Godfrey, left barracks one day to go eastward and visit the R.A.F. What reward do they get for diving into the Nile to the north of barracks to save a duck from drowning?

The noisy gentlemen of No. 3 Hut who excelled himself on Saturday night by speaking five words, and mistook the following day for Palm Sunday.

Request.—It is requested that some kindly member of the Corps in England will send some photos of Maresfield to be published in THE WIRE, as several new members of the Company have no knowledge of our old home. It rather upsets them to hear "When we were at Maresfield" without knowing what it looks like. I hope no one refers me back to Bedford, or I'll hide my face in shame.

The usual summer "sweat" has now commenced on the same old subject, the September boat. Some in the know smile when they hear "Roll on, September," for we shall see some old friends, who *are* rolling on, held under provision "blank blank" to serve a further period not exceeding one year. We know of at least two members of our community who purposely volunteered to do it, so that they could get the laugh over the Docs. clerk—but he who laughs last, eh! Wally.

Agony.—Will Sigmn Phillips (Ben), last heard of in D Company, Catterick, please write to A/L/Corpl Lumby of this unit!

Sigmn Game, of this unit, would like to hear from Sigmn Hodges, 4th Divl Signals.

Will Sigmn Jones G. A., of 4th Divl and China, please send to Sigmn Harding (Archie) of this unit; but mention Maresfield at your peril, Jonah.

F. H. D.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Cairo, May 3rd.

At Last.—These two words just about summed up everyone's feelings when the challenge trophy awarded to the best all-round sporting unit in Egypt was handed over to Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, on the conclusion of the Command sports last month, for retention by the Corps for a year. Though now at long last we have won it, it is to be hoped that every Corps player will do his utmost to see that it remains with the Corps *not* for one year only but for many years to come. Nuff sed! More details in the Sports columns.

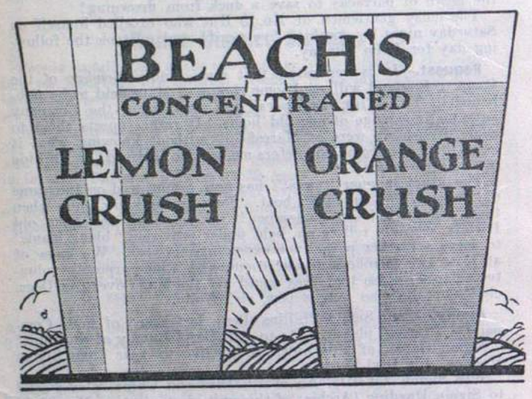
Ever been to Aberdeen on a flag day? Well, the streets cannot have been more deserted then than the Signals barracks were on the occasion of the Command sports, when the destination of the trophy mentioned in the first paragraph was decided. Signals won it, and many thanks are due to the supporters of the Corps for the way they turned out to a man and gave us encouragement. The strong support accorded our various teams is often remarked upon by the other units in the Command. That our teams thrive on it has been shown.

Information Wanted.—Found in the Signals bath-house, one morning after a hectic night, a gramophone in first class (?) condition, believed to have strayed from its home in the corporals' mess. Any information that will throw light on the instrument of torture's travels will be greatly appreciated in the proper quarter.

To Catterick on the Mud.—Kindly scrape away some of the mud and mop up some of the moisture to enable Sergt Paul W. and Corpls Cotton and Marshall to exist decently, as they have left this land of eternal sunshine for your dismal climes. (They departed on the 12th of last month.)

A Wise Wise Man.—Well, he *must* have known something! Sigmn Smith L. arrived on posting to us on April 9th. You *can*

The only Squashes which retain the true flavour and aroma of Oranges and Lemons – because they are made where the Sun-ripened fruit grows



shine your boots here, not merely wipe off the mud a la Catterick.

Well done, Aldershot Sigs.—This unit congratulates most heartily your boxers who have regained the Army team boxing championship for the Corps.

And the same to Bulford.—Fifth at the first time of trying in the Army cross-country championship was a splendid show. Southern Command champions, may you head the field next year!

Say, Bulford!—On perusal of your recent notes, we find quite a lot therein about a little thing called a "pimple"; and judging by the remarks made, this pimple is not exactly popular. Maybe! But you haven't anything on our own settlement. Why, work on your old pimple would be a pleasant pastime for our slaves who toil away under the cool (?) sunshine, fresh (?) breezes, and a refreshing *shade* temperature already reaching 110 degrees.

I make this statement with the whole-hearted support of the Signal Troop and J and K Sections. Still, amusing yourselves on your pimple at Bulford may come in useful to you if any of you should get posted to Egypt during the next trooper and get a staff job on the settlement. (Just hark at our slaves cheering!)

One piece of advice: Bring all the ointment and balm suitable for blistered and painful hands—you'll need it!

Chalk Wanted!—What for? Why, to place on record the fact that Dvr Frederick Stillwell, of No. 1 Company Egypt Signals, was *seen* training for the Command sports during last month. Yes, it certainly needs to be chalked up.

"Just feel my muscles, lads" is the daily remark of L/Corpl Beach C. W., who is now undergoing a muscle-straining course at Abbassia. Strength! Ye gods! he actually fetched the tea bucket for the mess room one evening and poured out the tea without a rest.

Seven Prospective Field-Marshals will eagerly scan these notes, I know, to see if they are mentioned. Yes, time-honoured batons have been dished out, one at a time, to Signalmen Wright F. B., Langley L., Weir R., Brewster R., Corkill J., Gough A. and Jeans W. The last-named had a greasy baton dished out last time, as he dropped it on the Polygon road in the early hours of Christmas morning, 1926. Let's hope this is a drier one, Bill!

Two Seekers of Treasure, or an F.M.'s pay, overcame further obstacles when L/Corpls Dibsdale and Cotton A. became possessed of a further clue in the shape of another bar during the past month.

An Historic Order made its appearance on the notice boards last month, for it contained the names of fifty-five (shall I say fortunates, or unfortunates?) who are going to be returned to that dear old land of mud sometime next trooping season. I'm not saying anything about oleswets, as I'm one of the fifty-five.

A Knowing Young Lady Arrived (alright; sit down, you jazz fiends, and give her a chance) on the 24th of last month, the wife of Sigmn Adams R. W. J. having presented him with a daughter (Kathleen Lilian). She's getting quite sunbrowned already!

Like Pimples on a pound of pickled pork were the helmets of some of the last draft when they wore them for the first time on summer dress coming into use last month. The temperature was much above the average for the time of the year, and reached 110 degrees in the shade during the last month. As some of the last arrivals had the indecency to perspire, some of our oleswets had the sauce to ask what they were going to do when summer comes!

Heard at the Pyramids.—A Yankee tourist on a camel was desirous of dismounting, and seeing one of the Signal Troop close by he spoke thus: "Say, Britisher, how d'yu make this hyah goddammed contraption collapse?" (this should be said with nose nipped).

Close by, another party of Yanks had just mounted donkeys, and one Amurrican damsel (a sweet young thing, too, according to my informer) was heard to say to her fond parent: "Say, poppa, can I have another donk? I can't reach the *pedals* on this one?"

Help Wanted.—Would any boxers in A Corps Signals, when they have a few moments to spare, oblige Sigmn Turner W. of this unit by routing out Sigmn Nick Carter and ensuring that he writes to Egypt immediately?

Private Inquiry Agents.—Here's the job of a lifetime! Seek out Sigmn Basil, wherever he may be, and inform him that if he writes to Sigmn Sowles, of this unit, he will hear of something to his advantage.

Civvies Attached.—In *case* some of you don't know what they are, I could give you the names of several "Mr.'s" sighing for next September, among them being

ART.

Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

April 23rd.

Very little of interest has happened during the past month. Owing to lack of a training ground the blackboard has been called on to do double duty. Despite this handicap training is well in hand, and some good results are expected.

In the realm of sport our five-a-side football team has reached the final for the Dell shield, having vanquished the Navy "A," Shanghai Football Club and Police "B" teams. They now meet the 1st Beds and Herts Regiment, and we are confident that the Corps reputation will be worthily upheld.

We are now busy training for the Shanghai Area inter-Company athletic meeting. In order to provide sufficient entrants, all who can move without the aid of a bath chair have been called upon to perform. Our motto is "Nil Desperandum."

Our jazz band has at last managed to blow itself into the limelight, and recently obtained three engagements in one week. The members deserve congratulations on their pluck and perseverance—chiefly for their pluck.

Our heartiest congratulations to the Aldershot Signals on their excellent performance in the Command boxing tournament. We are now eagerly awaiting to hear the result of the Army championship.

WHANGPOO.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, March.

General.—The only outstanding incidents of this month are the official visits to Hong Kong. The first was made by Marshal Li Chai-sam, Governor of Canton, who arrived here on a Chinese gunboat. Salutes of guns were exchanged, and the Governor of Hong Kong welcomed him as he arrived at Blake pier, which was gaily decorated for the occasion. The guard of honour was provided by the K.O.S.B. Sir Cecil and Lady Clementi later paid a return visit to Canton, where they were given a great welcome to the city, which a short time before had been the scene of great slaughter when Canton "turned Red."

On the 24th inst. a part of the American Asiatic Fleet paid a visit to the Colony, headed by the "Pittsburg." A stay of several days was made, in which the crews were entertained by the American Consulate and community.

The next naval visit will be made on Easter Monday by a Japanese squadron composed of three battleships, one light cruiser, and sixteen destroyers. The personnel of the squadron number six thousand. This is the first time in the history of the Colony that a foreign fleet of such magnitude has visited here.

Outing.—The first summer outing has been arranged by the R.E. and Royal Signals Junior Social Club to take place on Easter Monday. The proposed programme is to leave the Star Ferry, Kowloon, about 10.30 a.m. by car and make a complete tour of the new territory, stopping at Castle Peak for tiffin, and arriving back at the Cafe Imperial, Kowloon, about 5.30 p.m. If the weather holds good we hope to have a very interesting day. This is the first time that this type of outing has been arranged, others having been confined to launch bathing picnics.

General's Inspection.—The Hong Kong Signal Section and Shaforce attached were inspected by the G.O.C. South China Command on the 22nd inst. The morning commenced with a downfall of rain, but later turned out fine. After the parade inspection the W/T station, barrack rooms and men's kits were inspected. The G.O.C. seemed well satisfied with the Section, and was particularly interested in our W/T set which has done such fine work.

Congratulations.—To U/L/Corpl Wilkins on getting the first leg up. Big tops, Wilkie. (If what?)

Agony.—L/Corporal Butler would like to hear from Jock Matthews, last seen running round the village green at Mares field.

Salaams to all from "The Island of Awful Smells."

DAISY.

Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, April 27th.

Cyclone.—On the night of 28/29th February a cyclone paid us a visit of about fifteen minutes' duration. The morning found us once again in "hurricane order": I.R. on duty as night T.S.O., one operator by day; remainder of the Section out repairing the damage. The Hamilton Hotel at Hamilton, deciding to part with its roof, deposited it on our main route to Spanish Point, demolishing five bays. This was our most serious damage. After four days (including a Sunday, worse luck!) normal duties were resumed, and we are now ready for the next visitation.

Arrivals.—C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Walker C. F. R. and wife, Sigmn Walsh H., wife and family, and Signalmen Kempster and Randall arrived on s.s. "Orduna" on April 19th. Signalman Walsh and family proceeded to St. George's; the remainder to Prospect. We wish them all a very pleasant stay in the "Isles of Rest."

Departures.—On or about May 4th, C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Simmonds P. A., wife and child, and Sigmn Mitchell G. leave us for U.K. per s.s. "Orcoma." We wish them a pleasant voyage and the best of luck.

Congratulations.—To L/Sergt Gale C. W. upon his appointment to that rank. Keep it up, Charles!

To A.A. Battn., Blackdown.—We have heard *all* about India!

This Month's Agony.—From Sigmn Sayers P. to Stuart: What about it?

THE PLUG JUGGLER.

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta, May 12th.

General.—Apologies are tendered for shortness of notes this last three months. "Guardsman takes the can back."

Promotions.—Heartiest congratulations to Corpl Bevis on his recent step up the ladder of fame. Watch, lads; he's after his Field-Marshal's baton!

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Sigmn Keywood F. from England, per H.M.T. "Neuralia." Old members of the Section are asked to note that the above has been ???—by Nobby.

Departure.—Our very best wishes went with Corpl Davies C. M., who left us for the School of Education, Shorncliffe. On his departure the Section lost a jolly good friend. Our address is still the same, Marmaduke. What about some news?

Birth.—Congratulations to Corpl and Mrs. Bevis on giving the Corps another budding lineman: a B.B.B. (bonny bouncing boy) on February 1st.

Congratulations.—To L/Corpl Walters L. C. on keeping up the name of the Corps in this land of sunshine and siroccos by winning the Command cross-country run. Trainers, please note: five miles in 23 mins. 53 secs. Some going, on this hard and rough ground! Keep it up, Taffy!

Broadcast.—Malta Signal Section send their very best to Sergt Bent, and thank him for his notes in the last issue. Still going strong, Bill? Can you speak Chinese yet? Going to swim out to the buoy this season, Bill? Nutty would like to know.

Marriage.—This Section tender their heartiest congratulations to Sigmn Vyse V. on his entering the matrimony stakes.

Stop Press.—All the lads of this Section are at present polishing up their technical knowledge in preparation for our forthcoming local war (combined operations). Details will be published in our next issue.

We should like to know the name of the individual who asked where he should play in a cricket match, and on being told right-half, took it for granted.

NUTTY.

2nd Cavalry Divl. Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.1.

If we are to believe the words of the soothsayers, based apparently on no less weighty authority than the Great Pyramid, we may expect the direst happenings in the very near future; in fact, they are scheduled to start on May 29th.

Sometimes, however, the best-laid plans of mice and men go agley, and at least one of these dire events has already overtaken us. *We have been mechanised, and the Cable Troop has been washed out,* at least as far as the immediate future is concerned.

What on earth camp is going to be like without our usual complement of long-faced friends we shall probably know in due course. What on earth we are going to do instead of the usual stable hours is probably known only to the regimental sergeant-major, and like Brer Rabbit he is lying low and saying 'nuffin.

Of course, like every other efficient unit, we haven't been altogether unprepared for this unhappy event. Privily hidden away at headquarters are several excellent bicycles, push pattern, soldiers for the use of, and it looks as though these antiquated machines are now going to come into their own. These bikes have been well dusted from time to time, and we believe that they average two wheels apiece, and that there is a bare sufficiency of tyres to go round.

While the great majority of us will miss the horses, it must not be forgotten that there is a silver lining to this depressing cloud. No early morning stables; no messing about with dirty head ropes and dirtier heel shackles; no scraping up of muddy lines; in fact, no real work at all. Instead of Tom or Nigger, as the case may be, we shall have Ethyl, who has already attained no small fame.

Nor must we forget the manifold advantages presented by the use of the push bike against the horse. Punctures have a nasty knack of developing, almost on the eve of a great offensive, and what good is a punctured bike? Sometimes even chains have been known to drop off, which is even a worse happening. In fact, for real unreliability the Army push bike is almost as good as the Army portable wireless sets, what with atmospherics and one cause and another for failure. The real trouble is that these faults are all "honest to goodness" ones that cannot be foreseen or prevented, but invariably take a long while to repair.

It is rumoured (but nothing more than a rumour at the moment) that the riding staff will doff spurs and wear cross spanners on the right forearm instead. Q Branch are indenting for plenty of spare tubes, and rubber solution with patches complete, and undoubtedly have an eye to turning an honest penny by "punctures repaired while you wait" for the cycling public; and while they wait, there is no doubt that tea can be served for those who desire it at a very small charge per head. In fact, under good management, there is no reason why Q Branch shouldn't become a thoroughly sound money-making concern, now they have got rid of the horses which were a constant source of anxiety and expense for their forage, etc.

All changes of this sort give endless trouble to all concerned; but however much some of us may dislike this one, it is certainly up to all of us to see that, whether we are mounted on horses or velocipedes, we still maintain the "Yeomanry" spirit—and if we meet our future with that spirit, we need not worry much. Furthermore, it is distinctly up to us to assist the P.S. and our administrators, who are all the time doing all they can for our comfort and well being.

26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

56 Regency Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Note the new address! We are in! To those who do not know this illustrious unit my words convey nothing; but to our friends (and they are legion) they convey the incredible fact that, after many years' wandering on the face of the earth (I forget how many years, but since the days of the good old London Army Troops, anyhow) we have arrived in the land of promise, namely, a real pukka headquarters of our own, with messes, recreation room, miniature range, lecture room, and water (h. and c.)

We are having a house-warming on Saturday, June 16th, at 7 p.m., and we invite all our friends to come and see us on that occasion. If you want cakes and coffee, drop us a line in advance, as the supply will be limited; but the "pig's ear" will be *un*limited (!), and we are putting up a very good programme. Tich Adams, well known to Terrier readers of THE WIRE, has promised to give us a cornet solo, and our celebrated broadcasters will broadcast.

We are pleased to learn of the appointment of Colonel O. W. Nicholson, M.P., as honorary colonel of this unit. Col. Nicholson is the Member of Parliament for the Abbey Division of Westminster and is an extremely busy man, but we sincerely hope that he will be able to spare time from his parliamentary duties to look us up fairly often. After all, sir, you won't have far to come!

We have to congratulate Mr. Boggis on passing his recent course with such high honours, but we feel that it would be only fair also to congratulate his Section on having inspired him to such heights. Other Sections, please copy.

We cannot congratulate our Ernie, however, on his moustache, or our Dick on having lost one. As you were, please!

We are delighted to learn that C.S.M. Arnold has signed on for yet another year with us, for what would the mess be without him?

Heard at our week-end camp last week: "It's wonderful what three evenings at Knightsbridge will do, isn't it?"

Who started the fire extinguisher going in the central mess the other evening?

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

The Englishman has the reputation for supreme indifference to all occurrences, but in Burlington Street there is an atmosphere of intense anticipation—dare we say mild excitement! Mysterious chalk marks and dust bins are appearing on the drill hall floor, and the sergeants' moustaches are developing an upward curl. In ten days we shall be in camp, and what a camp it is going to be! A happy combination of Ramsey and Ripon—at least we hope so. The *Daily Mail* has arranged perfect weather, and the unit band has now enough players to drown the trombones. It is rumoured that they will play us down to the station.

There has been a considerable boom in recruiting in the Division during the last month. As is right and proper, we head the list with seventy recruits since the beginning of the year, and all of them are really good-class men who will be a credit to the unit. There also seems to be renewed effort in recruiting for the Regular Army, our zealous permanent staff even going so far as to endeavour to enlist their own officers. After an uninterrupted view of four recruits and a recruiting sergeant, we are indeed convinced that there *is* room for us, but hardly for the boys of a local preparatory school.

Had you been a stranger in Burlington Street, you would at one time have been compelled to look twice or even three times before finding the poster-bespattered building that serves as our headquarters; but now, thanks to the new many-coloured signboard, you would be attracted as the bee to the honeysuckle. It adds an almost hilarious note to a drab neighbourhood, but we don't envy the man standing below it when the last trump sounds.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

The unit has learnt with much satisfaction that the King has been pleased to confer the Territorial decoration upon our C.O.—Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C.—and hearty congratulations are extended to him.

I fear the scribes who promised Sectional notes regularly have again overshot the date, as up to the time of writing nothing has come to hand. Oh! these promises! The would-be writers are, no doubt, very busy in preparation for week-end camps at Whitsuntide.

No. 1 Company held a most successful dramatic entertainment at the Exeter Drill Hall, on April 25th. It was, to say the least, a great achievement to have converted the hall into a theatre, and in this effort the members of the Company (led by Sergt.-Instr. Standley) did really splendid work.

A large and appreciative audience witnessed the performance of the three comedies, two of which—"Admiral Peters" and "The Ghost of Jerry Bundler" (by W. W. Jacobs)—were produced by Sir Robert Christison, BART., and Dr. Bellamy respectively. The third, "Chasing the Professor," was of particular interest, as it was both written and produced by Captain H. D. G. Foord, our former wireless officer; and he himself took part, as well as the O.C. No. 1 Company (Major J. W. Western, T.D.).

The whole affair was in every respect exceedingly well carried out, and praise has been showered on the organisers from all sides for the excellent arrangements made.

No. 1 Company's recreation funds, which were badly in need of replenishment, will receive much needed help.

OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

Drill Hall, Gloucester Road.

Regrets.—For the absence of notes last month I humbly apologise. I notice with regret that Headquarters' notes were also conspicuous by their absence, and I sincerely hope that Typewriter Basher will have "recovered from his disability" in time to get them in this month.

Easter Training.—In conjunction with Nos. 1 and 3 Companies we carried out a very successful training programme at Chichester during Easter, and it was very encouraging to see that, in addition to the O.C., Capt FitzHugh and Lieut Boag, about fifty per cent. of the Company were present. During the week-end communication was established and maintained by w/t, v/t and cable, and proved very satisfactory. The training ended with a demonstration in v/t under the direction of Capt Ford, Capt Hoare and Lieut Gilbert.

While on the subject of Easter training, C.S.M. Mumford would like to know if Winston can tell him how many dart boards there are in Chichester, and did he miss any?

Lieut Boag was instrumental in obtaining a few snaps of the Company during the training. These are not yet to hand, but it is hoped to be able to publish them in next month's issue.

Dance.—A Company dance was held at the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, on Thursday, April 5th, but although a very enjoyable evening was spent, it was not patronised as well as anticipated. This was probably due to the fact that there were so many functions being held in Brighton during that particular week. But I have in mind that, as we were due to proceed to Chichester on the following day for Easter training, there were quite a few who had fears of that "morning-after-the-night-before" feeling.

Greetings.—Certain members of this unit (including the P.S.I.) who have pleasant memories of Reed Hall, send their salutations to all ranks of the 4th Divl Signals who have recently returned from Shanghai.

Curious.—I should like to enquire of Spare Electron if the gas mask and tin hat reclining under the table in the orderly room have the initials "A.E.W." on them?

B. B.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Darlington.

It is not often that notes appear from this unit, but when they do they are worthy of note.

It will be recalled that in the December issue there appeared an excellent report on the work of this unit in conjunction with the 4th Divl Signals at Shorncliffe. It is with justifiable pride that we note the Northern Command annual report, just issued, more than confirms the good work which we did in Kent.

The commanding officer hopes that the unit will endeavour to surpass its previous work, and would ask all ranks to do their best to keep up the high standard of unit esprit-de-corps and technical training, and so fit themselves for further operations should they be forthcoming in the future.

Capt Jennings has had a rough few months, brought about by strain, and has now resumed his onerous duties in fairly good health. All ranks wish him a speedy return to complete health, and hope the day is not far distant when he can be posted "A.1 at Lloyds."

Congratulations are showered upon Capt Walton and Lieut Mensley on their success at the recent promotion examination.

The unit welcomes two young officers: 2/Lieuts R. M. Percival and J. B. Footner—ex-O.T.C. Repton School and O.T.C. Cheltenham College respectively. Both are young and will, we're sure, do their best for the unit. There are every prospects of more young officers joining in the near future. Youth will be served, and the Service requires these young 'uns.

Successful recruiting campaigns caused Companies to be placed in a good position, and with good luck the unit will be at full strength at camp, with the exception of the baby Company—No. 3—which has only been in existence for six months. Even the baby is developing into a very hefty child.

We are indebted to the Durham Association for the excellent manner in which they have housed these headquarters. Even the board room of Whiteridges Ltd. could not surpass the glory of such palatial fittings. One feels that work has become a pleasure (sic!) in such beautiful surroundings. So says our George, and he should know.

A. C. S.

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

Force of numbers has compelled us to alter the Company's motto. We now say, "Il vaut faire les avertissements." (Come along, you French scholars. That's right: "It pays to advertise.")

It happened like this. We needed a few recruits at the beginning of the training season. Someone said, "Let's advertise." We did!

On the next drill night the drill hall was invested by surging multitudes of Answers to Advertisers. Having fought our way to the orderly room we had to consider how to find the chosen few. At first it was quite straightforward. We eliminated a few odd hundreds who were either infirm or failed to bow to the R.S.M. and kiss the hem of the C.S.M.'s tunic.

Having eventually collected the remnant—all A.1 at Lloyds, born signallers, and otherwise too perfect to be true—we still had about a four-to-one choice. What to do now? Someone suggested that we should take those with the best voices, but this was quashed by the C.S.M., who wanted the handsome boys, arguing that singing would follow naturally, and we needed some treble and alto!

And that's how it is that we are up to full strength—with men who will make the other Companies green with envy. And besides, we have an extra section of recruits on probation who are so keen that we've counted our curbs as a precautionary measure.

I nearly forgot to mention the gentleman who, on being asked why he wanted to join the Royal Corps of Signals, replied, "The uniform, sir; I like the uniform." "Yes, but why particularly Signals?" we asked. "The trousers, sir; it's the trousers." We took that man!

Any other news? Yes, lots! The n.c.o.s had a week-end camp on April 28/29th, on Capt Walton's demesne at Healey. Our commanding officer, Colonel MacLeod, all the officers of No. 1 Company, and R.S.M. Legg were also present. We did a map-reading scheme and a signal scheme, attended several lectures, and were given a special (and very excellent) service in the tiny parish church. We had good weather except on Sunday morning, when a fog rather cramped our style on visual work. I think it was enjoyed by all present.

Capt Walton and Lieut Mensley functioned in the recent promotion examinations, and both (of course) passed. We congratulate them!

The only other thing I'm told to report has to do with our new officer, 2/Lieut Percival, and his recent course of instruction with the 3rd Divl Signals at Bulford. We gather that he had a really good time. Apparently everyone wore the "do-let-us-do-something-for-you" expression and meant it. Anyhow he seems to have collected varied and useful knowledge, and when, immediately on his return, he was heard making enquiries about "another dose!" it was obvious that he had been well received.

"Il vaut faire les avertissements." PULLTHROUGH.

No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

Training.—Indoor training has been the order of the day, but now that the light evenings have come (and with hopes of better weather than we have been getting in the past) we hope to get down to outdoor training in the field adjoining the drill hall.

Recruiting.—This has not been too brisk this season, but the small number recruited up to the present are making excellent progress and should be very useful by the time annual training takes place.

Week-End Camp.—A week-end camp was held at Middlesbrough on 12/13th May. Indoor training was the order of the day on Saturday, and some excellent work was put in.

On Sunday morning we paraded and escorted the Mayor (Lieut.-Colonel T. Gibson Poole, V.D., J.P.) to church, and on returning a short service was held in the field adjoining the drill hall. After dinner outdoor training was carried on in the field, and some excellent work was put in.

Welcome.—We were very pleased to see our adjutant (Capt P. Jennings, M.C.) among us again after his long illness, and to see him looking better. A speedy recovery to perfect health is the wish of all ranks of the Company.

A. C.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters and No. 1 Company, Aberdeen.

General.—Welcome home to Lieut J. A. Lewis (cheers!) who has been in Australia on business for the last nine months. He says there are a lot of Aberdonians in Australia, but the rabbits are worse.

He was not a bit surprised to learn that procedure had again been changed since his departure; and talking of procedure, some ignorant people may be under the impression that all this alteration means a lot of expenditure, etc. It doesn't. I may say that Winston was able to balance his budget this year on what he saved on paper alone.

It's like this. Anyone paying a visit to the Income Tax Office at Aberdeen will be given a statement of accounts on the back of an obsolete message form. It can thus be seen that by changing the procedure, etc., an enormous amount is saved in note-paper, as experts at Whitehall can testify. Surely it is more economical to write on old pads than to use good paper! I can now look forward to the changes, as I have squared the clerk to let me know when his supply of pads is likely to run out. Exciting developments are expected to follow this announcement.

Officers' Examination.—The sweating, swatting and swearing pertaining to the officers' promotion examination is now bearing fruit, Lieut Lennie having been promoted to the rank of Captain. Everyone at Aberdeen joins in congratulating this very popular officer on his success as a steeplejack. There is now more sweating!

Trade Boards.—These are taking place this month. This is where the Holmes shield is won, lads; so stick in, No. 1, and remember—if you are asked something that you don't know, don't say "I was never taught that, sir," or you will surely drop. This for the benefit of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, as No. 1 will have been examined by the time this in print. Remember, budding sergeants, it's a blue lamp for Divl Headquarters, not a red one.

SMUDGE.

No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

General.—Everyone joins in congratulating Sergt Turnbull on his remarkable success in the shooting field.

Training.—Individual training has commenced, and judging by the numbers attending and the interest taken, the Company will be well provided with trained men at camp.

A detachment has been formed at Falkirk, at present only six strong; but as they are all P.O. men, they are a valuable acquisition.

On May 2nd we received a visit from our new Hon. Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E., accompanied by the commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C.) and the adjutant (Capt B. H. House). After inspecting the Company on parade, Col. Nicol complimented all on their smart turnout and said how proud he was to be our colonel. Major J. McHutcheon, O.B.E., then called for three cheers, which were given in a true Signals manner.

All ranks join in congratulating Captain Lennie on his promotion to that rank.

No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

Recruiting continues very satisfactory at Kirkcaldy, and a complete Brigade Signal Section has been secured since we commenced training this year. The recruits are all young willing lads who are very anxious to learn, and they should give a good account of themselves at their first camp.

Inspections.—A very satisfactory turnout of officers, n.c.o.s and men paraded at Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline on the evening of May 1st for inspection by the new hon. colonel of the 51st (H.) Divl Signals, Colonel R. J. Nicol, and the commanding officer (Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C.). Following the inspection, Hon. Colonel Nicol addressed the men on parade at both stations, expressing his very great pleasure in his appointment to such a famous Division. A special word of encouragement was given to the recruits present. On the call of Major R. B. Lockhart, T.D., commanding No. 3 Company, a rousing cheer of welcome was accorded to Colonel Nicol.

Golf: Forsyth Cup.—Golf enthusiasts are delighted to learn of the stroke competition to be held during annual training camp this year for the above cup, kindly presented by our commanding officer. I hear that "sticks" are being produced from all sorts of unexpected quarters, and serious practice indulged in by a few of our n.c.o.s. Entries are coming along and a good show is looked for. (Now then, No. 3, watch Aberdeen and Stirling.)

Johnston Cup.—This magnificent cup, presented by Col. J. W. Johnston, M.V.O., and Miss Johnston to the late Highland Cyclist Battalion, has been handed over by the Fifeshire Territorial Army Association to No. 3 Company, and will be used for annual competition in inter-Section training.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

Since Easter training we have settled down to work in preparation for the coming Trade Board—with, of course, one eye (and part of the other) on annual training. If drill nights are any criterion, the examiners will be busy handing out bouquets when the lads roll up for groupees and all other honours which are to be won.

Technical training has not been confined to headquarters, advantage having been taken of the continued presence of King Sol to indulge in schemes out in the country, details of which appear in Company notes.

Billiards.—One of our representatives in the Divisional championship, L/Corpl Rokes, reached the final, but the result has not yet reached me. Whether he won or lost, however, all ranks congratulate him on his fine performance.

Football.—The football cup was won by No. 2 Coy. Now then, who is going to put a stop to this business: four wins by the same Company in four successive years is really too monotonous!

No. 1 Company.

A cable scheme was carried out on Sunday, April 22nd, and although only experimental it proved a great success. Thanks to the clerk of the weather and the efforts of the P.S. (stop that mumbling, you fellows; P.S. *do* work sometimes), a very enjoyable day was spent at Mill Hill. The party, under Lieuts J. E. Gammage and M. M. Cuthbert, left headquarters at 10 a.m., returning about 5 p.m. A motor lorry was used for the scheme, and this gave us a glimpse of the possibilities of a Cable Section in the Mechanised Army.

Social.—Our last dance of the season was held on April 21st and was a great success. The committee thank all who have supported them during the past season.

Sport.—While congratulating No. 2 Company on their victory in our recent football cup match, it is gratifying to know that Oneco can field a team which, although heavily defeated, never lost heart and is looking forward to another meeting next year.

No. 2 Company.

As already reported we are once again the holders of the football cup. This business is really getting quite a habit!

Another achievement is the performance in the Divl billiards championships by L/Corporal Rokes.

On Sunday, May 13th, in combination with No. 3 Company, a visual scheme was carried out. Two R.A.S.C. lorries conveyed the party under Capt Willway to Oakley Common, where a central station with four terminal stations kept up unbroken communication by means of lamps and flags. A perusal of the message forms shows that a high standard of efficiency was reached, and all concerned are looking forward to another and, if possible, a more ambitious scheme in the near future.

No. 3 Company.

The technical training during the past winter was fully tested when we carried out the scheme reported under No. 2 Company notes, and the efficient manner in which the work was done proved that the seeds of knowledge have not all fallen upon stony ground.

The indoor social season was brought to a close by a most enjoyable dance on April 14th. This, following closely upon the Company dinner, was the cause of gratification to all who have the welfare of the Company at heart; and our warmest thanks are due to the committee whose unselfish efforts have kept the Company flag flying.

Barleux, please note!—We think your new serial will prove a real thriller, but we are most anxious for the comfort of the hero, as lying on the floor of a taxi until the next month's issue must be a most uncomfortable business, even for a great detective. Really, Barleux, you should be more considerate! We suggest that next month you leave him reclining comfortably on the seat, or lying flat in the road with his head comfortably housed under the back wheel of an omnibus.

ADSUM.

No. 1 Company, L. of C. Signals (S.R.)

The "London Gazette" of May 4th announced that Major F. Penfold, commanding the above Company, had resigned his commission. Thus terminates a long and meritorious Army career, during which he made a host of friends both in the Royal Engineers and the Royal Corps of Signals.

Major Penfold joined the Royal Engineers at the beginning of 1894, and was transferred to K Company in 1895. He proceeded to South Africa in September, 1899, and was present at the siege of Ladysmith, Standerton, Pretoria and Barberton, receiving his discharge in 1906.

He rejoined as a sapper in November, 1914, and served with the 30th Divl Signals, 16th Corps Signals, Salonika.

On his discharge in June, 1919, he held the rank of Acting-Major, L.-of-C. Signals, Salonika. He was appointed Captain in the 44th Divl Signals in September, 1920, and on the formation of the Supplementary Reserve in 1925 he was appointed Major in command of this Company.

The loss of Major Penfold will be felt by all officers and men of the Company, but the severance will be felt equally by the major himself. His resignation was no choice of his. Civilian responsibilities necessitated his taking up residence in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, and while his love for the south and for military life still remains, there was no other course open to him.

Major Penfold proved himself a soldier and a gentleman. He held the confidence and respect of every member of his Company. Through his thorough knowledge of all phases of signal work and his consideration for his officers and men he was held in high esteem, and there is no doubt he will be sadly missed. We wish him every success in his present sphere, and assure him that we shall always have a very warm corner in our hearts for our first O.C.

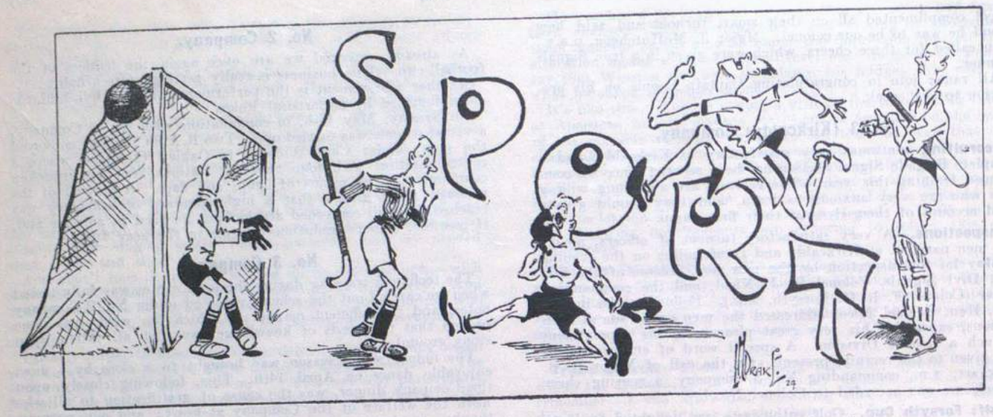
It is not so much in our neighbour's interest as our own that we love him.

* * * *

It's a long road that beef travels from birth to the consumer. Too long and too expensive.

* * * *

Let us make haste to live, since every day to a wise man is a new life.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

The following are the results of the knock-out competitions in the S.T.C., and also the final points for the Mackworth trophy :—

Football.—1st round : F Coy. beat School of Signals ; E Coy. beat Dismounted Wing. Semi-final : D Coy. beat F Coy. ; E Coy. beat Mounted Wing. Final : E Coy. beat D Coy.

The final was a closely-fought struggle, and it was only on the replay that E Coy. gained the victory. A stiff breeze and a light ball were against accurate football in the first game, in which neither side scored. On one occasion E Coy. must have felt very glad when they had Sigmn Gibbons as their last line of defence, as he saved what appeared to be a certain goal. In the replay E Coy. won by 3—1, chiefly owing to the poor shooting of D Coy.

Hockey.—1st round : Mounted Wing beat F Coy. ; D walked over Dismounted Wing. Semi-finals : E Coy. beat Mounted Wing ; School of Signals beat D Coy. Final : School of Signals beat E Coy.

The final was only won after extra time, but during that period of twenty minutes the School pulled themselves together and scored three goals. Score : School 6 ; E Coy. 3.

Rugby.—1st round : School of Signals beat D Coy. ; Mounted Wing beat E Coy. Semi-finals : School of Signals beat Dismounted Wing ; Mounted Wing beat F Coy. Final : Mounted Wing beat School of Signals.

Boxing.—1st round : School of Signals walked over Dismounted Wing ; E Coy. beat D Coy. Semi-finals : F Coy. beat School of Signals ; Mounted Wing beat E Coy. Final : Mounted Wing beat F Coy.

The final was a most thrilling affair. The points were level at the end of the normal eight fights, and the reserve light-weights had to fight off the deciding bout. They punched each other to a standstill, the Mounted Wing representative (Tpr. Hardie) just obtaining the verdict.

Mackworth Trophy.—The final points for this are as follows :

	E Coy	Mtd Wing	School	F Coy	D Coy	Dis Wing
Athletics	12	6	4	10	2	8
Cricket	12	9	9	5	5	2
Football	12	6	10	4	8	2
Rugby	4	10	8	12	6	2
Hockey	10	7	12	4	7	2
Rifle Shooting ...	7	10	4	2	7	12
Cross-country ...	4	6	10	12	8	2
Boxing	8	12	6	10	4	0
Totals	69	66	63	59	47	30

Catterick Rugby Notes.

The season is now over, and we look back on some splendid games. Signals (Catterick) have played 24, won 10, lost 10, and drawn 4. The best performance was perhaps when we were only beaten by 10 points to 9 by Hartlepool Rovers. Unfortunately, owing to the appalling conditions, the game with Sedbergh had to be abandoned soon after half-time, when neither side had scored.

After Christmas we greatly missed Lieuts Smyth, Good and Hoblyn, but we found some splendid young talent, the chief of whom were probably 2/Lieut Tucker, Signalmen Taylor J. W., Fraser, Birkett and Young, and Boys Sadler and Kerr.

This season, for the first time, we have had two leagues, a senior and a junior, both of which were won by the Boys' Company, who did not lose a game in either—a performance of which they may be justly proud.

The knock-out competition finished up the season, the winners being the Mounted Wing, who beat F Company in the semi-final by 3 tries to 2 and the School of Signals in the final by 11 points to nil. These games showed that the standard of play has much improved this season.

A very good fixture card has been arranged for next season, matches having been booked up with Hartlepool Rovers, Old Bradfordians, Bradford, Sedbergh School, Ampleforth College, St. Peter's School (York), Durham School, Darlington, Gateshead Fell. etc., etc. A certain number of 2nd XV. officers, young soldiers and boys' matches will also be played.

It is most gratifying to hear of the success of Signal units outside the S.T.C., and next season these units will be greatly strengthened by ex-boys and others from Catterick.

Semi-Finals of the Knock-Out Competition.

Mounted Wing v. F Company.—Inwardly and outwardly both Companies fancied their chances. The match was played on S.T.C. Headquarters ground. F Company won the toss and played against the hill and the wind, and did well to be only six points down at half-time, when the Mounted Wing led by three tries to one. F Company pressed hard during the second half, but splendid defence by the Mounted Wing prevented them scoring more than once, and the Mounted Wing deserved their 3-points victory.

Dvr Reeves and Sigmn Taylor were outstanding for the Mounted Wing, and Sigmn Harbin (really a forward) did particularly well at centre three-quarter for the Boys' Company.

School of Signals v. Dismounted Wing.—The School were strong favourites for this game, but the combination of experienced officers and inexperienced recruits made the School go all out before they won by 12 points to nil. The School have a very even team, with Sigmn Lawton (the Corps full back) as their only star player, and all go hard and straight for the line.

For a long while desperate tackling by the Dismounted Wing foiled all attacks, but eventually a clever move by the School outsides broke down the defence, and before time was called the School had scored two more tries and a penalty goal.

Lieuts Worrall and Harrison, splendidly backed up by Signalmen Stirk and Moore, were very conspicuous ; and Dvr Batcheldor and Signalmen Vollens and Beckett played well for the School.

Final.

Mounted Wing v. School of Signals.—The Mounted Wing proved too strong for the School of Signals, who (bearing in mind their limited numbers) put up an excellent fight. Driver Reeves again proved the deciding factor, and the Mounted Wing won by a goal and two tries (11 points) to nil.

Tynemouth Easter Hockey Festival.

For the third year in succession the Signal Training Centre sent a team to compete in the tournament at Tynemouth. In the previous years we have not been able to get a full representative side, owing to Easter leave, but this year Capt Wade, M.C., got together one of the strongest teams we have yet sent over to the tournament. The following players represented Signals in the various games : Goal, Dvr Batcheldor ; backs, Lieut Hadfield, Capt Wade, Sergt Carpenter, Sigmn Makepeace, 2/Lieut Worrall, C.Q.M.S. Hayter ; forwards, Dvr Hellier, Sergt Hindon, Lieut Walford, Major Drayson, Lieut Tregear, Capt Dent.

Eight teams entered, and our first match (against the Doncastrians) gave us an excellent start, a victory of 7—2 well representing the play. Signals opened in disastrous fashion. The hostile outside left, a very fast county player, got away and scored an easy goal which trickled in. Signals then developed an attack, and from a long corner Lieut Walford scored with a splendid shot. The defence had the enemy well in hand, and our forwards, giving a good exhibition of the short passing game, rapidly attacked and Sergt Hindon scored a splendid goal with a flick shot. Major Drayson scored another with a flick line shot from the core of the circle, and at half-time we led by 3—1. Two penalty bullies in the second half, one for us, formed rather an unusual occurrence. Dvr Batcheldor saved the one against us, and Major Drayson scored from the one for us. A breakaway in the centre caught our backs napping, our goalkeeper was far up the ground, and our opponents had no difficulty in scoring (4—2). Three more goals in rapid succession by Lieut Walford, Sergt Hindon, and Major Drayson left us winners of a very fast game. The whole team combined excellently on a hard fast ground. The backs were outstanding, and Sergt Hindon and Lieut Walford fitted in excellently in the forward line. C.Q.M.S. Hayter and 2/Lieut Worrall were excellent at half back.

The second match, versus St. George's, gave us a hard fight, but we scraped through by 2—1 after a very fast game indeed. Our opponents included many county players in their team. The combination of the forwards was not quite so good, but the defence played excellently, Lieut Hatfield being very safe and clearing to both wings. Lieut Walford scored for us.

The third match, versus North Durham, gave us an easy win by 7—0, and seldom have the Signal Training Centre given a better exhibition of hockey. The first two goals were scored after some splendid combination, our opponents not touching the ball at all, and we were two up in four minutes. Goals followed at frequent intervals, and the result was a very fair representation of a very fast game. Goals were scored for us by Lieut Walford (2), Sergt Hindon, and Major Drayson (4). The whole defence were excellent, Capt Wade and Sergt Carpenter being outstanding, and Lieut Worrall opened up the attack well. Capt Dent played well at outside right and made a good debut in S.T.C. hockey. Dvr Hellier improves with every match, and with more experience should develop into a good wing player.

The last match, against Tynemouth, had to be played on the same day as the North Durham game, and the hard hitting of our opponents upset our combination. Signals team did not reproduce their morning form and we lost by 1—2.

The result of the Festival was that, as the only military team in it, we established a reputation for good fast clean hockey and came away with the name of the Corps much enhanced. It is to be hoped that in future years we can get our strongest side out for the Festival, which comes as a fitting climax to the hockey season. The grounds are hard and fast and a good class of hockey is met with, which is of great benefit to our players.

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Corps Golfing Society.

By the courtesy of the members of the club, the annual meeting of the Corps Golfing Society was held on the links of the North Hants Golf Club at Fleet, Hants. The course was in perfect condition, and the weather was ideal, with a light easterly wind to make the game more interesting to some and more trying to others !

Originally there were eighteen entries, but owing to sickness, etc., only fourteen members turned up from Commands in the south of England. The six leading scores are published below :

Corps Championship Challenge Cup (36 holes medal scratch).

1—Capt Lewis Barclay ...	...	84+ 79	= 163
2—Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham	...	84+ 87	= 171
3—Major C. H. Walsh ...	...	86+ 95	= 181
4—Capt W. F. Sugrue ...	...	91+ 91	= 182
5—Lieut W. D. J. Harris ...	...	92+101	= 193
6—Lieut C. A. H. Chadwick ...	...	101+102	= 203

Corps Society Handicap Challenge Cup (36 holes medal under handicap) :—

1—Capt Lewis Barclay ...	77+72=149.	Handicap 7
2—Lieut W. D. J. Harris ...	74+83=157.	Handicap 18
3—Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham	80+83=163.	Handicap 4
4—Capt W. F. Sugrue ...	82+82=164.	Handicap 9
5—Major C. H. Walsh ...	78+87=165.	Handicap 8
6—Lieut C. A. H. Chadwick ...	91+92=183.	Handicap 10

Catterick Cricket Fixtures.

Corps and S.T.C. Teams.

May 23rd—Rooks, at Darlington.
May 24th—Yorkshire Gentlemen, at York.
May 29th—Darlington, at Darlington.
May 29th and 30th—*Royal Military Academy, at Woolwich.
May 31st & June 1st—*Royal Army Service Corps, at Aldershot.
June 11th and 12th—*Royal Tank Corps, at Aldershot.
June 13th—Ampleforth, at Catterick.
June 19th and 20th—*Royal Engineers, at Catterick.

June 27th—Rooks, at Catterick.
July 2nd and 3rd—Catterick Garrison, at Catterick.
July 9th and 10th—*Royal Army Ordnance Corps, at the Oval.
July 13th and 14th—Cryptics, at Catterick.
July 21st—Druids, at Catterick.
August 7th—Darlington, at Catterick.
August 10th and 11th—Winder Wanderers, at Catterick.
August 18th—Bradford Casuals, at Catterick.
August 23rd and 24th—Durham Pilgrims, at Catterick.
August 28th—Durham Pilgrims, at Castle Eden.
August 30th—Yorkshire Gentlemen, at Catterick.

* Corps Matches.

Depot Battalion.

May 12th—Training Battalion, Royal Signals, home.
May 16th—Training Battalion, Royal Signals, home.
May 26th—1st Battn. The Cameronians, home.
June 6th—Richmond, home.
June 9th—R.E., Catterick, home.
June 23rd—4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps, home.
June 30th—1st Battn. The Cameronians, away.
July 4th—Richmond, away.
July 7th—R.E., Catterick, away.
July 11th—26th Squadron R.A.F., away.
July 18th—4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps, away.
July 25th—1st Battn. The Middlesex Regiment, away.
August 8th—1st Battn. The Middlesex Regiment, home.
August 15th—26th Squadron R.A.F., home.

Training Battalion.

May 12th—Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, home.
May 16th—Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, home.
May 26th—1st Battn. The Middlesex Regiment, away.
June 2nd—1st Battn. The Cameronians, away.
June 6th—4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps, away.
June 16th—26th Squadron R.A.F., home.
June 30th—R.E., Catterick, home.
July 7th—1st Battn. The Cameronians, home.
July 11th—Richmond, away.
July 18th—1st Battn. The Middlesex Regiment, home.
July 25th—Richmond, home.
July 28th—R.E., Catterick, away.
August 8th—26th Squadron R.A.F., away.
August 29th—4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps, home.
September 8th—Boroughbridge, home.
September 15th—Boroughbridge, away.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Sports.—We must congratulate E Company upon relieving us of the Mackworth trophy for twelve months.

We were second, three points behind, and we have only ourselves to thank that we are not retaining the trophy. If the Wing would evince as much enthusiasm from the beginning of the year as they do during the final couple of months, there would be very little doubt as to the destination of the Mackworth trophy.

Rally round, Mounted Wing, and make us once again the premier sporting Company of the Signal Training Centre.

Rugby.—Although we did not win the Rugby League this year, we were successful in winning the knock-out competition. We beat E Company in the first round by 6 points to nil; in the semi-final we beat F Company by 9 points to 6; and in the final we beat the School by 11 points to nil. They were all very hard games, especially the one against F Company, Major Cobb's boys giving us a great run for our money.

Our players did very well in all three games. Special mention must be made of Dvr Reeves, who was a star in every match. Others who did great service were 2/Lieuts Denholm-Young, Crawford and Gardiner. Blanco came out of his shell once again to show us that he is not a spent force and can still grunt and push in the scrum. Signalmen Taylor, Hodgkinson, Dix, Smee and Wiltshire all did good work. Signalmen Stenning and Wiltshire, two newcomers, are great acquisitions to the team. Speedy (Pyke) shows us that living out has not caused him to lose any form.

Boxing.—We won the knock-out competition by beating E Company in the semi-final and F Company in the final. What a fight the boys gave us! We just managed to win by the odd point after an extra fight between the reserve feather-weights. It was fitting that this should be contested between two boys, our representative (Tpn Hardie) securing the victory on points. Thanks are due to Sergt Terrell (trainer) and L/Corpl Williams (captain) for their untiring efforts in getting together a winning team.

L/Corpl Williams and Dvr Etheridge had a very busy time, fighting against E Company on Monday evening, a six-rounder each at Middlesbrough at night, and again here against F Coy. on Tuesday evening. We are wondering if Tommy has ever been more surprised in his life than when the "boy" put him on the floor in the first round, and how many "small Goldens" he had had before he entered the ring.

Soccer.—Soccer is finished for 1927–1928, and on the whole we have not done so well as in previous years. We finished third in the 1st League, and were winners in the 2nd and 3rd Leagues. Unfortunately we were knocked out in the semi-final of the knock-out competition by E Company, the score being 1 goal to nil. It was a very good game, the whole team playing extremely well, and I think we had bad luck to lose; but still, we hope to do better next season.

By the time these notes are published we shall have lost a very good sportsman in Sigmn Manlove, who goes into civilian life on May 12th. We wish him the best of luck, and hope he becomes as popular in his new sphere of life as he has been in the Wing.

Hockey.—Although we did not do very well in the inter-Company League, we were very satisfied with our display in the knock-out competition. In the first round we beat F Company, who were unfortunate in not being able to field a full team. However, the boys played a very good game, and have improved a lot during the season. We were surprised to see Major Cobb on the line, as his control of the team when he is playing makes a lot of difference to the boys. In the semi-final we gave E Company a good run and lost by 1 goal to nil after extra time.

We must compliment Dvr Conroy on his hard work in forming the Company team. He was captain throughout the season, and produced a good team out of very raw material. Only three of the team had played hockey before the season commenced. Dvrs Borrow and Standing, who undoubtedly got us out of many a hole, got "stuck in" as drivers generally do.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Inter-Squad Football.—41/2 Squad must be congratulated on winning the knock-out competition, which they did only after a series of hard games.

Athletic Shield.—Once more No. 41/2 Squad are in the limelight, this time winning the sports shield. Sergt Devlin must feel proud of the squad's achievements. They are not such "crabs" after all, are they, sergeant?

Shooting.—No. 37 Squad (L/Corpl Bunn) must be congratulated on attaining an average of 68.86. If this continues, we shall soon have a corps of marksmen!

E Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Football.—The following show E Company's final placings in the Company Leagues for 1927–28:—
Senior—Played 5, won 3, lost 1, drawn 1; 10½ points.
Junior—Played 5, won 1, lost 3, drawn 1; 3 points.

Boxing.—Unfortunately lack of space will not permit a detailed report on recent contests, but it does not prevent us from congratulating 2/Lieut Van der Goot and his team upon their excellent account of themselves on behalf of the Company.

Athletics.—The official commencement of field events this month will reveal Eddy's talent for 1928. Naturally enough, we entertain very optimistic views in regard to the final placings in inter-Company contests.

A sports challenge shield has been put up for inter-platoon competition by Capt D. A. Brown, M.C. (O.C. E Company), and as it embraces all branches of sport, the gaining of laurels promises to afford excellent competition.

E Company gained the Mackworth trophy with a total of 69 points.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Boxing.—We had a great fight in the final of the knock-out boxing against the Mounted Wing. At the end of the eight fights we had each won four, so the reserve feathers went into the ring amidst great excitement. Both Boy Statham and Tptr Hardie fought as if the fate of Great Britain depended on the result. At the end of the third round it appeared impossible to say who had won. Hardie just got the verdict, but equal praise must be given to both.

Boy Rider surprised everybody (except those who knew how good he was) by a splendid win, and 2/Lieut Ruck, Boy Kerr and Sergt Payne were our other winners. The margin of points between L/Corpl Boy Burley and Dvr Etheridge must have been very small indeed, but the latter got the verdict. We heartily congratulate the Mounted Wing on their victory.

Sergt Payne was responsible for training the boys' team, of which he may be justly proud. Well done, the boys! you put up a magnificent fight, and the first people to say so after the battle were our friends of the Mounted Wing.

A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

Boxing.—A Corps Signals versus The Depot R.A.M.C., Crookham. This match was fought in the gymnasium at Crookham on March 26th. At the conclusion of the match Major J. J. Lloyd, R.A.M.C., presented the medals and said they had been remarkably well earned: an exceptionally fine display, both by the winners and losers. He believed he had never seen better boxing anywhere, and certainly had never before seen the contestants show such absolute sportsmanship. Each had shown that trait both in giving and receiving blows and in the acceptance of decisions.

To the Signals team he said, "I thank you very much for coming here and putting up such an excellent fight."

Capt W. V. G. Fuge, on behalf of Signals, said that as they were going to leave shortly for their new quarters at Smallshot, he would like to thank them for the way they had always been received and the sporting manner in which these competitions had been arranged.

Bantams—Sigmn Hill defeated Pte Mann on points. Pte Gill outpointed Sigmn Nicklin.
Feathers—Pte Cornwall knocked out Sigmn Hope in the second round.
Lights—Sigmn Morris beat Pte Cole on points by a comfortable margin: the best fight of the evening (both these lads have the making of an Army champion and should be watched by their units). Pte Hunter beat Sigmn Ansell by a very small margin of points.
Welters—Pte Millord beat Sigmn Hutchinson on points.
Middles—It would be hard to find a man who seems to enjoy punishment as Corpl Wilce does. The referee said "I want to congratulate both, especially the loser on as game a fight as I ever want to see," in giving the verdict to L/Corpl Stroud, R.A.M.C. Both punished each other very much and were absolutely beaten at the end of the fight.
Light-heavy—Sigmn Jones T. B. beat Pte Woods on points. This is the first time Jones has ever been in the ring, and I advise Capt Spencer to keep an eye on him, as he seems to possess a fine natural style that can be developed and will make him an acquisition to the Signals team next year.
Result—R.A.M.C. 13 points: Signals 11.

Athletics.—On March 28th the Depot R.A.M.C. and A Corps Signals held a revived "Potted Sports" at Crookham. Potted sports, greatly in vogue in the B.E.F. during the war, were introduced by Major Conelson, who (until his death a few months ago in a motor accident) lived less than two miles from Crookham.

Four teams were entered by both the R.A.M.C. and A Corps. Each team consisted of twelve performers and included officers, n.c.o.s and men. A Corps' No. 1 team were the winners with 137 points out of a possible 152. A Corps team placings were 1st, 4th, 6th and 7th; and the R.A.M.C. team 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 8th.

The Royal Signals (Aldershot) individual athletic championships take place on May 23rd on the Command Central Ground, the results of which will be found in the July issue.

Miniature Range.—In the last competition held at Ewshott, Unit H.Q. won the Class A and No. 1 Company No. 1 team won the Class B.

Winners of Class A inter-team knock-out competition: Major Walsh, Capt Thursby-Pelham, Q.M.S. Edwards and Sergeant Francis.

Winners of Class B inter-team knock-out competition: L/Corpl Hole, Dvr Theobald, Signalmen Wyatt and Crowley.

Water Polo.—There is no reason why we should not make ourselves famous at this sport, as besides having the raw material we are bang next to the Command swimming bath. Scruff and a few other old Egyptians are taking us in hand, so keep your eye on us and watch us collect some mugs.

Soccer.—Here are the photos of the winners and runners-up for the Wadpunchers challenge cup. Needless to say this is the only cup A Corps won last season at football. It is better than nothing!

The Winners.

Back (left to right)—Dvr. Linfield, Sigmn Hall H. W. E., L/Cpls Lewin and Reene
Front—Signalmen Slater H. E., Bryan T. and Baker A. W., L/Cpl Hole (captain) Dvr Allen W. A., L/Cpl Long W. W., Dvr Theobald

The Runners-Up.

Back row (left to right)—Sigmn Miller, Dvr Mowbray, Sigmn Woollett, Dvr Doherty, Sigmn Fife
Front—Signalmen Loop, Keeble G. E., Mudge, Morris and Goldberg L., L/Cpl Appleby (captain)

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Hockey.—Just as we had given up hope of anything happening in the matter, and were about to swap our hockey sticks for cricket bats, a letter arrived from the Garrison adjutant saying we were drawn against the 6th Field Brigade R.A. in the first round of the Garrison cup.

We got together a team, and after one trial game played the match on Friday, April 27th. We won by 2 goals to 1, and the game was a very even one. The hard ground, especially after the mud heaps earlier in the season, seemed to upset both sides equally.

It is difficult to single out anyone who did very much better than the others, but Semmence's skill at shooting turned the game in our favour.

The team was: Goal, L/Sergt Kelly; backs, L/Corpl Franklin and Dvr Whittingstall; half-backs, C.S.M. O'Connor and Signalmen Harry and Harbottle; forwards, L/Corpl Walters, Signalmen Brice and Semmence, Dvr Smith (captain), and Sigmn Mervin.

3rd Divisional Signals Hockey Team, 1928

Winners of the Bulford Garrison Hockey Cup.

Back row (left to right)—L/Cpl Fee, Sgt Kelly, L/Cpls Walters, Clubb and Franklyn, C.S.M. O'Connor

Front—Signalmen Harbottle and Harry, Dvr Smith (captain), Lieut C. A. H. Chadwick, Dvr Whittingstall, Signalmen Brice and Semmence

The Final.—This was played on Monday, May 7th. Our opponents were the 9th Field Brigade R.A. We played the same team with the exception that L/Corpl Clubb came back into his place, vice C.S.M. O'Connor, and after a very hard and fast game we won by 2—1.

The team played very well both at back and forward. Sigmn Semmence, if he could only get over the habit of dropping back into the half-back line when his side is a goal up, would be a really fine player. Smith was a good captain and did the chief thing for a captain to do: win the toss. L/Corpl Franklin was a pillar of strength at back and saved us countless times in the last ten minutes.

This winning of the Garrison cup put an end to a season in which it has been very difficult to keep hockey going. Many old players have left the unit, and the new supply does not equal the demand. Still, all's well that ends well.

3rd Divisional Signals Cross-Country Team, 1928

Winners of Southern Command Championships, Wiltshire County Championships, and Bulford and Larkhill Garrison Cup. Gained 4th place in Army Championships.

Back row (left to right)—R.S.M. Adams J., D.C.M., Lieut H. V. Ewbank, Signalmen Knight, Shaw, Smith, Marples, Greatorex, Holden, Hudson, Cross

Centre—Signalmen Tibbitts, Wood, Salter, Capt L. W. Schneider, Cpl Ivison, Sigmn Ward, L/Cpl Lynton

Front—Dvr Hawthorne, Sigmn Lapper (captain)

Northern Command, India.

Polo.—The year 1927-1928 has really been the initiation of polo in Signal units in this Command, and the players have increased from one or two to over twenty.

The Corps has been represented by fifteen players in various tournaments in the Northern Command, with the result that now it is rare for a tournament to be held without our colours being seen on the field.

So far we have won no cup, but we have succeeded in winning a few matches versus the Gunners of Peshawar, the 5/6th Inniskilling Dragoons B team in a low handicap tournament, and Sam Browne's Cavalry B team in the Rawalpindi tournament.

Accounts of most games have been sent to THE WIRE, from which it will be seen that we have put up some good fights in many other games. Some of the accounts were taken from "The Civil and Military Gazette," and some written up by officers.

Some of the young officers who have just come out have already secured ponies, and we hope they will be playing with our teams next year.

Kohat Signals are very strong supporters of the game, raising a team out of a total of six officers.

The Signals tournament was a great success, an account of which was given in the Rawalpindi Signals Week notes.

We still need more players, so we hope young officers who are keen to play will come out to India and that they will get to this Command.

I would suggest that young officers do not bring out motor-bicycles or cars, at great expense. It is far better for them to save their money and buy a pony on arrival in their unit, and thus be able to join our teams in one of the best games in the world.

Tradesmen's Polo Cup.—Signals A versus Sam Browne's Cavalry B team, played on March 21st. Signals team: Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Heymann (1), Lieut R. Solly (2), Lieut P. Gray (3), Lieut C. W. Knight (back). The Signals received half a goal on handicap.

First Chukker.—From the throw in Heymann got away, but missed by a few inches. After this, play was of an up and down nature, Signals having two shots at goal which went wide. Towards the end the Cavalry made a good run down the ground, very nearly scoring, Knight making a good save just in time. Signals then made a good run, Gray scoring. Signals, 1½; Cavalry, nil.

Second Chukker.—Signals started pressing at once, but two shots went wide. Bullock for the Cavalry, after meeting the ball, made a fine run the whole length of the field, scoring a good goal. Sticky play followed, but finally Solly broke away with a good run and Heymann scored. Signals, 2½; Cavalry, 1.

Third Chukker.—The Cavalry started off with a good run down the field, Bullock again scoring. They continued to press, two shots going wide—one missing the goal by inches. From the hit out the Signals made a good run, Heymann scoring from a hit up by Gray. Signals continued to press, Solly just missing the goal with a very fine shot. Signals, 3½; Cavalry, 2.

Fourth Chukker.—The play became very keen, both sides attacking and defending in turn. Gray, after meeting the ball, made a good run and hit up to Heymann, who scored. On changing ends Gray hit up to Sol'y, who scored. Final score—Signals, 5½; Cavalry 2.

The game was keenly contested all through, and the Signals team played well together. Knight and Heymann each played a good game.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Football.—The unit entered a team in the Eduljee Dinshaw tournament. We were given a bye in the first round, and in the second we met E.R.S., R.A.F., and beat them by two goals to nil, our scorers being Sergt McGregor and Sigmn Green.

In the semi-final we met Headquarters, Foresters. We played a hard game, but they were far superior and we lost by two goals to one, L/Corpl Prickett scoring for us. Special praise must be given to Sigmn Wren, our goalkeeper, who again splendidly demonstrated that he is the finest goalkeeper in the district. Incidentally, our conquerors won the trophy.

Hockey.—The unit entered two teams in the Dewar Shield hockey tournament. The tournament is the most important in the district, in which the best teams always participate; and the Corps team met the G.P.A., and the Corps A team met the Telegraphs. Both teams were given a bye in the first round.

The unit team were very unlucky in their match with the G.P.A. They shared the majority of the play and should have scored on at least four occasions, whereas the G.P.A., in one of their very few breakaways, scored the only goal of the match and won by one to nil.

A different game was witnessed betweeen the A team and the Telegraphs. It was a hard-fought struggle throughout and anybody's game up to the final whistle. The Telegraphs won by one goal to nil.

Other results: Versus District Headquarters, won by 9—3, and lost by 0—1; v. Karachi Port Trust, won by 2—0 and lost by 0—3 and 2—5; v. M.T., R.A.S.C., won by 5—0.

Athletics.—At St. Patrick's sports, L/Corpl Podger M. won the open mile and was presented with a cup to add to his already fine collection. He also ran second at the Marathon Union sports. At the same meeting L/Corporal McKenzie and Sigmn Anstey ran fourth and fifth respectively in the open ten miles road race.

Boxing.—A novices boxing tournament was fought at the Health Institute, Katrak Hall, on April 7th. This tournament was open to civilians only, but three novices from the unit fought special contests with opponents from the Sherwood Foresters. Sigmn Cooke fought Pte Inglette at catch-weights, but after a very good exhibition lost on points. Sigmn Green A. fought Pte Fisher and won on points. Sigmn Geddes was knocked out by Pte Cooper in the first round.

Waziristan District Signals.

Hockey.—We are still going strong in this branch and have only missed the league championship by a couple of goals.

Football.—I am afraid that although this sport is one of the old country's favourite games, little or no interest is taken here.

Cricket.—Our committee appear to be sitting up and taking notice. Let us hope something accrues.

Note on Sport.—It certainly seems a pity that such little interest is shown in sports in D.I. Khan, and yet only a short time ago people used to talk with bated breath of the prowess of C Division in all branches of sport. I strongly recommend returning to that state. So what about it, ye cripples?

Razmak Brigade Signals.

Hockey.—We have several victories to record at this sport: v. Sappers and Miners, won by 7—2; v. Pack Battery R.A., won by 2—1; v. Medium Battery R.A., won by 3—0; v. Cameronians, won by 10—1.

Bannu Detachment.

Sport.—After a keen game the Signals passed through the first round of the soccer tournament by beating 13 M.T. Company by 4 goals to nil. In the final we met Brigade Headquarters, whom we vanquished after a fast game by 5 goals to nil.

We also won the following events: B.O.R.s relay race (team, L/Corpl Smith, Sergt Gibbens, Sigmn Slater).

Officers' relay race.—Lieut McOstrich was no doubt the outstanding competitor in this event, his efforts enabling the Brigade Mess to win.

Putting the shot.—1, L/Corpl Smith, 28 ft. 7½ ins.; 2, Sigmn Gattrell, 27 ft. 4½ ins.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

The unit tournament is now completed. Corporal Starling's team (versus Capt Rosenberg's team) won the hockey. Sergt Hebbard's team (football) and Corpl Starling's team (hockey) have received medals. These two teams had to play off at both games for the cup. The names of the winners, Corpl Starling's team, have been engraved upon it.

It will be seen from the list of departures that Corpl Luck and L/Sergt Wheeler, two good all-round sportsmen, have left us. Incidentally, Corpl Luck was the winner of the Corporals' shoot. Let us hope we have the luck to get another Luck!

The sergeants' mess tennis cup was won by C.S.M. Rendell, the runner-up being L/Sergt Barber.

Sgt Urquart carried off the cup at the sergeants' rifle meeting. Both the sergeants' and the corporals' meetings took place on the same day. Very bad shooting conditions were experienced, though some good scores were obtained. Capt W. F. H. Herdon very kindly assisted by superintending the arrangements.

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Kohat Polo.

(From a Correspondent).

Fagan Cup Tournament.—The first round of the Fagan Cup polo tournament opened at Kohat on February 20th, two games being played on the opening day, the first between Kohat District Signals and H.Q. Wing Probyn's Horse, and the second between the 2/12th F.F. Regiment and A Squadron Probyn's Horse. The first game was umpired by Capt Mohammed Akbar Khan, and the second by Capt Mohammed Akbar Khan and Capt Robb.

In the first game the Signals started play half a goal on the handicap.

The Signals pressed from the opening of the first chukker. They hit behind twice, however, before they scored. From the throw in Gordon of Probyn's Horse tried a long shot and missed, but a little later, after some scrappy play, the same player was more fortunate, his shot resulting in a goal.

The second chukker proved to be fast and open. Probyn's Horse had much the better of the game, but owing to Morgan's magnificent defence they failed to score.

In the third chukker play became rather sticky. A good run down by Morgan and Pyster towards the close of the chukker failed to improve the score, and Probyn's Horse followed this movement by attacking through Hanwell, from a pass by whom Gordon scored with a clever shot.

Fast play marked the fourth chukker. Both teams pressed in turn until Gordon scored for Probyn's Horse from an opening made by Hanwell. Later Hanwell scored from a melee in front of the Signals' goal. Thus Probyn's Horse won by four goals to one and a half.

The teams were:—H.Q. Wing Probyn's Horse: Jem. Dalip Singh, Capt J. O. Hanwell, R. M. Ashiq Ali Khan, and Mr. J. E. Gordon (back). Kohat District Signals: Capt Orr, Captain Allen, Mr. Morgan, and Capt Pyster (back).

The Hockey Team, Peshawar District Signals, March, 1928

Back row (left to right)—F/Sgt Preston, Sgt Harvey, Cpls Penny and Hayhoe, Sigmn Warman
Centre—L/Sgts Luff and Holland, Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., Captain J. A. I. Watts, Sgt. Wyeth
Front—Sgt Storey, Sigmn Swinson, Cpl Hotchkiss

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Hockey.—The Troop hockey team visited Lahore to compete for the District cup, but after a good game with Ferozepore Arsenal they lost by 1—4. Several good games have also been played with the 33rd Field Troop.

Football.—The football team also lost in the District cup to the regimental team of the Hampshires, although they were not disgraced. Better luck next time!

Mounted Sports.—Some good fun was witnessed on April 5th, when the morning was spent in trying to find good talent and jumping and tent-pegging teams to show Pindi and other units what "A" are made of.

The Corps in Egypt.

General.—As what has taken place during the past month has been the most important sporting event in the history of the Signals, not only in Egypt but at any station throughout the world wherein Signals are located, I hope the Editor will allow a full report of the event.

At long last the Corps in Egypt has won the best all-round sporting unit trophy.

Those who have been stationed in Egypt at any time since the war know the great keenness with which all units in the Command have striven to win this trophy. Our small number compared with other competing units has always been against us, though on no single occasion at the end of a season have we been lower than third.

For four successive years we were runners-up, beaten by a very few points—on each occasion a unit with more than twice our numbers winning the trophy. Last season we were third, yet only two points behind the actual winners.

The sports for which points towards the trophy are awarded are lawn tennis, cricket, swimming, hockey, cross-country, rugby, football, boxing and athletics.

The final event was the athletics, and at the commencement of the Command athletic team championships we held a lead of one point only over the 2nd Battn. The Royal Scots, with the R.A.S.C., the 1st Battn. Durham L.I., the 1st Battalion Somerset L.I., the 1st Light Brigade R.A., the 1st Battn. Norfolk Regiment, and another dozen units (who were practically out of the running) following.

As it rested upon our showing in the athletics as to whether we would be successful, a special appeal was made to all the athletes to turn out regularly on all training runs, so that they might be as fit as possible on the actual days of competing. That they did so, and gave of their best, has now been proved. (A summary of the points obtained is attached.)

The best we could hope for in the athletic meeting was to obtain runners-up position, as with the Lancashire Fusiliers (the holders of the Army team title in England, with a record number of points) now in Egypt, and having with them several Army champions in England and inter-Services representatives, we could not expect to do better.

The athletic meeting was to be run on the same lines as those adopted in England: all relay and team events—so it will be easily understood what a difficulty it was for us to provide fresh men for each event. Several of our best runners were called upon for two or three events, competing in heats and finals.

The team athletic meeting lasted for three days, and at the beginning of the third day, when the majority of the finals were to take place, we were placed third.

As it will take too much space to detail each event, I give the placings reached in the finals: 100 yards relay, 3rd. 220 yards relay, 4th. 440 yards relay, 2nd. 880 yards relay, 5th. One mile team, 4th. 3 miles team, 3rd. High jump, tie for 2nd. Long jump, 4th. In the shot put and hurdles we were unplaced. We received one point for the tug-of-war.

Apart from the Lancashire Fusiliers, whom we congratulate most heartily on their splendid running, there was little to choose between the next four units, and our second position was but 1½ points ahead of the Durham L.I.

The strength of the Lancashire Fusiliers team can be judged in that, apart from the tug-of-war, they won every final but two and tied for first place in one of those.

By our getting second position we received 16 points for the best all-round trophy, and this made our final points 80.

Our success was due in no small measure to the hard work put in by Sergt Jennison in his training of the various teams; the loyal support of all those asked to train and take part in the various events; and last, but *not least*, the simply splendid way in which on all occasions the Corps supporters turned up to a man and cheered on the teams.

Supporters, the competitors thank you! You certainly did *your* bit in securing us that trophy, and helping Signals in Egypt to become known as the best all-round sporting unit in the country.

It is greatly regretted that three of our officers who had been so keenly interested in our endeavours to win the trophy year after year should have left this Command during the very season in which we were destined to win for the first time. I refer to Colonel H. L. Mackworth, Major G. G. Rawson, and Lieut B. B. Kennett. We can, however, assure them that now that at long last we have been successful, every endeavour is going to be made to retain the honour.

Athletics.—Great interest was taken in the Corps sports which took place on the Slade Ground, Abbassia, on April 11th, as it depended on the showing of our athletes as to whether we would win the best all-round trophy reported above. Results in full were as follows:—

100 yards—1, Sergt Jennison (10 4/5th secs.); 2, L/Corporal Gratwicke; 3, Sigmn Rolls.

220 yards—1, Sergt Jennison (24 2/5th secs.); 2, L/Corporal Gratwicke; 3, Sergt Wheeler.

440 yards—1, Sergt Jennison (55 secs.); 2, L/Corpl Gratwicke; 3, Sigmn Elliott.

880 yards—1, Sigmn Beeton (2 min. 13 secs.); 2, Sigmn Backhouse; 3, Sigmn Cooper.

1 mile—1, Sigmn Beeton (4 min. 52 secs.); 2, Sigmn Shepherd; 3, Dvr Hammond.

3 miles—1, Sigmn Beeton (15 min. 17 secs.); 2, Sigmn Hillier; 3, Dvr Hammond.

Hurdles—1, Sigmn Connauchton (19 secs.); 2, Sigmn Goble; 3, Corpl George.

Shot—1, Sigmn Connauchton (34 ft. 1 in.); 2, Sigmn North; 3, L/Corpl Williams.

High jump—1, Sigmn Connauchton (5 ft. 3 in.); 2, Sigmn Gibson; 3, Sigmn Brooker.

Long jump—1, Sergt Jennison (19 ft. 7 in.); 2, Sigmn Connauchton; 3, Sigmn Elliott.

At open relay races within the Command the Corps have competed twice and won on each occasion. At No. 45 Squadron R.A.F. sports, our team was Sigmn Beeton, L/Corpl Gratwicke, Signalmen Cooper and Rolls. At the Royal Dragoons sports, out of eleven teams the Corps won with Sigmn Beeton, L/Corpl Gratwicke, Sergts Rushworth and Jennison.

In the Command individual championships, Sigmn Beeton won the mile and three miles. In the mile he won from Sergt Day E. F., of the Lancashire Fusiliers (the ex-Army in England champion) by five yards in 4 min. 34 secs., beating Army standard time. He won the three miles from Bandsman Hipperson (also Lancashire Fusiliers) by 200 yards in 15 min. 24 1/5th secs.

At the athletic championships of Egypt, wherein competitors of several nationalities took part, Sigmn Beeton won three events—the 1500, 5000 and 10,000 metres. He broke two records in doing so. The shade temperature on the last two days reached 110 degrees. The Egyptian Olympic games team will be chosen from these results.

Sigmn Beeton also won the open mile at No. 208 Squadron R.A.F. sports, Sigmn Shepherd finishing fifth in a big field.

To date Sigmn Beeton has competed in no fewer than twenty-five races since Christmas, winning every one—this being his best season since arriving in Egypt.

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Summary of Points and Order of Finishing — Unit	Lawn Tennis	Cricket	Swimming	Hockey	Cross-country	Rugby	Football	Boxing	Athletics	Total
Royal Signals	–	–	16	–	12	12	8	16	16	80
2nd Btn. R. Scots	4	–	–	20	7	–	20	12	9	72
1st Btn. Durham L.I.	–	–	–	12	5	20	16	–	13	66
1st Btn. Somerset L.I.	–	12	–	8	3	16	–	12	8	59
R.A.S.C.	–	16	13	–	–	12	8	8	½	57½
1st Bn. Norfolk Regt	4	8	–	–	9	8	8	8	11	56
1st Lt. Bde. R.A.	–	–	11	–	4	–	12	20	7	54
2nd Bde. R.H.A.	–	–	–	8	–	8	8	8	–	32
R.A.M.C., Egypt	12	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	32
R.E., Egypt	8	–	–	16	2	–	–	–	1	27
15/19th Hussars	6	8	–	–	–	–	12	–	1	27
3rd A.C. Co. R.T.C.	–	–	8	8	–	8	–	–	–	24
1st Btn. Lancs. Fus.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	20
R.A.O.C., Egypt	6	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	18
12th Lancers	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	15
2nd Btn Gr. Howards	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	6	14
1st Royal Dragoons	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	8
R.A.P.C., Egypt	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4

Boxing.—At the annual inter-Services boxing championships held at Heliopolis during the past month, Sergt Wheeler and Corpl George were selected to represent the Army in the middle and light-weight championships. They both won their fights—Sergt Wheeler disposing of his opponent early in the first round, and Corpl George beating his man rather easily on points. This meeting practically concluded the boxing season, which has been a very successful one for the Corps.

Swimming.—Training has now started in earnest, in readiness for the Command championships to take place later in the season. Last year we were runners-up for the trophy, and this year we intend to go one better and see if we can't win outright.

Cricket.—In the first round of the Command cricket competition we have been drawn against the Lancashire Fusiliers, at Moascar, the match to take place some time in May. As we have a fairly strong team this year we have strong hopes of success, and trust that the Lancs. cricket team is not quite so warm as their athletic team.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

General.—Hearty congratulations to the Corps sports teams in Egypt on at last winning that elusive best all-round unit sporting trophy. If at first you don't succeed, etc., etc.—and Signals certainly did deserve to succeed. Second in the final placings for the trophy for four successive years; then a third; and this season they head the table. This performance can rank among the best that Signals in any station throughout the world have ever done. For a small unit to head the table over about eighteen other units, whose strength far exceeds our own, is a wonderful performance. Doubtless the proudest man in Egypt on the final day of the Command athletic championships, when the trophy was presented, was Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., who received it on behalf of the Corps. That the winning was well and truly celebrated that night goes without saying!

It is to be regretted that several of our sportsmen who have helped to win the trophy return to the U.K. next trooping season, and our greatest wish is that among the new men who will take their places players may be found who will do their utmost to ensure the finest sporting trophy in Egypt being kept in the finest sporting unit in Egypt—bar none!

Athletics.—The following athletes of this Company were awarded "Jimmies" on being selected to represent the Corps in the Command athletic championships: Capt H. G. Henderson, L/Corpl Gratwicke, Signalmen Beeton, Rolls, Stone C., Elliott, Backhouse, Cooper, Hammond, Shepherd, Hillier, Goble, Mains.

They are to be congratulated on their fine running in aiding the Corps to get in as runners-up in the athletic meeting out of about twenty competing units.

The most improved men in the teams were Signalmen Stone C. and Elliott, the former's fine sprinting in the 220 and 440 yards being a revelation to the Corps supporters.

Sigmn Beeton retained his titles in the individual mile and three miles championships of the Command, incidentally making two records for the Command at the meeting and beating the Army in England standard time for the mile by 4 1/5th secs.

At the open mile (open to runners not taking part in the Command events) Sigmn Cooper finished third to an Arab runner. (Who's pot-hunting now, Buck?)

Boxing.—Congratulations to Sergt Wheeler C., who has wound up the boxing season by winning the middle-weight inter-Services championship. He disposed of his opponent in the final in no uncertain fashion, knocking him out within a few seconds of the gong sounding for the first round.

Cricket.—Among those who arrived with the last draft, two very promising cricketers in Signalmen Strike and Hillier R. were posted. They have both made their way into the Corps cricket team, and have aided the Corps to retain an unbroken record so far this season.

Malta Signal Section.

Football.—Considering the strength of our Section we did not do badly during the past season, finishing up as follows: Played 23, won 15, drawn 2, lost 6; goals for 70, against 37.

If the Section can do this, what's wrong with the Depot?

Cricket.—We have now started our cricket season and so far have not done badly. We have one coming county player, who during our first match was heard to remark: "The bat was not wide enough, and required under arm bowling." Another comedian was a young lad who said the ball was too hard to catch. Still, we all have to learn. More about this sport later.

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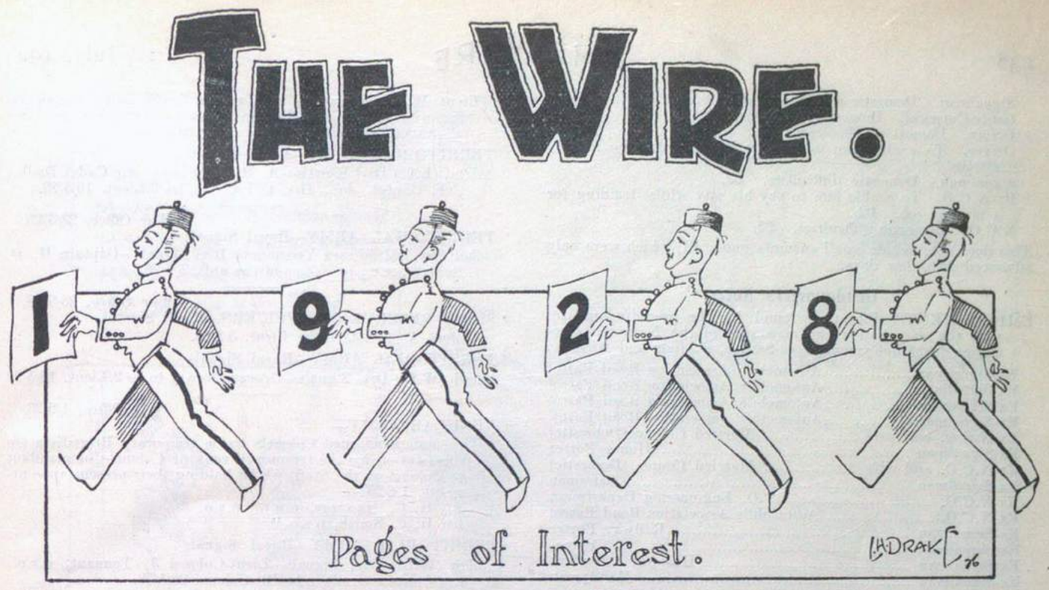

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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. IX.—No. 101 JULY, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

Corps Promotion Roster.—Copies of this publication have now been distributed in accordance with orders received, and holders of the book are asked to note that the casualties published under the heading of "Promotion Roster" on page 243 of this issue constitute the first amendments to the publication. All subsequent amendments will be duly published in the pages of this Journal as and when received. Copies of the Roster can still be obtained on application to this office (price 1/- post free, cash with order).

❀ ❀ ❀

The second illustrated instalment of Captain J. L. McKinlay's article entitled "Signalling Down Under" is also published in this issue, and we would take advantage of this opportunity to thank the author for his contributions.

❀ ❀ ❀

We also welcome to our ever-growing list of new correspondents the 12th Brigade Signals, Australian Corps of Signals, Hobart, Tasmania. Unfortunately their notes and illustrations arrived too late for inclusion in this issue, but will be published without fail in the August number. Cordial greetings, however, are extended herein, together with many thanks for a very interesting budget.

❀ ❀ ❀

A correspondent writes to ask if we can explain the long silence of the S.T.C. and Depot, Jubbulpore, India. We cannot! but perhaps this paragraph will serve to remind them that others as well as ourselves would appreciate news of them.

Swank.—We are indebted to the Editor of *The Evening News* for allowing us to republish "Algol's" observations on the bad behaviour of A Corps Signals' late regimental pet, now transferred to his new quarters at the Zoo. Obviously a flagrant case of "refusing to obey an order," and we trust that "Bill" has been summarily dealt with.

EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Branch Notes.

The following is a statement showing various grants and loans made by the COLCHESTER BRANCH COMMITTEE from the funds at their disposal for the year ending May 31st, 1928.

Wife of Signalman serving with Shanghai Defence Force Signals, in domestic difficulties. £1 allocated
Driver leaving Colours with insufficient means to take his effects to home address. £1 15s. advanced as loan, and subsequently granted.
Driver whose wife needed extra nutriment, etc. £3 allocated.
Wife of Signalman in China. Child died, and no money for burial expenses. £1 allocated.
Wife of Driver in China. No money for expenses after confinement. £2 allocated.
Signalman in domestic difficulties at home. £3 advanced.
Lance-Corporal. £5 advanced to enable him to bring wife and family to this station.
Lance-Corporal. Domestic difficulties. £2 10s. advanced.
Signalman. Domestic difficulties. £3 10s.
Driver. Domestic difficulties. £1.

Signalman. Domestic difficulties. £1 10s.
Lance-Corporal. Domestic difficulties. £6.
Driver. Domestic difficulties. £2.
Driver. To enable him to bring wife and family to station. £3 10s.
Signalman. Domestic difficulties. £2.
Ex-N.C.O. To enable him to pay his way whilst training for a civilian job. £2.
N.C.O. Domestic difficulties. £3.

This does not include small amounts under £1. which were only advanced for a few days.

Headquarters Notes.

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:

Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-N.C.O. and wife	Married Couple (Domestic)
Ex-Signalman	House Porter
Ex-N.C.O. and wife	Married Couple (Domestic)
Ex-Signalman	Salesman
Ex-N.C.O.	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-N.C.O.	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Railway Porter
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-Signalman	Hospital Attendant
Ex-Signalman	Handyman

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

Sergeant Godbold, London.
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1.—Ex-N.C.O., London. Clothing, etc., required for new employment. £3 advanced from Association funds.
2.—Signalman, Royal Signals, Wiltshire. To assist in moving household effects from abroad. £3 advanced from Association funds.
3.—Mother of deceased ex-Signalman, Brighton, in domestic difficulties. £5 advanced from Association funds.
4.—Parents of deceased ex-Signalman, Leeds. £3 advanced from Association funds towards funeral expenses.
5.—Ex-N.C.O., London. In domestic difficulties. £7 advanced as loan from Association funds.
6.—Ex-Signalman, London. In difficulties. Employment found and £3 advanced from Association funds.

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

Corps News—Officers.

MOVEMENTS—

Lieut A. J. G. McNair, 2/Lieuts J. J. Y. Scarlett, D. L. Hyde, T. J. McOran-Campbell, E. J. F. Heap, L. C. C. Harrison, and R. G. Muir, from Catterick to Aldershot.

2/Lieuts M. G. Gordon-Wilson and C. P. S. Denholm-Young, from Catterick to Bulford.

2/Lieut E. C. Drewe from Catterick to Tidworth.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 18/5/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Royal Signals—

Major J. S. Yule, O.B.E., is seconded whilst employed as Supt, Signals Experimental Establishment, 3/5/28.

Lieut W. J. Pearce to be Captain, 1/5/28, with regimental seniority 9/5/21, such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay, or retired pay.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—A. R. B. Dobson (late Cadet Radley Coll. Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 19/5/28.

War Office, 22/5/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

2nd Cav. (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals—Captain H. D. Roberts, M.C., to command the unit, 5/5/28.

War Office, 25/5/28.

SUPP. RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—

2/Lieut A. Arnold to be Lieut. 5/5/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—George Drewry to be 2/Lieut. 16/3/28

War Office, 1/6/28.

REGULAR ARMY—

The undermentioned Colonels to be temporary Brigadiers (in substitution for the temporary rank of Colonel-Commandant or Colonel on the Staff) whilst holding their present appointments, 1/6/28:—

H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O.
H. C. Smith, D.S.O.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Lieut-Colonel J. Tennant, D.S.O., T.D. (since retired) to be Bt.-Colonel 26/3/28.

War Office, 5/6/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Royal Signals—

Capt D. A. L. Wade, M.C., remains seconded whilst employed with the R.E. Board, 21/5/28.

Lieut W. D. Horniman is seconded for service with the R.A.F. 18/5/28.

The undermentioned Lieuts to be Captains 6/6/28, with regimental seniority 11/9/22:—

E. S. Heffer, F. C. Curtis (and remains seconded), G. S. O'N. Power, B. B. Kennett, M. Duke, C. H. Crouch, M.C., R. H. Hooper, M.B.E., F. H. Bury, E. Levett, and F. K. Wilson.

Such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay, or retired pay.

War Office, 8/6/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Royal Signals—

Capt St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler is seconded whilst employed as Instructor, School of Signals, 21/5/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

50th (Northumbrian) Divl Signals—Captain G. H. Walton to be Major, 14/5/28.
Lieut T. S. Mensley to be Captain, 14/5/28.
Lieut J. F. C. Park to be Captain, 14/5/28.

War Office, 12/6/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Establishments—

Capt J. F. Charlesworth, R.Signals, relinquishes the appointment of Adjutant, School of Signals, 19/5/28.

Lieut L. V. Younie, R.Signals, to be Adjutant, School of Signals, 19/5/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—

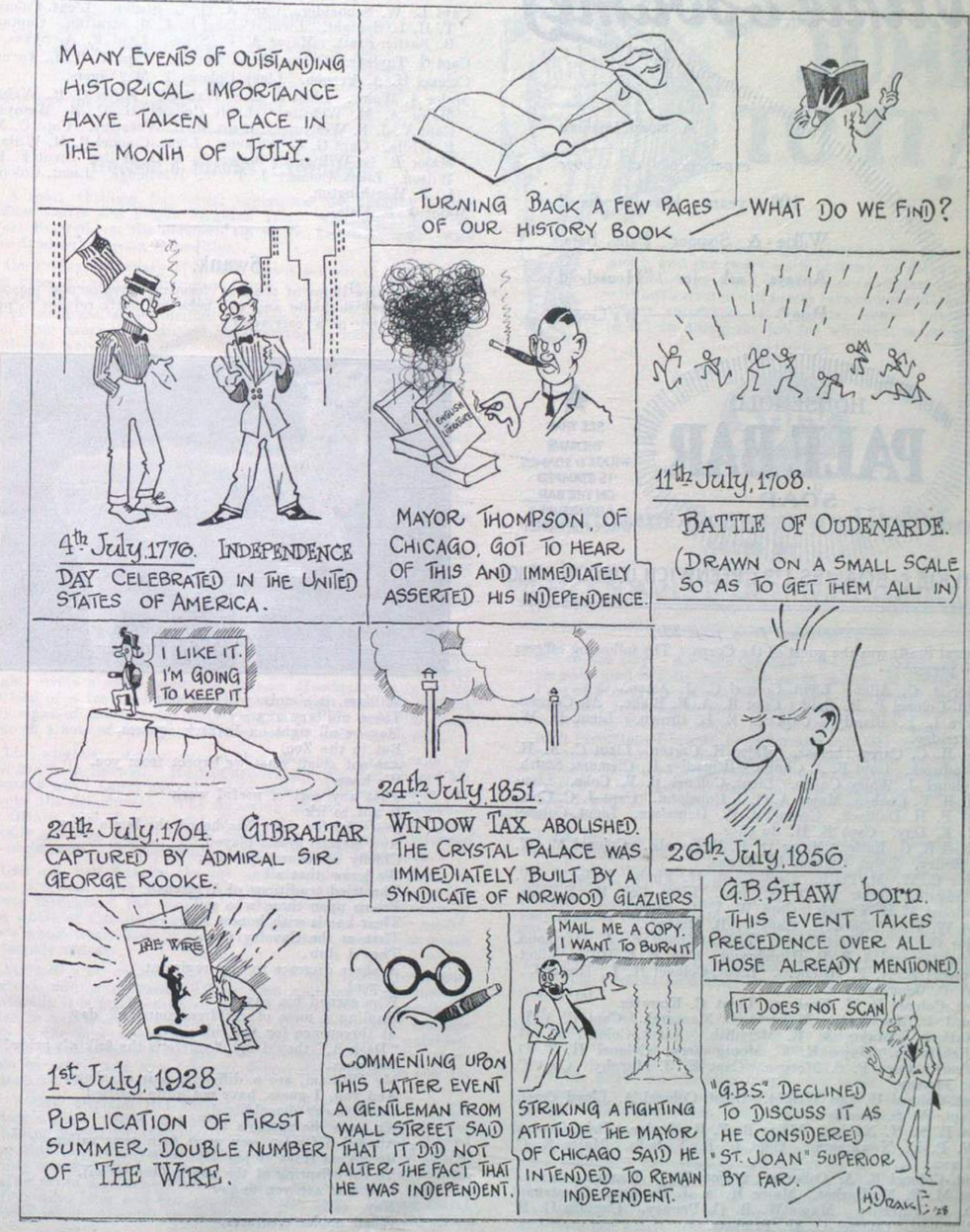
51st (H.) Divl Signals—Robert Bertram Williamson to be 2/Lieut 19/3/28.
Norman Cecil Grant Philip to be 2/Lieut. 26/3/28.

Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club.

The annual dinner of the Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club was held at the Royal Adelaide Gallery on May 30th. LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JOHN S. FOWLER, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. (Colonel-Commandant) presided, and FIELD-MARSHAL SIR GEORGE F. MILNE, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., LL.D. (Chief of the Imperial

(Continued on page 240)

A PAGEANT OF HISTORY. By L. H. DRAKE



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(*Continued from page* 238)

General Staff) was the guest of the Corps. The following officers were present:—

Major A. C. Allan. Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Aston.
Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Bald. Capt R. A. E. Blake. Air-Commodore L. F. Blandy. Capt A. E. L. Brown. Lieut D. W. Burridge.
Capt H. C. Carey-Thomas. Major H. Carter. Lieut C. A. H. Chadwick. Capt P. A. Chubb. Brigadier H. Clementi Smith. Colonel J. Waley Cohen. Lieut.-Colonel B. E. Coke. Lieut H. R. V. Cooke. Major A. G. J. Copeland. Capt J. C. Cree.
Capt F. H. Dallison. Colonel J. W. Danielsen. Lieut.-Colonel H. E. Day. Capt E. H. du Cros.
Colonel R. G. Earle. Major O. P. Edgcumbe. Colonel M. W. Emley. Lieut.-Colonel Ll. Evans.
Major C. W. M. Firth. Capt C. R. H. Firth. Major C. W. Fladgate. Major P. D. H. Foot. Lieut.-Col. H. F. Fox. Colonel A. H. French. Capt W. V. G. Fuge.
Capt W. C. V. Galwey. Capt T. B. Gravely.
Major G. M. H. Henderson. Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Heymann. Brig.-General A. B. R. Hildebrand. Capt E. L. Hill. Lieut.-Colonel E. N. F. Hitchens. Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Howard.
Capt P. Jennings.
Lieut.-Colonel P. H. Keeling. Lieut C. Knowles.
Capt J. P. Mackenzie. Major G. E. Mansergh. Capt F. A. H. Mathew. Major A. E. Meredith. Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Michelmore. Major R. V. Montgomery. Colonel H. T. G. Moore. Capt F. S. Morgan. Capt E. J. Murphy. Capt C. A. Murray.
Lieut.-Colonel H. Lee Wright. Lieut.-Colonel A. Lloyd Owen. Capt W. S. Lonsdale.
Capt R. F. H. Nalder. Major R. F. B. Naylor. Brig.-General W. P. E. Newbigging. Capt L. B. Nicholls. Major R. C. Nixon.
Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Osborne. Major G. D. Ozanne.
Capt M. F. M. Parkes. Major H. A. J. Parsons. Lieutenant D. R. Paterson. Major W. R. C. Penney. Captain G. H. Plummer. Colonel C. H. Prickett.
Capt H. E. Rance. Capt Rattray. Lieut.-Colonel G. G. Rawson. Capt A. P. Rice-Jones. Capt W. H. G. Rogers. Capt B. G. Rowley. Major C. L. Ruck.
Capt L. W. Schneider. Capt A. G. L. Sladen. Lieut.-Colonel T. H. L. Spaight. Lieut.-Colonel F. J. M. Stratton. Captain R. Sutton-Pratt. Major A. C. Sykes. Capt F. A. Sykes.
Capt G. Tayleur. Colonel E. V. Turner. Capt T. H. L. Turner
Colonel H. A. Vernon. Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Vigers.
Major A. Waley. Lieut J. E. S. Walford. Major C. H. Walsh. Major A. M. Webster. Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Wemyss. Capt V. J. E. Westropp. Lieut M. S. Wheatley. Capt C. M. F. White. Capt G. C. Wickens. Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Willan. Major R. G. Williams. Major O. S. D. Wills. Lieut F. K. Wilson. Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge. Lieut.-Colonel L. J. Worthington.
Major J. S. Yule.

Swank.

[Bill, the new llama at the Zoo (formerly a regimental mascot) though otherwise docile and well-behaved, flatly refuses to pull children about in a carriage.]

William, it simply will not do:
These military airs
May be all right on barrack squares,
But in the Zoo
Are not at all what we expect from you.
We know
That any sort of useful work
Is apt to irk
One who for years has heard the bugle blow
And martial music played,
Chiefly on church parade;
We know that all
The tried traditions of Whitehall
Frown upon those who soil
Their hands with honest toil,
That at the Cavalry Club
They'd dub
A sheer disgrace to any regiment
A gent
Who earned his pay
Hauling a mess of children round all day
At threepence for the ride:
"Dash it," they'd say, "where is the fellow's pride?"
But zoos,
My William, are a different pair of shoes,
And you, I guess, have not quite realised
That you're demobilised.
No more the nation's
Alleged defender, you must earn your rations
By giving rides of joy
To the offspring of the public (*hoi polloi*).
And who are you to say
Nay
When nobler creatures,

E.g., the elephant,
Instead of saying "Shan't!"
And letting passion discompose their features,
Make not the slightest fuss
At being turned into an omnibus?
No, Bill, it will not do:
It isn't pride but swank that's eating you.

ALGOL.

—By kind permission of *The Evening News*.

[Bill was the late mascot of A Corps Signals, Ewshott.—ED.]

Hudson's Straits Expedition.

A most thrilling but cruel experience has befallen Flying Officer Lewis and Flight Sergeant Terry, who are at Base A, Port Burwell, on the northern tip of the Labrador coast, with the Hudson's Straits Expedition.

On Friday, February 17th, Mr. Lewis set out on patrol from his base, with Flight Sergeant Terry and an Esquimo as passengers, in a Fokker monoplane. They were overtaken by storms (high wind and snow), drifted off their course, and became lost. For four hours they cruised about trying to locate themselves and then were forced down. The last radio message from the plane received by the base stated: "Off course and lost, engine cutting out, gasoline expended, am going down. Ice floes below, no land in sight."

This message was repeated to National Defence Headquarters for information, and grave fears were expressed for the safety of the party. The temperature was ranging from 20 to 30 below zero, and blizzards were raging throughout the territory. Squadron Leader Lawrence from Base C, Wakeham Bay, and Flight Lieut. Lietch from Base B, Nottingham Island, flew to the assistance of Flight Lieut. Cogbill at Port Burwell to engage in the search.

Daily reports were received from Burwell of the search that was being made, and long and difficult flights were being carried out each day that it was humanly possible to get a machine into the air. Parties with dog teams made trips down the Labrador coast and along the shores of Ungava Bay.

This search was evidently pressed most diligently and to the limit for two weeks. On Thursday, March 2nd, at midnight, Squadron Leader Lawrence, evidently just turning in for the night, wrote a radio report for Defence Headquarters in which he told of a four-and-a-half hour patrol flight that day without any signs of the missing party being seen. He ended his message on a note of despair: "Little hope for their rescue now."

The wireless operator cleared this message at 12.40 a.m. of the 2nd from Burwell. He had apparently only just cleared his message when Lewis and his party stumbled into the base and awoke the detachment. The following message was despatched to Ottawa at 1.17 a.m. (just 37 minutes after that which practically gave up hope): "A277 Lewis and all personnel returned to-night stop. Further report later." Signed LAWRENCE.

One can well imagine the joy and the relief of all ranks at Port Burwell. The message was featured as a headline by the Press throughout the country on March 2nd, and practically the whole of Canada awaited with eagerness the further report. Two whole weeks lost, in that frigid vastness, must have meant a terrible ordeal.

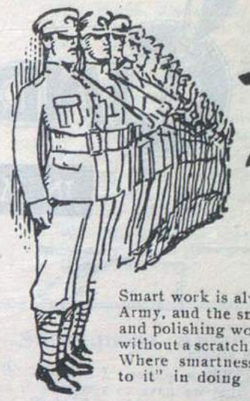
At 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, March 3rd, the looked-for report arrived, and was timed 10.20 of that morning from Burwell. Naturally it is much curtailed, and undoubtedly when eventually filled in will make an amazing story. But in this brief message one of the most hazardous experiences imaginable is unfolded, and it shows that only by grit and determination was the party able to save itself from almost certain destruction in the icy waters off the Labrador coast.

"A280 airplane HG Pilot Lewis landed on ice floe in Atlantic stop. After travelling easterly direction for one day having estimated their location in Ungava visibility cleared so that land was visible to westward stop. Retraced course they reached land on Labrador coast vicinity Kamaktorvik after seven days travel where Eskimo hunter picked them up four days later and brought them home stop. During travel over ice in Atlantic air raft used for time in making from floe to floe stop. Air raft eventually lost by native and small ice pans used as rafts over leads using paddles of air raft stop. Part of emergency rations lost and part of necessity discarded personnel resorting to raw walrus food shot by native using emergency kit rifle stop. When abandoned airplane intact with exception of broken propeller and stiff legs on skis caused by running into heavily rafted ice stop. Their return most miraculous but wonderful effort of personnel major factor stop. Native in air craft of most valuable assistance stop. Estimated position of landing sixty miles off coast." Signed LAWRENCE.

From the report it will be seen that the party thought they were in Ungava Bay and so must make their way *eastward* to reach land. Mist and driving snow prevented them from seeing anything but ice and salt water all round them. The plane disabled (and in any case useless, as they were out of fuel), they inflated their emergency raft and started off. After a full day's travel, presumably February 18th, they discovered in the clearer weather of the 19th that the land was behind them. This meant that they were in the Atlantic and that instead of travelling towards land they were making for the open sea and Greenland.

It took seven days to make the mainland, and having lost the raft they had to paddle across the open spaces between the ice fields on cakes of drift ice. One can understand that this was a most risky and tedious business, and open spaces between ice fields might be anything from a few yards to a few miles. Apparently they were about sixty miles from the mountainous shores of Labrador when they abandoned their plane.

Certainly Lewis and Terry owe, in great measure, their successful return to the Esquimo guide, for grit alone (of which they evidently had plenty) will not long sustain life in that northern vastness. Mr. Lewis and Flight Sergt Terry will have the sincere congratulations of all ranks of the R.C.S. They are well known to most of us, and we must all do honour to the stout-hearted native who stuck to them and saw them through.



JUMP TO IT!

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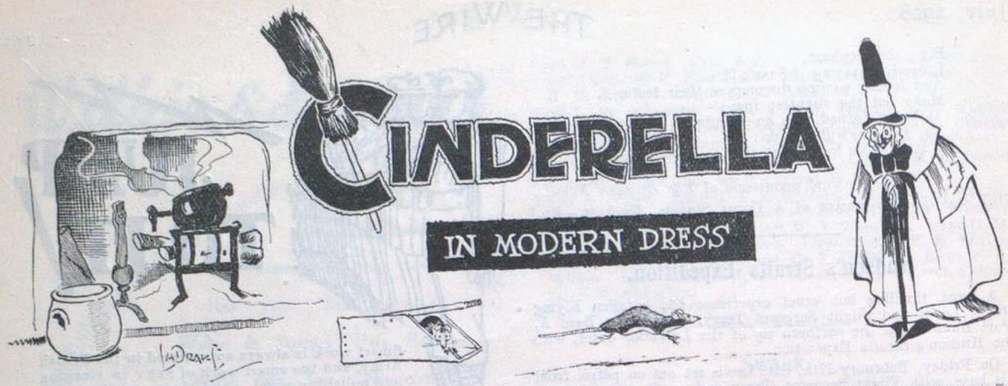


Once upon a time there lived three sisters.

Oh, by the way. One moment, Mr. Editor, please. I should, perhaps, have mentioned beforehand that we have to recognise an age-old law which governs the telling of fairy tales. I refer to the opening phrase, "Once upon a time."

Whether we dress Cinderella in the frills and trailing skirts of medieval times, or whether we light her cigarette and give her our chair in the barber's, we have to adhere to the rules of the game. Right ho! Mr. Editor, thanks you. Let 'em have it!

The three sisters lived in a cute little cottage out in Nashville, Tennessee. It was "a real live joint, with an east view, h. and c., standing in its own grounds, 5 mins. stn., garage and all mod. con." In fact, as the agent had pointed out, it was altogether "a very desrble. resdnce.," and at the time our story opens the final instalment was due on the 24th.

Now Lucille, the eldest of the three sisters, was the sort of girl that men forget. She was a faded blonde. One look at her caused strong men to reel. Compared with her, Mr. Drage's plain vans took on a gay and festive appearance. Lucille was a flat type.

Georgia was a year younger than Lucille, although very few would have believed it. She had had her face lifted twice on Broadway and once in Yurrup, but beauty had persisted in remaining skin deep. She looked like the "before taking" picture of an advertisement for a patent blood tonic. Her jaw was full of bone, and she had a figure like a matchstick with the wood rubbed off.

Cinderella, the youngest, was 18 and a brunette. She was, moreover, a dazzling brunette. When gentlemen saw her there was a heavy slump in "Blondes Preferred." Cindy had one of those "close-up" complexions, and a gear for every gradient. She was the hit of the season, and knew it.

Now, a few blocks away from the cottage in which the three sisters lived, there was a palace owned by a Prince. It was called "Mon Repos," because all American Princes like to give their palaces Latin names.

Well, one day the Prince decided to hold a dinner party and cabaret, to be followed by dancing until 2 a.m., and Lucille and Georgia received invitations to be among those present. Naturally enough they signed on the dotted line, and got all set to dress up and apply just a touch behind the ears.

Poor little Cindy felt just about as lonesome as good-will in Chicago, but because she was as sweet-natured as she was beautiful, she stepped right along to help her sisters get ready, the big cheeses.

At last they managed to get on enough make-up to act as a shock absorber, cranked their auto, and did the fade-out for the palace, leaving Cindy with the radio cabinet for company. Well, that lets them out for a bit!

Now, poor little Cindy was sitting in the Blue Room, chewing gum and registering pathos, when a thin voice said, "Say, little girl, I calculate you're feelin' kinda blue."

Cindy looked up. Standing in front of her she saw a little bent old woman, dressed in a long caped cloak, the skirt of which trailed on the ground behind her. On her head was a tall conical hat, and she rested a pair of bony hands on a stout staff. The face which peeped out from the folds of the cloak was old and wizened, and the large hooked nose gave Cindy the impression that she was looking at some kind of bird. A pair of black beady eyes twinkled under the brim of her hat. They were very kind eyes.

"Gosh, grandma!" said Cindy; "how did ya get like that?"

"Listen, child," said the little old woman. "I'm your Fairy Godmother, and I gotta hunch you're all set for the big scene up at the palace."

Cindy registered tears. "You said it, grandma."

The Fairy Godmother regarded Cindy with some impatience. "Say, nix on the sob stuff, child," she said; "turn the taps off, and rustle up a pumpkin."

Cinderella looked surprised and, rising, went to the pantry and returned carrying a huge yellow pumpkin.

"Atta," chuckled the Fairy Godmother, and she scooped out the pumpkin, leaving only the rind. This she placed on the ground and touched with her staff, which was really a wand, and the pumpkin turned into a wonderful cream coach with gilt wheels, the specification of which included lamp, horn and Tan-Sad (write for illustrated catalogue, post free).

"Gee!" said Cindy in delight. "Magic! Strut your stuff, grandma; I'm just dippy on that bunk."

"Bring me the mousetrap," said the Fairy Godmother.

Cinderella placed the trap containing six mice beside the coach, and the old woman, opening the trap, touched each mouse in turn with her wand. In their places there appeared six prancing horses, all cream coloured.

"Gosh, grandma!" said Cindy, admiringly. "I'll tell the world you know how to handle that rod, pole or perch!"

"Aw, gwan, quit the publicity stuff, girlie," said the Fairy Godmother. "There's your transport. Now produce one rat and three green lizards."

Cinderella hunted around and eventually procured the necessary rodent and reptiles. The old woman touched the rat with her staff, and the animal immediately turned into a tall and handsomely-dressed coachman. The lizards being treated in like manner, three smart footmen in splendid uniforms were noted to be among those present.

The Fairy Godmother stepped back to admire the effect. "Beat it, little girl," she said.

"Aw, grandma," said Cindy, looking at her costume; "how'd ya get that way. I can't figure at the palace in this outfit."

"Easy, child," said the old woman; and waving her wand. Cindy stood arrayed in a Fifth Avenue creation of silver and pearls. Her tiny feet were encased in a pair of shining glass slippers, and she looked radiantly beautiful (vide "The Nashville Society News").

"Say, grandma," she said; "I call that real neat."

"And then some," added her Fairy Godmother. "But get me, Cindy. You must leave the palace before twelve pip emma, because at that hour all this magic bunk is due for the big fade-out."

"I gottcha," said Cindy, and stepping into her coach, she was driven away.

"Don't forget the time signal," cried the old woman.

Cindy's arrival at the palace gates caused a big stir in Nashville. Movie operators and the general public hustled around to get her in focus. She at last found herself in the hall, with the Prince himself there to claim the first Yale.

When they entered the ball-room the Schenectady Syncopated Six applied the brakes, the dancers stopped eating, and everyone gazed spellbound at the exquisite vision of loveliness (vide "The Nashville Society Gossip").

Cindy had such a huge evening that she quite lost count of the time, and it was only when she heard the palace Ingersoll chime the first note of midnight that she remembered her Fairy Godmother's warning. "Sorry," she said to her partner; "I guess I must beat it, and that right speedily."

The Prince, who noticed her flight, ran after her, but Cindy had disappeared by the time he reached the door. He found one of her little glass slippers lying on the mat, and being a regular fella he vowed to marry her whom it exactly fitted.

Well, all the girls in Nashville put their best foot forward, but one after the other drew a blank.

At last the Royal Chamberlain, the guards and the little glass slipper arrived at the cottage in which the three sisters lived.

Lucille, being the eldest, entered the lists first, but her True-Form had half a lap to spare.

Georgia was next eliminated. The size of her feet sounded like a base-ball score.

When the little glass slipper was tried on Cindy—well, anyway, they got divorced three months later.

It just shows you!

L. H. D.

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. Class II. (C.S.M.)—

2306274 Bevan R. 17/2/28
2307473 Brown P. 1/4/28
2306418 Whittingham W. 25/4/28

To be W.O. Class II. (Q.M.S., Foreman-of-Signals)

2306295 Harris G. 1/5/28

To be Farrier-Staff-Sergeant—

1048160 Willsmore E. 1/7/27

To be Sergeant—

2307911 Diamond G. 15/12/27
2202150 Barnham H. 31/1/28
2309337 Wright D. 31/1/28
2311489 Coleman M. 31/1/28
2306753 Cole W. 31/1/28
2308815 Washford B. 31/1/28
2307642 Coleman C. 31/1/28
2308075 Cozens S. 17/2/28
1855513 Pillinger H. 23/2/28
2306803 Archer W. 2/3/28
2306469 Burr W. 1/4/28
1857100 Boulter H. 1/4/28
2306205 Weaving A. 25/4/28

To be Sergeant (Farrier)

1850346 Pummell D. 1/12/27
2308340 Garnett C. 22/1/28

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

2306328 Gale C. 3/7/27
1850148 Dilworth W. 12/12/27
5485253 Tosdevin R. 31/1/28
2308470 Brundell A. 31/1/28
1857406 Trayner V. 31/1/28
2314487 Mills J. 31/1/28
2314244 Low G. 31/1/28
2311115 Brett T. 1/2/28
2314176 Holness A. 1/2/28
2312799 Marchant E. 23/2/28
2310939 Crowhurst H. 3/3/28
2306829 Storey C. 3/3/28
2309537 Nelson C. 8/3/28
2308726 Tolley C. 1/4/28
1858964 Tilling F. 1/4/28
2310654 Hoy C. 4/4/28
2557106 Lambke E. 12/4/28
2309558 Bridge W. 14/4/28
2306781 Beckley A. 25/4/28
1858688 Brewer A. 27/4/28
2309746 Devey H. 27/4/28
2314121 Mackie A. 27/4/28
2309311 Newmarsh E. 27/4/28
6905950 Walsh W. 27/4/28
2306789 Harris T. 27/4/28
2311126 Wigzell W. 27/4/28
1859026 Simmonds F. 27/4/28
2309353 Schofield J. 29/4/28
2311588 Chandler A. 29/4/28
2306645 Turner A. 29/4/28

To be Corporal—

2310684 Stanley R. 10/12/27
2311046 Murphy W. 10/12/27
2311282 Morley W. 10/12/27
2314607 Justice A. 10/12/27
734621 Humphrey J. 10/12/27
391388 Benfield G. 10/12/27
2311596 Barraclough A. 15/12/27
2311654 Short F. 25/12/27
1856964 Watt N. 3/1/28
2313021 Chappell R. 4/1/28
2311325 Southwell F. 5/1/28
2315309 Knott L. 19/1/28
2310602 Gatford R. 22/1/28
2309580 Collins D. 31/1/28
2314824 Dunn A. 31/1/28
2308054 Fisher N. 31/1/28
2314112 Brewster P. 31/1/28
2312331 Minchin C. 31/1/28
2311327 Jones W. 31/1/28
2310897 Bourne H. 31/1/28
2306429 Brudenell F. 31/1/28
2312686 Reeves E. 31/1/28
395576 Davies R. 31/1/28
2311075 Miller L. 31/1/28
1039092 Frommel M. 31/1/28
2314981 Bray R. 31/1/28
2315291 Frampton E. 31/1/28
2314887 Ellison D. 31/1/28
2312465 Roberts S. 31/1/28
6003199 Greenwood E. 5/2/28
2309481 Dibsdale A. 17/2/28
2313796 Welch J. 17/2/28
2310732 Kilford L. 17/2/28
2312898 Boxall C. 28/2/28
2315912 Longhurst E. 2/3/28
2316353 Field G. 2/3/28
312120 Cotton A. 2/3/28
2306658 Norcup J. 3/3/28
741626 James C. 3/3/28
1026814 Whyte C. 3/3/28
4605345 Hirst W. 3/3/28
6001348 Panting J. 3/3/28
2313772 Copp D. 3/3/28
2309574 Mansfield F. 3/3/28
2200858 May C. 3/3/28
5486557 Bunn F. 3/3/28
2316500 Sell G. 8/3/28
2315877 Parkinson R. 8/3/28
2315986 Lambert J. 11/3/28
2312379 McLachlan F. 21/3/28
2313063 Davis R. 22/3/28
6390674 Clevett A. 22/3/28
2315839 Cash E. 22/3/28
2311254 Reene S. 1/4/28
2306561 Thomas C. 1/4/28
2308473 Goodison N. 1/4/28
2308534 Blakeman L. 12/4/28
6133981 Fee G. 24/4/28
2309411 Binder F. 26/4/28
2314929 Walby L. 26/4/28
2310033 Page A. 27/4/28
28842 Rogers R. 27/4/28
2306334 Hooper E. 27/4/28
2316139 Johnson J. 27/4/28
2315021 Green W. 27/4/28
29094 Mellor H. 27/4/28
2314252 Pearsall F. 27/4/28
2311335 Silk P. 27/4/28
2315392 Carnell S. 27/4/28
6538771 Howard F. 29/4/28
5488102 Newbery O. 29/4/28
2315527 Lambert L. 29/4/28
2315519 Dean H. 29/4/28
2314094 Double A. 29/4/28

DISCHARGED

2306116 C.S.M. Hunt A. 24/4/28
6076200 C.Q.M.S. Mack C. 16/3/28
532948 F/S/Sergt Goodwin J. 3/5/28
2306900 Sergt Chumbley W. 14/3/28
2311633 Sergt Redman C. 16/3/28
2306690 Sergt Agombar G. 3/4/28
1858966 Sergt Anthony H. 25/5/28
2306661 L/Sergt Edgeler E. 26/4/28
2307582 Corpl Horsey H. 22/2/28
1857284 Corpl Berry F. 2/3/28
312364 Corpl Harwood F. 13/3/28
2307177 Corpl Hamilton J. 17/5/28

TRANSFERRED TO ARMY RESERVE

1418473 L/Sergt Stalley E. 2/3/28
2554710 L/Sergt Gandey S. 25/4/28
2314760 Corpl Easterling L. 23/4/28
2314243 Corpl Wright F. 25/4/28
6618669 Corpl Horan W. 25/4/28
5374404 Corpl Tellery S. 2/5/28
2314835 Corpl Wicks F. 12/5/28
5433747 Corpl Holland W. 15/5/28
2314856 Corpl Crossley W. 23/5/28
4114783 Corpl Jackson L. 28/5/28
2314276 Corpl Bauckham H. 30/5/28
2314874 Corpl Cobbing R. 31/5/28
2314883 Corpl Austin A. 7/6/28
2314946 Corpl Atkinson E. 16/6/28

DECEASED

2306282 C.Q.M.S. Squirrel J. 12/3/28
315023 Sergt Clarke E. 23/4/28

"Random Reflections."

In India's Capital.

One cannot pass many years in India without—sooner or later—reaching Delhi. The Imperial city is so situated that it occupies a central position on the great traffic routes, and is easy of access from practically any part of India, near or far.

The object of these notes is to indicate briefly a few of the many places of interest which a bird of passage may visit in the course of a holiday of about a week's duration.

It is not proposed to deal with the new city which is rapidly rising in the neighbourhood of the ruins of so much past greatness; but a word of gratitude is expressed for the reverent way in which the old has been incorporated in the new, promising eventually a homogeneous whole which will form at once a triumph for those responsible for the planning and construction and a fitting seat for the central government of India.

The new Delhi which is approaching completion will be the eighth city built on what is practically the same site. Here empires have risen, reached their zenith and passed away; here also religions have been born, fulfilled their purpose, and given place to others; and to-day, across the plain, lie scattered the milestones of history, with their lessons for present and future generations if the rush of modern life permits the runner to read.

Shah Jahan had ruled in Agra for eleven years before he decided to remove to Delhi and build a new capital, which is the city that we know to-day. The emperor entered his new citadel in 1648, nine years after the laying of its foundation stone. From that year until the fateful days of 1857 Delhi remained the capital of India. Thereafter pride of place was given to Calcutta, which remained the seat of government until Delhi was restored to its rightful position by the present King-Emperor in 1911.

The Fort stands near the banks of the Jumna, and in shape is roughly octagonal, its red sandstone walls being about a mile and a half in circumference. It is surrounded by a moat, now dry. The palace of the Moghul was within the citadel, and the few remaining buildings give some idea of the original magnificence of Shah Jahan's designs.

The main entrance to the Fort is the Lahore Gate, whilst the second in importance is the Delhi Gate with its guardian elephants. A third gate leads to the Salimgarh Bastion, whence springs a bridge carrying road and railway across the Jumna.

Entering by the Lahore Gate, the visitor passes through the Chatta Chauk, commonly spoken of as the Umbrella Bazar. This roofed arcade is now occupied by the stalls of dealers in curios and similar wares—poor successors to the court jewellers and goldsmiths of the days of Moghul greatness.

Many of the original buildings and pavilions of the royal palace have disappeared, but in the area at present under the Archæological Department their sites and shapes have been marked out by lawns and shrubberies. The remaining buildings have also been carefully restored, whilst everything possible is done by the authorities to enable the visitor to understand the plan and purpose of the original whole. (It may not be out of place to mention here that soldiers in uniform are admitted free to the palace and gardens.)

Many hours can be spent in the various buildings. Beginning with the Naubat Khana—where formerly the royal orchestra performed daily at stated intervals, and the upper storey of which is at present occupied by the excellent Indian War Museum—we come in turn to the Hall of Public Audience and the Hall of Private Audience. In the former the emperor was accustomed to meet his people in public durbar. The pietra dura work in the recess behind the emperor's seat deserves special notice. The Hall of Private Audience is built largely of marble, with pillars finely inlaid with mosaic flowers. Even in decay, and stripped of its splendour, this building is an architectural gem.

Amongst other buildings of interest may be mentioned the Pearl Mosque, the Royal Baths and the emperor's private apartments, certain of which have been re-furnished in Moghul style. The marble pavilions in the gardens are worthy of note, whilst an hour or two may be spent profitably in the Museum which will be found housed in a part of the former royal harem.

An excellent sketch plan of the Fort, showing the arrangement of buildings now demolished, can be obtained from the curator.

Facing the Fort, and built of red sandstone and marble, is the Jama Masjid, or Great Mosque. Its fine position and marble domes combine to make it a most imposing building. In its near vicinity, surrounded by beautiful gardens, is a finely-executed statue of King Edward VII. which was unveiled by the Prince of Wales during his visit to India in 1922. It seems particularly appropriate that the memorial to the Peacemaker should be situated as it is between the Fort and the city.

A visit should be paid to the Church of St. James, built by Colonel James Skinner, C.B., as a thankoffering for delivery from the perils of the battlefield. The shot-riddled ball and cross which surmounted the dome during the Mutiny can be seen within the grounds.

A day or two should be devoted to the various scenes connected with the siege and capture of the city during the summer of 1857.

The chief attraction will probably be the Kashmir Gate, with its shot-marked walls. Near it will be found the memorial marking the site of the magazine and keeping green the memory of its gallant defenders who, when all hope of succour had gone, fired the train which deprived the mutineers of the most valuable prize within the walls of Delhi.

Beyond the gate stands the statue of John Nicholson, who headed the assault on the bastion and fell mortally wounded in the hour of victory.

The British positions on the Ridge can be identified, and it does not require a very vivid imagination to appreciate the hardships which that small force had to endure during the heat of an Indian summer. The Mutiny Memorial marks the extreme right of the British position.

A pleasant day can be spent amongst the ruins surrounding the Kutb Minar. This famous tower stands some eleven miles south-west of Delhi, and the whole of the intervening area is covered with relics of the vanished greatness of other days. The minar reaches a height of some 238 feet, and the view from the top is worth the climb. It was commenced by Kutd-ud-Din in 1200 A.D. and finished by his son-in-law. The exterior is elaborately ornamented with carvings of verses from the Koran, which afford excellent practice for the student of Arabic.

The builder of the minar also erected here a mosque which was the first Mohammedan house of prayer erected in India. The beauty and variety of the carvings render these ruins splendid even in decay. The tomb of Altamash, the son-in-law of the founder of the minar and mosque, lies in the north-west corner of the mosque. It is built of red sandstone and white marble, and is the oldest known to exist in India.

Amongst other items of interest near the minar may be mentioned the Alai Darwaza, stated by competent authorities to be the most beautiful gateway in existence; the pillar of Raja Dhava, which (although of wrought iron) shows no trace of rust after seventeen hundred years; and the tomb of the Moghul General, Adham Khan, erected by the Emperor Akhbar after he had caused the general to be killed by being thrown from the roof of the palace at Agra.

Time should be found to visit the tomb of the Lodi King Sikandar, which is a fine specimen of Pathan architecture. Nor must the tomb of Humayun be forgotten, for within its walls the last Moghul emperor sought refuge after the fall of Delhi, and here he surrendered unconditionally to the British as represented by Major Hodson and a handful of troops.

From these remarks it may appear that, as has been said in another connection, "my days amongst the dead are passed," but the visitor will soon find that Delhi caters for all tastes—at a price.

Peshawar, March 7th, 1928. A. G.

(Illustrations by A. P. B.)

Peshawar and the North-West Frontier.

Readers of THE WIRE must now be getting fairly familiar with the "Paris of the Pathan" and its immediate neighbourhood; and we are not forgetful of the conventional offspring of familiarity. However, the accompanying photographs are forwarded as being more truly expressive of the life and environs of Peshawar than any we have previously been able to secure.

For the prints we are deeply indebted to Messrs. Mela Ram and Sons, photographers, of Peshawar Cantonment, from whom copies of these and many others of similar subjects may be obtained by readers of this journal who may so desire.

Peshawar, March 20th, 1928. A. G.

[NOTE.—The illustrations of Delhi and Peshawar referred to in these interesting "Reflections" will be found in the Illustrated Supplement in the centre of this issue.—ED.]

Parades "Down Under."

In an article, "Signalling Down Under," given some months ago in THE WIRE, the activities of the signallers in the Citizen Forces of Western Australia were briefly touched upon. It is now proposed to give some account of their parades and of how the lads acquit themselves therein.

The parades of the Citizen Forces are arranged for outside employer's time. This means that all such must be held in the evenings or on Saturday afternoons. In W.A. all warehouses and shops are closed by six o'clock on weekdays, and by one o'clock on Saturdays. Those employed in workshops under the Forty-four Hours Act do not work on Saturdays at all. The Signal unit holds all parades on Saturday afternoons at the training centre about nine miles from the city. Parade-cards are issued half-yearly. A benign authority is careful to arrange matters so that no parade takes place on a Saturday preceding a public holiday, or on the days of semi-finals and finals of football matches or yacht races.

Parades are of three kinds—compulsory, alternative and voluntary.

Every officer and trainee is expected to attend each compulsory parade; otherwise, a medical certificate or written excuse must be furnished. Railway warrants are issued to all who travel by train to the depot. With a full complement of officers and men, the work of the unit can be carried out effectively.

"Fall in" is timed for 14.45 hrs. After roll call and inspection by the C.O., the unit, divided into its various sections—each under charge of a special officer—marches off and work begins.

A walk around the precincts of the parade ground will show us the various activities of the unit. There, in a far corner of a grassy paddock, we see a band of perspiring youths at flag drill—doing "ack" by numbers—the temperature perhaps 103 degrees. Some of them are regretting now that they ever joined the Signal Company!

Around the cable wagon can be seen the officer explaining the intricacies, the whys and the wherefores of the wagon and its gear. After a few hours of cable wagon drill and instructive lectures, the horses will come into evidence. Meanwhile, judging by the language coming from the harness-room, the drivers must have hopes of a trek in the near future. Their job, at present, is not with the horses but with the harness. It takes some hard rubbing to have it all spick and span for their first appearance on the road, especially when one's regular occupation is clerking or selling silks.

We pass another group who are watching two of their number setting up the heliograph. All are more or less interested, for who knows whose turn will come next?

A peep into the lecture room shows a class being instructed in the Message Form. Large diagrams of the different forms are used for illustration. During the next period, another class may attend for buzzer practice.

On the lawn, with frame aerial, wire mat and wireless sets, all the radio fans of the section are endeavouring to tune in. Those of them who have logged America on their own sets naturally feel themselves an acquisition to the section. A few turns at sending per buzzer or decoding soon convince them that the Army w/t C set is no child's toy.

At 17.45 hrs. "Parade dismissed, sir," comes in the stentorian voice of a typical sergeant-major. The law and order of the last few hours pass away as the youths sprint across the paddock to catch the first train towards the city.

An alternative parade is the signaller's sole escape from a compulsory one. Failing attendance at the latter, he must make up the three hours lost by attending the former.

Various Saturdays are set aside for alternatives. Buzzer and flag drill make up the main portion of the instruction, as the attendance is small. There are too few from one section present for any particular instruction to be given.

At the official handing over, this year, of the senior cadets to become members of the Citizen Forces, the General-in-Command, in his address to the lads, emphasised the value of the voluntary parade. The lad who wishes to become thoroughly efficient, and to learn more of his responsibility as a possible soldier, is the one who will give up his Saturday or Sunday to attend a voluntary parade of his unit.

In the Signal unit it has been found that a week-end voluntary parade is more satisfactory in results than one held on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. For such a camp volunteers are called, horses and rations are requisitioned. On Saturday the column moves off on a short trek. A simple signal scheme is worked out; v/t and l/t stations are established according to orders. With the aid of a motor truck one v/t station may be set up in the hills, the others being amid low-lying vineyard country. Helio is used till sunset, when the Lucas lamp takes its place.

The camping site has been previously selected. If possible, it will be close to a creek, for the easy watering of the horses. Good tree shelter must be provided, too, for sleeping, as no tents are carried.

While the signalling proceeds, the volunteer cooks are preparing the evening meal. The tea may not be just "it," and the sausages not like "mother's," but there are no complaints. Many miles have been covered since dinner time, and the open country is a wonderful appetiser to town lads.

After tea, an officer may give an informal lecture on some of the operations of the late war, in which their predecessors did their bit. The lads may not be anxious to attend a formal lecture on a military subject, but they become interested enough when it is given with lecturer and audience squatting in a paddock under the light of improvised lamps from wireless "accies."

Coffee comes round. The usual quiet of the bush is broken by strains of hilarity and the latest in music-hall ditties. But gradually healthy fatigue overpowers even the most obstreperous, and the little encampment settles down to its night in the open. A prolonged grumble—and one lad and his blankets retire to the other side of the gum tree. Mosquitoes? No! only the full moon shining as it can shine only in Australia. Naturally its brilliancy is not appreciated under such circumstances. A peaceful night, otherwise, unless one is picket on the horse lines at 02.00 hrs. One can then, alone, wax romantic over the moonlight. About 06.00 hrs. the camp is awakened by a bush "reveille," given by several kookaburras (laughing jackasses) high up in a gum tree. Their laughter is loud and long. One wonders what the joke is! If the neighbouring creek is deep enough the lads may refresh themselves by a swim, if one needs refreshing after such a night.

A short sports programme may occupy the forenoon instead of a signal exercise. With a view to improving the horsemanship and driving of the cable and telephone wagons, the sports comprise racing, driving between posts, and mounted relay races. After lunch the trek homeward is begun, the cable being lifted en route. In spite of the shade afforded by their Aussie hats, twenty-four hours in the open have given these city workers a coating of tan which is not at all unbecoming to them.

A more serious form of voluntary camp is held occasionally. At the beginning of a half-year the n.c.o.s may have a special week-end parade held for them at the depot. By working steadily from 15.00 hrs. till 22.00 hrs. on Saturday, and from 06.00 hrs. till 15.00 hrs. on Sunday, the lads find themselves better prepared to take up their duties at the following parades.

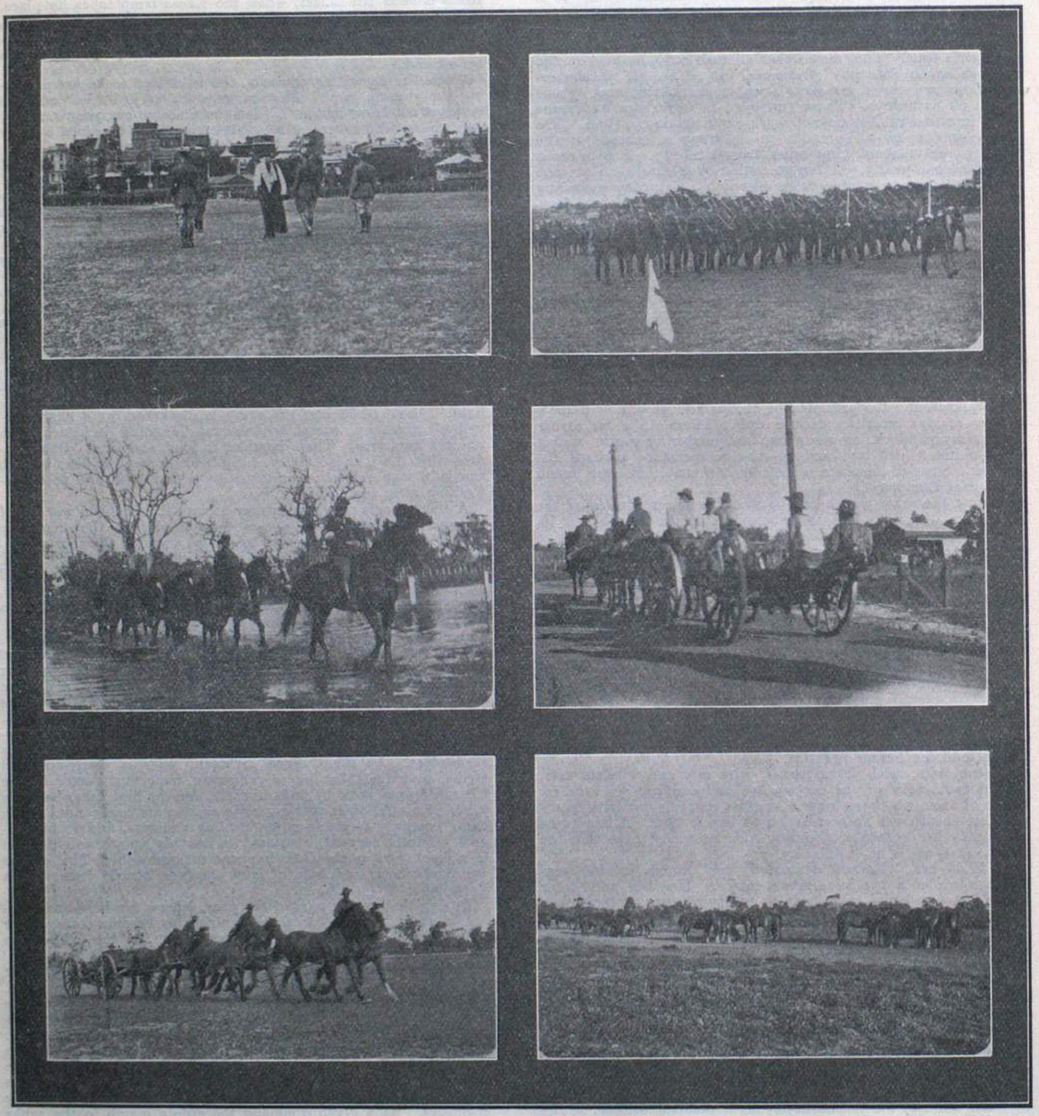
Signalling in all its branches and cable wagon drill are interspersed with lectures by the officers and lecturettes by the n.c.o.s themselves. An n.c.o. aged eighteen, with a newly-acquired stripe, may feel that he is rather an important factor in the Citizen Forces until he finds himself, for the first time, before a squad of his fellow n.c.o.s eagerly awaiting his commands. Then that "company-sergeant-major" feeling vanishes, and to his disgust he feels nervous, stutters, or has his squad well tied up in a knot just as the C.O. happens to approach. The officers are sympathetic and helpful, and the lads benefit from such a week-end.

During the greater part of the year, classes are held one evening a week in town for those aspiring to become corporals or sergeants in the unit. Lectures are given by the officers on the various signal subjects.

There is one pay parade per year. The lads receive 3/- per day for the first year and 4/- per day for the other two years. Two Saturday afternoons comprise one "day," and there are four "days" in the year's training. In addition, however, a camp of continuous training for eight days takes place annually.

The first parade of the season, in October, is for all units in the Citizen Forces. On the spacious grass-covered Esplanade bordering the Swan river, in Perth, the eighteen-year-old cadets are drawn up in separate formation to that of their elder comrades. At a given command the cadets march to the ranks of the Forces and become part of them. An address of counsel is given by the General-in-Command to those youngest members of the Citizen Forces. Then, led by the Light Horse and to the strains of the battalion bands, the whole force commences the march past the saluting base. The onlookers eagerly scan the lines for the lads they know.

WITH SIGNALS "DOWN UNDER"



Dedication of Colours on the Esplanade
(The Citizen Forces in the background)

Cable Section fording a Stream

Driving Practice through the "Black and Whites"

Signals "Eyes Right" at the Handing-over Parade

Cable Laying at 103° in the Shade

Feeding Time at the Depot

Youthful, careless and immature, some eager, some amused, some indifferent—unconsciously, as they pass, we compare them with the Aussies of war time. It is their first parade. Yet, as they draw near to the Union Jack and the command "Eyes Right" is given, we see them—as they will be, if ever put to the test—most worthy successors to the Anzacs who once sang, as they neared the shores of Gallipoli, "Australia will be there."

After considerable experimenting, the Australian Corps of Signals have at last been able to improve upon the carrier pigeon service. By cross-breeding the pigeon with the native cockatoo, their messages are now delivered verbally by the birds. (This is one of our Australian chestnuts, not previously seen in THE WIRE.)

J. McKINLAY, Capt.,
O.C. 13th Signal Coy.

Plain Tales.

An' Furthermore.—That is to say, those little things we want to say just as the other person is going. We will put them in first this month, to be on the safe side.

I went to an exhibition of foodstuffs in Bulford Camp a couple of weeks ago. It was, rather, a demonstration of comparative prices between the N.A.A.F.I. and several other firms. We were told that all the stuff was purchased without any of the firms (including the N.A.A.F.I.) knowing what it was for. One of our men asked the N.A.A.F.I. butcher whether he would be served with a wing rib of beef like the one shown by the N.A.A.F.I. if he ordered one. "Most certainly," replied the butcher. Our man laughed very heartily, which of course he had a perfect right to do.

The N.A.A.F.I. were present at the demonstration in considerable force, but there was not a single representative of any of the other firms. It is not within my province to pass remarks of a critical nature concerning such an august body as the N.A.A.F.I. I will content myself with facts. I went away quite unimpressed. Meanwhile, we deal at the N.A.A.F.I. because, after all, the advantages far outweigh any disadvantages that might be dragged to light by miserable blighters like me.

The Garrison Institute at Bulford is still going strong. The weekly whist drives and dances are always well attended. The decision to run "partner" whist drives *until further notice* is not a wise one. At least, I don't think it is. Perhaps it has its advantages. The committee are certain to be awfully upset when they know I don't approve.

I was wondering what else I could crib about, until I called in at the W.O.s and Sergeants' Club at Bulford Camp. I developed a perfectly good crib immediately I touched their piano. It is a most remarkable thing that such a large number of messes and clubs should allow pianos to go to ruin. They neglect to have them tuned. False economy. The instrument becomes useless and utterly beyond salvation after a couple of years of carelessness. From a personal inspection of most of the pianos in the institutes in this camp, I should say that the one in the W.O.s' Club, if not the worst, is at least very very bad.

I wonder when English people (in the mass) will learn to make coffee. The answer is: when the French learn to make tea. The stuff labelled coffee at most social gatherings is rather deathly. Organisers of dances, etc., in the Bulford area should get in touch with the W.O.s' Club there regarding coffee. At that place you get a really christian cup. They would be glad to let you know how it is done.

Several people have asked me if I know of such a thing as the Corps badge reproduced on cloth in colours, for wear on blazers. I must plead not guilty. Perhaps it isn't permitted, although I don't see why it shouldn't be. Does anyone know anything about it?

* * * *

Further Gardening.—The astonishing success of the gardens and allotments worked by people who have carefully ignored—I mean, followed—my course is most gratifying. I go all of a "doo-dah" when these people insist on buying me a drink out of pure gratitude.

It is now time to pay attention to your summer beds. Some simple but effective colour schemes can be evolved at little or no expense. Write for as many free samples as possible. Of all the bedding plants, I think the most brilliant is something the name of which escapes me for the moment; and, edged with white thimamajigs, is—I mean, are—most effective. Yellow and bronze calceolaria and ageratum, diphtherias and algebras, catmints, spearmints, violas, dahlias, anaemias, malarias, sciaticas and asquacutums look charming, especially when the beautiful saxifrages, saxophonus, and saxasaltis are intermingled at close column distance.

Hardy plants in boxes should now be bedded out. Never move young plants straight from a greenhouse or frame to their permanent homes. They must be hardened gradually. To do this you must break one pane of glass at a time. This is the most interesting time of the year for gardeners. Nothing remains now but to lean on your fence (if any) and watch the stuff grow. If you have a camera, you may with luck secure a snap of an enraged marrow defending its young.

* * * *

Musicians' Corner: V.—Last month we dealt with the formation of the dance band. We now come to the arrangement of the compositions we propose to play. You can, of course, buy your music already arranged, in which case there is nothing to be said. On the other hand you may incline to the original, and here you will find vast fields in which your imagination can run wild.

Secure the piano copy of your piece and decide whether it lends itself to sweet melody or hot rhythm. Most modern dance music is scored in flat keys, so the first thing to do is to transcribe the verse into six sharps. Make a "bridge over" of five flats, and go slam into the chorus on two and a half naturals. You need a hot break for the saxophone about half way through the chorus. Play this off on the piano and drown the sax every time.

As regards the rhythm: if you have a good man in the percussion department all will be well. Some drummers have very advanced ideas which they are unable to carry out. The result is pretty awful. This should be checked early. If no one tells the drummer that he is making a fool of himself he is apt to think he is the cat's knuckles, and might go and get himself a pair of horn-rimmed spectacles or start gum-chewing.

You must arrange your score so that it can be played with any particular instrument missing. It is useless to arrange it so that

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Dentists recommend and themselves use Gibbs Dentifrice. Generations have proved it the lifelong preserver and beautifier of the teeth.

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Your teeth are Ivory Castles – defend them with

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you have to leave the drummer six bars solo just because the trumpet has get seven days C.B.

If you should be lucky enough to secure an engagement, arrive at the hall about half-an-hour late. Criticise the piano, the M.C., and all the arrangements, and then go out and have a drink. When you come back, send the pianist home for the music and go out and have another drink.

When you eventually get settled, and have slated the banjoist for coming without his instrument, ask the M.C. what he wants; then play something else. This makes for good feeling all round. If not, go out and have a drink.

Tips to Amateurs: A violin that has been run over by a steam roller can only be used with a flat pitch piano. Have nothing to do with it.

* * * *

Ladies Only.—I haven't had a chat with ladies for quite a long time. I usually make a mess of it, you know. Women are so touchy. They see a veiled sneer in the most innocent-looking sentence. If I write an article for women one month, I spend the next two going round apologising. What? Yes, and so's your sister.

"Know thyself," said Euclid, or Horace, or someone. "The proper study of mankind is man." He should have added "The proper study of womankind is also man." Some of you women don't study your men. You don't know them half so well as you ought. There are so many different kinds of men that I really don't feel surprised at your ignorance. You say to your man, for example: "Drawn the C.R.A. yet, Bill?"

"Er—yes."

"How much?"

"Well, I've mixed it up with my other money now. About ten and fourpence, I reckon." (This is where he makes a mental note to see Harry before the wife does.)

Now, you women. It is whilst he is making this mental note that I want you to watch. See how his pudding face re-arranges itself into a fair attempt at a smile. Observe that he doesn't know where to put his hands. First in his pockets, then behind his back. Bah! it is too obvious. Not only bah! but poof! There you have a study of mankind, the dirty dogs.

There is another type who says "I drew the C.R.A. to-day, girl; fifteen and eightpence. Here's eightpence for yourself." His is one of those good old-fashioned honest faces, or at least it was until you hit him with the milk jug. When he comes to, he will go out and have a pint of old and a box of matches with the eightpence you leave him.

It is positively marvellous what can be done with a little careful study. Make a habit of looking your good man straight in the eyes. Like all other animals, they can't stand up to it.

Well, there you are, girls—I mean, ladies. I expect you were all girls once. Oh! those far off happy days.

Corrigenda: For "women" read "ladies" in every case.

Note: All the characters are fictitious.

* * * *

The Strange Case of the Flat Parsley.—Ukan Larfe did not go to Highgate after all, which was a very good thing, really, because I should have been in a fix. The only part of Highgate I know is North Hill, and you couldn't expect a decent detective to hang about there. No.

He returned by a circuitous route to his apartments and shut himself in his study. The house was strangely quiet. Not a sound broke the uncanny silence save the clanging of the street cars, a dozen men erecting a corrugated iron shed across the road, and his servant chopping wood in the bedroom over his head. Suddenly our hero burst into tears. He was not half such a clever detective as the general public thought him. He took a pickaxe and tore a large hole in the floor. Then he tore one in the ceiling. "Plenty more ceilings where that one came from," he muttered, affixing a fresh beard into place. He felt much better after that, and collected his scattered thoughts from various parts of the room in order to run over the main facts. It was quite certain that there were no clues apart from the very peculiar pieces of parsley found near the bodies of the murdered men. No fingerprints, no footprints, no blueprints, no nothing. Having run over the facts a few times, he kicked them impatiently into the fireplace.

A gentle tapping on the window, which smashed it to smithereens—several smithereens, in fact—sent him fearfully to the corner of the room. The window was pushed open, and Sir Goofus Gooly stepped in. He was clad from head to foot, a fact which Ukan, with his wonderful powers of deduction, immediately noted.

"Hands up!" cried the detective, bringing a huge vase down on the head of his visitor with crushing force.

"Don't be a fool," said Sir Goofus.

The two men eyed each other silently, and Sir Goofus thoughtfully burned a hole in his hat with his cigar. "Look here, Ukan," he said; "I have something here which may prove to be of great use to you." He produced a slip of paper and handed it to the detective, who at once perceived that there were several words and parts of words typed on it.

"This was done with a typewriter," he said confidently.

Sir Goofus gasped. "You're right," he cried. "I never thought of that."

"I'm never wrong," smirked the sleuth as he spread the paper out on the table.

This was the message: "Teem em tneger ts owt mp 51 ht. Inf*rm*t**n re m*rd*r." There was no signature, no date stamp, no Tor and no Too.

"This was pushed under my door at two o'clock this morning."

"Somebody did that, I expect," said Ukan Larfe, weighing his words carefully.

They pored over the cryptic message for several hours, but were no nearer a solution when Okapi entered with a tray of drinks. The servant threw the tray to his master, who caught it deftly, spun it round on his thumb, and shot the lot into the lap of Sir Goofus. "Have a drink, old man," said Ukan. The servant stood laughing heartily until his master threw a broken glass at him with unerring aim. Okapi retired hastily, picking the splinters out of his forehead with muttered curses, which of course are very good things for removing glass splinters.

A slight sound behind him made Ukan spin round. His revolver flashed in his hand, but a mocking voice said "Stick 'em up, son." Ukan stuck 'em up. Sir Goofus had vanished. In his place was a sinister figure, who had a two-foot-long revolver trained on the detective's heart. Black eyes glittered evilly behind a black silk mask. Little did Ukan dream that this was the macaroni bender from Pimlico who had left him unconscious in the taxi. As a matter of fact, it wasn't. Our hero backed until he could feel the leg of the dining table with his heel. Near this leg was a small button concealed under the mat.

"Go over there a little," said Ukan.

"Why?" asked the intruder.

"I've got a scheme on."

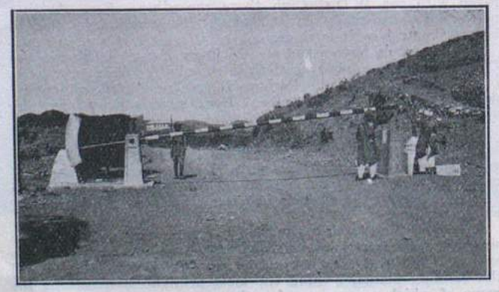
The man took two paces to his left, and Ukan's foot slammed down on the button. A section of the floor dropped with astonishing speed, and Ukan was left alone with the despairing cry of the victim ringing in his ears. Sir Goofus stepped out from the heavy curtains near the window, his face the hue of cinders—ashes, rather. Ukan shot him stone dead. He hadn't much to do with this story, anyway.

The telephone bell rang sharply.

"Ha!" said Ukan. "A bicycle coming upstairs. What shall I do?" He threw the body on to the lawn, disguised himself as a sergeant-major in plain clothes, and went to bed.

Who is ringing? Do not miss next month's thrilling instalment.

BARLEUX.

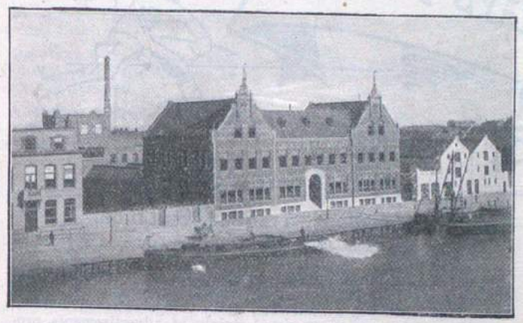


The Gateway to Afghanistan—North-West Frontier, India.

"Hollandia."

A VISIT TO THE NETHERLANDS.

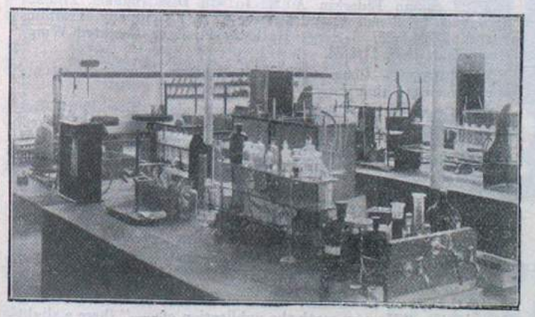
In response to an invitation from the directors of "Hollandia," a firm well known to readers through its announcements in this Journal, two representatives of the Association of Service Newspapers went over to Holland to see the Company's factories and the farms supplying them, and to witness for themselves the whole process of producing the condensed unsweetened milk which is the most notable of the products for which the Anglo-Dutch Milk and Food Company is responsible.



Two factories were selected, the main works, Vlaardingen, which lies between the Hook of Holland and Rotterdam, and Purmerend, in the vicinity of Amsterdam; and two farms were visited, one containing the best cattle in the whole country, and the other with a herd of average quality.

Apart from the pleasure of the trip and the memory of much kindly hospitality, our outstanding impression was of the immense care lavished upon the object of maintaining a high and uniform standard of quality, and especially of the pains taken to preserve absolute cleanliness during the whole process of treatment.

Dutch and Friesian cattle have been renowned since medieval times, their excellence being largely due to the sweet meadows on which they graze. The average daily output per beast is the high amount of ten quarts, and this for 365 days in the year—"the milky mothers of the herd" know no holidays!—and some idea of the magnitude of "Hollandia's" operations throughout the world may be gathered from the fact that the firm needs the total yearly milk yield of over 41,000 cows to cope with the public demand.



THE DAILY RITUAL.

In a country so largely agricultural as Holland, there is, as may be conceived, strict Government inspection, but "Hollandia" reinforces this official safeguard through its special experts, who go round advising the farmers on nutrition, hygiene, cleanliness, and other matters affecting the well-being of their herds. Similar precautions to maintain the healthfulness and cleanliness of the product are taken at the works, the treatment of the milk there being an exacting ritual controlled at every stage by scientific tests and supervision. Each of the seven factories devoted to this particular product of the firm possesses its own technical staff and well-equipped laboratories. On receipt of the daily samples, which are conveyed in churns by the Company's fleet of motor-lorries or by water in its motor-boats, a sample is taken from every consignment and carefully inspected for dust or dirt, T.B., or any other form of germ contamination. The churns, meanwhile, are immediately scalded and brushed, any danger of haphazard cleansing at the farm being thus eliminated. At no stage during its treatment is the milk handled in any way: even the tins are filled, lidded, soldered and sealed by machinery.

"Hollandia," with justice, claims that its product is a convenient, economical, and highly-nutritious substitute for cream for all purposes for which the latter is used, and that it can, on account of its rich uniform quality, replace either milk or cream in tea or coffee, in the making of puddings and sauces, with fresh or stewed fruits, and the like. Chemical analysis and the price list fully bear out the contention.

"HOLLANDIA" ON ENGLISH SOIL.

There is only one of "Hollandia's" factories on Empire soil, namely, in Canada, and it may doubtless be a source of regret that the "Hollandia" factories are not located in this country. Unhappily, our industrial revolution which worked such havoc in "England's green and pleasant land" makes this impossible, or, at any rate, very difficult at present, as there is no sufficiently large expanse of pasture land within convenient distance of the great centres of consumption, our big cities. When town planning is tackled systematically, and factories leave their present cramped and dingy surroundings for the pleasant environment of a garden city surrounded by an agricultural belt of sufficient size, we may hope that the firm may seize the opportunity to establish works here. Meanwhile, the "Hollandia" industry, with its factories and adjacent pastures, is in closer proximity to our great industrial centres than any agricultural tract of sufficient size in England itself.

Jelly in a jiffy!

It takes no time to make a jelly with Bird's Crystal Jelly Powder—a jelly that will quickly set firm and really grace your table with its crystal clearness.

The beauty and transparency of a Bird's jelly is a sure sign of purity. The rich and glowing colour, raspberry, orange, etc., which everybody admires so much in Bird's, is obtained only from pure, ripe fruit flavorings. And isn't the taste just glorious.

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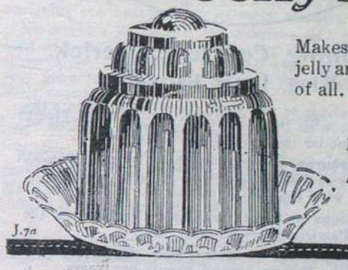

Makes the quickest jelly and the tastiest of all.

Purity guaranteed by Alfred Bird & Sons, Ltd.

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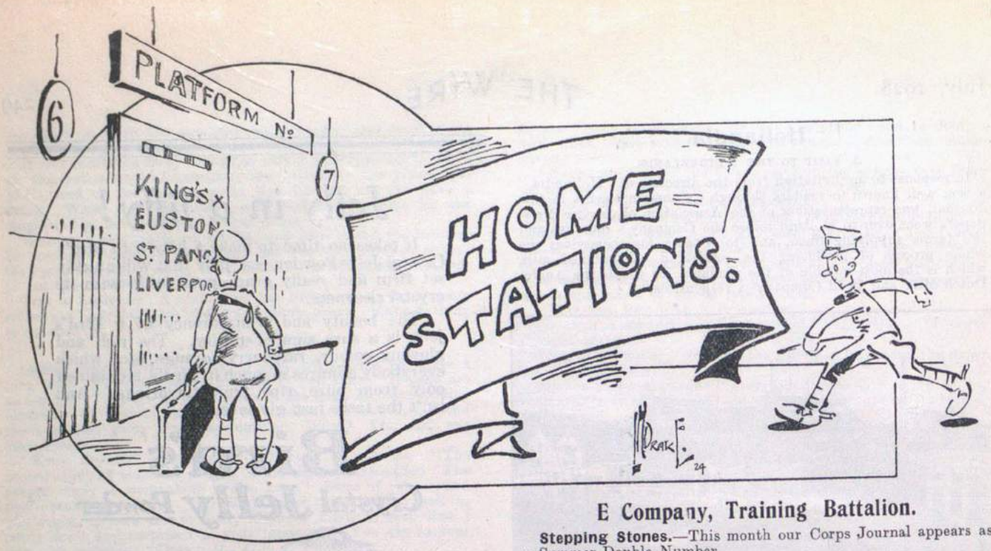

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—A few postings to and from the Wing constitute the only events of interest with the exception of sports, a report of which will be found under the appropriate section.

Arrivals and Departures.—L/Sergt Hatherly F. J. has been posted to this Wing vice L/Sergt Sullivan R., who is now discoursing sweet music with the band.

Birth.—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. Cranham on the birth of a daughter (Patricia May) on May 13th.

Extension.—F.S.M. Churchill and C.Q.M.S. Black are permitted to continue in the Service beyond twenty-one years.

D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—We must start our notes this month by apologising for their absence during the last two or three months. We are taking steps to remedy the omission, and trust that it will not occur again.

We are all worm-catchers now, if the old proverb is to be trusted, for we rise three times a week for Company drill at 6.30 a.m. For the rest, training continues to jog merrily along with its key-tapping, flag-bashing, swotting and what-not.

In addition, the Commandant's inspection looms before us, and the wind is noticeably rising. We are sometimes tempted to speculate upon the question of who invented Catterick, and why? The latest theory is that it was merely to prove that a lake *can* sit on a hill-top without visible means of support. Meanwhile we look forward to a glimpse of the sun in August, or perhaps September.

The powers-that-be are busily sorting out new talent among the newly-joined athletes from the Depot Battalion. We hope to give a better account of our activities in this sphere in next month's WIRE.

It is pleasing to note that gardens are beginning to show signs of life. Several keen gardeners have been discovered in the Company, and great strides in horticulture have been made since our last notes.

Arrivals.—Corpl Brudenell F. from Iraq; L/Corpls Mowatt, McGregor, Ford and Foster from India; and the multitude of invaders from the Depot Battalion (too numerous to mention by name) are all accorded a hearty welcome.

Promotions.—We congratulate L/Sergt Newmarsh E. and Cpl Brudenell F. on attaining their respective ranks.

Heard on Parade.—Instructor: "Where is your other tunic?" Recruit: "Gone, sir." Instructor: "Gone where?" Recruit: "At the elbows, sir!"

Agony.—What about those notes, I.S.S.? DON.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Stepping Stones.—This month our Corps Journal appears as a Summer Double Number.

I have beside me on my sub-editorial desk a copy of THE WIRE published in July, 1921, when the undertaking was in its infancy and THE WIRE was a somewhat sickly thing. The cover illustrations at that period consisted mainly of advertisements proclaiming the merits of Maresfield and Uckfield merchandise. The contents, although very excellent in quality, were less than half in quantity that contained between the grey covers of the Magazine as we know it to-day.

Neither was it despatched, post free, to individuals. It was scrambled for on pay parades.

And now it has attained the majesty of a Double Number! E Company's very sincere congratulations! We look forward with pleasurable anticipation to the appearance of a Christmas Number of the Royal Corps of Signals Magazine.

Officers.—Hearty congratulations to Lieuts. F. K. Wilson (adjutant, Training Battalion) and E. S. Heffer, on their Captaincies.

Arrivals.—Sergt.-Instructor Huggins E. J. H. (A.E.C.) 5/6/28. Arrivals from the Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, during the past month show a total of eighty-six, so that we have great pleasure in extending eighty-six welcomes.

Departures.—Sigmn Sargent W. J. to Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth, and Sigmn Hillman H. to 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford, 14/5/28. Sigmn Elderkin A. E. to 4th Divl Signals, 17/6/28 Signalmen Brudenell A. and Dresser A. to F Company, Training Battalion, 24/5/28. L/Sergt Hatherly F. J. to Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, 11/6/28.

Appointment.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Turner A. on his appointment to that rank.

The Third Relief.—The fact that my play "The Third Relief" (in our June number) has been accorded a somewhat mixed reception affects me not one jot. On the contrary, I am inclined to regard it as the hall-mark of success, according to present-day standards.

"Candid," of Cromer, writes: "I would demand the author's head upon a charger were I not convinced that his cranium is of such microscopic dimensions as to be completely unworthy of claim." My critic is at least an adept in the choice of a nom-de-plume.

A Miss Plimsoll, of Southport, expresses the opinion that it is all so *strangely* confused.

"C.O.D.," of Lewisham, writes on a sheet of what I take to be asbestos: "How on earth the publication of——" (here a slight scorching of the medium renders further translation impossible).

"Baffled," of Brockley, says: "I am at a loss to make head or tail of it." That puts me one up!

Somebody else wants to know if it is a "mystery play."

I wish to make it perfectly clear that these are unsolicited testimonials. All of them. I mean—well, anyway, thanks awfully.

Transfers to Army Reserve.—Our best wishes for the future to the following on their transfer to the Reserve on the dates shown: Cpl Cobbing B. E., 31/5/28. Sigmn Hooper W., 15/6/28. Corpl Craig C. A., 18/6/28.

The Signals lose a very popular and valuable sportsman in Corpl Craig, and the vacancy he leaves in the athletics team will be difficult to fill. Sigmn Hooper, centre-forward of the Battalion football team, is another well-known sportsman.

Education Certificate.—Just a short interval whilst we pre-se..t the victor's laurel wreath to Sigmn Moss A. W., who has succeeded in gaining his "first."

Birth.—To L/Corpl and Mrs. Mottram a son (Bernard John), on May 12th.

Marriage.—Hearty congratulations and good wishes to L/Sgt Nokes H. S. on the occasion of his marriage at Hipswell, Yorkshire, on June 4th.

A Matter of Taste.—Last year, by the grace of Heaven and a visit to Woolworths, I cultivated, although I say it myself, a garden of great loveliness.

I set my heart upon the production of a Bower of Bounteous Beauty and, singing blithely, laid within the bosom of Mother Earth eighteen packets of "Bees' Seeds that Grow" (at a penny a "go"). And in the fulness of time they sprang forth and bore fruit. So that I waxed exceeding glad, and the children running home from school looked in at the open door, and we all waxed together.

This year I determined to concentrate on nasturtiums, or rather I should say, one nasturtium. From infancy my nasturtium gave every indication of growing up into strong healthy flowerhood, and I watched its daily growth with pride, and crooned over it. I lavished a great love upon it, and washed its roots daily in tepid water to keep them free from dirt.

Then, in a single night, my nasturtium was stricken low. The beasts of the field, prowling and ravaging in their nefarious quest of that which they might devour, fell upon my nasturtium and slew it.

The poor show of E Company's gardens this year may be attributed to the same cause. Far be it from me to grudge sheep their nourishment, but with the death of my nasturtium my hopes and dreams were blasted.

After-thought.—So, incidentally, were the sheep.

L. H. D.

Sergeants' Mess, Training Battalion.

As a mark of farewell to Major J. S. Yule, O.B.E., R.Signals, a social was held in the mess on Friday, May 25th, when we had the honour and pleasure of entertaining Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., R.Signals (Commandant S.T.C.), Lieut.-Colonel A. Lloyd Owen, O.B.E., M.C., R.Signals (O.C. Training Battn.), and a large number of officers. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all, and each volunteer who contributed toward the success of the programme received his due share of the rewards. We were indebted to the officers' dance band for supplying the necessary "background" to an impromptu concert of this nature.

The final of the mess billiards handicap competition resulted in a victory for Q.M.S. Clark W. over L/Sergt Drake L. H. by nine points. Scores: Q.M.S. Clark 250; L/Sergt Drake 241.

L. H. D.

Corporals' Mess, Training Battalion.

Things are progressing as per schedule, and all personnel are surviving the heavy strain of early morning drills, etc.

No doubt a lot of our old members will wonder at the next item of news: We are now tapping the jolly old ether with a three-valver. There's no knowing what may happen next. We may get a tennis-court, or possibly run a dance without a loss. Who knows?

Departures.—Corporals Crossley, Cobbing and Craig to civvy life. We wish them all the best.

Promotions.—L/Corpl Brudenell (Pozzy) has received the other portion of the "dog's leg," so now he looks properly dressed. He landed quite o.k. in the T.B., and he is keeping his "subtitle." S'marvellous how they do it!

It must be Kia-Ora—if you want the best

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LEMON

Squash and Crush

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F Company, Training Battalion.

Summer drills are in full swing, in preparation for the Commandant's inspection in July, when we propose to demonstrate to all and sundry the fact that the boys can use the square just as well as they can the playing field.

The echoes are awakened and the ether displaced on the early morning parades by the voices of the drill instructors, who are gradually succeeding in getting their platoons into shape. The intricacies of Company drill hold the interest of the embryo signalmen, who always do their best to fulfil the requirements of the "little book"; and as a result, the periods pass pleasurably and consequently quickly. The young human fires are livened up before parade time by the addition of a portion of "gunfire" obtainable at the Company cookhouse, and the fresh air at that time does the rest.

The commanding officer inspected kits during the month, and was very pleased with the general lay-out and the condition of the various articles. The "tramlines" were a great success, and made the task of checking the items a simple and straightforward one. Some of the kits were models of neatness and cleanliness, and as a whole the boys can be congratulated on their endeavours. Keep up to that standard in your drill!

The last drill squad passed off before the C.O. after the Whitsun holidays, being complimented by him on the turn-out, kits, and movements on the square. The C.O. admitted that they approached within a very infinitesimal distance of the standard of general efficiency set up by the "best" squad in his knowledge —which was a plenteous measure of praise, and something to be proud of. The new squad is already doing exceedingly well, and bids fair to attain premier honours. Keep it up, and do your level best to raise the standard!

Education.—Congratulations to Boys Dobson E. and Bull F. on having gained their 1st class certificates.

Promotions.—Also to L/Corpl Gerrish on attaining that rank, and to Boys Dargan, Hilliar and Cox on being made L/Corporal Boys.

Departures.—Signalmen Golding A. and Pleasance A. "All the best!" Both are sojourning on the Rhine.

Arrivals.—From the land of punkah wallahs, L/Corporals Whittall and Stapleton. From E Company, Signalmen Dresser and Brudenell. "The glad hand!"

Agony.—Wally would like to hear from Jock, the former Company broadcaster.

LE CHEVAL NOIR.

School of Signals.

Extensions of Service.—No. 2308066 Dvr Ashford T. H. to continue in the Service for one year. No. 2315272 Sigmn Bellis R. J. (draughtsman) has extended his service to complete twelve years with the Colours.

Postings.—There have been only three postings to the School since last month: No. 2311268 Sigmn King W. L. and No. 2318130 Sigmn Pearce C. H. from A Corps Signals, and No. 2316054 Dvr Adams H. T. H. from the Depot Battalion.

Appointment.—Congratulations are tendered to L/Sergt Tilling on his appointment to that rank as from 1/4/28. Not a bad All Fool's Day surprise, after all!

Regimental Course.—There appears to be a general air of quietude in the School. While the 93rd Course provided a fancy dress parade, the present course (the 94th) is believed to be resorting to the pen in preference to the sword, for we are promised a Journal of the 94th Regimental Course entitled "The Wirepuller." Its publication is awaited with considerable eagerness by all ranks.

Annual Inspection.—The annual inspection of the School by Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Commandant Signal Training Centre, is due to take place on June 26th.

PETER.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

1st Divisional Signals.

May 17th, 1928, became a landmark in the history of the Corps in general, and the Royal Signals, Aldershot, in particular, for on that day Their Majesties the King and Queen visited our new barracks and married quarters.

We were hoping that the day would be bright and sunny on such an important occasion, but to our dismay the arrival of Their Majesties coincided with the commencement of a steady downpour which continued during the period of their visit.

They inspected the dining room, the bath house, a barrack room, and the regimental institute, and then proceeded to Rawlinson Quarters, where honour was paid to C.S.M. Wigglesworth whose domicile they visited.

During their stay at Aldershot from 15th to 21st May, Sergt McGrath had the honour of being in attendance at the Royal Pavilion as house orderly.

It is ever a delight to report individual progress, and so one finds pleasure in writing of the promotion of F/Sergt Pummell, Sergt Boutler H., L/Sergts Lambke E., Mackie A., and Walsh W., Corpls Clevett A., Binder W., Howard F. and Newbery O. to those ranks.

The Aldershot Command searchlight tattoo will be over before these notes appear in print, but the Firstdivsigs are represented in the P.T. display by Corpls McLoughlin and Binder.

No. 1 M.A.B. Signal Section rolled up one fine day from Colchester, whence they had been piloted by Major R. V. Williams (4th Divl Signals), and they are now attached to us.

Supplementary Reserve officers in the persons of Lieuts Smith, Gartland, and Philcox, and 2/Lieuts Jones and Raeding, have been with us during the month, and we trust they enjoyed their training.

Corpl Guile has left us for South Ireland. May his recollections of his stay with Firstdivsigs be pleasant ones. Sergeant Goodman has proceeded on a vocational training course, from which we hope he will migrate to a good civilian job.

The number leaving us for civilian life shows no decline, and we report twenty—space will not permit names—transferred to the Army Reserve or discharged during the month of May. May they all soon find billets is our wish for them.

The drafting return is now in the hands of Records, and a good number are waiting for the "anticipated list" to appear before they feel disposed to settle down. However, we shall probably know our fate about the middle or towards the end of July.

YA.

Sergeants' Mess.

We extend a very hearty invitation to any member of a sergeants' mess of Royal Signals who may be in the vicinity of Aldershot to call and see us in our new mess.

On May 18th the members of the R.E. mess turned up in strong force, in response to our invitation to a games tournament and smoking concert. We won on the aggregate of games played, so it is said, but one hesitates to say "It was a glorious victory," because the teller might be called upon to produce his records. He had such a busy time one way and another that it is a wonder he obtained any results at all.

The occasion was one of cementing old and making new friendships, and this and the excellent entertainment was the chief thing. We were entertained alternately by R.E. and Royal Signals at the concert which followed, and it is safe to say everyone hopes for another such occasion as soon as possible.

During the course of the evening R.S.M. Lawrance said a few words relative to the esteem in which we held our "mother" Corps. He also mentioned that we were not only going to emulate their example, but would endeavour to surpass it if possible.

O.M.S. Dobson, replying for the R.E., said they were delighted to be entertained by their "baby"—and a very healthy one at that, judging by the records of the past and those the Royal Signals at present hold. From the trophies displayed in the mess, we had every reason to be proud of the records we now hold. "The games tournament this evening also proves you have some record breakers in the mess (loud laughter), but wait till 'mother gets you home' in the R.E. mess, and then——."

A mess library has been inaugurated, and to date the librarian has had to cope with "rush" business.

The members of the mess total 97, and we feel we can lay claim to being the largest mess of the Corps.

MEMBER.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

At long last we are well into our section and unit schemes, and so far have had the very best of weather. In spite of the shortage of personnel, etc., sections are settling down well, and we have no doubt whatever that the old traditions of Threeco will be worthily upheld during the forthcoming season.

Enclosed are a couple of snaps showing the A set working from the wagon and J Section halted near that unheard-of spot, Pyestock Chimney. The other snap shows Jock, Jill and Jake (Capt Brown, sugar, please!) with sets on the world-famous Dust Heap.

Brigade Signal Office, J Section

During the Whitsun recess we took the opportunity of transferring the chrysanthemums from A Lines to the borders of our bungalows. If this fever catches on, Smallshot will indeed look like a garden city, as I'm sure that nowhere are gardens to be found that could possibly equal those of the new quarters. J Section hold the lead so far as section gardens go, but I defy anybody to enumerate the best of the married patch. Of course we all have to learn; but there! land 12 yards by 6 yards as lawn, flower garden, kitchen garden, children's playground, etc. Now I ask you! But I feel sure that we shall receive a letter of thanks from Australia, as once seeds are put in they must come up *somewhere*.

Pack W/T Sets, J Section

We welcome our new C.O., Colonel Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., and trust his sojourn will be a happy one for all except our opponents on the cricket field.

It was with genuine regret that we said farewell to our old C.O., Colonel Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C. I noticed a very worthy tradition in the shape of an inter-Company rugby cup left in the officers' mess by him. Our friends the 1st Divl and A Corps will have to fight mighty hard for the honour of first possessing it. What say you, Oneco? Run straight, go low.

Should any old Threeco-ites ever be in Southampton, please call and see Mr. Parsonage at the South Western Hotel, as he feels it's only you who can appreciate what he has really been through and to whom he could unburden his sorrows. No, he hasn't joined the Terriers! I wonder if Darky still "toots."

Wagon W/T Set, J Section

Signalmen Hutchinson and Howard have left us for civvy street, and Sigmn Adams A. for the Rhine. Our best wishes to them.

From India's sunny climes we welcome Corporal Hammond, L/Corpls Clutterbuck, Douglas and Knight, also Signalmen Barden, Colquhoun, Moors, Westcott. From Catterick, Signalmen Webster, Welch and Perryman. May they all remember that cricket, swimming and athletics have yet to be won in the trophy competition.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Haig Lines, June 12th.

Entre.—Aye dear, t'time's cum around tor t'WIRE Noates. Ah doan't know, it nobbut seems t'oth-er day Ah were settin' misen down and writin'; and then, bigum, when t'time cums for me to oppen my WIRE Ah funs as how summat must happen, so Ah'll a't do 'em this munth, else the symbols o't Yankee flag (*wi'out* stripes!) 'll be flying o'er me. So here goas.

General.—The last two months have seen a great change in this unit owing to mechanization. Twenty-one horses left us in April, and in their stead, at present, we have three Morris six-wheelers, six motor-cycles and two combinations. Training is now carried out by these mechanical means, and I must say they have lived up to expectations.

A wider range of working, quicker erecting and dismantling of sets, and less time taken between moves, are a few of the advantages that have been derived, not to mention the lack of "body brushes." Only those units who have actually worked in conjunction with the cavalry know the value of the above points.

This mechanization has, however, made little difference to our visual operators, horses still being their means of transport. Maybe, in the near future, three wheels may carry them in pairs. (There is a germ of an idea here for someone. What's wrong with a "combination"?)

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is given to the following n.c.o.s and men, who arrived to fill vacant places: Corpls Ramsden and Sharples, Signalmen Chandler, Stanton, Turner and Warner from Jubbulpore. Signalmen Nash, Cornish and Taylor from A Corps Signals. Signalmen Ryan, Rawlinson and Robinson R. from Colchester. Settle down to it, lads, and read the notes in the April WIRE.

Departures.—Sigmn Warner to Colchester. Signalmen Robb, Batley K. and Watkiss to the Rhine Signal Company. Drivers Chantrey, Guttridge and Diment to A Corps Signals. Drivers Baker, Batley and Binks to 1st Divl Signals. We wish them all the very best of luck in their new units. I would like to say more than that, but some of them have not gone far enough away.

Signalmen Clift, Hitch and Chandler have all been transferred to the Army Reserve. It is hoped that the two first-named do not forget the Troop with whom they have spent nearly four years. Our best wishes to all three on their return to civil life.

Sigmn Saunders J. left us pending confirmation of discharge on

medical grounds—the result of an accident some time ago. Good luck, Jim!

Birth.—A son (Thomas Freeth) to Dvr and Mrs. Chantrey, at Reading, on April 15th. (Bi gum, he'll be a rum 'un if he's owt like his fayther.)

Musketry.—Our annual musketry course was fired in May. Sigmn Lyon became Troop shot with a score of 128, Corporal Sharples coming second with 120. On the average the shooting was very satisfactory. (Barleux, please note *our* modesty!)

S.O.S.—What *is* "green ink"?

Tit-Bits.—Up to a point most girls *think* about marrying. After that they *worry* about it.

A woman never knows what she can do until she cries.

The tragedy of the flea is that he knows for a certainty that his children will all go to the dogs.

The Height of Something.—A bald-head listening to a hair-raising "storey"! TROOPER DON.

Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, June 15th.

"It Never Rains——."—With the strenuous business of settling down but barely concluded, the unit has been faced with a ceremonial parade. After drawing brand-new equipment, we had three days in which to prepare for the inspection of the Armoured Force by their Majesties the King and Queen. While the despatch riders were quite prominent as guides to the Royal car, the remainder of the parade also made their presence felt.

Road Hogs—Unlimited.—A two-day control run enabled the D.R. Section to pay a visit to the "Triumph" motor-cycle factories at Coventry, where they were shown the Service machine being manufactured. Everyone was very interested in what he saw, and we wish to record our appreciation of their courteous reception.

On seeing how the bikes were constructed, it is said that Austen was able to give first-hand information (with the aid of his own machine) as to how the process can be reversed. Our sympathy is with Nobby, who asked if Lady Godiva did not perform there twice nightly.

Oscillators and Co.—Several W/T operators are at the S.E.E., Woolwich, receiving instruction in the use of some new sets, and soon all our key-bashers will become B.B.C. announcers. Instruction in telephony, we are told, will include lessons in elocution, and in future, trade test operators will be required to recite anything from nursery rhymes to Milton. Limericks, however, will be barred.

The Tin-Can Combine.—The Tank Section have made tracks to Perham Down, and are now acquainted with their reeking and fuming steeds. Since their departure not a word has been heard of them. Perhaps their tank has a puncture! If such is the case, it hasn't leaked out yet.

Thank you, Egypt!—It is a great pleasure to learn that, after eight years of hard endeavour, you have at last gained the signal honour of being the best all-round unit in Egypt. They who eight years ago started the fight which you have so gloriously terminated heartily congratulate you on your splendid achievement. We know you will do your best to retain the trophy, which symbolises not only your success but also that of the Corps. Keep it up!

Mountains and Molehills.—"Pimples" are not peculiar to Bulford. Indeed, if the small earthwork at 3rd Divl Signals is a pimple, then the monstrous excavation which we are now sharing with the 3/6th Dragoon Guards must be a carbuncle. On being shown it for the first time, our fatigue party asked for ropes, climbing sticks and a guide. A cheerful chap from the 3/6th Dragoon Guards made us quite at home by remarking, "It's all right; we have only had one man killed here." Dusty Rhodes, junior, asked for permission to go and sign his newspaper coupon.

Arrivals.—An obstruction that goes on petrol when it feels like it and on wheels when pushed. Introduced by Bertie, who claims it to be Tidworth's oldest inhabitant. Its number begins with "B.C." Although a "Singer," we are authorised to contradict the statement that it is out of tune, or that it is merely an out-size in sewing machines. The report that it will follow the mobile kitchen on schemes as a mechanised swill-tub is also without truth.

Departures.—Our best wishes go with Sigmn White A., who has left us for civvy street. We hope he will be able to keep his end up out there as he did when he was goalie for the Corps. We are also sorry to lose Signalmen Jago A. J. and Colley G. W., who have been transferred to the Army Reserve. NABAD.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

Arrivals.—We welcome the arrival of the following n.c.o.s and men from the land of milk and honey: Corpl Reat, L/Corporals Yates and Blight, and Sigmn Coffee. From A Corps, Signalmen Golding, Dover and Kitchener. May their stay in this Troop be a pleasant experience.

Promotions and Appointments.—We offer our congratulations to the following on their respective steps: Corpl Crowhurst to be L/Sergeant, and L/Corpl Mansfield to be Corporal.

Moves.—Sergt Adcock has at last left us on being transferred to B and C Troop Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth. Drivers Jackson P. and Hazelgrave to Wiesbaden.

Discharges.—The following have left us for civvy street, and we wish them the best of luck: Signalmen Whisker, Hornsby, Hull, Preston and Cannell, and Driver Kendall.

Question.—E Troop would like to know if Chippy still finds use for the athletic garters.

Agony.—Beau No. 4 would like to hear from Beau No. 1, late of C Divl Signals, Waziristan. BLACKBIRD.

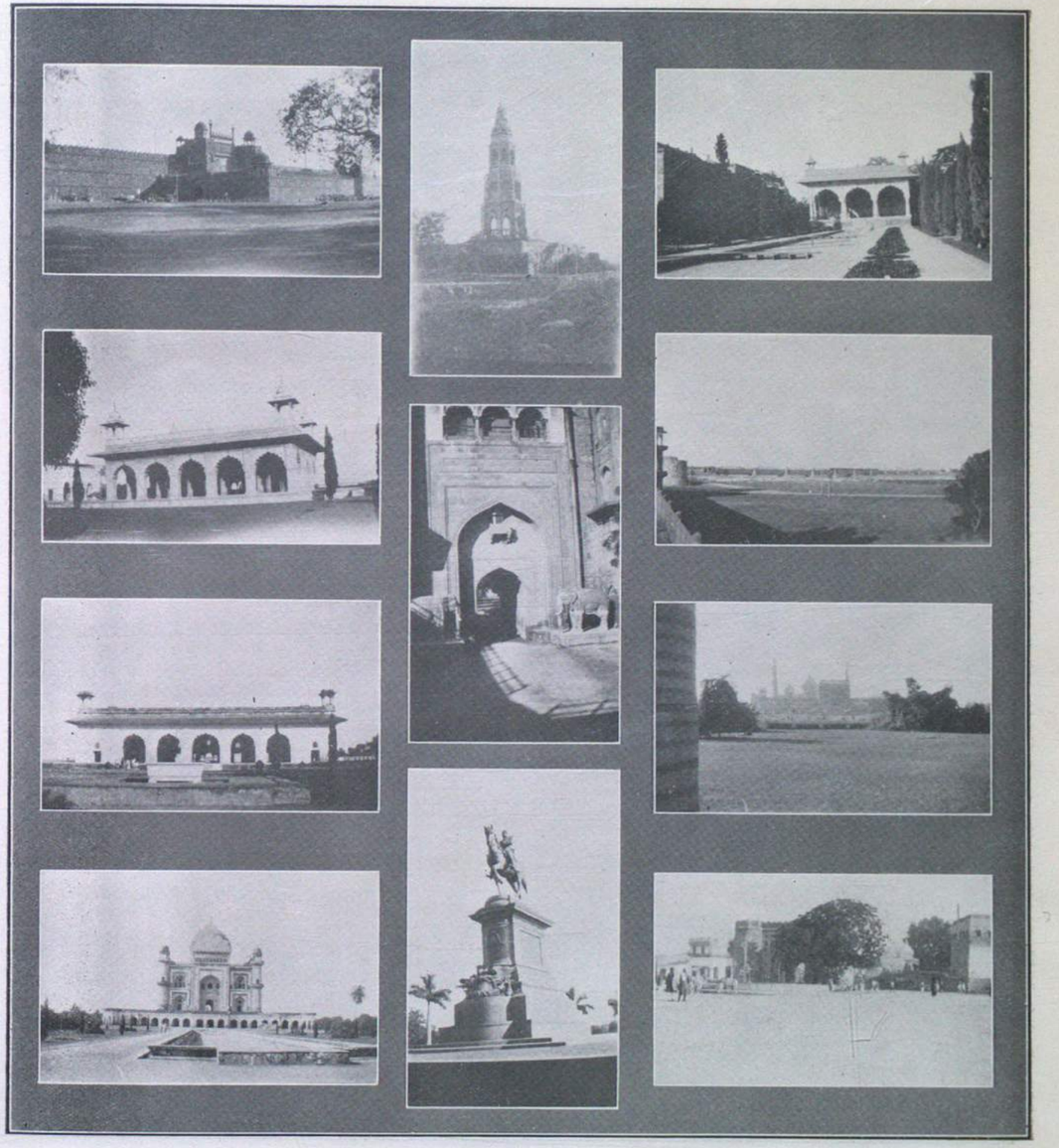
Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury.

General.—"The sun is here at last; long may it 'rain.'" That is our proverb here in Salisbury at present. As we cast our eyes out of one window the sun appears, and on turning to the other window the rain appears. Still, there is a saying that to every dark cloud there is a silver lining; and I believe

(Continued on page 255, after the Illustrated Supplement)

SOME HISTORIC POSSESSIONS OF DELHI

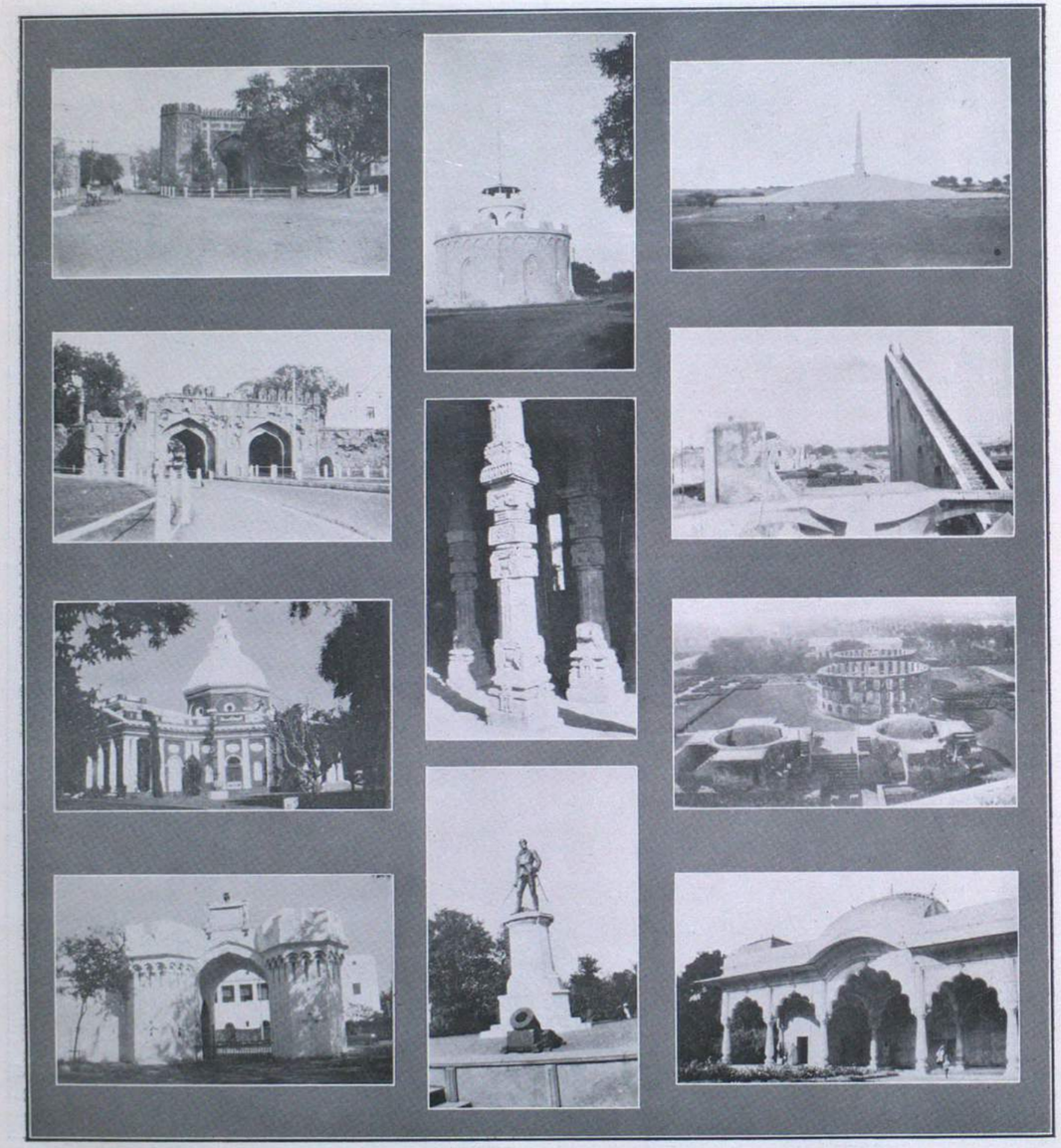


The Lahore Gate, The Fort
The Hall of Public Audience, The Fort
The Palace of Colour, The Fort
The Tomb of Safdar Jang, "the Piercer of Battle Ranks"

The Mutiny Memorial, The Ridge
The Delhi Gate, The Fort
The King Edward VII. Memorial

A Marble Pavilion in the Palace Gardens, The Fort
The Jumna Bridge, from the East Wall of the Fort
A distant view of the Jama Masjid
The Ajmere Gate

SOME HISTORIC POSSESSIONS OF DELHI

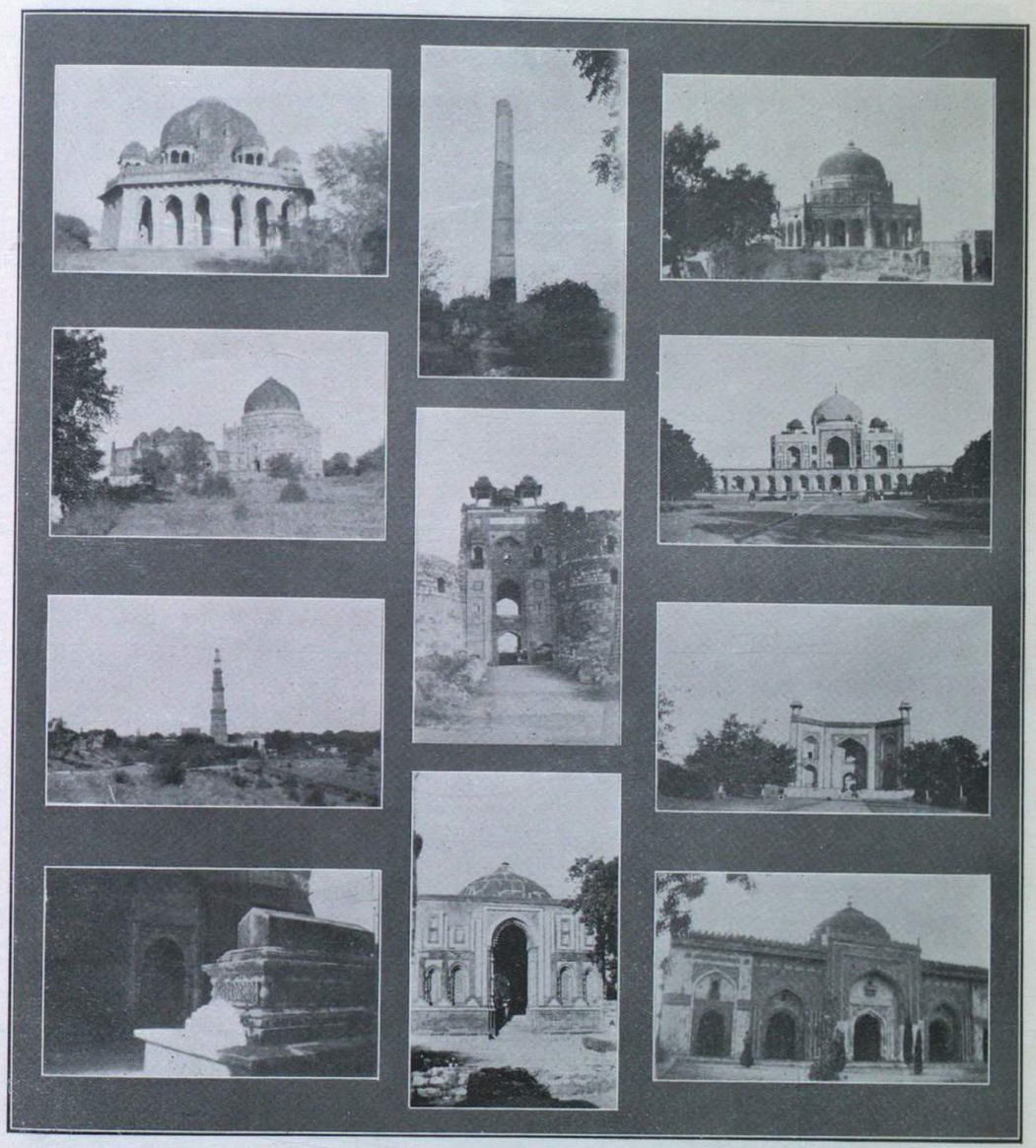


The Delhi Gate of the City
The Kashmir Gate
St. James's Church
Memorial on the site of the Old Magazine

The Flagstaff Tower, The Ridge
Carved Pillars at the Kutb Minar
The Statue of John Nicholson

The Durbar Memorial
The "Jantar Mantar"
View from the top of the "Jantar Mantar"
The King's Tower, The Fort

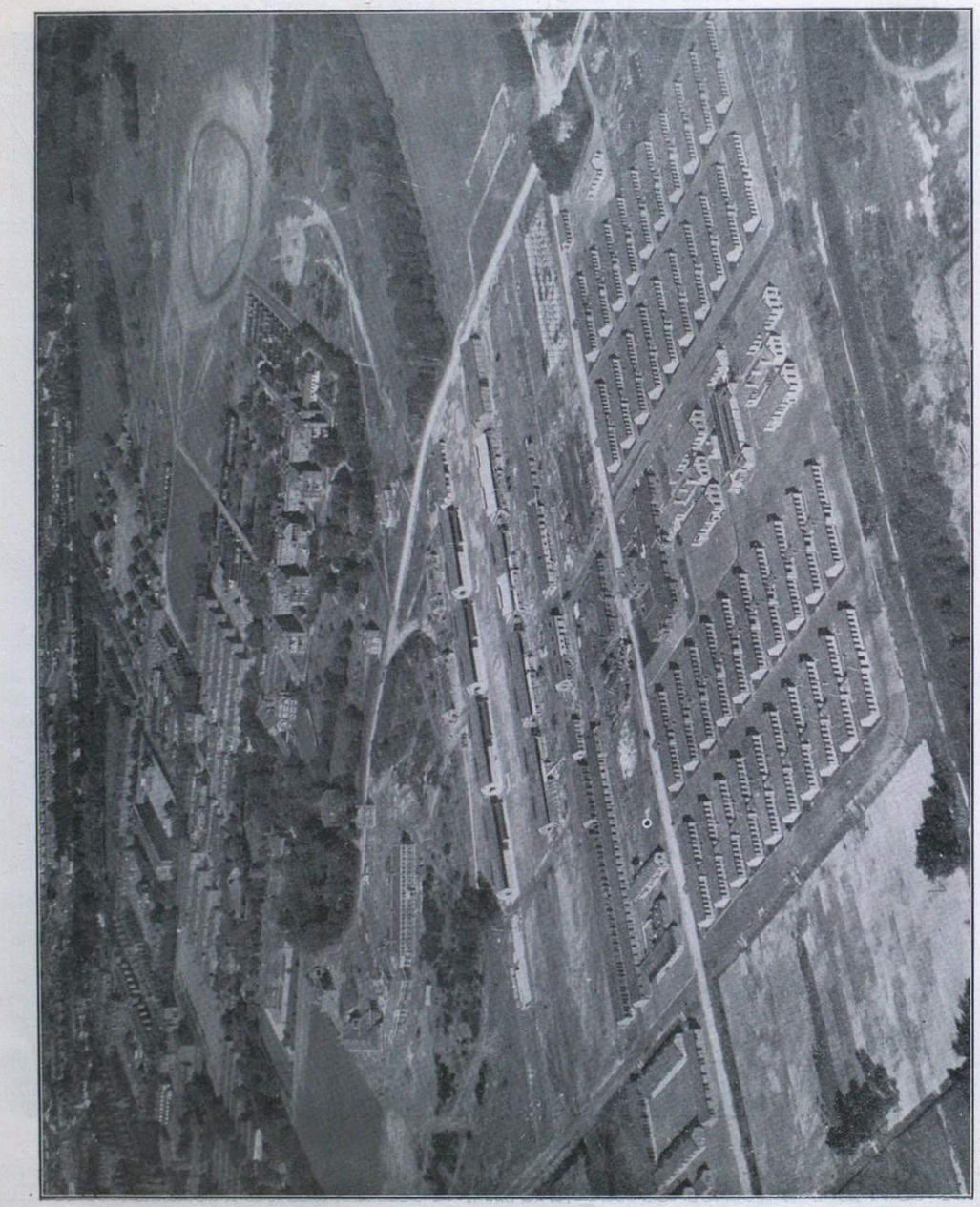
SOME HISTORIC POSSESSIONS OF DELHI



The Tomb of Sikandar Lodi
The Mosque, Sikandar Lodi
The Kutb Minar
The Tomb of Altamash

Asoka's Pillar, The Ridge
The Gateway, Purana Kila
The Alai Darwaza

The Tomb of Adham Khan
The Tomb of Humayun
The Gateway, Humayun's Tomb
The Sher Mosque, Purana Kila

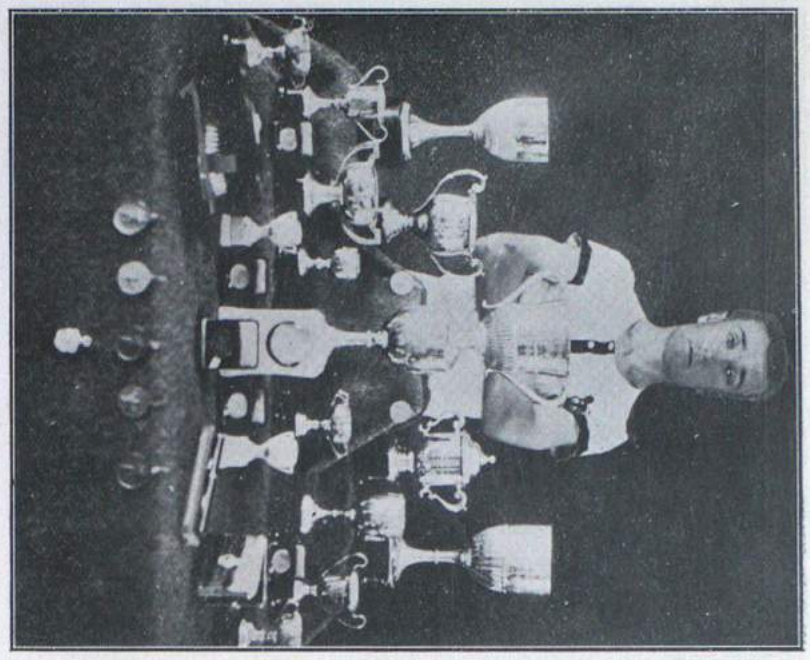


An Aerial Photograph of the New "SIGNALS" BARRACKS, Haig Lines, Aldershot

The Visit of Their Majesties to the New Smallshot Barracks at Aldershot on 17th May, 1928

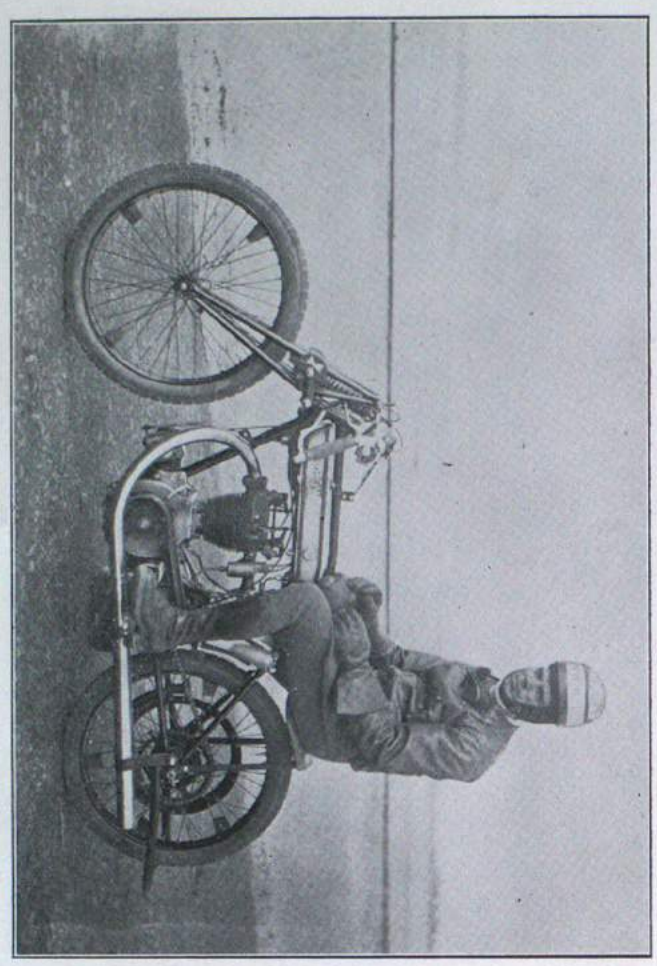
Final Inspection of an Up-to-date Barrack Room

Leaving after Inspection of the Dining Hall



Signalman A. H. Beeton, with Trophies he has won at Athletics this season

He has made no fewer than seven new records this winter, including four in Egyptian running events



Lance/Sergeant E. H. Pickering

He holds several Egyptian Motor Cycling Records, and has won a large number of trophies for racing.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS (EGYPT) SPORTS TEAMS

These are the men who helped to win the Trophy awarded to the Best All-round Sporting Unit in Egypt (1927-28 period)

Back row (left to right)—Sergt Wheeler (B), L/Cpls Osborne (R and B) and McKail (F), Signalmen North (F) and Dickerson (F and C), L/Cpls Edge (F and C) and Powell (F and R), Signalmen Sparkes (S) and Bloomfield (S), L/Cpl Andrews (R, S, B, A and CC), Cpl Corbett (S), Signalmen Grose (S and R), Hart (S), King (S), Hillier (A and CC) and Gibson (A), Dvr Hammond (A and CC), Signalmen Connauchton (A) and Brice (CC), Dvr Stillwell (H, A and CC)

Second row (standing)—Sigmn Richards (B and R), Drivers Burnham (B), Abbott (B) and Ledsham (B), Sigmn Brown R. (A), L/Cpl Beach (F), Sigmn Powell (A and CC), Cpl Saint (R and A), L/Cpls Adams (R) and Jones (R), Signalmen Smith (C and F) and Saunders (C), L/Cpl Collins E. (H, C and CC), Signalmen Shepherd (A and CC), Bazley (CC) and Backhouse (C, A and CC), Cpl Collins H. (CC), L/Cpl Gratwicke (S, R and A)

Third row (seated)—C.S.M. Burgess J. A. (No. 1 Coy), Sigmn Davis (R), Lieut G. B. Bell (B), L/Sgt Holness (F), Captain R. G. Giblin (B), Sigmn Oldale (C and CC), Lieut H. Bartlett (S and R), Sigmn Taylor (S), Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., Sigmn Beeton (A and CC), Captain H. G. Henderson (A), Sergt Jennison (A and R, and trainer), Lieut. C. F. Newsom (H and CC), Signalmen Elliott (R and A), Mains (A) and Rolls (A), C.S.M. Britton A. H. (No. 3 Coy)

Front row—Signalmen Silverstone (A), Bodimeade (R and A), Waite (A), Read (H), Lovett (H and C) and Edmunds (R), Cpl Sunderland (R and S), Signalmen King (A), Cooper (A and CC) and Chambers (CC), Sergt Rushworth (A), Signalmen Woolley (CC) and Goble (A)

Note—(B) represents Boxing, (R) Rugby, (H) Hockey, (A) Athletics, (F) Football, (CC) Cross-Country Running, (S) Swimming, (C) Cricket

A Corps Signals (Karachi) Rugby Team, 1927-28

Back row (left to right)—Signalman Russell, Sergt Pillinger, Signalmen Coates and Turner W. A., Sergt Taylor, Signalmen Cox and Middleton
Centre—Signalman Brown W. A., Sergt Harvey, Major E. de W. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., L/Corpls Rawson and Tidey
Front—Corpl Inglis, Signalmen Walker V. E., Hutchinson and Green

A Corps Signals (Karachi) Football Team. Winners of the Shivajee Cup, 1926-27 and 1927-28

Back row (left to right)—Sergts MacGregor and Pillinger, Signalmen Wrenn and Evans, L/Corpl Gibbons
Centre—Corpl William, L/Corpl Rawson, Major E. de W. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., Signalman Green, Corpl Newman
Front—L/Corpl Prickett, Signalman Walker

Some of the Trophies won by A Corps Signals, Karachi

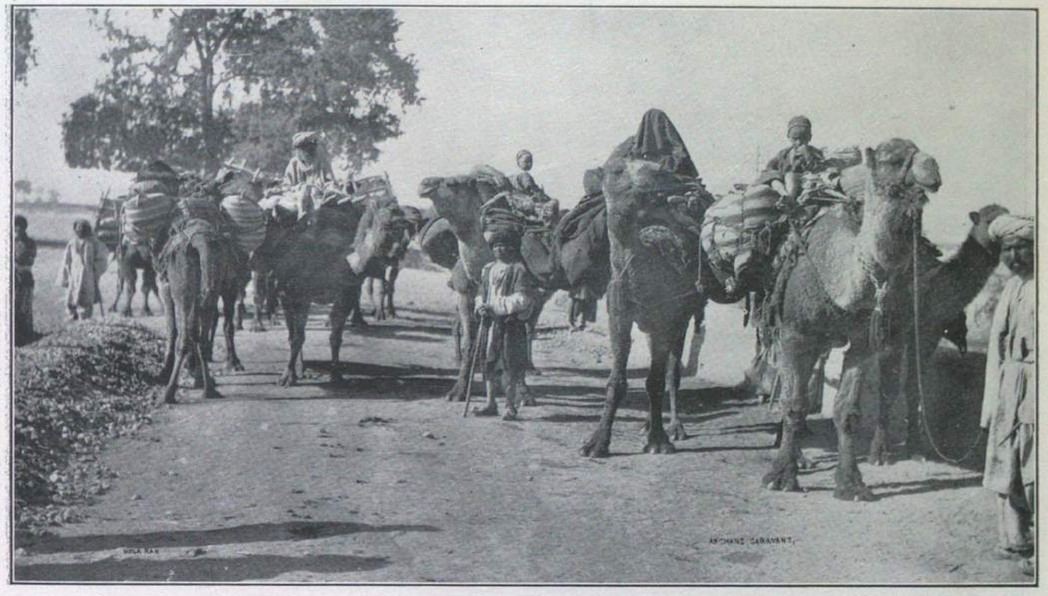
Signalman Hutchison
Winner Bantam-Weight, All-India Amateur Boxing Tournament
Bombay, 1928

Lance/Corporal Podger
Runner-up Feather-Weight All-India Amateur Boxing Tournament
Bombay, 1928

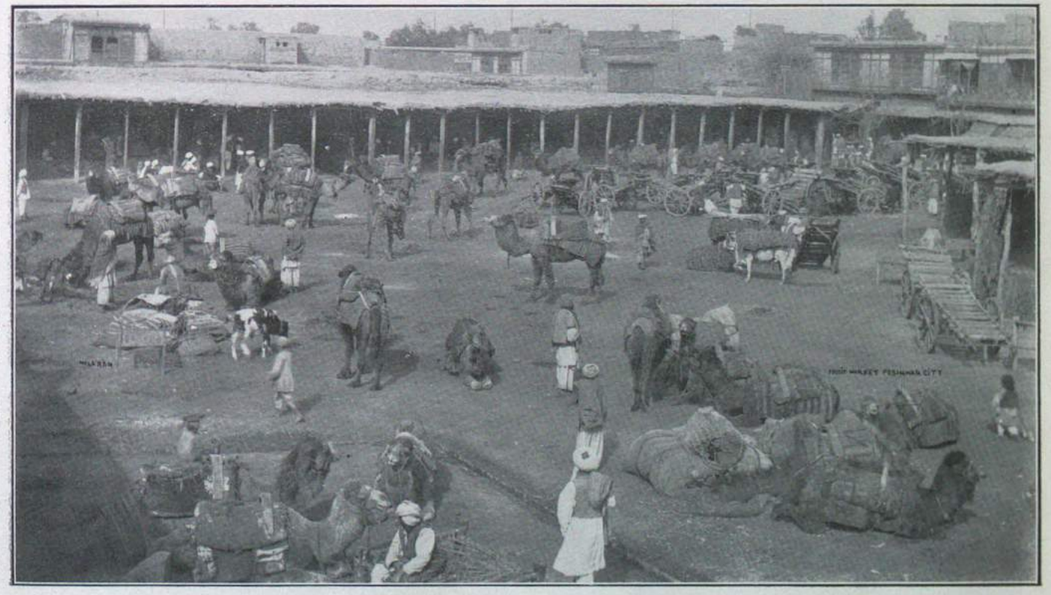
The Relay Team
(Left to right) Sigmn Brown W. A., L/Corpl Podger, Sigmn Davies, Sergt Taylor

Government House, Peshawar

A Street in Peshawar



An Afghan Caravan



The Fruit Market, Peshawar City

THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER, INDIA

A Khyber Gorge

(Continued from page 254)

they mistook that for the hail-storm which prevailed in this land the other afternoon. The weather is ideal for Barleux to plant his carrots.

General Sir Alexander J. Godley, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command, paid us a visit on the 14th June and bade us farewell, as he is leaving this Command. We wish him the best of luck in his new sphere of life.

Tennis.—Southern Command Headquarters held their second hard court tournament of the season at Victoria Park on Tuesday, June 5th. As in the first a sealed handicap was made, and in the play-off Capt T. Baines and Lieut Hands beat Lieut.-Col. Stanbury and Sergt Graham (6—1).

School of Signals, please note.—Coir calling! I am not in the department to answer your query which appeared in the June WIRE. I agree it is very hot down here, but think that the Bishop made out his own O.1735 (routes regimental).

Autobiography.—Major addressing subaltern in an Austin Seven: "What do you do when you meet a lorry?"
Subaltern: "Go under it, sir!"

He who laughs first will laugh last.—The following is a humorous experience of an ex-Signalman in Egypt. Someone suggested a visit to the great Cheops Pyramid. On arriving at the entrance we were pestered by the usual swarm of Gippo guides, but we knocked them all back.

One big Gippo came strolling up to us with a couple of candles. "Want a guide, mister?" he asked. "No; go to—— as far as you can see!" yelled Whacker, a big sergeant-major. "We know as much about this place as you do. And we don't want you blacks following us about."

Getting down on all fours we crawled along until we came to one of the main chambers, when we all went sliding down. We were just cursing and rubbing our shins when we heard the jeering voice of the big Gippo guide, who had followed us: "You know a——of a——lot, don't you?" I fancied I heard some of the ancients turning in their tombs at Whacker's oaths.

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp, June 15th.

Congratulations.—The Imperial Services championship medal for referees is, of course, the blue riband of that select little world. Our very hearty congratulations to R.S.M. Adams J., D.C.M., on being awarded the medal for 1927-28.

Sergeants' Mess.—Those members who have left us will remember where the billiard table was. Now that this has been moved to another room, we have ample space for cabaret shows, whist drives and dances. Nor is this space wasted. A successful whist drive and dance was held on Friday, June 8th, whereat the Ellis-Barl band excelled. They produced seven performers, including Sigmn Flitter (trumpet), late of Karachi.

The Sunday following saw the said space fully occupied for a rollicking cabaret show. C.Q.M.S. Sweeting, Sergts Yates and Vignaux, Mr. Sowden and Sigmn Simpson gave a very funny sketch. Sergt Vignaux makes a passable vicar. R.S.M. Adams and Sergt Adcock in their new and up-to-date songs and monologues delighted the audience. Mrs. Hailes and Mrs. Lannigan furnished the soprano part of the programme. Sigmn Rashleigh conjured. A strong desire on the part of a member (not on the programme) to sing was firmly suppressed. Corpl Murray gave a good rendering of old favourites. At the piano, Bdr. Ellis ('nuff said! It proves conclusively that a good pianist is umpteen per cent. of the show). C.S.M. Hailes and his committee deserve all praise for their organisation.

We acknowledge receipt of a letter from Mr. Sam Spreadborough, and assure him that he is still remembered kindly by the lads. His many friends will be pleased to learn that he is quite restored to health.

Training.—This is now in full swing, and schemes (or "screams," as they are often called) are common. There are many curious happenings on these outings, but the section sergeants can never remember the details when they get back. As an exception, I was told that a man (trade not mentioned) was sent for an antennæ rod. He returned with a crook stick.
Reference above. Ha! ha! ha!

The troops have been enjoying nice weather for their schemes. Not that weather really matters when they go about in luxurious caravans.
What price the Army of to-day? R. F. B.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Barlow and Gibb from the Training Battalion, 15/3/28. Sergt Betts and family from A Corps, 5/5/28.

Departures.—The following left us on 5/6/28 to join the Rhine Signal Company, Wiesbaden (our best wishes go with them): Corpl Hirst, Signalmen Larkin, Curry, White, Robotham and Pitt, and Driver Marshall.

Appointments and Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on their "step up": To be L/Sergeants: Corpl Wigzell (27/4/28) and Corpl Chandler (29/4/28). To be Corporals: L/Cpls Norcup and Hirst (3/3/28), Cash E. (22/3/28), and Carnell (27/4/28). To be L/Corporals: Signalmen Fookes and Ray (3/3/28), Jackson (22/3/28), Barlow (24/4/28), and Simm (1/5/28).

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

"The Spare Electron" being no longer spare, the editor's chair is now occupied by myself. As a beginner I can do worse than set out my notes in the generally accepted style, so here goes.

General.—The details of the S.D.F. Signals were all granted leave for twenty-eight days immediately upon their arrival, and whilst away were placed in the market, viewed, renewed, and finally glued into various Companies. Their return saw the unit settle down to training.

It may be of interest to state that the establishment of the S.D.F. Signals still counts against the establishment of this unit, and our return to a pre-Shanghai footing depends upon events in the East.

Ten other ranks, with twenty-two horses, together with half-a-dozen six-wheelers, took part in the Whitsun exercise held by the 54th (E.A.) Divl Signals at Cold Norton, and in return read in Unit Orders an extract from a very appreciative letter from the C.O. of that unit.

Two improvised Signal Sections have been to Larkhill during the month to take part in practice camps.

The annual "251" having gone off with lamentations, various people are anxiously awaiting their valentines, due from Chatham in July.

The Druid system has a great vogue here, especially for plain clothes.

Thanks to the enterprise of the firm that keeps false teeth clean, and a gentleman who likes collecting other people's instalments, Dvr Shanks is a sartorial credit to the unit.

What happens, Mr. Collector, when the valentines come along? Don't think I'm discouraging. I enjoy the colour scheme immensely, but semi-Oxfords look horrible after they've been packed in a sea-kit bag.

I must have another look now, and see what the top-notch correspondents do.

Appointments.—Congratulations are extended to L/Sergeant Nelson and Corpls Parkinson, Davis, Johnson, and Green on their respective promotions.

Marriage.—Being a nil return, there is no one to poke fun at.

Signals Association.—Members of this Branch, and possibly of others, will be interested to read the statement of work done by the Branch during the past two years, which appears in this issue. To have achieved so much in such a short period is a matter for gratification to all concerned. It will be realised that so much could not have been done were it not for the profit on the weekly dances, as the subscription to the Branch funds from the Association is 1d. per member per month. This should be an incentive to members to continue their support, not only by attending the dances, but by sending along suggestions for other functions.

Please Write!—Sigmn Jack Maddison, last heard of in the Vicar's Orchard, to Sigmn Remmington of this unit. Driver Ennis C., last heard of at Catterick, to Dvr Taylor of this unit. Various members of this unit have remarked upon the absence of notes from the Iraq Signal Section.

Haughty Culture: an Exposure.—No true garden lover should read "Plain Tales." To those who have not yet acted on the advice given by Barleux in last month's issue, I would point out that a carrot is not a flower. A gimlet is useless; firstly because

the hole would be too small, and secondly, no carrot has a worm screw.

The plural of radish is radee—not radii—the final e being silent as in Barleux.

I hope you all noticed, when reading the rockery talk, that Barleux puts his seeds in his neighbour's car, porch, and through his front windows. Dear! dear! How we laughed over it. What, after all, are a few seeds between friends?

If any nature lovers have been led astray by "Plain Tales," write and tell the world. Maybe this exposure will be in time to prevent people buying a money order for about £5. (N.B.—On production of about £5.)

Answers to Correspondents.—B.B.: No. The tin hat and gas mask you mention have been to Shanghai. Where's your own?

Mrs. Wantsall: You have been wrongly informed. The cost of living is not so high here, and C.R.A. is not issued. Don't read "Plain Tales."

Frank: An advert appears in this issue.

Anxious Wife: It is only honorary rank. Promotion does not carry extra pay.

Jane: You have acted foolishly. I have known them grow when planted upside down. I can only suggest that you hand over your garden to the tennis club.

Country Gentleman: No. Unless you can show proof that you are related, his wages cannot be allotted to you.

For Sale.—Very old Mandarin parasol. Manch dynasty. Very effective for the garden. At present being minded by a fine old English gentleman. Particulars from Tom Cobley between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Not Forgetting Shanghai.—Watch me; I'll do this. By the right. Very sorry nothing appeared last month, but you know what leave on return from abroad means.

We had a splendid journey back, but that little bit of fog from Shanghai to Hong Kong robbed us of Easter. Arrived at Colchester on Easter Monday afternoon, being met by the band of the Northamptons and an ex-Jessfieldian in R.S.M. Fry. All who returned appreciated the arrangements made for our reception. It was typical of the 4th Div. as we knew it.

You can settle an argument, Nick. On our way back we passed a cargo boat heavily laden, and some of our chaps were certain that it contained telephones for you. Any truth in it?

Congratulations from all, Dick, on your rise. Can you give us the name of your sweeper, if he has been issued.

The King's Birthday parade was held here on the 4th, and the thoughts of many turned to a year ago.

How's the grub stakes, Harry, and "Lil ole Simnett the Strangler"?

So Stickley has gone to Nanking? Didn't I tell you that we'd have to write c/o the U.J.C.?

It's nearly over, Monty. Everybody is very cheerful now, and we all think that a C.Q.M.S. won't be needed in ten years' time.

Well played, Tom. Is the bell-push worn out yet? Mrs. T. came to the re-union in the mess, and all's well.

Orderly Ghost, it's flat after Shanghai. A few of the old adverts would liven things up a bit. Just imagine Sally of Brightlingsea if she could get her invite to the O.C.A. dance in the Shanghai way.

"Wah," come to the Signals Lodge. Peppy music, soft shaded lights, cool drinks, and pretty partners.

We lucky ones are all hoping that with the going more far of Chang-Tso-Lin the trooper will bring you all back this season.

In the meantime, there are many here who would like tidings of Ewo Terrace, if only to know that you've rubbed the walls away. So hurry up, Whang Poo.

WELLER.

Scottish Command Signal Company.

The Castle, Edinburgh.

General.—I apologise for the absence of notes from this unit last month, but Master Flu (seeing an easy victim forgetting that he was not in the "shiny") took me in charge and detained me in the land of sisters and nurses for a short period.

L/Sergt J. Foley has now been elected captain of the Scottish Command cricket club, and the results appear to point to the fact that he is doing his job most effectively. Up to the present the club have played six games, winning five and losing one.

Arrivals.—We welcome in our midst C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Simmonds P. A., who has just arrived from Bermuda. We hope his stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

Promotion.—Congratulations to L/Sergeant Simmonds on his recent appointment to that rank.

More General.—Our O.C. and O.V. instructors (Sergt Thompson and Corpl Daniell) are now very busy on instruction and classification of regimental and T.A. signallers. The results of recent classifications cause creditable comment to all concerned.

WEE RITE.

A Buzzer Call Made Visible.

[To a suggestion that sand sprinkled on a telephone receiver, dancing into patterns when a buzzer or magneto call came in, might be a useful visible indicator, the S.E.E. sent the following reply.]

So Willie thinks he's found a cure
For buzzer calls that come from Q,
While handles wildly turned at your
Headquarters work the shutter too.

Ingenious youth! He fain would teach
Some lynx-eyed signalman to stare
Upon a smooth unrippled beach,
Reviving memories of the fair.

And lo! at far Brigade's (*a*) behest,
A sandy pattern outline takes;
I fancy it will work its best
When Corps (*b*) in rapture answer makes.

You ask if we will lend our aid
To fashion fancy into fact;
To help to get the gadget made;
To add the details it has lacked.

We willingly will give a hand
(Although the thing may prove a sham)
Provided Willie brings the sand
To sprinkle on his diaphragm (*c*).

11/5/28. J. S. Y.

Notes: (*a*) Buzzer call; (*b*) Magneto ditto; (*c*) or midriff.

Photomanitobia.

BY SIGMN T. H. SPETCH.

We arrived in the hut under a load of bedding, Bill and I, and the idiot burst out laughing. "I say, you fellows," he began; "while we were on leave we tried the photo-something and. . . ." He got no further, for I applied the business end of a dry-scrubber with great effect.

Well, if you had done a thing like that, you wouldn't have wanted it all over the camp, would you?

You have heard of the photo-what-is-it. It is in most of the big London stores. Personally I think it is a rotten thing; I tried it, so I know.

Bill stood in front first and smiled, leered, laughed and frowned at it, and the finished pictures were good—though Bill said they were rotten.

I told him how good they were, and we nearly came to blows over our opinions. "You don't know how to do it," I told him. "You are in uniform, so you should look like some of the great men in history; one of the photos should have been like Wellington, one like Napoleon, another like Nelson, others like Strube's Little Man, Harry Lauder, Driver Fostercue, and so-on."

I showed him the respective poses, and he told me to try them on the camera; so I wasted a shilling in the wretched contraption.

At the first attempt the instrument rocked slightly; at the second try a shower of broken glass flew past me; at the third the machine shook the foundations of the building. "Beat it!" yelled Bill; "you've bust the machine!"

I wonder what would have happened if I had tried Harry Lauder?

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

General.—Our inter-Section football, hockey and athletic league has just started, and is causing quite a lot of excitement in the unit. The keenness is so great that, although we have only played a few matches, the surgical ward is beginning to do a roaring trade. Sergt Diamond had a head-on smash with Sigmn Hutchison which entitled him to be admitted without the usual buff form (modified for India), and L/Sergt Wedgebury was very unfortunate in falling on the football field and fracturing his left arm. We are pleased to say that they are making a favourable recovery.

There is quite a variety of training going on at present—riding drill, construction and education—and we must not forget to mention the n.c.o.s drill class.

The M.C. Section are busy putting up wires around the camp, while the operators keep up the old tradition of the Corps and dig the pot-holes.

At last the Manora leave camp has started, and everybody is taking full advantage of this opportunity for a little sea air, if only to persuade themselves that they are at Margate.

Berths.—We are pleased to say that L/Sergt Greening has been successful in getting a private passage on the "Kaiser-i-Hind." He leaves us to-morrow, and all ranks wish him the best of luck in civvy street.

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Innes a daughter (Margaret Joan) at Coulsdon, Surrey, on April 11th. Congratulations!

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on attaining their present rank: Sergt Pillinger, L/Sergt Mills, and Corpl Davies.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following, and hope they will learn to like A Corps and its surroundings: From U.K. leave, Sergt Nicholls. From S.T.C. (India), Corpl Colmar and family, Corpl Anderson, L/Cpls Baker and Curtiss, Signalmen Topliss, Harrison, Knox, Marshall, Adams F., Hutchison W., Knight C., Pengelley, Myers and Houghton. From Waziristan District Signals, Sigmn Callely.

S.O.S.—L/Sergt Greening J. would like Dusty Rhodes, late of this unit, to correspond with him at the U.J.C., London.

Yorkie of this unit would like a line or two from Sid, late of A Corps Signals and North Horns, Blighty. AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Cambridge Barracks, May 2nd.

Once again our monthly notes are due. It is really wonderful how the months seem to fly past. One of these days I shall be recording my own departure without being aware of the fact!

Officers.—Capt F. R. L. Goadby, M.B.E., left us during the month for his unit, the 2/3rd Sikh Pioneers, stationed at Sialkot. We trust he will have a happy time at his new station and in his new surroundings.

Arrivals and Departures.—We extend the hand of welcome to the following, who arrived from the U.K. via Jubbulpore during the past month: L/Sergt Murphy, Corporals Miles and Crabtree, F/Corpl Jagger, Signalmen Harding, Beadle, Evans, Wild, Robinson, Harcourt, Gumpert, Monckton, Osbourne and Southey. May they have a good time with B Corps!

Sigmn Lane A. E. left us on the 2nd April for New Zealand, sailing from Calcutta. Our very best wishes go with him, and we hope we shall hear of his progress through the medium of THE WIRE.

Promotions.—Our best congratulations are extended to the undermentioned on attaining their rank on the Corps roster: Sergt McLoughlin, L/Sergt Hobby, Corpl (I/U/L L/Sergeant) Woolley, and Corpl Sargent. The motto is "Excelsior," or "one up and more to come." I have since heard of one or two others who are sweating.

General.—Quite a successful dance was held in the regimental theatre on April 20th. This was an all ranks farewell dance before the married families moved to the hills. Even the Rear-Admiral would have expressed himself in favourable terms had he been there.

The married people (feminine portion) have gone to their summer homes in the high places. The husbands are now to be seen strolling jauntily around with a care-free look on their faces; bachelor existence evidently has its good points!

One of the bays in the bungalow occupied by No. 1 Company was visited by "loose-wallahs" one night last week. An overcoat, blankets, clothing and cash were found to be missing. That's the worst of summer: one cannot sleep with all one's clothing on.

The barracks are at present full of mosquitoes which have arrived from some unknown source. They are a particularly vicious breed of "mossie," and do not restrict their activities to night-time. On arrival at the office this morning, the place was found well stocked with them, and they proceeded to operate. It is very amusing in the barrack-rooms at any time after say four in the morning; a regular storm of hand-clapping takes place, and one would imagine that an artiste of great repute had just finished an item—but no, that is not so; it is a mossie slaughter campaign. If certain spots add to one's beauty, then we must be a really handsome crowd.

A party of this unit marches to the hills on Saturday next, and some are looking forward to it. I do not go; but if I did, I should look forward to the arrival most.

Agony.—Johnnie (der Zigeuner) is still waiting for the long-overdue brief from H.G.H. (Get rich quick), last heard of at Crookham. Now then, H.G.H., this won't do; get a move on.

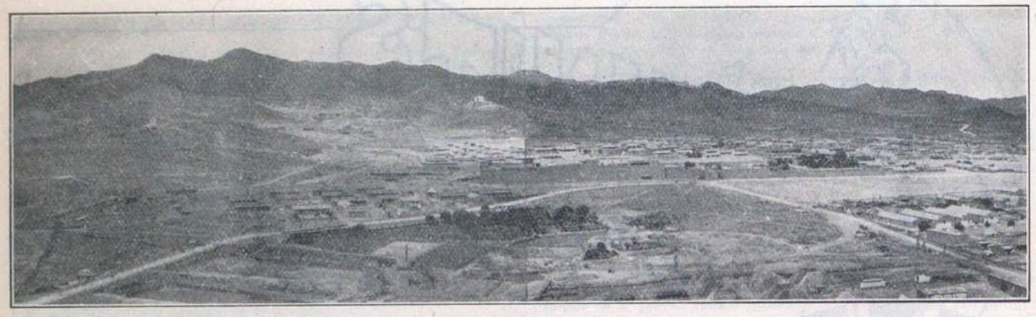
ECHO.

Peshawar District Signals.

Peshawar, May 9th.

General.—Here we are again, inflicting more notes on a long-suffering public (I believe that is the way the journalists put it).

Last month our main item was that the married families would move to the hills. Well, the husbands having returned and not caring much for the food they get in the mess-room, I'll



A Panoramic View of Landi-Kotal Camp

mention that the personnel for courses will move to the hills. Really, some people do strike lucky, don't they? A whole season up in the hills, away from the heat of the plains, and then they even say they would like to be in Blighty! A trip across to Murree—it's worth soldiering out East to see that place.

Our party left on May 3rd en route to Rawalpindi, there to mix with the main body that will commence the long trek to Upper Topa. Although it is a long way to march, it is well worth it once one gets there. Our celebrated exponent of the terpsichorean art has unfortunately left the unit, so we cannot remind him that the dances have not even been printed on the new issue of Q sheets. The proprietor of the gin parlour has not wended his way to Topa this year either, but despite all that, there will be plenty of amusements for those who have the luck to miss all this heat.

Signals Barracks, Landi-Kotal

Let's hope we have a 100 per cent. pass when the results of the courses come through.

The sending away of this party has sadly depleted our strength in Peshawar. A full dress parade only musters about a dozen British ranks, but we are all capable of coping with any situation that may arise. One thing we are practically sure of: the people who are staying on the plains this year will in all probability have a chance to see the khuds next year.

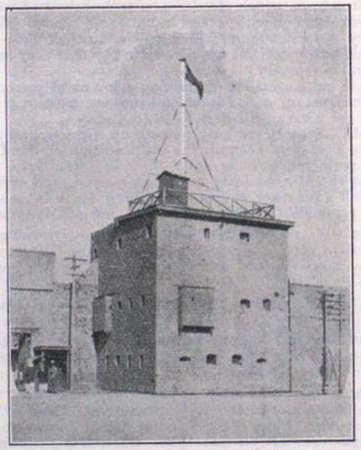
For the illustrations accompanying these notes we are indebted to a keen member stationed at Landi-Kotal.

Promotions.—We must offer congratulations to our respected schoolmaster, Sgt.-Instr. Osborne T. C., on attaining the exalted rank of warrant-officer class ii. Let's hope he does not rest on his laurels now, but climbs further up that time-honoured ladder to the baton! Unfortunately we shall lose him shortly, as our establishment does not allow of a w.o. instructor. The best wishes to him wherever he goes!

Arrivals.—We welcome the following on their reposting from the Signal Training Battalion: Signalmen Gifford P., Dollimore C. A., Annison A., Dawson E., and Hooper C.

Inspections.—Major-General C. A. C. Godwin, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding Peshawar District, decided to pay us a visit on the 2nd May. He came and saw all the sections at work, and was impressed with all that he saw. Unfortunately he missed seeing our celebrated construction party. (When our Nutty comes back from Pindi, it will sure be some section!)

Departures.—It was with the greatest regret that we bade farewell to our commanding officer, Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., R.Signals, on his departure on May 10th to take up the appointment of Staff Officer to the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Army Headquarters (India).



The Main Gate, Landi-Kotal Fort.

Since he assumed command in April, 1927, the efficiency of this unit has increased by leaps and bounds, and it is safe to say that it is mainly the hard work and perseverance of our O.C. that have brought the unit to its present satisfactory condition.

We shall always look back with pride to the time when Major Phillips commanded the unit. In his new capacity we heartily wish him the very best of luck, and trust that he will always have a tender spot for Peshawar District Signals.

For Sale.—Now, who *does* want to buy my copy of the old Frontier post? Month by month it gets rarer and rarer, and soon I shall be charging people to even have a glimpse at it.

As Usual.—Sigmn Adams would like to hear from Signalman Souter, somewhere in China.

SIGS-PESHDIST.

Footnote by the Branch Hon. Sec.—We note with surprise that many of our new arrivals from the United Kingdom are not members of the Signals Association. This is not as it should be. Of the total repatriated from this unit during the trooping season just ended, only one was a non-member, and he was a newcomer to Peshawar.

At the Afghan Border, North-West Frontier

We naturally expected their places to be filled by enthusiastic loyal members. May we look forward with hope to the next trooper? We are well aware that Branch officials hold honorary (if onerous) posts; but if a job is worth doing, surely it is worth doing well.—A. G.

An Afghan Sentry

Kohat District Signals.

Weather.—With the move to the hills there is only a smattering of the unit—the diehards—left to see the hot weather through.

Last month we told of various climatic conditions. We now wish to delete all that which sounds refreshing except the swimming, for the squadron leader of the 60th (Bombing) Squadron has kindly allowed us to bathe our tootsies more or less as we please, so there. We always take this opportunity of peeling off our winter clothing, because the hot's so hot nowadays (and it is nearly July, you know, Dub!)

Brains.—We haul the undermentioned on to the platform of publicity, and congratulate them upon obtaining 2nd class certificates of education: Signalmen James C. C., Burton A., Martin K., Grimshaw R., Wall M., Beaumont W. G., and Gordon H.

Intrude not upon our studies, but let me whisper that over a quarter of the unit are having a shot at the 1st class or a special next October. Blame the idyllic surroundings of the Afghan border at Parachinar!

The 'ills.—We heard rumours of one or two suffering from "petrol feet," and of the Schoolie trying to do that 117 miles to Parachinar by log's—but it wouldn't cancel out. A very sore feat indeed!

Moves.—Our commanding officer, Major R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., R.Signals, has proceeded to Topa to take command of the Northern Command Signal School for the hot weather.

We also sent twenty B.O.R.s, some of whom hope to get an increase in salary whilst they are there; and some went there to help them do it.

Obituary.—We were very sorry to learn of the death of Teddy, the youngest son of Sergt and Mrs. C. M. Pearson, at Murree Hospital, from concussion caused by a piece of falling piping. Truly, a ray of sunshine was taken away from us then. We offer our deepest sympathies in their loss.

WOG.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

General.—Again it is time for a few notes, but I'm afraid news of interest is scarce. However, "something is better than nothing," so here goes.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Signalmen Pearson J. and "Shoey" Gardner on stepping on the first rung of the ladder from the 18th February and 9th April respectively. (A Cavalry Troop, please note with regard to your loss of Shoey.)

Vocational Training.—Long faces were the order of the day a short while ago, when it was decided (by higher authority) and made known that vocational training was not now open to soldiers drawing tradesmen's rates of pay.

Inspections.—These have been plentiful of late, as will be seen from the following.

Major-General J. W. O'Dowda, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G. (G.O.C. Baluchistan District) carried out his annual inspection of the unit on February 6th. Normal technical training was carried on during the inspection, and the G.O.C. was very much impressed with the standard of work displayed. A very good report was the result.

Lieut.-Colonel R. Chenevix-Trench, O.B.E., M.C. (Chief Signal Officer Western Command) also inspected the unit on the 15th, 16th and 17th February. For this inspection the unit was on parade in the five-Company formation, but here again everything went off quite well.

Colonel H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Signal Officer-in-Chief Army Headquarters) inspected the unit on the 5th and 7th April, and after seeing the unit formed up as for the C.S.O.'s inspection, he made a tour of the lines, etc. Again satisfaction was the result.

The Remount Officer (Western Command) gave credit for the standard of the animals at his inspection of the unit on 27th February (but not a word about their standings).

And last, but not least, was the visit paid by the Inspector of Messing on April 12th. The report stated that the "eats" were of a high standard, but what about the cooking ranges? The Q.M. may know something about them.

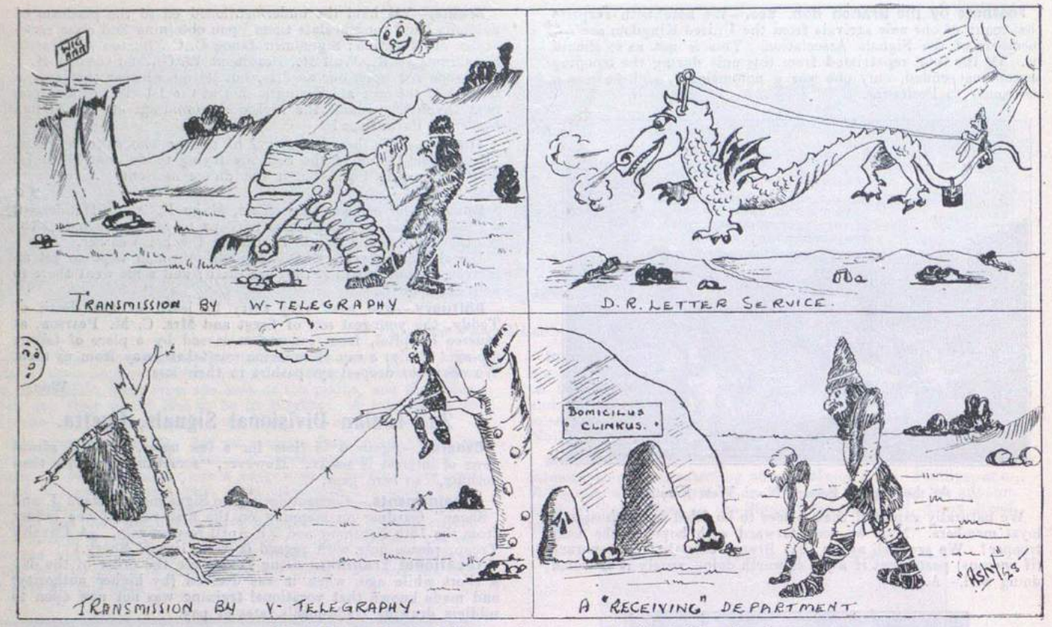
Trade Ratings.—"Best of luck" is extended to the following, who proceeded to the Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore, for advancement in trade ratings: Signalmen Wilbrahams, White, Williams and Walkers.

The whole of the unit were either re-tested for their present ratings, or advanced in trade ratings, during the training period October–March. Results have proved very satisfactory.

The following proceeded to the S.T.C., Jubbulpore, on the 19th February: L/Corpl Spencer, Signalmen Hall V. M., Coton W., Kiss and Salter.

Riding School.—The past three months must have been very pleasant for some, as names are rolling in under the heading: "The following have passed a course in riding." (No further remarks are necessary.)

"S" Courses.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Keegan and Corpl Campbell on having passed an S course at the Signal Training



Kohat District Signals : When we first came to the North-West Frontier

Centre (India) from September 1927 to January 1928. How was it wangled, Nobby?

Education Certificates.—More congratulations are offered to the lucky ones on obtaining the much-coveted 1st. R.S.M. Turner A. E., M.B.E., and L/Corpl Cosens were the recipients. "Hard luck" goes to Sergt Bennett on missing it by one subject (never mind, Jim; better luck next time). Our "Schooley" did the necessary and obtained his special.

Arrivals.—We welcome the arrival from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore, on the 29th January, of Captain R. M. Maxwell, 19th Lancers.

Major C. W. M. Firth, M.C., R.Signals, rejoined from the Senior Officers' School, Belgaum, on April 5th. His stay was short, as will be seen from the Departures list.

The Training Centre have been making us up to establishment with British ranks. From the U.K.—L/Sergt Pye and family on January 2nd; Corpl Blower and family on February 22nd (A Corps Signals, Aldershot, please note); L/Sergt Doughty and Corpl Chalmers and families on March 23rd.

From S.T.C. (India)—Signalmen Gillings, Etteridge, France, Calleyene, Hall, Dobson and Greenman, on January 15th; Corpl Sharp, Signalmen Hind, Green, Verney and Edwards G. on February 6th; Signalmen Donoghue, Creasey, Cooke, Chapman, Brown A., Coxon, Dorman and Cox W. on February 7th; Signalmen Merritt, Battell, Hart, Easton, Hayden, Haskell and Mephem on February 8th; Sigmn Bone on February 24th; Signalmen Blake and Thompson on February 29th; Signalmen Smith R., Hallam, Swift, Selley, Lane, Vine, McNeill and Blanchard on April 22nd.

From A Cavalry Troop—Sigmn (Shoey) Gardner on Jan. 20th.

Departures.—On leave to U.K.: Capt R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E., R.Signals, and Lieut M. Duke, R.Signals, for ten months and eight months respectively, and Major C. W. M. Firth, M.C., R.Signals, for about six months.

To Home Establishment—Signalmen Mervin, Allen F., Pope, Traunter and Baker H. G., on February 4th. Signalmen Biddlestone and Strachan were invalided to the U.K. as the result of an accident, on February 4th and April 2nd respectively. L/Sgt Anderson, Corpls Copp, Patterson, Morgan, Sandall, Whittall and Yates, L/Corpl McKinnon, Signalmen Turner, Booth S., Chambers W. G., Morby, Thorogood, Fresle, and Churcher on April 4th.

For leave in U.K. for six months—C.S.M. Fletcher, M.M., C.Q.M.S. Freeland, Corpls Lapworth, Farlow and Campbell, from April 4th.

To 1st Indian Divl Signals, Rawalpindi—Sergt Goodwin and family on April 15th.

Examinations.—Capt C. E. J. Reynolds, I.S.C. (S.L.) passed his C.i. examination for promotion to Major on April 2/3rd.

Seen on the Company notice board: "*All* holes in mosquito nets will be sewn up."

Agony.—Will Betty Blythe, of Catterick or Aldershot, please write to Quetta?—George. Will Corpl Tostevin, last heard of at Cork, please write to Sigmn Hoile at Quetta? Sigmn Thompson would like to hear from Sigmn Titt, last heard of in Jubbulpore.

H. C. S.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

Very little of note has occurred this month.

Since the last notes were forwarded the unit band has been lucky enough to secure a second pianist in place of Sigmn Gearing, who is still in hospital. The band is now going full swing, and is so much appreciated here that a contract to play at the Depot sergeants' mess for the whole of the season has been secured.

Congratulations to Sergt Donaghy and Corpls Champion and Garside on their promotion.

Arrivals.—From the U.K., Corporals Crummey, Coppack and Strickland, Signalmen Field, Gray, Gosling, Fisher, Trevenna and Pratt.

Birth.—To the wife of Sergt Fawl, a daughter, at Meerut.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

May 10th.

General.—At long last the summer which everybody has looked for has come, and now in this dear little station the flowers are blossoming and the birds are singing; and it reminds one of the terrible heatwaves that used to happen in that far-off English clime.

Still, for all that it does not stop the run of work. The riding school is still in full swing. Technical training also takes a big place in our programme, and many young aspirants have passed for higher ratings.

There is a good story around the camp. The famous Wireless Section (we call it famous, because there are some well-known stars in it) went out across country to fully test the loads of the pack-horses, and the experiment was a great success. Even old Charlie was glad to get a pack on his back, for it always means something extra for him. I believe that B Cavalry Troop trained him on Horlick's (is this true?) It is also rumoured that a certain lance-corporal (when he gets the money that a "far" relation is leaving him) is going to buy him for polo. A gallant horse for the bending race, Fred!

The Roughs are now under the tuition of Corpl Punter, who has recently returned from Saugor after six months of hard riding; and our famous medical orderly can be seen every morning leaving the riding school by the cheapest and most direct route to fetch the sarsaparilla.

Arrivals.—L/Corpls Fuller and Millen, Signalmen Stocks, Fell, Gee and Felton, all from A Company, Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore. All ranks wish them a happy stay.

Departures.—Sigmn West H. to Ambala on a vocational course of Post and Telegraph. Best of luck, Harry!

Promotion.—L/Corpl Gow S. promoted corporal on the Royal Signals roster, March 2nd.

Congratulations to the under-mentioned on going one higher: Signalmen Biggs H., Day W. N., Webb W., and Turner T., all to class iii. One higher next time, lads!

Courses.—Ten of the Troop have left for six months technical training up in the hills (Upper Topa), and will no doubt return with heads full of knowledge. Best luck to them all!

Agony.—To Posse Brudenal, somewhere in Irak. Dingleberry Day wants to know if you still wear a fez and are still caretaker in the mosque?

To Corpl Shreeves L., Pindi-way. Could you spare a letter to an old friend?—Corpl Gow S.

More Agony.—So "Owdam Lad" has at last got to the point of taking a C set to pieces. Can you make a short-wave set of the pieces that are left?

Wog.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

General.—Very little of importance has occurred during the past few weeks; in fact, the general impression is that nothing ever does happen here. The look of commiseration bestowed on us by C Troop as they departed hence did much to dispel our hopes of a hectic time here. According to this month's WIRE, A Troop have not yet discovered the manifold virtues of Sialkot—of course, if they would like to change places, we would be pleased to accommodate them.

One of the local celebrities confided to me that if he does not catch the boat in "Oct" he will go mad. On my venturing the pertinent suggestion that there was no need for him to worry, as he could not get any worse, he recounted a truly pitiful tale of long years spent on the Frontier and in all the worst stations in India. He then proceeded to be personal—a very sad case!

The party for courses at Upper Topa left recently. They will probably spend a more pleasant summer than the remaining members of the Circular Motion Club.

Signals Association.—Exactly 100 per cent. of the unit now belong to the Association—a record that can be equalled but not beaten. Judging by the meeting held to-day the Branch is heart and soul in the "Brighter Risalpur" movement. The scheduled programme of picnics, dances, etc., is decidedly attractive.

Congratulations.—To Corporals Haisell and Mitson on their appointment to that rank in the Royal Signals; and to U/L/Cpl Rhodes on getting another grip on the baton.

The Mealtime Friend of Millions

HP

The Sauce of Healthy Appetite

Many a meal requires just the finishing touch of H.P. Sauce. Its unique, delicious flavour spurs the appetite—aids the enjoyment and digestion of the simplest fare.

All your Canteens sell H.P.

Also to the 1st Indian Divl Signals on winning the Scissors musketry cup. To be perfectly candid we had looked on it as ours, for our figure of merit of 91.54 appeared to want some beating. However, they did it by the narrow margin of 0.46—theirs being 92. We console ourselves with the thought that we haven't a 3rd class shot in the unit—they are all 1sts and 2nds.

Arrivals.—In our last notes we omitted to mention the arrival of Sergt Cutler from S.T.C. (India). We hasten to assure him that the omission does not mean that we do not wish him a hearty welcome.

L/Corpl Neale has returned from Saugor.

By the Way.—The Dandelion and Loudspeaker have intimated that any "cold ones" will be followed by forcible reprisals. Might I point out to them the notice on the door of my citadel and beg them to conform with same?

Information.—It is definitely announced that, despite the effective lighting arrangements recently installed, the W/T stores will *not* be used for dances. Furthermore, applications for tickets during the afternoon siesta will be met with effective measures.

Artoc.

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

General.—Before long summer will be with us again—at least, we are expecting it, as the readings at present are about 110 in the shade; and with the advent of summer the poor beds in the Section do overtime. Last week one signalman did fifty-one "flying hours" over and above his usual nights' sleep. Well done, Mac!

The linemen are busy at present on some reconstructional work, and the S.B.O.'s when not on duty are putting in some good work on the garden.

Promotions.—The Section extend heartiest congratulations to L/Corpl Ashford W. on now being paid for his trouble; and to L/Corpls Fisher, Reeves and Frampton on being promoted to Corporals. Everyone also wishes all the best to ex-L/Corporal Brudenell F. (late of this Section) on his promotion to Corporal.

Well done, Pozzie! How's the footwork and the fiddle? And say, we can't get the boat for Ctesiphon this year, because they won't let us pass Khadhimein. What's to do?

Departures.—Though rather late, we wish the best of luck to three of our Section who left for Blighty last month: Corporal Sorrell A., L/Corpl Brudenell F., and Sigmn Earnshaw L.

Entertainments.—Owing to the small number of the Section, and our being the only military unit in the Cantonment, we find it rather difficult to run anything in the entertainment line. However, at the beginning of the month we staged a variety show; and thanks to the efforts of a few of the Section, the whole show turned out a success.

The artistes were of the best in the Cantonment and we had some very good selections by the M.T. Pool dance band.

As a result of this we have now two new tradesmen in the Section—Stage-Hand (class x, group xii.) Sigmn Allsop E. and Electrician-Stage (class y, group vii.) Sigmn Gafga H.

Agony Column.—Sigmn Morgan A. (now almost naturalised) would like to hear from Sigmn Munn A., last heard of at No. 2 Company, 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.

Congratulations to Corpls Stickley and Chadney, from one in this Section (late of Catterick).

Also the very best wishes to the S.T.C. fencing team, from one who is interested.

Sergt Froggy French conveys his congratulations to Sergt Minnion (late of this Section).

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, June 9th.

General.—With the advent of summer, technical work has eased off except for an operator signals (class ii.) course, in which the last of the old wirelessops are gasping their last breath as such and will (probably) emerge as full-blown opsigs. Though I have heard the visual instructor remark that what the class knows about flags and a half akker would purchase a tea at the N.A.A.F.I., everyone has to learn, and we'll beat you at it yet, Lofty.

Work on the sports ground is proceeding rapidly, and many old friends of the Company now in happier climes may be surprised to learn that we may yet have it completed this year, although a scheme for slightly increasing its size is proposed which may delay the finish for a few months. Anyway, we'll beat the "Pimple of Bulford" yet.

As it seems to be the usual thing in England to discuss the weather, perhaps I may be forgiven for touching on the Egyptian climate. The summer so far has been remarkably cool, and it quite surprises many new members to hear the remark that it is too cold to go swimming. Never mind, Ginger; your turn will come when the next draft arrives.

We can tell that September is drawing near. The latest rumour is "That boat on the 15th," but if Drake would be kind enough to draw the September boat for us, then we could have one each. But put it going *west*, won't you, Drake?

Why does one of our n.c.o.s always want to know what is inside a pane of glass? He went to Maadi determined to inspect the inside of a glass case, and did so at the expense of the case. Yesterday he went to the Cairo Museum, and under the pretence of inspecting a mummy he went through to the other side of the glass by the shortest possible route, to the dismay of the Museum officials. No, lads! it wasn't the lance-corporal at present in the officers' mess, although I know he is capable of such a thing. Never mind, Chief!

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on their promotion: L/Sergts Collins, Burns and Udell, Corpls Butler and Ward. Well done! F. H. D.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, June 5th.

On Trek.—Corpls Collins H., Field H., and Dibsdale A., left us on May 12th, on posting to No. 1 Company. We trust they were not fatigued after their long journey.

Money Gatherers, in the persons of L/Corpls Hewson A. E., Cousins B., Osborne T., and Beach C., have received their long overdue akkas for services rendered as some of the great unpaid.

Yes, I'll risk another nine—and, with a flourish of the pen, Sergt Kemlo J. W. signed on to complete twenty-one years, on March 13th.

With this Ring, etc.—Sigmn Drain R. W. forsook the solitude of bachelordom on May 7th, when he took unto himself a wife —Helene Constantinidis—at the British Consulate, Cairo.

Edification.—Signalmen Wright F. B. E. C. and Beeton A. H. passed at the March examination for 1st class education certificates. Sergt White F. R. took one subject only (mathematics) and passed.

Society News.—Sigmn Harmsworth P. C. is spending the summer vacation as a postman at the Married Families Change-of-Air Camp at Sidi Bishr, Alexandria. And he doesn't believe in jam!

Well Done, Jack!—With a beatific smile L/Sergt Huxtable J. welcomed the arrival of a son and heir (John Thomas) on May 28th.

More Batons.—Signalmen Adams R. and Jones H. were awarded one each on May 20th, and are now taking things quietly until the akkas come along.

What our History Bocks never told us.—I mustn't divulge who wrote this, where I saw it, and at what examination, but it's certainly enlightening. "Lord Nelson was leven years old when his uncel says to his farther he shold be a cabbin boy so he whent on a ship to Trafarger were he got hit in the bake by a canon ball so he said kiss me Hardy."

Can you credit it?—The n.c.o. i/c cookhouse recently requested one of our brilliant mess orderlies to burn some sugar for the preparation of the gravy for dinner. The brilliant one takes the full bag, lifts up the cover over the oven fire, and empties the sugar therein. It certainly got burnt alright!

A Reminder to Corpl Harry Berry, believed to be cooling himself in a Bulford breeze. What about it?—Ted.

Gasps, Groans and Gurgles are being given daily by Signalmen Chambers E. W. and Lewis W. in the hope that epistles *will* eventually arrive from Signalmen Pope (Newcastle Signal Section) and Georgie Newbery and Coles L., believed to be in the neighbourhood of a famous "pimple."

Congratulations from Blanco to L/Corpl Don Ellison on getting to the wonderful land at last! Tell us all about it, Don!

Something you don't know.—The following were heard on the courses:—

(1) Question: "How would you construct a dry cell?" Answer: "Get a copper rod and a zinc box, put in some manganese, and pour water on it."

(2) Question: "What is wavelength in w/t, and what is meant by velocity and frequency?" Answer: "If you stand by the seaside and count the number of waves, this gives you the wave-length" (it gave the instructor something else!)

Stop Press (by wireless).—To Dixie Cole, India aaa. Memories of Crowborough in April 1922 want refreshening aaa. What about it?—Harry Mains.

ART.

Corporals' Mess.

Abbassia, Cairo, June 9th.

The absence of notes from the corporals' mess of late has not been due to any lack of news from that honourable fraternity, but rather to the difficulty of finding a worthy recorder. It certainly is hard to find a man imbued with the necessary qualities: the fearlessness of a mosquito combined with the integrity of a pawnbroker, surmounted by the truthfulness of an orderly sergeant. The latter got me the job, by the way—truthfulness, I mean, not the orderly sergeant. The mess could undoubtedly find a more talented scribe, but a more truthful one, never! Is not "Benjy never lies" the local equivalent of "Dougie never owes"?

On May 27th the mess held its annual outing to the Barrage (no, it's a *place*), and a really fine time was spent by everyone. No praise could be too high for Corporal Corbett and the wonderful way in which he managed the catering side of the affair. A miniature Trocadero was set up under the shade of a convenient palm, and there Lofty, assisted by his faithful man Friday—I mean Inky (only a bit more respectably attired, of course)—ministered to the needs of the suffering. How we suffered! Between trips to and from the palm, we all enjoyed

ourselves in our various ways. Some rode donkeys, others tried to and didn't, others tempted Providence and the camera-man. But however we spent the day, everyone is agreed that it was well done.

We wound up the outing by supper and a hastily-arranged concert in the mess. The old chestnuts again made their appearance, leaving no doubt that we are sadly in need of some new talent. (Officer i/c Records and Charles B. Cochran, please note.)

BENJE.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, April.

South China Command Rifle Meeting.—A team from the R.E. and Royal Signals entered for the tile event at the Command prize meeting. The order was to advance at the double from the 300 yards firing point to the 200 yards, and knock over as many of sixteen plates as possible in ninety seconds with ten rounds of ammunition per man. The team was drawn against H.Q. Wing Scots Guards (the crack team of the Command), who ultimately won the final.

When the whistle was blown for "cease fire" and the check was given, it was found that the Guards had knocked down sixteen plates and the R.E.–Royal Signals fifteen. Hard lines! and unfortunately no prizes were given for "hard lines."

Wireless.—We are delighted to hear that the Malaya Signal Section has been experimenting with short-wave, and we hope that we shall soon hear them "on the air."

The inclusion of Singapore in the military short-wave W/T stations will complete the Far East link.

St. George's Day.—The Society of St. George (Hong Kong) made the 23rd April a day that will be long remembered by the Forces in Hong Kong. At 5.30 p.m. the band and drums of the Queen's Royal Regiment, mustering nearly a hundred, paraded on the Hong Kong cricket ground to play "Retreat." Long before the commencement the grand stand and grounds were well filled, and the arrival of His Excellency the Governor and the G.O.C. was the signal to start the programme. About ten items were rendered, and the appreciation of the large crowd of civilians was shown by loud clapping, also when the band marched past the grand stand playing the "Queen's" regimental march.

Later in the evening the Society of St. George were "at home" to the Services at the Queen's Theatre. A very fitting programme was given from 9.30 p.m. to midnight, during which "The Battles of Coronel and Falkland Islands" and some other patriotic pictures were shown. It was generally felt by all that it had been a long time since the troops in Hong Kong had spent such a pleasant evening.

English as she is wrote.—Some of the shop signs in Hong Kong are very amusing, for the English is not all that it should be.

On a milliner's shop window is the sign, "Orders promptly excused." Over a furrier's window is the sign, "Fur coats made to order—your skins or ours." At another milliner's shop is the notice, "Ladies can have fits upstairs;" and in a candy shop we read "Try our candy—each bit tried with tender care." Over a travelling agency's office: "Leave your baggage with us —we send it in every direction."

Over a dressmaker's shop: "Clothing of a woman tailor. Ladies furnished in the upper storey." In a tramcar: "All *parsons* who are lunatics, intoxicated, or infected are not allowed in here."

"A Night of Horror" in England.—On the notice board of a well-known chapel in Surrey it was announced that "On Saturday night, at 8 p.m., the annual potato pie supper will be held. The subject of the sermon will be 'A night of horror.'"

On a newly-decorated restaurant the alluring notice appeared: "To photographers and cyclists. Try our 1/6 luncheon. Dark room provided for developments."

Agony.—To C.Q.M.S. Seymour, of 3rd Divl Signals: Give your clerk a dig in the ribs and ask him to drop A.D. here a few lines.

Sergt Billy Bent returns compliments to C.S.M. Revell and Sergt Vic. Cooper.

DAISY.

Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, Bermuda, June 1st.

General.—Our new arrivals have now settled down and work is proceeding smoothly. We are at present suffering from an alleged summer in which south winds play an important part.

The Blow Falls.—Some of our members due home this trooping season are now victims to acute dejection. The extra twelve months bogey has paid us a visit; hence this warping of the soul. (Go on, Mitch; grin!)

Congratulations.—To L/Sergeant Gale C. W.—firstly on the birth of a daughter, and secondly on his appointment as lance-sergeant.

Relaxation.—The S.B.O.s of H.Q. Exchange are each to have a fortnight's holiday. One has already been to Boaz for a change of air and a taste of McEwan's. One is at present at St. George's and is mentioned in their notes.

News from St. George's.

This is our first venture in print. The WIRE correspondent after months of struggling to get news from us, gave it up as a bad job; so here is a surprise for him. (It was!—The P.J.)

We are only four in number: Corpl Chikko Leath, Signalmen Gilkes, Sands and Walsh.

Work.—We have recently completed the laying of two lengths of buried cable, each 300 yards long, across Paget Island. This has greatly improved our service to the outlying forts.

A Visitor.—Sigmn Dusty Rhodes is at present with us, enjoying his holiday. Some say it is not a holiday at all, but a preliminary course of vocational training as *farmer* and fisherman.

This Month's Agonies.—Will Taffy Crowther, of the Rhine Signals, please communicate with Sigmn Walsh of this unit?

To our quarter-bloke that used to be, and you too, Mitchell, dear! A tale I have to tell thee. We have "clicked" that extra year!

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

After two or three months we are again making ourselves known. We must apologise to our numerous friends in other units for our somewhat spasmodic appearance (due always to pressure of work). We hope in future to keep up to scratch.

Departures.—Our very best wishes went with the undermentioned, who left us on April 4th: Corpl Hitchin E. H., Signalmen Poulton G. L., Fletcher W. M., and Lee T. V.

We have since heard that Sigmn Lee has obtained employment with the G.P.O., and we all wish him luck in this new sphere. We would like further news regarding Sigmn Fletcher. We are not sure whether he is in the cinema industry or assisting in the building of the Irish Houses of Parliament. Does anybody in A Corps know?

Promotions.—Heartiest congratulations are extended to the following: L/Corpl Panting to be Corporal. U/L/Corpl Parry to paid rank. Sigmn Lowings C. H. to be U/L/Corporal.

Birth.—Congratulations are extended to Sigmn and Mrs. J. W. Wood on the birth of a son (Albert Frederick) on April 23rd.

Education.—No. 1850086 Sigmn Hicks F. H. obtained a 2nd class certificate of education on April 18th.

Leave.—Sigmn Ted Collins is leaving us on the 21st inst. for three months' sojourn in the U.K. We trust the change will be beneficial to him.

Canteen, A Corps.—You remember that George? Certainly I do, Joe: I was there myself.

S.O.S.—We are hoping that in the forthcoming trooping season the units who send men to this Section will include some footballers. Up to the present we have more than held our own with the remainder of the Garrison on the football field, but with the expected departure of two or three of our star men next trooping season, we will not find it even possible to field an eleven. So drafting units at home, please be kind to us!

Cricket.—We have already commenced the cricket season with a narrow loss and a fine victory. We have unearthed two new bowlers and one or two "stone-wallers," and are looking forward to a brighter season than we have ever had. We are drawn in the first round of the inter-Company cup against the Staff and Departments, and the result will be published in due course.

CALPE.

THE "TERRIERS"

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Burlington Street, Manchester, June 16th.

Now for it! This was the thought in most minds when the train bearing the unit drew into Lancaster station on May 27th. Everything had gone so well at Manchester, finishing with our new band (under Mr. Grundy) playing us to the station in great style, that everyone was almost looking for something to happen! Well, it *did* happen—the horses, with a romantic touch in their nature, trying to perform many strange acts. Great were the struggles and scrambles before all the waggons were in camp.

Within a few days there was a fire call at about 1 a.m. It is rumoured that one sergeant considerably hastened the turnout by going to several tents and crying out, "Quick, or you will be burnt to death!" (The fact that the fire was very small and one or two miles away is beside the point.) We hear that this same sergeant is an ardent student of flowers.

The unit sports were very successful and well backed up. At tilting-the-bucket many got an unexpected bath.

At the Division mounted sports the unit was also very successful. Sergt Thomas won the V.C. race and was second in the Class A jumping; Sergt Harper won the Class B jumping; and the Signals team (Drivers Wood, Johnson and Curtis, and Sigmn Dobbs) well and truly beat all their rivals at mounted wrestling.

No camp is complete unless it gets washed out one way or another. Over ours a young cloud burst on the last Wednesday, and though most of the tents kept the water out from above, the moisture attacked us in the rear (so to speak) and came in underneath. All the same, with a few exceptions most places were dry by bedtime: for which we were very thankful.

It has been decided that our musketry instructors must go into greater detail when training recruits in future. It may be rather interesting to ram a pull-through into an oil bottle, but it is not really necessary; and much labour will be saved if all recruits get to understand this early in their training.

With great efficiency the Wireless Section erected the 40 ft. wireless masts, but with much greater rapidity was one of them brought down. The method is this: Place two very troublesome horses in half a limber, get them going as best as you can, and when they become unmanageable train them on one of the sets of guy ropes. Then, if the mast in falling does not kill them outright, it will only be through a kind Providence. This kind Providence certainly had a hand in affairs when Corpl Whitting charged the mast on a sunny afternoon. And talking of driving, who was the driver who stopped a bolting horse by running him up to a blank station wall? We must certainly compliment him on this very sound method of stopping the animal.

Really, taken all round, a most successful camp; and our only regret is that we have to wait twelve months for the next.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

The week-end camps of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, held at Whitsuntide, were this time favoured with ideal weather conditions, and were as usual very successful in all respects.

No. 1 Company pitched their tents near Dawlish, and No. 3 near Teignmouth. The encampments were only about five miles apart—just a nice easy "calling" distance. An interesting programme of work was carried out.

On the Sunday the C.O. presided at Trade Boards, and those who were put "through the mill" will, except in one or two cases, receive the higher rating they desired. It was pleasing to find such a goodly number of "triers." Lt's hope more will train for higher pay next year. The Board never tires of doing its good work.

Annual training this year takes place at Weymouth from July 29th to August 12th. This year the 43rd (Wessex) Division are concentrating in the Weymouth area, and for the first time since the war we are to have a Divisional camp—an experience we shall probably like in many ways.

Sports day will take place on Bank Holiday, and we shall hope then to welcome a large number of friends.

Capt C. A. Murray, our first adjutant, has recently paid us a visit whilst on leave from India, and he was pleased to find so many of the "old 'uns" still going strong. He left us four years ago after his tour of duty, and in four years a Territorial unit see many changes of faces. Everyone he knew was delighted to see him again, and we hope he will keep his promise to pay us a visit during camp.

Congratulations to R.S.M. and Mrs. West on the arrival of a daughter. We had hoped to offer a similar greeting to Sergt.-Instr. P. Standley, but sad to say his little son (Peter) has passed away. We extend our sympathy to him in his trouble, with the hope that Mrs. Standley will soon be convalescent. Young Miss West is doing well, and the R.S.M. is a very proud man! He has promised his friends to return to billiards.

Friends of C.S.M. Agombar (No. 1 Company's former instructor) will be glad to learn that he is being employed at the Exeter P.O. as a season telegraphist. OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Drill Hall, Stamford Brook, W.6

Prologue.—I am not making any excuses for the absence of notes during the last two months, but hasten to assure readers that I have heaped large quantities of ashes upon my head and have a pair of sackcloth pantaloons in the making. To "B.B." I offer my very grateful thanks for his notes in the last issue.

Training.—The fact that we shall all be engaged in annual training in a few weeks perhaps accounts for the amount of activity to be seen most evenings. The cable wagons have been dug out of their sheds and are now receiving many applications of emery cloth and "Bluebell." Passing to the back garden one becomes painfully aware of a breeze caused by our embryo flag-bashers who, by the look of things, are working up for speed. The theoretical side of training is being well catered for by lectures on procedure, general electricity and W/T.

Whitsun Camp.—Nos. 1 and 3 Companies spent Whitsun at Iver, Bucks, where visual, w/t and cable communications were carried out. The clerk of the weather was kind, so that everybody returned feeling very fit and no doubt much wiser. Lieut Gilbert is to be congratulated on preparing such schemes as gave most instruction. THE TYPEWRITER BASHER.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby, June 14th.

Apologies for slackness. We will try to be punctual in future.

The whole unit spent a happy and educative week-end at Whitsuntide. Trent was the venue selected, and as the clerk of the weather was in his most gracious mood everyone was happy. This was the first camp attended by our new P.S.I., Sergt Bareham, and despite the large amount of work he got through, we are sure he enjoyed himself. (And we did *not* go to the ex-Service Men's Club, Erny.)

This month seems to be all camps. Each Company is holding a week-end camp in its own immediate vicinity: No. 1 at Chaddesden, No. 2 at Ashgate, and No. 3 at Wollaton. All are lovely spots, given fine weather, and the camps are looked forward to by all ranks.

By the time these are over our annual camp at Catterick will be on us. Here we shall be among the real live mark 1x soldiers. However, more of this later, after we have been and the war is all over. Everyone is looking forward to being close to our parents, both for social and instructional intercourse.

The following officers of the unit had the honour of attending His Majesty's levee on June 1st: Lieut.-Colonel L. J. Worthington, T.D., commanding officer; Major D. P. Forman, T.D.; Captain and Adjutant J. C. Bray, O.B.E.; Captain N. G. Baguley; Captain G. J. Underwood; Capt S. Smith; Lieut A. H. Billingham; 2/Lieut E. G. Chapman; 2/Lieut H. Richardson. All were presented to His Majesty by Lieut.-Colonel L. J. Worthington.

Heartiest congratulations to our commanding officer and Mrs. Worthington on the birth of another son on May 1st.

MERRIMUR.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

General.—I am sure the whole unit will unite in offering their heartiest congratulations to the commanding officer (Lieut.-Col. F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., D.L.) on his recent appointment as Deputy-Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen. We are all of opinion, sir, that the Lord Provost in his choice has at last recognised his worthy lieutenants. Lang may yuir lum reek!

When these notes appear in print camp will be close at hand; so gird on your knapsacks, my lads, and haud sooth for your holiday.

Trade Testing Boards are now things of the past. To all who passed, here's elbow exercise. To those who failed to reach the required standard, remember "it's dogged that does it," and keep on trying. Perhaps, who knows, one of these days your faces will become so familiar to the Trade Board that they might reward your efforts, if it's only for being consistent.

Training of Companies is in full swing, and from observations taken from unknown places and distances, efficiency will be the outstanding *hit* of the season—as the Observation Officer said when hit by a coalbox.

Congratulations.—We all join in congratulations to our esteemed Medical Officer (Capt D. P. Levack) on his promotion to that rank.

List of Changes: R.A.M.C. 9.—Pills laxative No. 9 mk. 2 star should now read mk. 3 star.

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

General.—Smiles now suffuse the faces of P.S. Instructors, Trade Boards being things of the past. To those who were successful, congrats. To one or two who just failed to reach the required standard we pass the oft-quoted proverb, "If at first you don't succeed, suck eggs." As there are rumours of another Trade Board being held in camp, keep your hand in, lads, and Winston will have to cough up yet.

Musketry.—Our recruits can now tell as big a tale of possibles won and lost as our old soldiers. The story of how a 4 in. group was missed has to be received in stony silence. The standard of efficiency has been maintained as of yore.

Section Training.—Attendances at Section training are well up to the mark, and all ranks are looking forward to the annual outing on Saturday, June 30th. (There is no truth in the rumour that the Farrier has been fasting for a week in anticipation.)

No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

No news has been received from No. 2 Company at Stirling, but this is not regarded as being in any way serious. It is understood they have provisions for a month and can stay in the air until the 14th July, when they will expect to be in the vicinity of Barry. Dogs are being sent out, but in this respect great difficulty has been experienced in getting dogs, as the last lot were eaten, and some difficulty was found in explaining the situation to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—Reuter.

No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

Training.—Individual training having been completed, we are now engaged on Section training which will keep us busy until annual camp.

The usual yearly Trade Testing Board has now been completed, with every satisfaction to the officers conducting the Board and the individuals presenting themselves for test.

The Company, in its sixth year of formation, may be classified this year as having 63 per cent. trained men and 37 per cent. new recruits. Of the trained men 32 per cent. are now holding trade ratings; this is a very fair average when one considers that this is a mining district. In addition to the n.c.o.s and men who either passed for higher or new ratings on the recent Trade Board, six n.c.o.s passed the promotion examination in accordance with para. 326a T.A. Regs. and will now be qualified for further promotion to the rank of sergeant as vacancies arise.

Greetings.—We are pleased to hear that the band of the Royal Corps of Signals have been engaged to play in the "Glen" at Dunfermline from 25th to 30th June, when No. 3 Company will have the pleasure of hearing them.

Congratulations.—The Company offer their usual congratulations to the following n.c.o.s on their added responsibility: Sergts Mackay, Scott and Ferguson, and Corpl Hutchison.

Sympathy.—The news of the death of ex-Corpl Scott J. S., M.M., who sailed for Canada last year, has been received by all officers and other ranks with great regret. Poor Jock contracted pneumonia as a result of having dived into a river to save a child from drowning. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow and family. THREESOME.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

Training is now in full swing, and everyone is getting ready for annual training, which takes place this year from July 13th to 27th at Troon. Of course, what all are looking forward to is a cheap holiday.

On June 13th, a Trade Board assembled at headquarters for the purpose of classifying several for Group E and Signals Asst. I notice now that there were one or two for higher ratings, but very few. Several of these are last year's recruits. I don't see many of the so-called old sweats coming forward for higher ratings this year. It shows who are taking the most interest in the unit. All those who were up have attended classes last year and this also, and have increased the efficiency of the unit. Now, old sweats, what about it next year? Try to beat the recruits!

Who was the Aberdonian who could not get his wireless set going? He put some coppers in a cup and rattled them, and to his surprise a voice was heard from the loud speaker: "Aberdeen calling!" LOWSIGS.

Supplementary Reserve Units, Glasgow.

General.—I must apologise for the absence of notes in the June WIRE. This was owing to the unit's chief scribe being rather busy (don't blush, Bob).

The Lowland Divl Signals were represented by the officers and 100 other ranks (under our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Muirhead, D.S.O., M.C., T.D.) at the Divisional church parade. The turn-out was smart, and those who attended did credit to the unit; and by what I hear from friends amongst the spectators, we were the smartest on parade (keep it up, Signals). A larger turn-out would have shown the strength of the units to greater advantage, for what is a hundred out of about six?

Things are astir at Jardine Street owing to the approach of camp, and our quarter-bloke can be seen scratching his head and wondering what he did with so-and-so after last year's camp. But you know what Q.M.S are, and he will be there with tons of stores for us to load and unload at the word "fix."

Drills.—Drills have been in full swing since April and attendances have been fairly good. One hour each drill night is allotted to arms and foot drill, and the second hour to technical lectures and harness cleaning.

Sections.—The Cable Sections are spring cleaning and overhauling wagons and stores, and the cable drums once again have begun to revolve; so Troon will be well decorated with green and yellow cable.

The Airline Sections, whose personnel are chiefly Post Office men at out-stations, have a cadre of men at work re-making joints and rewinding the 40 lb. copper ready for those routes that will shoot up on the first day in camp.

The Air Force Signal Sections are to be found in the signal office preparing themselves for the traffic they expect at camp, and the operators are to be found snowed up with message forms and tape from the Wheatstone any drill night.

The Dirt Track Riders (D.R.s) arrive at headquarters with all breeds of machines, and between them and the pipe band we have discovered the cause of the weird noises heard on the Kelvinside.

Camp.—Where, oh where is the sun? Do have some pity on this tribe of flag-bashers and juice wasters during the month of July, for we have had some of Wallacefield when that Scotch mist rolls down the hillside. Preparations are well ahead, and soon after these notes appear we shall be settled down once again in the old spot at Troon ("Rabbie Burns' country"; get me, Jock Houston) for fifteen days' training. I hope to collect a few notes and photographs of the S.R. at work and play.

Sports.—The unit cross-country team did well in the Divisional cross-country championship. Though not actual winners, they brought back the only cup put up for the race, which goes to the first Glasgow team home. Our lads were beaten by short odds, and this was good going, as the team had not run together since last year's race. This is the third time the unit has won

this cup (well done, boys). Now, what about a few more pots to put with that fine collection in the officers' mess? I am sure, with the right encouragement and with the athletes in our midst belonging to such clubs as Maryhill, Shettleton, Tramways and Edinburgh Harriers, we should make things hum in the sports line.

Miniature Rifle League.—This comprises six teams of eight: one team each from the officers' mess, P.S., and sergeants' mess, and three from the men's club. Competition runs strong for first place. The men's teams are not holding together very well, but the shooting on the whole is of a high standard. To date the officers have won three shoots out of four, and the P.S. have won all four they have fired. The sergeants, sad to state, have found the wrong bottles (sorry, rifles) and have not a win to their credit. No. 3 men's team are in the same crate. No. 1 team have won one shoot and No. 2 team three. The league finishes at the end of June, so I will be able to give placings and scores, and names of the winning teams and their scores, next month.

Congratulations.—To C.S.M. Peat W. on being allowed to extend again for one year beyond his pontoon, and to Sergeant Dickinson G. on being given permission to remain another year on the staff.

Old Times.—Sergt Cooper V. wishes to be remembered to Sergt Sandy Adcock and Sergt Chick (the green ink fiend), now sunning themselves on Salisbury Plain. What about a look-in at the Corner House, Koln, or a game of poky die?

C.S.M. Haggart J. M., of the Supplementary Reserve, wishes to be remembered to C.S.M. Payne, Catterick. SUPRE.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff.

Again we have to commence with an apology. We missed last month's notes, but the excuse is a good one, for work—lots of it, and all at once—completely demoralised our scribe and he did not recover in time for the notes to go in.

The much-discussed mechanisation is now an accomplished fact, War Office authority having been received for an experimental mechanisation of the whole unit. The camp this year will not see large numbers of "hairies" disporting themselves in the men's lines, the officers' mess, and in all the places where they should *not* be, or steeple-chasing over the horse troughs with wagon attached. Not a single draught horse is to go to camp. Apart from officers' chargers, only ten or twelve riding horses and three packs will be on the lines.

In their place we are having various motor vehicles, 30-cwt. lorries being in the majority. The experiment will be of great interest to all the unit personnel and also to many outside. Our camp will no doubt have many official visitors. As we hear rumours of a scheme lasting three days and two nights, and that the formation staffs are going to participate, the mechanisation will have a good trial. Everyone is keen to make it a success; it's just got to be.

Congratulations to our adjutant, Captain L. C. Bell, M.C., on qualifying for promotion to Major. May the promotion come soon!

Capt T. J. Gollop recently spent a fortnight with the 3rd Divl Signals, and we have eight n.c.o.s on an attachment there.

Corpl Lehane has returned from Aldershot, where he passed the examination held at the conclusion of his course in water duties at the School of Hygiene. L/Corpl Moore was similarly successful at a fourteen-day course for sergeant-cooks at the Cookery School.

Capt R. E. Evans, M.B.E., has been honoured by the award of the T.D. Congratulations, sir.

Congratulations to the three teams who competed in the Victory Shield competition on Whit-Sunday. Fifth, seventh and eighth positions out of fourteen teams is pretty good for a technical unit, with no open range available, competing against infantry. Congratulations especially to No. 1 Company, who by virtue of holding the best position of the three teams secured the unit shooting shield.

We welcome 2/Lieuts A. P. Allan and A. W. Bartholomew on their appointment, and hope they will have long and happy associations with the unit.

On June 12th, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales visited Cardiff to unveil the National War Memorial. Representative detachments from local units attended the ceremony, whilst other detachments lined the route. The Divl Signals detachment at the Memorial was commanded by Capt Trice, and the unit's quota towards the street lining (42 men) was commanded by Capt F. T. Arnold. THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

I commence with an apology for the lack of unit notes in the last two issues.

During the spell of silence, the unit has done two week-end signal exercises. The first, held at Upminster on May 12th/13th, was carried out very satisfactorily, and all Sections did their best. We were able to give our latest recruits, the C sets, a good trial.

The second week-end was at Whitsun, when the unit went to Danbury Park, near Chelmsford, and there (with the aid of the 4th Divl Signals, horses and lorries) we were detailed to do a signal communication scheme for the General Commanding the 54th Division. Everything was good, even the weather, and the conditions under which the unit worked were parallel to active service. The scheme finished at noon on Whit Monday, and the unit entrained at Cold Norton, a nice rural station which holds some mystic spell over railway trucks, two of which became derailed (these had the cable wagons on).

We bade farewell to the 4th Divisional Signals party, who entrained next day for Colchester. We would very much like to commandeer their six-wheelers for annual training.

Territorial Sunday church parade was held on the Square. All units in the area attended. Music was rendered by the 6th Essex, who played various marches for the units on marching past the saluting base. As this unit went past, we had the honour of marching to "Wings," the Mother Corps march.

Annual training will take place at Seaford from 15th to 29th July, and we hope to be at full strength. It is rumoured that golf equipment has been indented for.

We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Best and Mr. Gentry, who have joined us and taken up the reins as section officers in No. 2 Company. YED.

55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Mason Street, Liverpool.

It is quite time that we came out of our hibernation and let everyone know that the 55th (W.L.) Divl Signals still exist.

The new year has brought many changes. Colonel Tennant, D.S.O., T.D. (our late commanding officer) retired in March, and Major A. M. Webster, M.C., took over command of the unit. Capt Gowland, our adjutant, decided that London held greater charms and so handed over his duties in January to Captain Rooker, who came direct from the 3rd Divl Signals at Bulford.

Winter classes have finished, and the next important item is a week-end camp to be held on 2/3rd June at Knowsley Park, by the kind permission of Lord Derby.

Various n.c.o.s and men have been on courses this year, gaining useful knowledge in signalling, animal management, cookery, sanitation, drill, tactics and musketry—all obtaining good reports and upholding the good name of this unit. Special congratulations go to Sergt Vernon, who obtained 70 per cent. in the final examination at the animal management course at Woolwich.

Officers' promotion examinations are looming up nearly every day, and all those hoping to outwit the examiners have taken advantage of the very useful officers' tactical week-end courses being held at the Divisional School at Altcar.

In conjunction with everyone else we are being partly mechanised this year, and it is surprising the number of people who have suddenly discovered that their natural bent lies in motor engineering.

As most of the musketry takes place on the miniature range this year, the demand for artificial ear drums will be greatly reduced.

A slight wave of consternation swept over the officers' ride a week or two ago when, on arriving at the riding school, it was found that a complete new lot of horses were waiting for the use of the class—some of them very young (the horses, I mean) and only their second appearance in a riding school. However, everything went off alright, and also some of the class; and now both riders and horses are quite "pally." It was observed that though the adjutant expressed surprise on seeing all the fresh horses, the smile on his face seemed to infer that the replacement wasn't entirely a surprise to him. FIVE-FIVE.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Fencing Notes.

Leeds Fencing Club.—On Saturday, May 19th, the Leeds Fencing Club paid a visit to Catterick Camp and met us in a match with all three weapons, foil, epée, and sabre. The majority of the bouts were keenly contested, the results in the epée and sabre being very close indeed. In the foil, however, Leeds had a good deal of their own way. Leeds won the match by 18 victories to 15. The teams and results are given below:—

Foil—S.T.C.: 2/Lieut A. V. S. G. Kemball, Sergt.-Instr. Hart, A.P.T.S., 2/Lieut E. J. Heap, and Lieut R. L. K. Allen, Norfolk Regiment (10 defeats). Leeds F.C.: Major Harley, Capt Thomas, Capt Baines and Mr. Williams (6 defeats).

Epée—S.T.C.: Lieut R. L. K. Allen, Lieut H. S. Longden, and Sergt-Instr. Hart (4 defeats). Leeds: Major Harley, Capt Baines and Capt Thomas (6 defeats).

Sabre—S.T.C.: Sergt-Instr. Hart, Lieut R. L. K. Allen, 2/Lieut L. D. M. Patterson (5 defeats). Leeds: Major Harley, Capt Baines and Capt Thomas (4 defeats).

The return match with the Leeds Fencing Club took place in Leeds Gymnasium on Saturday, June 2nd, the S.T.C. suffering a severe defeat—gaining only ten wins out of thirty-four bouts. Leeds were far superior with the foil and sabre. The epée pool was much more even, and the S.T.C. won this by the narrow margin of one fight. The Leeds team was the same as that which visited Catterick previously. Major Harley was in fine fettle, fighting in all three weapons and not having a single defeat scored against him. Capt Thomas won all his bouts with the sabre. The following represented the S.T.C.:

Foil—Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., 2/Lieut A. V. S. G. Kemball, 2/Lieut G. H. S. Balmain, Lieut R. L. K. Allen. Result: L.F.C., 4 defeats; S.T.C., 12.

Sabre—Major Helps, Major R. E. Barker, Lieut Allen. Result: L.F.C., 1 defeat; S.T.C., 8.

Epée—Major Helps, Lieut Allen, 2/Lieut Balmain. Result: S.T.C., 4 defeats; L.F.C., 5.

Royal Tournament.—The finals of the Army inter-unit team fencing championship were held at Olympia on Wednesday and Thursday, 6th and 7th June. Preliminary rounds were decided by Command competitions, the four winning teams meeting in London to decide the championship—Royal Signals, Northern Command (Signal Training Centre) being the unit sent up from the Northern and Scottish Commands. Teams consisted of three fencers in each weapon, foil, epée, and sabre, with a minimum of six—no one to fence with more than two weapons.

The foil championship was decided on Wednesday morning, June 6th, this being won by the 13/18th Hussars, with the York and Lancaster Regiment a close second. The East Lancashire Regiment suffered two defeats, and Royal Signals three. The Royal Signals were represented by 2/Lieut A. V. S. G. Kemball, 2/Lieut E. J. Heap, and 2/Lieut D. N. Van der Goot.

On the following day the epée and sabre matches were fought. In the épée we had a very close and exciting bout with the 13/18th Hussars, Lieut Van der Goot winning two out of his three fights. The Hussars, however, won the match by a close margin of 5 defeats to our 6. The championship in this weapon was won by the York and Lancaster Regiment, the East Lancashire Regiment being second.

The sabre championship which followed was won by the York and Lancaster Regiment after a close tussle with the Hussars. The Signals again suffered defeat by their three opponents, although putting up a valiant struggle against superior forces.

The teams on the Thursday morning were: Épée: Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., 2/Lieut D. N. Van der Goot, and 2/Lieut G. H. S. Balmain. Sabre: Major R. P. A. Helps, Major R. E. Barker, 2/Lieut L. D. M. Patterson.

The fencing championship was won by the York and Lancaster Regiment after a close finish with the 13/18th Hussars. The East Lancashire Regt. were third, the Royal Corps of Signals (Northern Command) being fourth. The three leading teams were much superior to the Signal Training Centre in fencing skill; but when it is remembered that fencing at Catterick is in its infancy, and that the facilities for training enjoyed at Aldershot and elsewhere are lacking, there is every hope of better results in future years.

A few remarks on our first appearance as a Corps at Olympia will not be out of place here. Of the teams fighting we were the only one entirely composed of officers; other teams were largely composed of w.o.s and n.c.o.s trained as instructors. This, as far as we are concerned (being a technical corps), is not easy to emulate, but there must be in the S.T.C. certain w.o.s and n.c.o.s with a knowledge of either foils, sabre or bayonet, and it is hoped in future years that at least half of the team will consist of n.c.o.s.

For a first appearance the Corps did remarkably well, and we are fairly decided that future years will see us regularly at Olympia. The results this year are due largely to Major Helps for his efforts in training and instructing the team, to Sergt.-Instr. Hart (A.P.T.S.) for instruction, and last, but not least, to Lieut Allen (Norfolk Regt., attached School of Signals) for his work as hon. secretary and organiser.

Volunteers to start for next year are required now, and it is hoped that many officers and n.c.o.s of the S.T.C. will come forward to help the Corps in this branch of sport.

Athletics.

S.T.C. Individual Championships.—These were held on the Scotton ground on June 2nd, 4th and 5th. For the finals, the cold weather and high wind affected some of the times in the longer events; but considering that training is yet in an early stage the general standard of performance was high, and promised well for the chances of the Training Battalion team in the Army championships in July.

A disappointing feature was the lack of new talent. With the exception of a few embryo champions from the Boys' Company, nearly all the successful competitors were old stagers. Nobody begrudges them their continued successes—may they go on for ever! But at the same time one would like to see a few more

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of the younger generation able to at least give them a good run for their money. Detailed results are as follows:—

100 yards—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, L/Corpl Beaumont; 3, Sigmn Pells. Time, 10 sec. In addition to the above, standards were obtained by Sergt Terrell, Signalmen McVey, Dyke and Birkett. The final was run with the aid of a fairly strong wind.

220 yards—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, Sigmn Pells; 3, Sigmn Hicks. 23 4/5 sec.

440 yards—1, Sigmn Hicks; 2, Sigmn Cassim; 3, Sergt Carpenter. 55 1/5 sec.

880 yards—1, Sergt Cotterell; 2, Corpl Ayres; 3, L/Corporal Broadley. 2 min. 10 sec.

One mile—1, Sergt Cotterell; 2, L/Corpl Broadley; 3, Driver Gaston. 4 min. 50 sec.

Three miles—1, Sergt Cotterell; 2, L/Corpl Broadley; 3, Dvr Gaston. 15 min. 22 sec.

Hurdles—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, Lieut Crawford; 3 Signalman Sadler. 16 4/5 sec.

High jump—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, Sigmn Harbin; 3, Sigmn Lawton. 5 ft. 2 in.

Long jump—1, 2/Lieut Bradford; 2, Sigmn Harbin; 3, L/Cpl Beaumont. 19 ft. 11¼ in.

Pole jump—1, Sigmn Lawton; 2, Driver Borrow; 3, Sigmn Harbin. 8 ft. 9 in.

Putting the shot—1, Capt J. H. Brown; 2, 2/Lieut Lewis; 3, Sergt Payne. 34 ft. 9½ in.

Discus—1, Capt J. H. Brown; 2, Corpl Lambert; 3, Sergt Payne. 98 ft. 9 in.

Hammer—1, Corpl Murphy; 2, Sergt Mayes; 3, Sergeant Squirrell. 86 ft. 9 in.

Javelin—1, L/Corpl Beaumont; 2, Sergt Payne; 3, Corporal Lambert. 125 ft. 2 in.

POINTS GAINED BY COMPANIES TOWARD THE MACKWORTH TROPHY

	D	E	F	M.W.	D.W.	School
Individual Placings	8	42	85	19	19	9
Number of Standards ...	–	10	10	5	5	1
	8	52	95	24	24	10

The Victor Ludorum cup was again won by Corpl Murphy with 25 points, Sergt Cotterell being second with 15.

Sergt Cotterell has been entered for the mile and three miles in the Army individual championships, Corpl Murphy for the 100 and 220 yards, L/Corpl Broadley for the three miles, and Boy Hilliar for the boys' 220 yards.

Ex-Boys and Boys v. Barnard Castle School.—These sports took place at Barnard Castle School on May 31st, and resulted in a win for the Boys by 78 points to 64. Points scored were 4 for a win, 3 for second, 2 for third, and 1 for fourth in all events, except in the two relay races, in which the winners scored 6 points and the losers 0. [Note.—A=between the ages of 16 and 18½; B=under 16.]

The following list of events shows the order of coming in, the times, and points for and against us:—

100 yards (A)—Sigmn Birkett, Boy Hilliar, Speed, Martin. 11 1/5 sec. Won by 7—3. Birkett won easily by 3 yards.

100 yards (B)—Reed, Boy Lamb, Hutchinson, Boy Sims. 12 1/5 sec. Lost by 4—6. Reed won by 2 yards.

High jump (A)—Sigmn Harbin, Boy Ross, Pounder, Martin. 4 ft. 10 in. Won by 7—3. Boy Ross and Pounder jumped off for second place, and the former won with 4 ft. 8½ in.

High jump (B)—Wibberly, Boy Fitzpatrick, Aynsley, Boy Brassfield. 4 ft. 8 in. Lost by 4—6. Boy Fitzpatrick jumped 4 ft. 6 in.

Hurdles, 3 ft. 3 in. (A)—Boy Kenneally, Neave, Boy Broom, Pounder. 20 sec. Won by 6—4. Neave and Boy Broom ran practically a dead heat for second place.

Hurdles, 2 ft. 9 in. (B)—Boy Sims, Wibberly, Aynsley, Boy Fitzpatrick. 19 sec. Draw of 5—5. Fitzpatrick fell.

Mile (A)—Cowling, Boy Humby, Jefferson, Boy Dargan. 5 min. 13 sec. Lost by 4—6. Cowling won by 20 yards. In this event Sergt Cotterell, Corpl Ayres, and L/Corpl Broadley gave the boys 20 secs. start. Cotterell won in 4 min. 46 1/5 sec.

880 yards (B)—Hutchinson, Boy Burch, Aynsley, Boy Jones. 2 min. 37 sec. Lost by 4—6. Hutchinson won by 20 yards.

220 yards relay (A)—Boy Burke, Sigmn Sadler, Boy Hilliar, Sigmn Birkett. Martin, Cowling, Ramshay, Speed. 1 min. 44 1/5 sec. Won by 6—0. Two very good teams. We won by 15 yards.

220 yards relay (B)—Boy Deegan, Boy Sims, Boy Brassfield, Boy Lamb. Hutchinson, Reed, Heron, Charlton. 1 min. 50 sec. Won by 6—0. Reed made a great effort but was unable to catch Boy Lamb, who won by 10 yards.

Long jump (A)—Sigmn Harbin, Milner, Maughan, Boy Mac Culloch. 18 ft. 3 in. Draw of 5—5. Sigmn Harbin had two "no jumps."

Long jump (B)—Wibberly, Charlton, Boy Sims, Boy Brassfield. 15 ft. 0½ in. Lost by 3—7. All four jumps were within six inches of each other.

Shot (A)—Sigmn Sadler, Wilson, Shepherd, Boy Rider. 29 ft. 6 in. Draw of 5—5. Sigmn Sadler won by a foot.

440 yards (A)—Sigmn Sadler, Boy Hilliar, Cowling, Urquart. 58 1/5 sec. Won by 7—3. Cowling was perhaps somewhat tired after his previous exertions, but put up a good show against two rather exceptional young runners.

440 yards (B)—Boy Newman, Reed, Heron, Boy Cribb. 1 min. 3 1/5 sec. Draw of 5—5. Boy Newman ran a well-judged race and won by 15 yards.

The meeting was a great success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody present. The arrangements made by the School were excellent, and they very kindly entertained our teams and spectators to tea afterwards. The School has four very promising boys in Cowling, Reed, Wibberly and Hutchinson. Sadler, Harbin, Birkett, Hilliar and Sims are already a good deal above the average of boy athletes. The meeting is to be an annual one.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Athletics.—Great keenness is shown this year by all concerned, thanks to the hard work put in by Sergt Terrell and C.S.M. Campbelton, who look after the Wing side.

So far the Wing have beaten Dismounted Wing, D Company and School of Signals. We have still E and F Companies to meet, and we hope to put up a fine show against both, even if we do not win.

Tug-of-War.—This has so far been a great success. The Companies we have met have given way under the strain of our hardened performers. We have great hopes of winning our last two pulls against E and F Companies. We are glad to see more people looking on this year; it isn't fair to let our team pull unsupported.

Cricket.—One game has been played and lost after an enjoyable afternoon against F Company.

We don't mean to repeat this, and the feverish excitement behind the riding school every evening promises our managing to do better in our coming matches. Summer routine has come into force, and although winter weather sometimes intervenes, it has the advantage of making us realise that summer is here.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Cricket.—We met the School of Signals in the first league match of the season on May 17th. D won the toss and sent the School in on a wet wicket. This decision was soon justified, for the School lost four wickets for 14 runs. Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Malpass then came together and stopped the rot for a time, but the side was out for 68. D replied with a steady display, but after reaching 40 for four wickets three more batsmen departed rapidly, and with seven men out D still required 14 runs for victory. These were successfully obtained, and we won by two wickets. The School were handicapped by the absence of Major F. G. Drayson. Scores: School 68 (Lieut Hatfield 16; Lieut Scott, six wickets for 16); D Company, 75 for 8 (Captain Pavey 19; 2/Lieut Lewis 14).

Athletics.—In the inter-Company athletics against F Company we managed to annex the long jump, hurdles, two miles relay, shot, and tug-of-war.

We were particularly pleased with Sigmn Hudson's effort of 20 ft. 6 in. in the long jump. With training he should become a star performer. We would also congratulate Signalmen Hamilton and Lawson on their performances in the mile relay.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

S.T.C. Championships.—In the S.T.C. individual championships the Company representatives put up a splendid show, and between them gathered in a collection of 96 points, of which Corpl Murphy (the "Corps" all-rounder) contributed 27. Whenever C.S.M. Norton (of megaphone fame) broadcasted the next event, he was there on the mark and, with the exception of the javelin, succeeded on each occasion in taking the major spoils. He obtained standards in the 100 and 220 yards, hurdles and high jump, and his times and distance for these events in the order named were 10 1/5 secs., 23 4/5 secs., 15 4/5 secs., and 5 ft. 2 in. He also took first place in the hammer-throwing event with a throw of 86 ft. 9 in.

Another donation of 13 points was welcomed from L/Corporal Broadley, our distance runner, who obtained standards in the mile and three miles.

Sigmn Harbin, who immediately becomes agitated at the sight of a high, long or pole jump, added a useful 12 points, and obtained a standard in the long jump.

Sigmn Hicks, who delights in breasting an exposed tape, succeeded in doing so in the 440 yards and was third in the 220 yards, besides gaining a standard in both events.

Sergt Payne, Corpl Ayres and Sigmn Sadler each obtained 6 points—the first-named by a judicious use of the shot, javelin, and discus; the second by some well-judged running in the distance events; and the third by an energetic attempt to overhaul a departing train over the hurdles, and then round the 440 yards track.

Sigmn Beale, being a follower of the deep-breathing cult, "manfully" used his legs and lungs to the extent of picking up 4 points in the mile and three miles.

Boy MacCulloch, with a hefty long jump, landed on the 2 points mark; and 2/Lieut Ruck, Boys Ross, Thom and Hicks gained 1½ each in the high and pole jumps.

Capt B. B. Kennett (who, by the way, has not yet had time to find his "home track legs"), Sigmn Birkett, and Boys Broom and Hilliar, also contributed to the Company total. Signalman Birkett, who has not been long in the ranks, obtained his point by an unplaced standard win in the 100 yards.

Many other boys performed in the various events, but, although doing very well, were unable to get into scoring positions. Their turn will undoubtedly come along next year.

On this form, old members of the Company will not be surprised to learn that, in the inter-Company athletic league this season, we have already defeated D, E and School of Signals. We have still to meet the Mounted and Dismounted Wings, who in their teams have a few old hands and a number of lately-joined recruits. These lads, although young in the Service, are triers of the first order, and splendid raw material for the various team trainers to work upon.

Support from the non-performers so far this season has been excellent, and has often dissipated that "last gasp" feeling—an effect greatly appreciated by all the Company representatives.

Congratulations.—The "Boys" heartily congratulate The Corps in Egypt on having won the best all-round unit shield. Bruce and the Spider, bravo! By the way, Capt B. B. Kennett is with us now, and will help considerably in our "spidery attempts to annex the Mackworth trophy."

Cricket.—The Company members of the court of King Willow have been very busy at the nets lately. As a result of their activities, a win by two wickets over the Mounted Wing was registered. Providing the weather clerk keeps his "files" in order, we hope to use the nets to good effect during the evenings, in an endeavour to keep a straight bat and to put a better length into our bowling.

Corporals' Mess, Training Battalion, Catterick.

We have commenced activities with King Willow, our latest victims being the Depot Battn. Corporals. We were very fortunate with that fixture, as it coincided with Catterick's "summer," and we had a gorgeous day.

Winning the toss we selected fielding, and the game opened in disastrous fashion: Corpl Ryan (ex-Egypt) bowled, second ball. He hasn't finished saying things about the bowler's jam yet. Still, Pat, any ball will do as long as it hits the pegs. After this misfortune, it is to be feared the Depot lost heart, as they trotted merrily in and out, finally being dismissed for 7 runs. We hit 55 without incident.

We adjourned for a tea interval in the mess, where tales of great performances were related and a few selections were given by L/Corpl Taplin on the piano.

After this the second innings commenced, but this time Corpl Ryan showed us how cricket should be played. Not even our wicket-keeper could shift him, and if he fails, well, a bowler will never do anything. This innings closed for 133, Corpl Ryan

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being not out for 102—a jolly fine performance. We were left with an hour in which to get 86, and this we managed to do for the loss of half our wickets, thus winning a very enjoyable game by five wickets.

Congratulations to Corpl Murphy on winning the victor ludorum in the S.T.C. individual championships; to Corpl Ryan (D.B.) on being selected to play for the Corps cricket team; and to Egypt Signals on winning the best all-round unit trophy.

No. 3 Company, 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.

Our heartiest congratulations to L/Corpl Bishop on winning the open jumping at the Aldershot Fete on "Knotty," especially as one of the competitors was second in the jumping at Olympia.

An Aldershot Signals Athletic Club has been formed, and with such a splendid training venue as the Command central ground available every evening, some good talent should be unearthed. The club is open to the whole of Signals in Aldershot, and has the Chief Signal Officer (Colonel Prickett) as president, Colonels Willan, Worlledge and Rawson as vice-presidents, with Captain Rance and Lieuts Boileau and Ponsonby as the committee.

All that is required now is plenty of raw material to train; so turn up any night from 6 to 8 o'clock on the Command ground for training, and learn all about things in general. This is not a club for champions alone, but *everybody*: so don't be afraid to join and find your best distance or event prior to the commencement of the various sports.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth

Cricket.—Owing to unsettled affairs we have not been able to carry out many fixtures, but up to the present we have been victorious in two matches with Company teams of the Somerset Light Infantry. Later we hope to be able to publish more about this very ancient British sport. We should appreciate the opportunity of a fixture with D Troop of Aldershot.

Boxing.—During April Dvr Jackson P. J. fought L/Corporal Jones of the S.L.I. in a special four-round contest. Although he lost on points, it was acclaimed by all present as a bout worth seeing. Hard lines, Jackson!

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Cricket.—So far this season the weather has been kind to us, and we have actually played some games of cricket. With the addition of Sergt Yates and L/Corpl Ray from Egypt, and Sigmn Melmore from the Depot, the unit side has the makings of a real cricket team.

We have had three matches, with the following results: v. 6th Field Brigade R.A., lost by 170 runs; v. 2nd Battn. Cheshire Regt., won by six wickets; v. 2nd Light Brigade R.A., won by 22 runs.

Athletics.—The principal event in the athletic world so far has been the Southern Command championships. The standard in the track events was very high, and we failed to get a place.

We did much better, however, in the field events. Sigmn Ruffle won the pole jump at 9 ft. 9 in. L/Corpl Frawley was second in the high jump. L/Corpl Franklin and C.S.M. Hailes were second and third respectively in throwing the hammer; they were also placed fourth and fifth in putting the weight, and were unlucky in not being placed higher.

Our relay team won their heat after a very fine race which was only decided on the tape. We had high hopes for the final, but unfortunately one of the team twisted a muscle in the race and could not finish.

We are now looking forward to the Army meeting.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Soccer.—Our football team have actually won something, quite contrary to the usual procedure: that of reaching the final and then to lose. The team entered for the Jaga Nath cup and met the Rawalpindi District H.Q., 36th Battery R.A., 55th Battery R.A., and then the 33rd Battery R.A. in the final. In the latter game it looked as if the usual luck would hold, but in the last five minutes Dame Fortune smiled on the team and we scored three goals in the remaining time left. The English cup winners would not be safe here now!

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

On the whole we have had a very good season, as the following notes will disclose.

Football.—Baluchistan District Tournament. On January 17th we played at home to C Company 1st Battn. East Lancs. Regiment in the second round, and after a really good game ran out winners.

The next round was the semi-final, played on January 19th, and again we played at home to the 4th Light Battery R.A. Another fast and interesting game was witnessed, and again we proved winners.

The final took place on the Soldiers' Club ground on January 20th, and a large crowd was present to witness the game. This time our opponents were D Company 1st Battn. East Lancs. Regiment. Another good game was seen, and a score of two goals each was a very fair result.

The replay had to be postponed owing to the regiment having to go to Sibi on temporary duty. During their absence we were unfortunate to lose Signalmen Wilbrahams and Traunter or our team, the former having to go to Jubbulpore and the latter to the U.K. The replay took place on the same ground on March 5th. This game was very uneven, the Lancs. being winners by 5—1.

Lady Harington, wife of the G.O.C.-in-Chief Western Command, presented the Patel cup to the winners, and a replica of the cup and bronze medal to the losers.

Numerous friendly games have also been played, but details and results would occupy too much space, so I regret I am unable to record them.

Rugby.—The following is a list of matches played during the season:—

v. 20th Pack Artillery Brigade, won by 6—0.
v. Royal Air Force, lost by 0—10.
v. 20th Pack Artillery Brigade, won by 8—0.
v. 14th Field Brigade R.A., won by 6—5.
v. Staff College, won by 6—3.
v. 14th Field Brigade R.A., won by 13—5.
v. 20th Pack Artillery Brigade, won by 10—0.
v. 20th Pack Artillery Brigade, won by 8—3.
v. Staff College, drew at 6—6.

In the first round of the Quetta knock-out rugby tournament, played on March 13th, we met the 1st Battn. East Lancs. Regiment, and after a good and fast game a draw of 3 points each was the result. The replay took place on March 16th, when another good game was seen, and this time we ran out winners by 8—0. Tries were scored by Sigmn Ford and L/Sergt Jarvis. The try of Sigmn Ford was converted by L/Corpl Holden.

In the semi-final of this tournament we met the Staff College, and after another hard and fast game proved winners by 9—3—L/Corpl Holden scoring with a good kick from a penalty, and Sergt Angell and L/Sergt Jarvis scoring tries, neither of which was converted.

The final between our team and the 14th Field Brigade R.A. was one of the best games seen on the Gymkhana rugby ground for some time. This was played on March 18th. Sigmn Ford scored what proved to be the only and winning try of the game.

After the match the cup was presented by Mrs. St. John, wife of the Assistant Governor-General and Chief Commissioner in Baluchistan.

The following comprised the winning team: L/Corpl Cosens, L/Sergt Jarvis, Lieut J. J. Duvivier, Sigmn Ford, Sergt Angell, Capt C. H. I. Akehurst (captain), Sigmn McLean, 2/Lieut H. O. Pargeter, L/Sergt Anderson, L/Corpl Holden, Sigmn Battell, Sigmn Andrews, Sigmn Couch, Sigmn Farmer and Sigmn Cooke.

Hockey.—We entered a team in the Baluchistan District inter-unit hockey tournament. In the first round we played the 14th Field Brigade R.A. on March 18th, and after a good game ran out easy winners. In the next round (semi-final) we played Headquarters Western Command on March 21st, and lost by 1—3. Although the Headquarters team won it cannot be said they were the better team, because our team did everything that day but what was required (get goals).

Cross-Country.—An enormous amount of time, etc., had been put in towards training the unit cross-country team for the District assault-at-arms, which we had visions of again winning this year, but it was decided that no cross-country run would take place.

Congratulations are extended to L/Corpl France and Sigmn Lane (Waziristan District Signals, please note) on winning the "News of the World" novices cross-country medals, and to Signalman McLean on winning the unit novices medal (all right, Mac; it has been noted for issue).

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

So far, no really important matches have taken place this season. In the two Depot football trial matches, the unit had five players out on each occasion.

A team composed of players from the Signals, the Gloucestershire Regiment, and District Headquarters played a picked team from the rest of the troops in the Depot. This time the unit again supplied five players. After an interesting game this match resulted in a win for the former team by 2—1. As there is only one Company in Ranikhet, it will be seen that the good name of the unit for sports is being upheld.

In the Ranikhet Area League, which has just commenced, our first game versus the Buffs (a much-fancied team) resulted in a draw of 2—2. We think the Buffs were very much surprised at the division of points.

A hockey match (friendly) versus the Royal Artillery at Dulikhet resulted in a draw of 2—2.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Hockey.—Several games have been played with the 33rd Field Troop, and some good displays have been witnessed.

Another interesting game was witnessed when we met N Battery R.H.A. Played on a very hot evening, it came as quite a surprise when both teams got right down to it at once, and neither slackened all through the game. The Artillery came through winners, but they had what luck was going. Still, we will beat them next time.

Football.—There is nothing to report in this line, as most of our team have gone khud-climbing for high ratings at Upper Topa.

Iraq Signal Section, Hiniadi.

There is an old saying in England which runs something like this: "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers." There are, however, three things that May is responsible for out here: cricket, tennis and water polo—to say nothing of the training put in for the Kipping cup.

Cricket.—The cricket this year, although not quite up to the standard of last, promises to be at least fairly good; and as there have been no league or cup games yet, little can be said of the fighting qualities of the team.

We had one practice match in March to find out who could play, and since then we have played several of the R.A.F. Squadrons and local clubs in a series of friendly matches. So far we have played seven games, of which we have won only one and lost three; the other three were drawn owing to time.

In the first game some good batting was shown by Sigmn Hill W. (35 and 33), and the fielding was above the average.

In the second match Corpl Fisher N. put up 66 against our neighbours the M.T. Pool (R.A.F.), and Sigmn Varley did some damaging work with the ball.

In the fourth match Sigmn Hill again gave a good account of himself and added 54 to our score, while some very good bowling was shewn by Sigmn McKinlay A., who took six wickets for 24 runs. Well doon, ma wee Angus!

Sigmn Killian J. has done some exceptionally good fielding and is as "safe as houses" at point.

Very shortly we play our first cup match, and are all eagerly looking forward to it.

Tennis.—A good deal of tennis is played in the Section, and a few of our members are entered in local competitions.

Only two friendly matches have been played so far, and unfortunately we have lost them both, though only by narrow margins.

We are hoping to run a tournament in the Section in the near future.

Water Polo.—The water polo team are making quite a name for themselves. They have even gone so far as to start posing for photographs!

They began quite well by playing four friendly matches, winning two, losing one and drawing one. Since then we have

played five league games, doing remarkably well, and being at present on top of the league.

Several of the Section are learning to play, and we had a second team match for their benefit, which they won by 2—0.

The Corps in Egypt.

Cricket.—Several games have been played during the past month. In the first round of the Command competition we were drawn against the Lancashire Fusiliers at Moascar, and after a very exciting game we were beaten by two wickets.

Other matches played have resulted as follows: Royal Engineers, won by 71 runs; Maadi S.C., drawn (twice); Heliopolis S.C., drawn; Norfolk Regt., drawn; Royal Dragoons, won by 79 runs; R.H.A., drawn; R.A.O.C., lost by 7 runs; Gezira S.C., drawn.

In the match versus Gezira S.C., L/Corpl Collins E. played a splendid game, scoring 106 runs before being caught—his record score. This is the highest score made for the Corps team this year.

Swimming.—Great enthusiasm is being shown by our swimmers, and if enthusiasm has anything to do with it, that Command swimming trophy is not going to leave the Signals this season. The relay and polo leagues begin to-day, and the Corps have strong teams entered in both. The Command competitions, however, are not due to take place until the latter part of August. Inter-Section swimming on the "tabloid" system, similar to that adopted for the athletics, is to take place this year.

Athletics.—Athletics in the Command have now finished for the season. The Y.M.C.A. sports at Gezira took place on May 5th, and many civilian and Army runners entered. Sigmn Beeton was the only Corps runner to take part, and he finished second in the mile to Sergt Day, though at the time he was feeling the effects of a bad chill—and then was only beaten by inches in a slow-run race, the time being thirty seconds slower than the Command mile championship. Beeton, however, again won the three miles later the same afternoon. This brings his total of wins for the season up to twenty-six out of twenty-seven races, with a total of thirty-one prizes.

Motor-Cycle Racing.—Though this sport has no place in Army competitions, mention should be made of the many successes of L/Sergt Pickering, who holds many racing records in civilian events in Egypt. He has done times that are only a fraction of a second outside the world's record for the distances, and has won a large number of trophies at this sport.

It is a pity that motor-cycling is not included in the Command competitions. We feel certain that some of our riders would take the honours!

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Cricket.—The Company cricket team has played several games with varying success. In the first round of the small units cup we lost to D Supply Company R.A.S.C. by 60 runs. Details of games played are as under:—

Versus 31 M.T. Company, R.A.S.C., won by 100 runs.
Versus D Supply Company, R.A.S.C., won by 73 runs.
Versus 25 H.T. Company, R.A.S.C., won by 3 wickets.
Versus 45 (B) Squadron R.A.F., lost by 29 runs.
Versus L Battery R.H.A., drawn game.
Versus Ordnance Civilians, won by 89 runs.
Versus D Supply Company, R.A.S.C. (small units cup), lost by 60 runs. Scores: No. 3 Company 126; D Supply Company 186.
Versus Royal Scots, won by 75 runs.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Command Athletic Meeting.—Signals were represented in the small units team at this meeting. It is very gratifying to report that the only two first places obtained by the small units were won by L/Corpl Butler. He was successful in both the long and high jumps, with 20 ft. 5½ ins. and 5 ft. 6 ins. respectively.

Tennis.—Teams representing R.E. and Royal Signals have been entered for the Army and Civilian Leagues.

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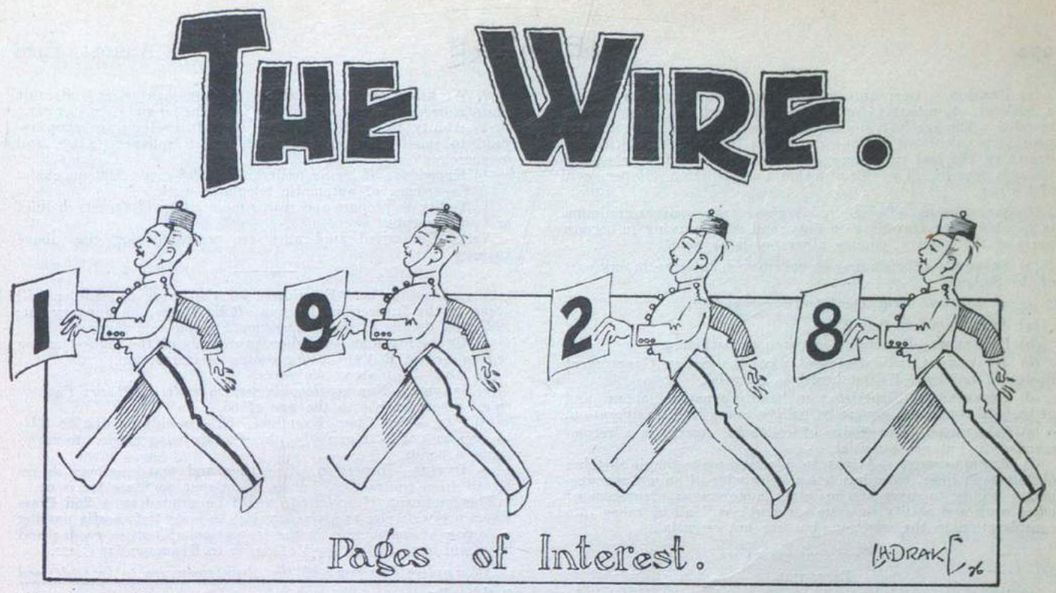

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

SECRETARY AND EDITOR:
Mr. W. BUTLER, 95 BELGRAVE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1,
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VOL. IX.—No. 102 AUGUST, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

It is notified for general information that the new abbreviated telegraphic address for this office is "SIGASN CHURTON LONDON." Will all concerned please note for future reference.

❀ ❀ ❀

We offer our hearty congratulations to L/Sergt W. M. Cotterell on again romping home first, for the eighth successive year, in the Army three miles.

❀ ❀ ❀

Attention is drawn to "Situations Vacant" under the Signals Association Notes in this issue. Prospective applicants for these vacancies should communicate with the Secretary, Signals Association, without delay—especially those interested in the Sudan Government appointment. All applications should be accompanied by a detailed list of qualifications, and any additional information which may be of assistance when forwarding nominations to the Authorities concerned.

❀ ❀ ❀

We welcome the re-appearance of unit notes from the 4th Indian Divl Signals at Jubbulpore, that salubrious spot in the Punjab with which one also associates the S.T.C. and Depot (India). Perhaps Josabun can supply us with news of the latter also.

❀ ❀ ❀

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra, at home or abroad), cash with order.

EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Situations Vacant.—A vacancy exists on the Sudan Government Telegraphs for a Telegraph Inspector, and the following is a brief resumé of the conditions governing such appointment:—

(a) PAY.—£E.300 or £E.324 per annum, according to age and qualifications. (£E.1=£1 0s. 6d.)

(b) CONTRACT.—The contract is for two years on probation, and free passage (3rd rail in England, 2nd class passage, 1st class rail in Egypt and Sudan) is provided from home address to Khartoum, with an allowance of half-a-month's pay plus £E.10 to cover expenses to date of entering Sudan, from which date pay starts. At the end of the contract, a free passage to a British port is provided, and half a month's pay plus £E.10 to cover travelling expenses.

(c) FURTHER SERVICE.—At the expiration of contract permanent service may be offered, and if so the official comes under Sudan Government regulations. The usual increments are every two years—£E.324, £E.360, £E.396, £E.432—and thence every three years £E.480 and maximum £E.540. A special maximum of £E.600 may be given after a further three years. Promotion to a grade carrying pay rising to £E.720 or a special maximum of £E.780 is by selection as vacancies occur.

(d) LEAVE.—Leave is given, if the exigencies of the Service admit, at the rate of three months a year or four months every two years—usually the latter. Free passages are provided for the official travelling on leave both ways between Sudan Station and Egyptian port, and an assisted passage allowance of £E.45 every year or £E.80 every two years when leave is taken, is granted. The same facilities are granted to an official's wife.

(e) PENSION.—Acceptance for pension is conditional on passing a medical examination for the purpose and on being recommended. The age for voluntary retirement on pension is 48, and pension is calculated at the rate of one forty-eighth of the pay drawn in the last two years of service, for every year served towards pension. The official makes a contribution of 5 per cent. of his pay.

(f) ALLOWANCES.—Travelling allowance at 5s. a night minimum is payable when travelling on duty; and when serving in certain parts of the country, climate allowance is payable.

(g) STATION.—Officials may be called upon to serve in any part of the Sudan.

General Qualifications required.

(a) AGE.—Not less than 23.

(b) BACHELOR.—Preference is given to bachelors.

(c) HEALTH.—Candidates must pass the Sudan Government doctor in London. Robust health is essential.

(d) EXPERIENCE.—Experience in handling native labour, and of tropical conditions generally, will be taken into consideration.

(e) LANGUAGES.—Knowledge of colloquial Arabic is a recommendation, but not essential.

(f) MISCELLANEOUS.—Ability to ride, and make simple sketches of telegraph lines, buildings, etc.; knowledge of animal management; ability to drive and maintain motor cars; experience of office work and ability to write a report; will all be taken into consideration in the selection, but are not essential.

Technical Qualifications as under:—

ESSENTIAL.

(a) Practical knowledge and experience of medium and light permanent line construction and overhaul, and ability to take complete charge of such work, including estimating for stores and labour required.

(b) Ability to connect up simple Morse circuits—simplex and duplex—and to wire a small office complete.

(c) Experience in maintenance of wet and dry primary batteries, and preferably of secondary batteries also.

(d) Knowledge of simple testing of lines and instruments, and ability to rectify instrument faults not requiring workshop skill; knowledge and experience in manual telephone exchanges and instruments.

OPTIONAL.

Preference will be given to candidates having some or all of the additional qualifications:—

(e) Ability to operate on Morse sounder or vibrator.

(f) Workshop experience, either in instrument work and fault finding, or heavier mechanical work such as repairs of motor-cars.

(g) Ability to instal, test, and do ordinary non-workshop repairs to small telephone exchanges and telephones (C.B.S. and magneto).

(h) Knowledge of laying underground dry-core telephone cable.

(i) Experience of automatic telephone work.

(j) Ability to prepare and read simple circuit diagrams of lines and instruments.

Note.—Unmarried applicants are preferred for the above vacancy.

A vacancy for an "Examiner" of the trade of Saddler will occur in the Inspection Division, R.E. Stores, on January 1st, 1929, the details of such employment being as follows:—

(a) QUALIFICATIONS.—Saddler, preferably of the highest rating or qualified at R.A.O.C. long course of instruction.

(b) AGE.—Not above 45 years.

(c) SERVICE.—Non-pensionable service under Ordnance Factory rules, extensionable to the age of 65.

(d) PAY.—2nd Class Examiner, 68/- weekly, rising to 74/- by increases of 2/- biennially; these totals being subject to variations in bonus.

(e) DUTIES.—Inspection of leather and textile stores as received from contractors, before being sent to Store for issue.

The applicant, if accepted, would be graded as a 2nd Class Examiner with pay as above, subject to his satisfactorily passing a course of instruction in the inspection of textile goods; and he would have the prospect of rising to Examiner 1st Class.

All applications for both the above vacancies to be addressed to this office.

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:

Ex-Signalman	P.O. Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association Road Patrol
Ex-Signalman	Waiter
Ex-Signalman	Officer's Servant
Ex-N.C.O.	Butler
Ex-Signalman	Chauffeur-Handyman
Ex-Signalman	Farm Worker, Australia
Ex-Driver	Farm Worker, Australia
Ex-Driver	Porter
Ex-N.C.O.	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-N.C.O.	Chauffeur

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. Class II. (C.S.M.)

2307300 Dolbear S. 31/1/28

To be Sergeant—

7811747 Doughty W. 24/1/28
2306277 Batchelor P. 31/1/28
2306529 Woodcock N. 31/1/28
2314271 McLoughlin P. 31/1/28
2306450 Donaghy S. 31/1/28
6189251 McCormick R. 6/2/28
2308726 Tolley C. 29/4/28
1858964 Tilling F. 1/5/28
7075905 Foley J. 1/5/28
2306838 Hoyland V. 26/5/28
2308408 Simpson L. 26/5/28

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

2309194 Cutler E. 31/1/28
2306476 Fawl F. 31/1/28
2309802 Green W. 31/1/28
2314379 Hayden G. 31/1/28
2306723 Aitken J. 31/1/28
2310684 Nicholson W. 31/1/28
2306752 Dodds W. 31/1/28
2314564 Guy F. 5/2/28
2311491 Hobby H. 17/2/28
2313948 Tinsley E. 17/2/28
2306771 Collins H. 1/4/28
2313504 Burns J. 1/4/28
2311362 Udell L. 29/4/28
2309517 Balderson S. 29/4/28
5485787 Effland R. 1/5/28
2306144 Piercy W. 26/5/28

To be Corporal—

2310470 Baldock G. 4/1/28
6745065 Bernasconi E. 4/1/28
2312309 Bailey G. 4/1/28
2306014 Duncan R. 24/1/28
2308406 Lacey L. 31/1/28
2307496 Sargent E. 31/1/28
2209234 Champion W. 31/1/28
6279504 Haisell J. 31/1/28
2315396 Evens J. 31/1/28
2316510 Carnegie J. 6/2/28
2314762 Woolley R. 13/2/28
2314673 Sabine W. 17/2/28
2314013 Robertson J. 23/2/28
2311784 Little V. 23/2/28
2310822 Mitson A. 2/3/28
2314702 Jenkins R. 2/3/28
539712 Page A. 2/3/28
2309767 Butcher A. 2/3/28
2310518 Patterson H. 2/3/28
2315897 Gow S. 2/3/28
2314180 Garside N. 2/3/28
2315033 Harrison J. 3/3/28
2312528 Pickwick L. 21/3/28
6193146 Butler C. 27/4/28
2315991 Ward W. 27/4/28
2312138 Mullins A. 29/4/28
2315895 Wort S. 29/4/28
1850161 Bishop R. 29/4/28
2311041 Sanley E. 29/4/28
2311047 Small F. 29/4/28
2312101 Purcell S. 1/5/28
2315281 Peerless L. 18/5/28
2310174 Penn G. 26/5/28
2312265 Ford F. 29/5/28

DISCHARGES

2306361 Sergt Wood W. 8/6/28
5875778 L/Sergt Greening E. 11/6/28
2314011 Corpl Parsonage C. 18/6/28

TRANSFERS TO ARMY RESERVE

1849706 Corpl Williams L. 25/4/28
2314964 Corpl Craig C. 18/6/28
2315344 L/Corpl Walters C. 28/5/28
2314945 L/Corpl Potter A. 13/6/28
2314974 L/Corpl Fendle W. 21/6/28

Ex-Signalman ..... Labourer
Ex-Signalman ..... Waiter
Ex-Signalman ..... Mechanic

In addition to the above, three ex-Signalmen were placed in the G.P.O. as postmen or porters during the quarter ending 30/6/28.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Lieut.-Colonel W. E. Dennis and Lieut C. Knowles.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, India
Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals, Aldershot
Kohat District Signals, India
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick
Waziristan District Signals, India

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. Employment found and £4 allocated from Association funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, Ireland. Temporary difficulties. £1 10s. allocated from Association funds.
3—Ex-N.C.O., London. Domestic difficulties. Employment found and £2 allocated from Association funds.
4—Ex-Signalman, Eastbourne. Domestic difficulties. Employment found and £3 allocated from Association funds.
5—Ex-N.C.O., Birmingham. In broken health and under hospital treatment. £3, and later a further grant of £5, allocated from Association funds.
6—Parents of ex-Signalman recently deceased. £5 allocated from Association funds.
7—Ex-Signalman, London. Temporarily destitute. £3 allocated from Association funds.
8—Ex-Signalman. Brighton. Domestic difficulties. £10 allocated from Association funds.
9—Daughter of ex-Signalman recently deceased. Placed in domestic employment, and the sum of £5 12s. 10d. allocated from Association funds for clothing, etc.

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

OBITUARY.

Many officers, n.c.o.s and men who served on the Rhine will regret to hear of the tragic death of the late Lieut J. W. C. Jennings. He will be remembered as the officer in charge of the wireless station at Cologne. Heartfelt sympathy is felt for Mrs. Jennings in her sad loss.

The following account was sent from Canada by Mr. F. Robinson (late pay clerk, Rhine Signals) to Major F. R. Cobb:—

McGill Cricketer Electrocuted.

Forgetting for a moment to pull a switch, John W. C. Jennings, aged 35, 1451 McGill College Avenue, an engineer at the Canadian Marconi Co. plant at 1273 William Street, touched a live wire and was instantly killed shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Coroner Prince rendered a verdict of accidental death this morning.

Jennings was working inside a large wireless telegraphy machine at the time he touched the live wire. Fellow-employees saw the flash and ran to his assistance, finding him unconscious on the floor. The pulmotor squad of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power, Consolidated, was summoned and applied artificial respiration for an hour without success.

The game between Mount Royal and McGill cricket teams, to be played tomorrow, has been cancelled owing to the death of Mr. Jennings, who was to have played with the McGill team.

The late Mr. Jennings had been a year in Canada. He was educated at the Blue Coat School (Christ's Hospital), Horsham, Sussex, and served in the Gloucester Regiment during the war and with the Army of Occupation in Germany after the war. He was a good batsman and bowler, and will be much missed in local cricket circles.

Corps News—Officers.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 15/6/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Royal Signals—
Lieut L. V. Younie is seconded whilst employed as Adjutant, School of Signals, 19/5/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—Lieut.-Col. R. E. Coleman, O.B.E., T.D., to have precedence as from 30/6/27, 25/11/27.
53rd (Welsh) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. H. Lock to resign his commission on appointment to the R.A.F., 16/3/28.

War Office, 22/6/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Royal Signals—
Capt W. M. Clapp, M.B.E., from Indian Army, to be Captain, 25/6/28, retaining his present seniority.
Lieut W. A. Scott, M.B.E., is seconded whilst employed as Equipment Officer, Army Headquarters, India, 1/4/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
2nd Cav. (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals—Patrick George Albert Ennor (late Cadet L/Corporal Marlborough Coll. Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 7/5/28.

War Office, 26/6/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut John Edward Smith (late Suffolk Regiment) to be 2/Lieut. 22/3/28.

War Office, 29/6/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
56th (1st London) Divl Signals—Col. J. W. Cohen, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., T.A., to be Hon. Colonel, 30/6/28.

War Office, 3/7/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
53rd (Welsh) Divl Signals—Lieut John Gardiner to be Captain, 22/2/28.
S. C. Cadogan (late Cadet West Buckland School Contgt. Jun. Div. O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieut. 21/6/28.
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—J. B. R. Machan to be 2/Lt., 1/5/28.

War Office, 10/7/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—Hon. Colonel T. F. Purves, O.B.E., on completion of tenure, vacates the appointment of Hon. Colonel, 18/4/28.
Lieut.-Colonel R. R. Kimmitt, O.B.E. (retired T.A.) to be Hon. Colonel, 18/4/28.

NOTICES.

Scholarships for Army Officers.

War Office, June 15th, 1928.

An amendment of the Pay Warrant provides for the annual grant, at the discretion of the Army Council, of a limited number of scholarships of the annual value of £50, tenable for five years, to officers on first appointment to Regular Army commissions from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and the Universities. The conditions governing the grant and tenure of the scholarships will be laid down by the Army Council from time to time. For the past three years it has been the practice to grant eleven scholarships every half-year.

Rewards to Skilful War Department Workmen.

War Office, June 18th, 1928.

In order to encourage workmen in War Department establishments to put forward suggestions for new or improved designs in substitution of or in addition to existing patterns or apparatus, the Army Council have approved of the principle of giving rewards in cases where suggested designs or improvements are adopted and considered to be of sufficient importance to justify such recognition.

Continued on page 277

The Australian Corps of Signals.

12th Brigade Signals, Tasmania.

Anglesea Barracks, Hobart, May 15th.

We trust our readers will appreciate our first effort at broadcasting. Contributions to THE WIRE from other units are considered to be of a very high order, and have indeed set us a standard requiring our combined energies to maintain. We are hoping the new quota marching in during July next will bring us at least a Barleux.

The event of the year, of course, was the all-too-short camp of eight days held in March. With a full attendance of all ranks, the unit was able to accomplish something. From the commencement schemes were the order of the day, employing all branches in co-operation, and some really first-class results were obtained. During the artillery shoot on three successive days, communication was maintained between range and battery parties, the operators concerned receiving quite a lot of well-earned praise. On the visual side much good work was also done, the new message form and procedure being quite to their liking.

General Sir Harry Chauvel, G.C.M.G., Inspector-General of the Forces, with Colonel E. M. Ralph, inspected the camp and the training being carried out, and were well pleased with all they had seen. The Signals were fortunate this year in getting a "mention" for their good work in the former's report. We are still looking forward to a visit from the G.S.O. Signals, Lieut.-Colonel T. R. Williams, D.S.O.

The sergeants' mess was again a distinct success, being greatly improved by the new lighting arrangement which resulted from the efforts of all members.

The view of Mona Vale Camp forwarded with these notes should be of interest to readers, being not unlike Salisbury Plain —and, you can be sure, quite as cold at times!

Returning to Hobart on conclusion of the camp, members soon settled down to home training work and were keen on the riding classes being started again. Some of them want it badly, too! During the past week we had much pleasure in welcoming Bert Hinkler in his "Avro," and also the "Red Rose" with Captain Lancaster and Mrs. Miller.

In conclusion, let us hope the accompanying "snaps" will be interesting to you all. Index to photographs on opposite page:

1—Captain S. R. Houghton, D.S.O., M.C., V.D., consulting the map.
2—Loading up the hired "Chev."
3—C Mk. ii Reception.
4—A Mk ii Station.
5—Mona Vale Camp Site.
6—A fault in the 30-watt remote control used with C Mk. ii Receiver.
7—Returning to Hobart.
8—Sergt Andrews ready for the road.
9—Outdoor Signal Office during the Scheme.

NOTICES—*Continued from page 275.*

The Service Families Settlement Scheme.

Special Facilities for Soldiers' Families.

War Office, June 19th, 1928.

The conditions of a Land Settlement Scheme, under which special facilities are offered to a limited number of military and naval families to settle on farms in Canada during the spring of 1929, have now been agreed between the Government Departments concerned. Vacancies for thirty families are specifically allotted under the scheme to the Army, and the names of families recommended by General Officers Commanding-in-Chief are to be submitted to the War Office as soon as possible. It is not essential under this scheme that both man and wife should have had previous agricultural experience. Generally speaking the age of the head of the family should not exceed 41 years, but where the family is regarded by the Canadian Authorities as particularly suited for settlement, a man up to 45 years of age will be accepted.

All accepted families will undergo a six months course of training in agriculture at the Army Vocational Training Centre, Chiseldon, beginning on 1st November next. Wives and elder children will receive suitable instruction during the course. Lectures will be arranged by Commands to explain the scheme in detail. The underlying object of the Dominion Authorities is to place each family on a farm offering the best prospects of the early success of the family. All farms allotted are established in settled districts, with a suitable house and land which has been developed at least partially. For these reasons the settlement of all families as a group in one district is impracticable; but so far as possible, small groups of four or five families will be settled in the same district, that is, with access to the same market town.

The cost of ocean passage for each adult settler will be £2, and the cost of the railway journey in Canada from £2 to £6 according to the distance of the destination. Children under 17 years of age travel free. In cases of necessity arrangements may be made for an advance of passage money. A sum up to £300 is advanced by the Imperial Government to each settler for the purchase of stock and equipment, the loan being repayable in instalments spread over twenty-five years.

Command Oversea Settlement Committees will make arrangements for explaining the scheme and for recruiting suitable families. A roll of men selected, with the names in order of priority of recommendation, is to be rendered to the War Office by 1st July next.

Why Dental Science endorses Gibbs Dentifrice

Because its fragrant foam surges into every crevice of the teeth—killing germs, removing "film," bringing safety at danger spots denied to the toothbrush.

Because Gibbs Dentifrice polishes the teeth to lustrous, pearl-like beauty without scratching or wearing—not even at the *danger line*, where the teeth meet the gums and the enamel is thinnest. *Because* Gibbs Dentifrice makes the gums firm, rosy and healthy. To use Gibbs Dentifrice thrice a day is to keep sound, pretty teeth for a lifetime.

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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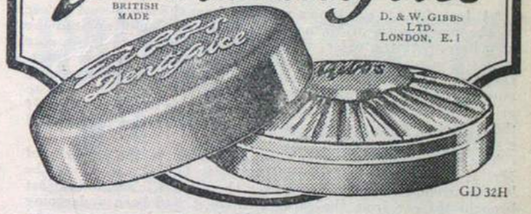


GD 32H

Signals Memorial Window, Bulford.

There appeared in THE WIRE for June, under the 3rd Divl Signals unit notes, an account of the efforts made by the present members of that unit to raise, locally, sufficient funds to erect a memorial in the recently-completed Garrison Church to the late officers, n.c.o.s and men of the 3rd Divl Signals who gave their lives in the Great War.

The sum of £75 was realised at the bazaar—a very creditable effort, but unfortunately not nearly sufficient to pay for the stained glass window memorial now on view.

The Corps Committee, at its last meeting, authorised the insertion of this notice in the Corps Magazine, with a view to obtaining subscriptions from officers, n.c.o.s and men who served with the 3rd Divl Signals during the Great War and since.

Any subscriptions will be gratefully received, and will be duly acknowledged in THE WIRE. Subscriptions should be sent to the O.C., 3rd Divl Signals, Marne Lines, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

Plain Tales.

Culture.—It was an inexcusable error, and I thank "Weller" from the bottom of my heart for his good taste. I also wish to thank about thirty-seven vile-mannered oafs who quietly pointed out to me that my paragraph was carelessly constructed.

I may as well explain what I am burbling about.

My advice in the June WIRE on the building of rockeries contained a statement which made it appear that I threw a quantity of *seeds* in various directions, whereas what I meant to convey was that the stones—but poof! I weary you. Send your five pounds to friend "Weller," but let it not be £5.

Gardening.—I wish to warn my pupils against taking the "advice" of alleged gardening experts. Several of these have made their appearance in the pages of THE WIRE.

Strawberries and cream may now be dug up and bedded out in saucers. Slugs, worms, snails, beetles and last night's bottles should be removed without compunction. Compunction may be used if absolutely necessary, but "Barleux" patent worm guns are considered to be unrivalled. This concludes the gardening for this season. Letters of gratitude and parcels of garden produce should be marked on the back with name and address of sender. If more than four competitors give the correct result, at once alarm the guard. Penalty for improper use, £5. Turn out the Field Officer once by night, and remove the boots of all armed parties.

Me: "Really, old man."

Myself: "Yes, I know. I'll be all right in a minute."

"! ! * !"—At one time a road ran from the south-west corner of the new square in Marne Lines, Bulford Camp, up into the unit lines. At the point where it leaves the square (I suppose it is still a road) are two parallel ditches about 18 feet apart. Don't ask me why. At night this spot has the appearance of a normal road, so it is not surprising that two cars have come to grief thereon. Happily there has been no loss of life so far. If these ditches *must* remain, a couple of white-washed posts would give strangers a sporting chance.

The title of this paragraph has reference to the remarks of Mr. Hu***ble, of the Oxford University O.T.C., who was the last to attempt steeple-chasing over the ditches. As he had just brought the car from the garage, where it had been undergoing repairs, I consider that he was entitled to use those very words.

Interlude.—The following is a true story, but I think I will use fictitious names because the Oxford University O.T.C. might think I am trying to —but let's get at it. We'll say, then, that St. Indignant's College O.T.C. Contingent were out on a scheme. An officer of elevated rank appeared on the scene and proceeded to ask Mr. Scroop a few questions.

"Excuse me, sir," said Mr. Scroop, wrinkling his brow. "Didn't you inspect our school contingent in 1926?"

"No, I did not," replied the officer.

"Well, did you take the salute at the big parade in 1925?"

"No."

"Well, sir, I'm sure I've seen you before, somewhere or other."

"Quite likely. I am your commanding officer!"

The colonel slapped his field boots with his cane and strode off, leaving Mr. Scroop just a little dazed.

P.S.—What the dickens is an interlude?

Musicians' Corner: VI.—I heard some people playing for a dance the other day. I hesitate to use the word "band," because musicians are a touchy lot as a rule. This particular combination consisted of piano, violin, baritone saxophone, tenor trombone, and drums. Of the pianist and violinist I will say no more than that the former was using a perfectly good instrument. The saxophonist is, I understand, quite good on the clarinet. He would do well to stick to it. The trombone without a mute invariably swamps the remainder of a small band. This particular instrumentalist was "all out" most of the time. The drummer is a very good "straight" man, but his knowledge of dance band work is exactly seven years behind the times. His faults may be summed up briefly. Too much cymbal and too much wood work. The noise made by this combination was deafening. The ideal dance band should be just heard from the far end of the dance hall. One should be able to hear the melody and a pronounced rhythm. No more.

Tearing off yards of tripe on trombones, and indiscriminate crashing on cymbals, died a natural death several years ago. Let us not revive it.

Now a word to banjoists. Get out of the habit of gazing at your strings and fingers whilst playing. Look to your front. Listen to the others. Don't run away with the time.

That's all for to-day, except that I hope that the next time I write "ff" the printers will not make it "off." See article No. V.: "Play this ff on the piano." Thank you.

Tip to semi-pros.: Be progressive. If you make any money, spend it on your instruments.

New Indoor Sport.—Sweating on the top line. Played by two or more senior n.c.o.s with little blue books and cuss words, the former obtainable from the Editor of this Journal at one shilling each. First prize: drinks round the mess.

The Strange Case of the Flat Parsley.—"Blast it!" said Miss Claribel Gooly (the Somerset Goolys, of course) tripping over the dead body of Okapi. "Why doesn't Ukan have the place cleared up?" She turned the body over with a well-manicured forefinger. "Good heavens!" she screamed, "it is Ukan's servant."

A casual inspection revealed that Okapi's neck was broken in four places. A further inspection revealed that it was broken in five places. A sharp look round at the immediate surroundings, and the astute Claribel was convinced that he had met his death whilst sliding either up or down the banisters. She searched his clothes and found four pistols, two daggers with jewelled hilts, one bottle of cassioglaris (very deadly), a stick of arsenic, a tube of dynamite, and a black box about four inches square. She opened the box and was horrified to see reposing in the bottom several pieces of blood-stained parsley, as flat as the Ace of Spades. Claribel was struck with a nameless fear. A prickly sensation assailed her back. The colour drained from her face, then rushed back with a few pals. She wanted to scream, but could not. She wanted to rush from the scene, but her feet remained rooted to the floor. The strange silence of this house of death and mystery had her in a grip of terror, and all that sort of thing. In fact she experienced all the usual sensations of a woman who allows herself to become involved in a first-class detective story (such as this).

Claribel (the fool) will have to stay where she is for a little while, because we must see about Ukan Larfe, the great detective.

When Ukan rushed upstairs in a panic and went to bed, he forgot to set his alarm clock. He is still asleep, and we can't do anything about it. Confounded nuisance, but there it is.

BARLEUX.

Oxford University O.T.C.

Our annual camp took place at Bulford this year. We were stationed with the 3rd Divl Signals, and our stay was made really enjoyable by the hospitality and goodwill of the sergeants of that unit.

They gave us the free run of their mess, and we were invited on successive evenings to competitions, a concert, and finally a dance and whist drive. Out of 151 points in the competitions we secured 76, thus beating the sergeants by one point, but they retaliated later by getting the better of us in a cricket match.

The concert was great fun, everybody thoroughly appreciating the local talent, especially L/Sergt Barlow's playing of the saxophone; and we only hope that our contribution of a charade provided some extra amusement. Any success it enjoyed, however, was largely produced by the masterly way in which C.S.M. Hales complied with our exacting demands for costumes for both sexes.

Of actual work there remains in our memories a few outstanding events.

First, those early morning rides under the tuition of Sergt Purseglove, in which, wonderful to relate, only one of our number accidentally left his steed under the trying circumstances of a slope of 1 in 2 (not known in Oxford) and a blanketless horse. Secondly, the schemes, with our first introduction to the interior of a "gin-palace," and a certain halt in the rain, which by a clever piece of map-reading conveniently took place in a wood; and thirdly, a practice for the competition against Cambridge, to take place next term.

Finally, our apologies are due to C.Q.M.S. Sweeting for his frequently-disturbed slumbers through various causes; but we do not hold ourselves responsible for Sergt Codd's extraordinary nocturnal excursions with a flash lamp, though he assures us he was only chasing some loud-voiced cats out of earshot of our hut.

D. J. B.

Somewhere in England.

A terrible time with the Bagpipes morning and night at Bramshott. How a Highland Piper took a horrible revenge on his Sergeant-Major.

BY AN OFFICER OVERSEAS.

Bramshott, June 10th.—If ever you go to war, don't go as neighbours to two Highland battalions; or, at least, don't go as neighbours of theirs until you have satisfied yourself that they have had their bagpipes removed.

Highlanders are fine fellows, good soldiers and brave comrades, but what has ever seemed to me to be a misdirected sense of loyalty makes them all cling to the bagpipes. Clinging to bagpipes is harmless enough, but playing them ought to be a penal offence.

A good Montreal Scotsman who went through a few weeks at Niagara Camp last year said, when he came back, that the only thing he could find to say in favour of the bagpipes was that they did not smell. He is a man of rare discernment!

On the hills of Scotland, with the mavis singing on one side and Loch Lomond roaring in fury on the other, the pipers are doubtless a tradition to be cherished. Here, at Bramshott, only the carping few would have any objection if Scotland were full of pipers—especially if they were our pipers.

Most of us have never heard the mavis sing, but any bird that can sing with the woods full of pipers is a cheery optimist and deserves a place on the national coat-of-arms.

Loch Lomond is in a different position, and has had a right to roar in fury ever since someone wrote that still popular jingle about its "bonny, bonny banks."

The bagpipes, however, cannot plead either of these cases as extenuation. They are a deliberate purposeful assault on one's finer susceptibilities, especially in the early morning and after dinner—the times when a piper feels especially called on to cut loose. Just about the time you are beginning to forget your morning resentment and feel charitable and at peace with the world, the infernal things open up again and spoil your whole evening.

Cruelty to Animals.—Part of our camp is very eligibly situated to speak authoritatively on the question of bagpipes. On the north are the lines of one of the Highland battalions; on the south are the stables. When the wind blows from the north, one's ears are offended; when from the south, one's nostrils.

It was suggested to the C.O. of the nearest Highland battalion that if he could induce his pipers to go out and practise at the stables it would be appreciated, but he did not take kindly to the suggestion, although it had obviously much to commend it. He did not give any reason; in fact, he was almost curt in his refusal, but we rather figured it was because he thought the mules might not like it.

There is such a thing as carrying one's consideration for dumb animals too far. In any case, and without knowing what the Highlanders' mules are like, a little extra discipline such as having bagpipes played at them for two hours a day could not possibly do our regimental mules any harm, and might bring them to a better and more chastened frame of mind. We have tried beating them, but it seems to do no lasting good.

Yesterday our pet mouse coloured team nearly murdered a perfectly good quartermaster. When the time comes for murdering the quartermaster, it will be a privilege for which the four company commanders will draw lots.

There is another feature of bagpipe playing which has not yet received from the higher authorities the attention it merits, and that is the way a piper can say things through his bagpipe and not be called to account for them.

Your real piper is a dour creature, melancholy and saturnine of disposition, and fond of glooming off by himself to an otherwise beautiful and tranquil spot and there unloading his misery on a helpless and innocent welkin.

This happens most frequently in the gloaming with our pipers. We call them "our" pipers as we say "our" afflictions—not because we own them or want to own them, but because we cannot get rid of them.

At any rate, our pipers like to get out to a wooded lane at the back of the camp just as the evening calm is setting in, and there and then batter the calm into small irregular pieces with the shrill repetition of their grievances, their grousings and their general dissatisfaction with the universe.

This process is called "improvising," and consists in finding a peculiarly discordant and dissonant combination of notes and repeating it with minor but offensive variations until all the improvisor's ill-humour has been poured out on an innocent neighbourhood. The combination of notes is supposed to convey a concrete idea of some kind. Although many Highlanders have told me this, I have yet to find one who can with any accuracy say what is the idea—if any—of the piper.

Grief and Bagpipes.—The other day a long melancholy fellow was shrilling some particularly atrocious discords, and one of the Highland officers came down to our lines to hear it better. He said that the piper was pouring out his soul in an expression of his grief at the losses which the Argyll and Sutherland Regiment had just sustained. He further said that the message he was conveying was so clear that words were not needed—that they would have spoiled rather than helped the interpretation of his meaning.

He went away shortly—overcome, I suppose, by emotion. All Highland officers go away shortly when they come up to our lines to listen to their bagpipes. We would go away, too—far, far away—if we could.

A lot of ordinary Highlanders, however, stayed on—privates and corporals, all strong, sturdy men—and purely out of curiosity I asked one of our batmen to go over and find out whether it was because they wanted to join in the sorrows of the piper over the Argyll and Sutherland troubles, or simply as a foolish test of endurance.

When he came back he said that the men were enjoying themselves hugely, and that what the piper was trying to do was to give expression to his personal views of one of the sergeant-majors who had checked him, and at the same time avoid the inevitable consequence which would follow putting his opinion into words.

The thing, as you will see, has unlimited opportunities, and for all we know it may be very subversive of discipline. When you can't be sure whether a man is lamenting the death of Flora Macdonald or putting the black curse on his junior major, he ought to be prevented from doing it on general principles.

A Tribesman of the North-West Frontier, India.

Random Reflections.

"The time has come.....to speak of many things."—Circumstances do not permit us to go out, like Isaac, into the fields to meditate at eventide. Instead, we are content to look through the open door of the guard-room into the quiet of the night and allow our thoughts to have their way.

The last rays of the setting sun have long since faded. The sky is cloudless, save for a dark patch on the southern horizon, harbinger of a little rain—but more likely of a dust storm.

During the day the mercury stood far up in the three figures; now a cool breeze is gradually gathering strength, and for its caress we are very grateful. As the sentry passes and repasses before the open door, he can be seen to lift his head and fill his lungs to their utmost; glad of the opportunity, for on the morrow the air will be hot and motionless, whilst the glare from the sun-baked earth will be almost unbearable except for the fact that across the way one's vision is gladdened by the green of trees and hedges.

Some years since we used to grumble when set to digging in the garden in that cold northern land where hours of sunshine are few and far between. With the days has come wisdom, for it is possible to have too much of a good thing—even when that good thing is sunshine—and we are resolved, when we leave this mighty but misunderstood land of India, to have a great garden, with huge clumps of flowers with some real colour in them and beds of luscious vegetables, with shady walks winding in between. And of course there must be running water, for there is no music like the prattle of the brook or the song of the mountain river as it passes on its life-giving way to lose its identity in the distant sea. And behind and above all will be the everlasting hills, purple clad, leading the looker's eyes and then his thoughts upwards, for the hills are nature's own cathedral towers and church spires.

Thus do we build castles in the air. It is worth while indulging in the habit occasionally, for it is mentally refreshing, even if our castles are generally founded upon the sand. The soaring battlements will collapse, no doubt, but that should not discourage us; only let us not become mere day-dreamers.

Within, as the night becomes cooler, the variety of wild life gradually decreases. From time to time insects and crawling things of various colours, shapes and sizes cross the floor. The latest wayfarer had at first the appearance of a scorpion; a nearer inspection, and it resolved itself into an insect of the locust variety, with the consequent evaporation of our fears. For the present it has taken up its abode in a topi which has been carefully hung upon the floor. No doubt the owner's nerves will be severely strained when he puts the topi on his head!

Round the light a few moths disport themselves, teaching us a lesson to which we shut our eyes. There are none so blind as those who won't see.

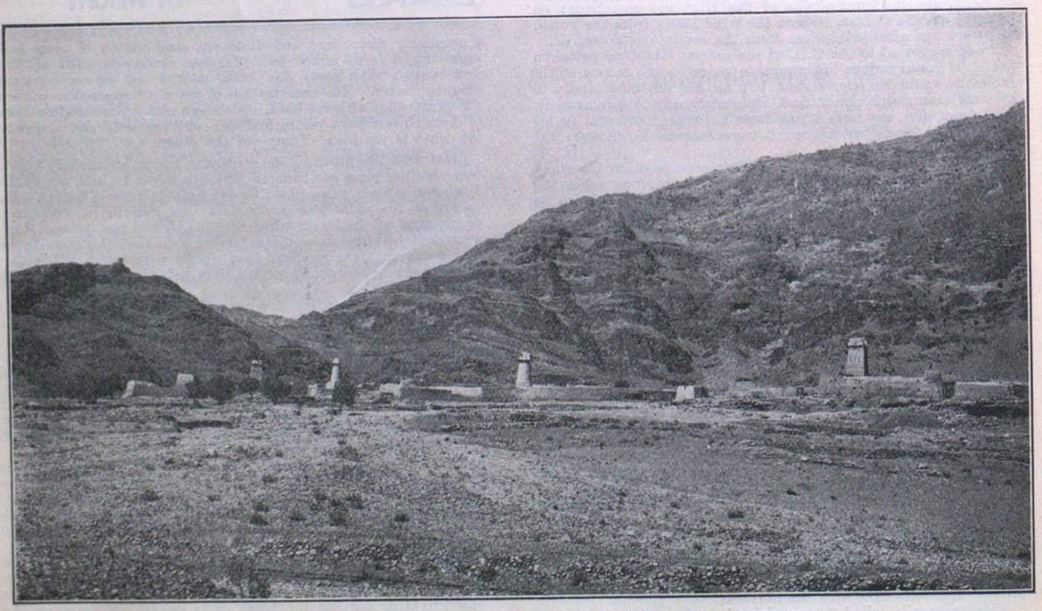
Up the wall beside me passes a long procession of tiny ants. They appear to be a fatigue party (I believe the correct expression is a "working party," but I ask to be excused the lapse), and they are carrying loads of varying sizes which they appear to deposit in crevices in the brickwork, because those of them who are downwards bent are unladen. Wiser than us, they are taking thought for the morrow.

Sheltered by mosquito nets, the recumbent figures of the guard are taking what refreshment they can find at the hand of "blest nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep." Unfortunately, modifications in the building have upset the architect's original design and prevent us enjoying the benefits of the breeze which is blowing outside; we have therefore to be content with the artificial breezes from the fans. The soldier is an ever-interesting object for study. Even the way in which he makes his bed gives the careful observer "tips" as to the personal idiosyncrasies of the owner. Nowhere is the book of human nature so ready of access as in the barrack-room.

Then we pass to thinking of the reasons for our being here. We hark back to the closing days of the reign of Elizabeth, and in imagination we see her granting its first charter to the East India Company. Then the years pass, and we see those who came to India to trade remaining to rule and setting this land of Hindostan on the way to find its destiny. As the time is not yet, here we are in handfuls—for even this garrison is but a handful when compared with the millions who surround us.

Now comes a pleasant diversion. Wagging a most apologetic tail, a "very perfect gentle" lady dog approaches. In effect, if not in fact, she says, "It is now long past sunset, and the air is cool. Is there anything to eat?" Well, I suppose mere man must pander to the fads and fancies of the descendants of Eve, whether they have two feet or four; so the pen is put aside until another day.

Peshawar, June 16th, 1928. A. G.



Villages in the Khyber, North-West Frontier, India.

Second Annual Dinner of the Sergeants' Messes,

Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp.

The second annual dinner of the combined sergeants' messes, Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, was held in the Newbigging Hall on Friday, June 22nd.

I was privileged to attend the inaugural dinner last year, and again at the event of 1928—the second of its kind, and incidentally the last I will attend as an active serving member of the Royal Corps of Signals. I formed a mental picture of the scene in years to come, when the annual dinner is an established event on the Signals' calendar and the Newbigging Hall stands in a vast military centre.

A better venue than the hall it would be impossible to find in this camp. It was beautifully and tastefully decorated, and the seating arrangements for the 183 guests were perfect.

The stage was occupied by the band of the Royal Corps of Signals, who (conducted by Mr. R. R. Ricketts) rendered an excellent programme of music during the course of the dinner.

The president, Regimental Sergeant-Major M. Hepburn, proposed the toast of "The King."

In proposing the toast, "The Commandant and Officers," R.S.M. P. Nolan said we were happy to welcome as guests Lieut.-Colonel F. J. M. Stratton, Capt Lindsay (Cambridge University O.T.C.), Regimental Sergeant-Majors Adams and Fry, and Mr. Heyward (ex-Q.M.S., Royal Signals).

Referring to the proposed formation of a Corps Dinner Fund for past and present members, R.S.M. Nolan submitted that the dinner could be held, in alternate years, at Aldershot and Catterick. Field units would be asked to consider the matter.

Responding to the toast, Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Commandant Signal Training Centre, said:—

"Gentlemen—This is an occasion on which, on behalf of all commanding officers and other officers present, whose health you have drunk, I have to thank you most heartily.

Let me catch him!

The next man I find using my "Bluebell" is "going through it." If ever I get a tin of Bluebell, they're round it like flies round a jam-pot because

BLUEBELL

brings brightness and brings it quickly

ECKITT & SONS LTD. (BLUEBELL POLISH CO. FULHAM, S.W.)

"What pleases me most is that it gives me an opportunity of thanking you for the first-class work which you have done.

"Nobody realises more than I do what work at a Depot means. We can liken it to the wheels in a sausage machine, of which the officers, w.o.s and n.c.o.s are the wheels, and from which we turn out the produce for the Corps. It is grind, grind, grind, and may sometimes appear very dull work.

"But if we bear in mind the other side of the picture, that what we turn out here goes to other units and out into the world, and remember that in eight years we have built up what we can consider the finest Corps in the Army, we shall feel repaid for the work.

"Now, the other evening, the officers of the Corps were fortunate enough to persuade Field-Marshal Sir George Milne to dine with them. I am sorry you were not all there to hear the complimentary remarks he made about the Corps.

"And so, if at any time you feel despondent, just think of this. You will have your turn to serve in field units with these recruits later on, and the better material they are, the easier will be your job.

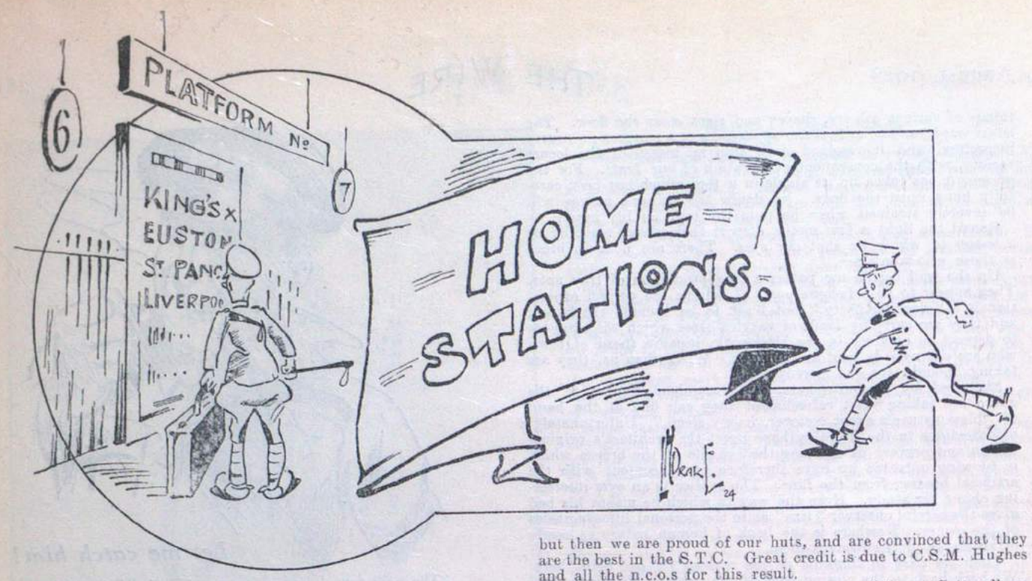
"There is one thing, if I may, I would like to ask you. Could a few more of you turn up for athletics and games? I know some of us have got beyond games. Some have home ties, gardening, and so on. But if we turn out, even if only to watch, our recruits will play better and feel more encouraged. And so perhaps a few more of you will turn up at times.

"I do not think I have any more to say, except to thank you on behalf of my brother officers."

The dinner was followed by community singing, a happy and delightful addition to the programme, the enthusiastic reception of which will no doubt assure the future recognition of this item.

An excellent concert party, "The Amusaliers," contributed toward the latter part of the evening's entertainment, and so terminated the second annual dinner, voted a thoroughly enjoyable event by all.

Mine is perhaps the wrong quarter from which such praise should emanate, yet I feel convinced that I am voicing the opinion of all when I thank the president, R.S.M. Hepburn M., and the committee for doing all that was done to make the second annual dinner such a success. L. H. D.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

After the strenuous times occasioned by the Commandant's inspection, the Wing has again settled down to its normal routine. There have been few events of importance during the month, and the only breeze stirring is that caused by the receipt of the first draft-warning orders. It has started as a mere zephyr, but those who should know confidently predict a gale later on in that regard.

Army Reserve.—During the month we have lost several old hands, and will find it difficult to replace them both in the Wing generally and on the sports field: Corpl Whyte C., L/Cpl Jones W. R., Sigmn Monks J., Drivers Braithwaite A., Hawley W., Jones J., Standing A. and Foxton T. Here's wishing them every success in civil life!

Arrivals.—Corpl Bogg F. from the Dismounted Wing, and Sigmn Carr D. F. from A Corps Signals.

Birth.—Congratulations to Sigmn and Mrs. Pyke on the birth of a daughter (Elizabeth June) at Catterick on June 17th.

Promotions and Appointments.—Signalman Young J. to be L/Corporal, 8/3/28. Sigmn Norman B. to be L/Corporal, 5/6/28. This display of confidence in the police force is, I fear, bound to result in cases being prosecuted with "Savidge" intensity. Those in the habit of taking an "institutional" should make note.

An Appreciation.—A man who would be very useful to any Company has left us on transfer to the Army Reserve: Driver Standing. One had really to be in his company to know what kind of a man he was. Not a crack, but good and keen. In the 100 yards relay team he held his own; at hockey he was a very good back; at football an excellent forward. He was a very useful cricketer, and had we been short of a boxer in our team he would have had a try at that. He was a good horseman and a good soldier, with never a grouse and thoroughly reliable. We wonder how many times he has said "I'm not much good, but I'll go in for it if you are short." Just the man for any Company; his heart and soul was in anything he went in for. We wish him the best of luck in civil life, and hope he will realise that we miss him.

D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—We have now safely surmounted two great obstacles—the Commanding Officer's and the Commandant's inspections. As regards the latter no definite report is yet to hand, but we hear that our performance before the Colonel pleased those in authority exceedingly. Most especially were they pleased with the handling of arms. The barrack-rooms, too, were praised; but then we are proud of our huts, and are convinced that they are the best in the S.T.C. Great credit is due to C.S.M. Hughes and all the n.c.o.s for this result.

We offer our hearty congratulations to L/Sergt Cotterell on his great performance in winning the Army three miles for the eighth successive year. It will surely be a long long time before this record is equalled!

Arrivals.—2/Lieut D. L. Dwyer from the Depot Battalion. There have been several other arrivals from the Depot Battalion, but they are too numerous to mention by name. We welcome them all to the clan.

Departure.—Sergt Jerry Fegan to Liverpool, to relieve Sergt Chikko Leath (a well known and valuable athlete) to come and do his bit for the Corps.

To whom it may concern.—The latest fashion of dress for men proceeding to India, as shown in July notes, was certainly original. Ahem!

DON.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Telling the World.—Upon opening a packet of a popular brand of cigarettes recently, the slogan "It's the tobacco that counts" shot out and caught me with stunning violence between the eyes.

By the time my mental equilibrium had "revved" down to normal, I had realised in a dazed fashion that the art of advertising has been developed into a great science, and the thought occurred to me that a little "boosting" might quite easily be applied to military merchandise with, I venture to predict, valuable results.

It is in this firm belief that I have produced a series of twelve posters for the clothing departments of all military centres.

Each poster bears a slogan and an appropriate illustration, and a guarantee to "put it across big" goes with each series of twelve.

I will quote a few examples of the sort of thing that gets there.

"Open ten to twelve on Mondays;
Come to Blotto for your undies."

This poster, which of course deals with gents' underwear, and the like, possesses both personality and pep.

"Loopy's leather laces do *not* affect the throat."

Slogans of this nature set 'em alight!

These posters can be had in various sizes, and are primarily designed for exhibition in the windows of Company quartermaster-sergeants' stores.

If your sales are not increased one hundred per cent. you are at least saved the trouble of cleaning the windows.

Inspections.—The inspections of E Company by the Commandant of the Signal Training Centre and the Commanding Officer (Training Battalion) have taken place, and Eddy passed with flying colours.

Postings.—Sigmn Toifts E. to A Corps Signals, Aldershot, 18/6/28. Sigmn Coker E. to Aldershot Command Signal Company, 22/6/28. Sigmn Rennie H. T. to 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot, 2/7/28. Signalmen Clifford L. V., Murdock T., and Goodman C. to 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot, 2/7/28. Sigmn Rooks L. to School of Signals, 3/7/28.

Arrivals.—Sigmn Slater H. E. from A Corps Signals, 6/7/28. Sigmn Watts J. E. C. from School of Signals, 3/7/28.

Appointments.—Sigmn Moorhouse T. is appointed L/Corpl. Sigmn Sanctuary J. is appointed A/L/Corporal whilst attending the 40th Course of Instruction at the Army School of Education, Shorncliffe.

Transfer to Army Reserve.—Our wishes for the best of luck accompany L/Sergt Flint T., who left us on transfer to the Reserve on July 5th.

Medals.—We offer our congratulations to the following upon their receipt of the long service and good conduct medal: C.S.M. McGregor S. C., Sergts Schwencke W. and Whittle G., Signalmen Green W. and Hefferman P.

Among Those Present.—Hearty congratulations to L/Sergt Cotterell W. M. on his victory in the three miles Army championship, and thus proving himself Army champion for the eighth year in succession.

A pat on the back to all those who have qualified in their trade classification, and to those thirty-four individuals who have gained their certificates of education.

An Apology.—Awfully sorry E Company's contribution to THE WIRE this month falls rather below par. You may blame the heat wave if you like.

L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Topics of general interest are scarce this month, and the typewriter mechanism becomes so heated in this present rare and strange spasm of really warm weather that we have decided to give that useful article of office furniture as little work as possible.

The "hops" planted round the Company pergolas are progressing by "leaps and bounds," but we are sorry to state that the plants reclining in their respective stately beds are drinking a great deal lately. Stocks are blooming, the ramblers are rambling, and the champion rose bush is helping the "Brighter Catterick" movement by an addition to its branches of four beautiful buds which show a tendency to develop into yellow offspring. King Sol is indeed doing his best for our sakes, and through the agency of his ultra-violet rays is putting the finishing touch to our amateur gardeners' efforts.

Inspections.—The Commanding Officer inspected the boys' kits and barrack-rooms on July 5th. Company drill should have figured first on the programme; but owing to the presence of the usual "depression" over this part of the country, our practical demonstrations of detailed movements embodied in the "little book" did not take place until about 11.30 a.m. The C.O. was very pleased with the result of the boys' work, and especially with their kits and rooms.

The Brigadier's inspection has just concluded, and has left us feeling very pleased with our little selves. The inspection was a great success, and a remark was passed to the effect that the boys' kits were so good that the "ideal" had practically been attained. As a result of this remark the regimental tailor is looking forward to a rush of youthful customers requiring chest room in their tunics.

Congratulations from the boys to Captains F. K. Wilson (adjutant, Training Battalion) and B. B. Kennett on attaining that rank.

School of Signals.

General.—Once more we have been reminded that notes for THE WIRE are due to be sent off to-morrow. Why this happens month after month we cannot imagine. Somehow the steady flow of pencil over paper refuses to function, and we sit, or recline in bed, chewing the thick end of our blacklead, awaiting inspiration. Suddenly our note book flops to the floor and we wake with a start, only to repeat the performance outlined above,

Foreign Drafts.—A reference to Part I. Orders gives us this subject. Those under provisional orders for India during the forthcoming trooping season are: Corpl Brown F. A. (clerk), Corpl Gordon S. E. (lineman), L/Corpl Stevenson L. W. F. (fitter), and Sigmn Bellis (draughtsman). Their drafting abroad is in "anticipation" only, and they may not embark until late in the trooping season.

Congratulations.—In congratulating the Corps Publications Committee on the excellence of the Summer Number of THE WIRE, we have no hesitation in saying that the Royal Corps of Signals Magazine is first-class value for one's money. It is one of the links which cement old friendships amongst past and present members throughout the Corps.

The Pictorial Supplement received unanimous approval. The subject matter is particularly interesting, and the reproduction of the illustrations is a credit to all concerned. We look forward to more frequent issues of these Supplements.

Officers.—Lieut E. L. Bols, The Devonshire Regiment, arrived from Malta on June 27th for duty as an instructor vice Lieut I. M. Goff, The Hampshire Regiment. Lieut Goff rejoined his unit at Plymouth the same day, after three years' duty at the School.

Arrivals and Departures.—An exchange of postings has been effected between Signalmen Watts J. E. C. (to the Training Battalion) and Rooks L. E. (to the School) as from July 3rd.

Departures during the month include Dvr Batcheldor A. (July 12th), and Sigmn Harris C. (July 13th)—both to the Army Reserve.

Only one discharge has taken place during the month: C.Q.M.S Squibb G. W. J., who left the School on July 11th after 25 years' Army service (see notes under Sergeants' Mess).

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Sergt Tilling F. to be Sergeant, 1/5/28. Corpl Tate A. S. (No. 6 Foreman-of-Signals Course) to be L/Sergeant (unpaid), 19/6/28.

Birth.—To the wife of Sergt Johnson A., a daughter (Barbara) on June 12th.

Examinations.—We congratulate C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Flynn G. H. R. on his successes in the following examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute, Department of Technology: 2nd class pass in radio communication (final), and Grade II. pass in alternate current.

Re-engagements.—The re-engagements of Sergts Shipcott P. and Gradden E. to complete 21 years' service have been approved, and they are now settling down to a few more years on the Catterick moors.

Annual Inspection.—This was carried out by Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Commandant Signal Training Centre, on June 25th, with satisfactory results.

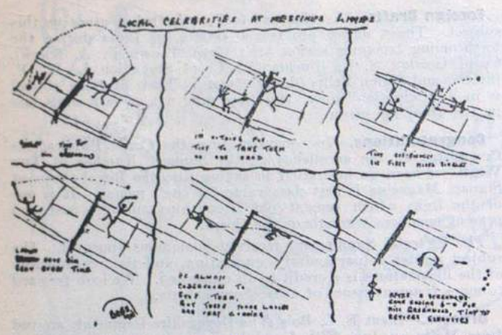
Sergeants' Mess.

General.—Summer has descended upon us. Although the weather has been fair during the last two months, we are now in the midst of a semi heat-wave. This has helped towards considerable activities in the way of sport.

Tennis.—On Sunday, July 8th, we entertained the members of the Training Battalion mess at tennis. The matches were interesting and amusing; but our visitors were unfortunately at a disadvantage on a strange court.

A good match was played in a mixed doubles between Mrs. Nokes and C.Q.M.S. Flynn versus Mrs. Grace and Sgt Marshall. (Be it noted that Sergt Marshall, who belongs to No 1 F.A. Brigade Signal Section, is attached to the School mess for tennis and suppers during the brief stay of his Section at Catterick).

After tea the occasion was considered a fitting one to bid goodbye to C.Q.M.S. Squibb G. W., who has now left the School, on discharge, after 25 years' service. In a few well-chosen words R.S.M. Anderson asked C.Q.M.S. Squibb to accept the good wishes of all on his return to civil life, and as a more tangible mark of the esteem in which he has always been held to accept an oak clock as a personal memento from the members of the mess. The response of C.Q.M.S. Squibb was heartily applauded.



After tennis the party adjourned to the mess to spend the remainder of the evening in an impromptu social.

PETER.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

1st Divisional Signals.

We open our notes by commenting upon the excellence of the July number of THE WIRE, and especially wish to congratulate our Editor on his splendid Summer Number. At this time in 1929 we shall anticipate "Many happy returns." It was unfortunate that there were several disappointed at not being able to secure a copy. To these one would offer the advice to become a regular subscriber, and so be forearmed for other special publications which may come along.

The long-awaited new Roster is now in the hands of all warrant and non-commissioned officers in this unit. Its appearance caused a good amount of eye-strain for the first few days. Any excitement which might have been observed has now died down, but those who are keen on watching the race have been busy amending to agree with that batch which appeared in the July WIRE.

Records have now given us our "anticipated's," and the vicinity of the order board presented the appearance of a beehive the night names appeared in Unit Orders. India is again to have the greater proportion of those ear-marked. We know old Firstdivsigs in India will give those coming out this trooper a hearty welcome. As soon as definite orders are received we will include names in our notes, so that foreign stations may know if any old pals are coming out.

We send our congratulations to R.S.M. Adams on receiving such a distinction for himself and the Corps. We also wish the S.T.C. athletic team success when they come to Aldershot to compete in the Army championships.

The Aldershot Tattoo—(you will remember we said some time ago that it should not be missed)—surpassed anything that has yet been produced at Rushmoor, and was made even more successful by the good weather which prevailed throughout the period. Personnel of A Corps Signals attached to this unit were responsible for the telephonic communication, which brought them many words of praise from the organisers. The spectators on the last night of the Tattoo numbered 60,000, which will give some idea of the immensity of the crowd.

Well done, Gib! We were very pleased to see your contribution! but Aden appeared to have given us a miss, unless they missed the boat.

Signalmen Collett, Dewar and Dawson have joined us from the T.B., and were followed by Dvrs Foot, Gates and Hallett from the D.B.

Corpl Atkinson and Signalmen Marshall, Parkes, Smith E., Holloway, Foster C., and Walker have left us for the Reserve. Our thanks are due to the Signals Association for placing Corpl Atkinson and Sigmn Wilmott in employment.

Sigmn Viney has been discharged on medical grounds, and we trust his disability will not cause him any great distress.

Signalman Westbrook has successfully passed a cook's course. L/Sergt Walsh has obtained a shorthand certificate. Signalman Jennings is now a carpenter, class ii., but 4th Divl Signals are to reap the benefit, as we are to lose him shortly (may you find Colchester more suitable, Chippy). Signalmen Clarke and Collier are now fully fledged elects. fitters; and Signalmen Glass and Midgley have been absorbed as clerks, much to their satisfaction.

Owing to shortage of personnel we have a Cable Section and two W/T Sections from A Corps Signals attached to help us out of our difficulties, and we hear they are enjoying our schemes.

We congratulate C.Q.M.S. Hocking on the award of the long service and good conduct medal.

Capt J. C. Cree and Lieut F. Braine have been with us for fourteen days' annual training, and we hope their stay was pleasant.

L/Corpls Kay and Watts have advanced a step to paid rank, and Signalmen Newman and Hawkes are now "one up."

We would advise all who have friends in the unit, when writing, to address letters to "1st Divisional Signals, *Mons Barracks*, Aldershot," as we have to forget the name "Haig Lines"—owing to some possibility of confusion with a similar address in the Command, it is understood.

YA.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Mons Barracks.

Yes, we are still here! Alive, but only just. Schemes! And then schemes!! And then more schemes!!! Didn't some poet say something about "Oh to be in Signals now that schemes are on"?

Anyway, things seem to be looking up, and our energy is marvellous; for in spite of breaking records in erecting and dismantling (with harassed reliefs panting in the offing), and in putting up pole-crossings (though they may sometimes fall down), we managed to turn out for an impromptu Company sports on Thursday, June 22nd, when several "dark horses" came into the light.

The inter-Section shield was won by B Section; details of the events are given in the Sports columns. But there are a few items of interest that ought to be mentioned here. For instance, it is rumoured that Gunner wants to know who put linseed in the tea? Someone says "Ask Freddie"; but no one knows why he's grousing, as it made him run all right. Then there is the important question of cakes! Is it true that a dozen haggard and hungry mortals were found, late at night, still waiting in the hope of tasting the delicious confections turned out by the charming wives of certain n.c.o.s? and did they hear the cruel answer, "What more do you want for five bob?"

On July 13th (a Friday, too!) we held the Company swimming sports, and although A Section won the inter-Section trophy, 2/Lieut Thuillier and Sergt New, both of B Section, tied with the highest number of individual points. May we suggest that the Company as a whole might support our aquatic enthusiasts more heartily by turning up at these shows to cheer their efforts? The faithful few who were present spent an enjoyable hour, and we may add that ladies are welcomed in the audience.

The inter-Detachment efficiency shield was won again last month by "the gallant Wells and his merry men" (A.2 Wireless Detachment), this being their second consecutive victory. B.2 have done the trick once, and doubtless will again. Now then, A.1 and B.1, what about it?

Draft lists for the coming trooping season, which have now been posted, contain many surprises. Our pessimist says he wishes 'em a heavy thirst, and no beer, and may they click a "buckshee" year.

Appointments, Attachments, etc.—We congratulate U/L/Cpl Yalden on attaining that rank.

8x, 8v and 6 Heavy Detachments W/T of A Corps are now attached to A Section, and we extend to them a very hearty welcome. This welcome is likewise extended to C Cable Section, also attached to the Company. We trust that they will find their stay with us enjoyable and mutually beneficial.

Coming Events.—The inter-Company water polo matches for the unit trophy will be played within the course of the next few days, and on Thursday, July 19th, we are holding our annual Company athletic sports, to be followed in the evening by a cabaret and dance. Watch next month's WIRE for a full description and results.

GLAXO.

No. 3 Company.

Again the fateful day has come and found your humble scribe with nothing ready and very little to say.

The interval since our last notes has been occupied by various forms of training, including "night ops" and Staff College exercises.

The raw material from Catterick and the old sweats from overseas are welding into an efficient Company, and sections are beginning to pull together in preparation for annual training, which starts next month in Sussex.

Obituary.—We regret to report the death of Sigmn Lock C. V. in a motor-cycle accident at Farnborough on July 2nd. He had been with us since November last, and had become exceedingly popular. A sad feature of the case is that he was due for discharge on the followng day. We extend our sympathy to his bereaved relatives and fiancée.

Departures.—Signalmen Green, Elsey, Hudson, Colquhoun, Wild P., Edgcumbe, and Lewis to the Army Reserve. Our best wishes accompany them to their new sphere of activity.

Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold Signalmen Welch, Peters, Walmsley, Clark, Saville, Wild J., Goodman and Clifford from Catterick. May their stay with us be long and pleasant!

Promotions.—Congratulations to Sergt Simpson and Corporal Bishop on attaining those ranks; and to Signalman Stears on posting to the ranks. (Carry on, Badgie; remember the Field-Marshal's baton.)

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mons Barracks, Haig Lines.

Well Done!—I must first of all congratulate everyone concerned in the production of the fine July issue of our Corps Magazine. It's a treat!

Schemes.—I remarked on the mechanisation of this unit last month. I think that we have given our six-wheelers a good try-out up to now, and it is surprising what speeds can be attained when erecting, dismantling, or moving.

I shall not say much about our schemes of the last month, as I now have some proof that other units read these notes (see "Replies to Correspondents—Wog"). Suffice it to say that we have represented everything from Corps to Medium Artillery Sections, and night-bombers to D.R.s. This is something fresh for Cavalry W/T Sections, but we have succeeded where others have. . . etc. Haven't we, Ya?

We are hoping, when we participate in the cavalry schemes, that we shall be able to move as soon, if not sooner, than they do!

Congratulations to Sergt Tolley A. J. (attached), Corporal James C. E., U/L/Corpls Marsden and Muir on attaining those ranks. To L/Corporal Marsden on obtaining his clerk C2. To Signalmen Clark and Askew, instrument makers, A3. To Signalman Foy and "Winnie" on getting third place in the "best-trained troop horse" class at the Horse Show.

Departures.—To civvy street, Sigmn Robinson S. To V.T.C., Hounslow, Sigmn Lyon. To Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth, Sigmn Mott, C. V. R. (give it to 'em, Bull!) We wish them all the very best of luck.

Probables.—By Mr. Records: To Egypt, Sigmn Ferguson. To India, Signalmen Jones, Lough, Pratt, Clark, Chinery, Grafton, McMullen, and Sutherland. (Branch Secretaries: Please note that all the above are members of the Signals Association 9d. per month scheme.)

Agony.—To Tiny, from Paddy: What abaht it, Oi?

Replies to Correspondents.—Wog, A Cav Troop: 'Owdam Lad regrets to state that he is *not* able to make anything with the remainder of the C set that he pulled to pieces, as there was not even a washer left over!

Vera, Aldershot: No, he is not on C.B. Try writing to him.

Do You Know?—That all are not corks that screw? That a woman is as old as she looks, but a man is old when he stops looking? That most of the Troop are polygamous pluralists as regards gills (or pints)?

Last One (overheard).—Two Scotsmen, both in the same W/T Section, whilst loading up for a night scheme recently. Jock 1: "Have you got any soap, Jock?" Jock 2: "Yes." Jock 1: "You fetch towel and soap, and then I can use them."

Quite true, that one!

TROOPER DON.

Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Assaye Barracks, Tidworth.

Trick Riding on Motor Cycles.—With the Southern Command Tattoo looming ahead, our despatch riders are rapidly bringing their trick-riding display to perfection. This exhibition, which is improving by leaps and bounds, is somewhat novel for a military tattoo, and is, we believe, the first attempt to adapt the work of the Corps for public display.

Already much attention has been received from the Press, a visit by some representatives during a dress rehearsal resulting in the publication of photographs in several newspapers. For the benefit of those not in touch with the current news, we hope to obtain some of these snaps for insertion in these columns. [These were received too late for inclusion in this issue, but will appear next month.—ED.]

Wireless on Wheels.—Schemes are now upon us, and marching order is the order of the day. Now that the various parties who visited S.E.E., Woolwich, have returned, bringing vehicles fitted with weird and wonderful sets, the unit now rides forth fully equipped for the fray.

Nevertheless, we would not have anyone confuse these exercises with charabanc trips. Indeed, riding cross-country in a car at thirty miles an hour and operating at the same time is no mere pastime.

Despatch Riders Making a Splash.—These trick-riding stunts for the tattoo encourage bad habits in our despatch riders. After learning to fly through the air on motor cycles—with the aid of a jump board—the sight of a river while on schemes suggested to two or three of them a performance in water. We may yet have the pleasure of congratulating Sergt Adcock on swimming the Channel in novel style, but we would point out to Johnny that a bag, tool side armoured, is not provided for "shrimping" purposes.

Overheard.—Orderly from another unit: "Can I see A——?" Clerk: "Sorry, he's at Marlborough."

Orderly: "B—— will do then." Clerk: "Sorry; he's at Woolwich."

Orderly: "What about C——, then?" Clerk: "Sorry; he's at Bristol."

Orderly: "Then, can I see D——?" Clerk: "Yes, if you follow him to Coventry."

Orderly: "Oh! go to h——!" Clerk: "Sorry; that's not in our radius of action as yet."

In a Few Words.—Ladies are said to prefer tea in the afternoon; some of our w.o.s and n.c.o.s prefer it in the morning. On Monday everyone is prepared to "stand the round," but on Friday some of this tea-sipping circle slip away and spend their last clod alone and in stealth. The amateur "Nippy" who caters for this party indignantly denies that he deliberately spills the tea and then privately drains the tray into his own cup.

Neither the weather nor the fires are the sole cause of rapid changes of temperature in the cook-house.

The harmony of our tame organist disturbs that of the barrack-room. Nobby always feels upset when, without a bean in his pocket, he watches our organist casually handling the notes.

Departures.—We wish "all the best" to Signalmen McKechnie and Tisbury, who have just left us for civvy street.

NABAD.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Radnor House, Salisbury.

General.—This is the Southern Command Signal Company, Salisbury, calling! Here is a summary of the present weather forecast. A heat-wave hovers around the huts here (or perhaps a better name for them would be hot-houses) which makes one realise the times he spent in India or other stations abroad. Even as one writes the blotting paper sticks to one's arms, so you can guess that fires are not required here. Further outlook still the same, until Coir arrives back from leave.

This weather makes one run to the nearest pop shop; and talking about pop shops, it reminds me of the other day when I walked into a village. There, on an old rustic fence, was the inscription: "Ginger pop, that pop, pop, pops for Sal." As I was rather warm I opened the little gate and entered to refresh my dry lips with lemonade, which I preferred—being ginger myself, I was hot enough.

Cossip from the Gay City.—Salisbury is decidedly à-la-mode these days, even Fisherton Street. There are sights worth seeing: pretty flappers parading to and fro, looking their best in striking new creations that would knock spots off any seen on the Lido. In fact, some of them were so intriguing that I had to shut my eyes. Of course I opened them again, and still my vision was filled with blondes (no wonder gentlemen prefer them!) Some apparently were endeavouring to change their colour, for I saw nothing but thin arms, fat arms, and fat-all-shapes of arms—some red, and many quite brown. It appears as if the present-day flapper is turning our streets into a revue. Not that I object to that; in fact, to be perfectly candid, I am a little jealous! Here am I adorned in a thick woolly suit that makes me feel as though I am a bear, while the ladies without a blush walk boldly out—well! more or less in bareskins.

A.A. Vacancies.—The other day Coir, for the first time in his career, paid a visit to that well-known haven of rest where our famous friend Barleux resides: Bulford's beautiful garden city, ahem! On his arrival he was quite surprised to see a few dear old faces that took him back to Maresfield and Crowborough cantonments. And like all other days when visiting the Signals, my heart was filled with hope and glory, ahem!

As I walked along the main road I stopped to enquire where I could locate the Signals, and was directed "first to the right, second to the left, turn to the right again (and then count 99)." This didn't help me very much, but at last my attention was attracted by a notice board bearing the sign: "Regimental Lines —No Civilians." This fairly put the tin hat on things. Here had I travelled nine miles from Salisbury and trudged across the plains, only to find the silent order of the boot awaited me. Anyway I did not despair, and was about to chance my arm when a cheerful looking fellow poked his head around the board and smiled at me sweetly (he was a signalman, of course).

"Is this the Signals?" I enquired.

"You've hit it, mate," he replied, still smiling.

"Where's the orderly room?" I asked.

He surveyed me up and down closely, then pointed to a large building, and exclaimed, "That homely-looking place over there," I thanked him and passed on my way. Reaching the said building, I was welcomed with the usual sounds that issue from such a place: "Shun! Left turn! Quick march! Right turn! Halt!"—and then a hushed silence. I listened, but heard nothing, when suddenly a voice was heard: "Get your hair cut!"

My business completed here, I proceeded to locate the Foreman-of-Signals, whose dwelling I was given to understand was at the far end of the camp.

Taking what I thought was a short cut I eventually found myself in the horse lines, and by the way the horses looked at me I was not wanted there; so I retraced my steps across roads, round and round buildings, and after walking until my feet were burning and my brow was wet, at last I saw the sign "Army Signals"—and with a sigh I entered the sanctum of the Foreman-of-Signals, wiping my boots on a mat that did not bear the words "Come in."

I coughed, and a voice that sounded familiar to me shouted "Hallo!" I replied "What oh!" and made a couple of "o's o's" of it. Peeping round the corner I discovered the person I had so diligently sought, with coat off, hard at work. After a cheerful conversation, complete with business, I returned to the bus bound for Salisbury.

Perhaps Barleux, on reading this, will publish instructions, or, better still, draw a diagram of Bulford to enable new-comers to find their way about this "Rin-Tin-Town" of Bulford.

Yours to a grease spot!

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

R.E. Band Week.—The band of the Royal Engineers visited Bulford Camp for the last week of June, and were of course enthusiastically received. They gave us of their usual high standard. The R.E. band is too well known, and too firmly established high up the tree, to need praise from unit scribes.

The Royal Signals Band.—We are hoping that our own band will visit us again this year. A very large number of people are firmly convinced that the Royal Signals band will give quite as good a performance as the R.E.s. Personally I consider they were *better* last year, but there, no one takes any notice of what I say. However, our band is one of the best, and if they have improved on their last year's standard, then they are indeed well worth listening to. I must insist on that "Persian Market" thing being played again. I am still sorry Spud Marsden is not in the band.

The Dark Blues.—Special Sergeants' Mess News (copyright). About twenty-eight of the brightest of the "bright young people" spent a couple of weeks with us. They left on July 7th. This place seems so quiet now. They were a party of Oxford University Senior O.T.C. (Royal Signals), and apart from everything else I understand that they have profited by their attachment to a Divisional Signals. Joe has gone back to normal again. I'm afraid they led him a "dog's life."

Sergt Bert Trapmore (stand up, you Liverpool boys) is their instructor, and we were very pleased to see him again after many years. To give even a brief account of their stay here would require a couple of pages, so full of incident and interest was it. The outstanding event was a "Bachelors' Night," at which the great sport of yarn-spinning and singing predominated. Oxford won the yarns by a length. Mr. "Hux" and Mr. "Daw" were initiated "Turtles" by members of the R.E. band. We sincerely hope to see the Oxford O.T.C. again one of these days. Good luck to them!

Eastward Ho!—What, again? Yes, here she is, lads. For India: Sergts Nicks W., Barlow R., Chandler A., Wigzell W., Stainer J., Sigmn Clay S. and a lot more.

Gibraltar: Sigmn Else H.

Malta: Sigmn Vaughan N.

S. China: Signalmen Patience L. and Higgins G.

Jamaica: Signalmen French S., Humphries H. and Pratt R.

Sarafand: L/Corpl Chesters W., Signalmen Lafford S., Cooper W. J., Miller A. E., and Parry E. A.

Egypt: Cpl Norcup J., Drivers Norcup, Loughrey, McCorkell, Signalmen Lewis W., Perry W., Carter F., Playfair B., Huson A., Runeckles C., Newsome A., and Smith C. A.

Iraq: Signalmen Gunn J., Martin J., Stevens J., Baldwin S., Sanders.

Sorry we cannot give the whole list for India. Far too many. Hands up, those units in need of a saxophonist.

Welcome.—Old members of this unit will be interested to learn that C.S.M. Kneebone has returned to us. He has been posted to No. 1 Company. We offer him a hearty welcome, and trust that he will find Bulford to his liking in spite of the considerable changes in the landscape since he was last here.

Sergeants' Mess.—Nothing special to report since the O.T.C. left us. See other paragraph. The new caterer is giving satisfaction, but I can't say I care a lot for the job! Will the sergeants' mess, Jubbulpore, please reserve places for the personnel named in "Eastward Ho!" Harry Ring, please note that Barleux is almost certain to sail this time. Aden Signals are requested to watch for details. We are dropping "Moujik" off en route.

Personal.—Sigmn Mayhew wishes to hear from Sigmn Boyce A., once of A Corps Signals, now in India (?)

'Erb Hall and Fairy Tremaine are requested to communicate with their old scrounging school at Bulford.

Bulford Gazette.—H. Sowden relinquishes the temporary appointment of dental officer (class oo) 30/6/28. Appointed artist (tonsorial) Group E, 1/7/28.

R. F. B.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

General.—Firstly, a word of congratulation to all who were responsible for the "turn-out" of the July issue. It is easy now to understand why THE WIRE has become pre-eminent in the world of regimental magazines.

Schemes are now in full swing, in preparation for the test scheme to be given the unit this month by the Division. The continual choice of either the Lion or the Donkey and Buskins as headquarters causes much comment, to which a satisfactory answer can no doubt be given by the gentleman from the land of patron saints and snakes.

Schemes may improve technical efficiency, but they are also responsible for many a grin; and so far, the palm goes to the gentleman who, when ordered to bring in all local lines, helped himself to a chunk of cable from the test panel. It's all over now, but one poor Irishman will be unfit for service abroad as a result.

This month will see the departure of J and L Sections to join their respective Brigades, their absence from this unit probably lasting until after the concentration in September.

O.C.A. Outing.—Approximately a hundred members, together with their wives, children, and fiancées, took part in the outing to Southend-on-Sea, on June 21st, of the unit Branch of the Signals Association.

Before going any further I should like to point out to the secretary that when those wives said "Yes" to the "better or worse" question, they had no idea that the "worse" included riding in Wormell's floating dock. What a bus! Seats beautifully upholstered in cane, inlaid with nice shiny tacks for the kiddies to play with. Dainty little windows that would neither open nor shut. Tyres as hard as a pay clerk's heart at the end of the quarter, and an engine that held a protest meeting every few miles. Still, we bumped there alright, and everyone seemed to have a good time—good enough to justify asking for another trip, anyway.

I don't say that everyone wanted another trip. For instance, I know of one married man who was quite content to sit and watch the ladies on the bowls all day, but the chain rattled, and he had to make funny faces in the magic mirrors to amuse the kiddies. How he did laugh! Not so loud as the single members, though, when they found the floating dock waiting to bring them home at night. He! he!

Chitty Bang Bang.—With a rattle and roar it flashed along behind the limber wagon, and finally, with a gurgle of relief, sat down outside the mess and snoozed.

Calling for a strong man's drink, the driver gazed at the clock. No time to spare, for, with dinner at one o'clock, only two hours remained in which to do the long stretch to Menin Road. It would mean taxing the upholstery to its utmost.

Hastily gulping down the very last dregs, he turned, and turned. No luck, when every minute counted. The accursed weeds were growing in the bonnet again. At last all was well, and a gentle rattle, whine, yelp and splutter showed that the engine was running up to her usual standard.

With a spring she was off. Strong men cried, the stables were full of flying feed-bags, the guard cursed at having to turn out again, and the hands of the clock spun round eight hours.

I know that people will say that this is merely the wagging of an envious tongue. I know, and cannot but admit it. It would just have suited me, for I've promised the kiddies so long that I'd buy them something to play with. Still, I'm not bitter about it, and I do think that a whistle instead of that horn would settle the space question.

As for a name, "Chaffcutter" seems to have caught on, but I suggest either "Vis Comica" or "Vis a Tergo."

Congratulations to L/Corporals Colwell, Anderson, Andrews, Berry, Culver and Gourlay on their promotion, and to C.Q.M.S. Hall on obtaining the long service and good conduct medal.

The Corps Roster.—A very neat little production. A suggestion has been made that casualties affecting Lance-Corporals should be included in subsequent amendments.

Answers and Queries.—Anxious Enquirers: The officer who was called by his batman in a dressing-gown is now taking nourishment.

Mrs. Ball: Congratulations. Clothing allowance is credited monthly.

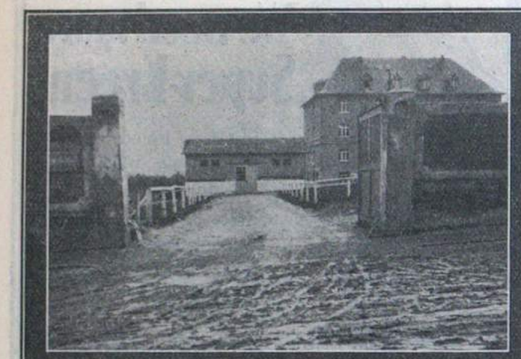
The Owner of "Chaffcutter": Aequam memento rebus in arduis servare mentem.

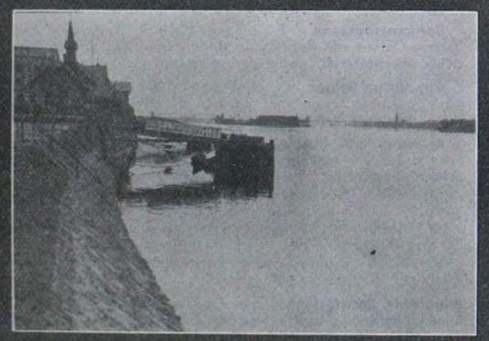
Green Ink: You are worrying our tame aspirant to dirt track honours. Let sleeping dogs lie.

Coming Events.—It is hoped to include in the notes for September an article by Capt L. B. Nicholls on "Signals in Shanghai." As Capt Nicholls performed the duties of both signal-master at Force H.Q. signal office and officer i/c D.R.L.S., his remarks will doubtless help to enlighten those who were unable to go as to the conditions prevailing, so far as Signals were concerned.

WELLER.

WITH SIGNALS ON THE RHINE





Barracks of the Rhine Signal Company

View of the Rhine from Biebrich

Wiesbaden Skating Ring

Some of the Signals N.C.O.s Mess

Biebrich Landing Stage

Scottish Command Signal Company.

The Castle, Edinburgh.

Promotion.—Congratulations to Sgt Foley J. E. on attaining that rank, w.e.f. 1/6/28.

Departures.—Mr. G. H. Wightman (civilian clerk), who has been clerk to the Chief Signal Officer Scottish Command for over nine years, has left us for Catterick, where he is to be employed under the D.O.R.E. He will be missed here, especially by his successor—myself. We wish him the best of luck in his new surroundings.

To Bermuda Section.—Our sympathy to all who have "clicked" that extra year; but you needn't break out into poetry over it, all the same, P. J.

To Jubbulpore.—Please take heed of the Editor's notes of July, and let's have some news. Have you got Bobby's quarters ready?

General.—The most interesting item I have to report is the visit to Edinburgh of the Corps band. They gave their audiences a week full of first-class music, and we were informed that they were excellent. Their last performance was by far a record for Edinburgh, every seat being occupied and hundreds crowded into the gardens. We congratulate the band, who have the distinction of being the best yet to visit Edinburgh.

On Friday last we were the guests of the 52nd (Lowland) Divl Signals, T.A., at a supper and smoking concert given in honour of the band. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the programme was well supported by Sergt Titch White, late of Egypt, and L/Corpl Jock Robinson, of the band, who kept us rocking with mirth. Some good singing was heard from members of the T.A. mess and Sergt Foley of this Company. A telegram informed us of the arrival of another member on the married quarters roll, Corpl Saunders being the proud recipient. Our thanks are due to the 52nd Signals sergeants' mess for arranging such a splendid turnout.

Notes of Interest.—Sergt Foley J. E. has been selected to play for the Army in Scotland cricket team, who meet the Grange C.C. on Saturday, the 14th July. Two years ago the Grange C.C. entertained one of England's leading counties, so you can imagine we are proud of our Jim.

WEE RITE.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, July 15th.

General.—I must apologise for the absence of unit notes in the July publication. Our newly-elected correspondent, who should have done the necessary, developed a tennis elbow and petrol fever, so that we were robbed of a treat. I will endeavour to fill the gap and include the happenings since our last notes.

All ranks were sorry to hear of the motor-car accident in which Capt G. G. Glanville was involved, and wish him a speedy recovery. One wonders how he escaped from very serious injury after the car doing a treble somersault.

Congratulations are offered to our Editorial staff on the splendid Summer Double Number and the long-sought-for Corps Promotion Roster.

Training.—The month of June found the Company encamped at Tier Park, where battles were won and lost twice weekly. The Artillery Section returned from Bitche Camp on June 8th, and joined the Company in camp. We are curious to know if "talking" is a trade in the French Army and if it is catching.

Annual Inspection.—On return from camp on June 30th, the Company were faced with the proposition of the G.O.C.'s inspection on the 4th July. A mounted marching order parade was due on the 5th, but in consideration of the good turnout at the inspection the G.O.C. cancelled it.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the thirty O.R.s who joined the Company in camp during last month, and hope their stay in Rhineland will be a pleasant one.

Appointment.—We offer our congratulations to L/Corpl Lace J. D. on attaining that rank, and wish him success on the signalling course he is destined to attend.

DON BOOT POLISH

Ask at the Canteen for

DON

BOOT POLISH

Specially prepared for soldiers' use.

QUICK·BRILLIANT·LASTING

Made by the Manufacturers of

BLANCO

Used by H.M. Forces for over 50 years for cleaning equipment.

Deaths: Dogs.—Poor Ginger is dead and gone;
His face you'll see no more,
For what he thought was H2O
Was H2SO4.

Departures.—The good wishes of the Company are extended to the following, who have left us for Catterick prior to transfer to the Army Reserve: Signalmen Wormald, Whyte, Mumford, Orpwood, Roby, Hopper, Higginson, Dolan, Hattam, Edgeley, and Drivers Porter and Savage.

Drafts.—The unit door has been left open for twenty other ranks to pass through to sunny climes.

Future Events.—A staff signal scheme takes place on July 11th and 12th, followed by the annual review on the 16th. During the break period—July 17th to August 12th—the Company will be represented in several sporting events, notably the B.A.O.R. rifle meeting, the unit tennis tournament, and the Command athletic meeting. With a good reputation at stake, it is up to one and all to do their bit either as competitors or spectators.

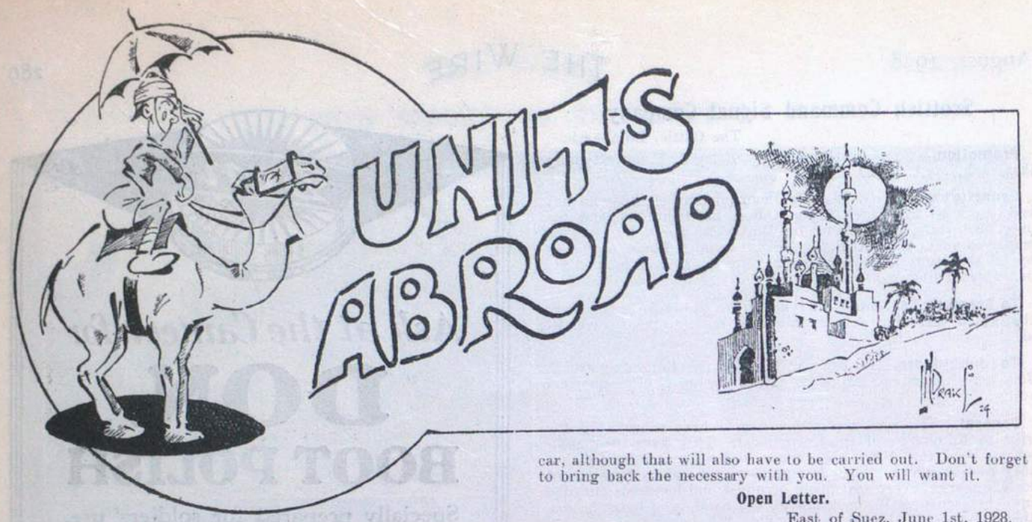
Appreciation.—To those responsible for the collection and distribution of the hospital box money, our thanks and hopes for greater support. The contributions are purely voluntary, but everyone who is detained in hospital receives a parcel once a week.

Agony.—Will Tich Simpson please correspond with L/Corporal Taylor of this unit?

Congratulations to J. W. K. of 3rd Egypt, from A. S. C.

GROCK.

When you make a mistake, don't make the second one—that of keeping it to yourself. Own up! The time to sort out bad eggs is when you are taking them from the nest. The deeper you hide them in the case, the longer they stay in circulation, and the worse the impression they make when they finally come to the breakfast table.



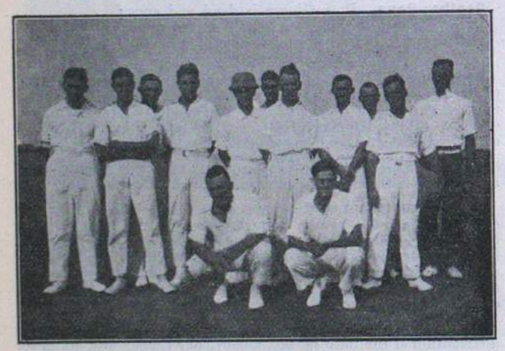
A Corps Signals, Karachi.

June 21st.

General.—Things are pretty well at a standstill at present, except for our inter-section football, hockey and athletic league, which still causes keen competition in the unit.

Many of the old hands are anxiously waiting for the list of troopers to be published, while the younger generation are equally anxious to see who is being caught for India this year. (Barleux, where are you?)

No sport except cricket has taken place outside the unit of late. Results have been very favourable. We have won eight out of nine matches so far played. Enclosed is a photograph of our present team, so that our departed players can see those who have taken their places.



Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on attaining the ranks shown on the Corps roster:—Sergt Stather and L/Sergt Male to be L/Sergeants. Corpl Stoner and L/Corpls Healey and Ward M. C. to be Corporals.

Arrival.—Corpl Gould T. H. from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore. May he never follow the previous "T.H.'s" example.

Hello, Aden!—Yes, we have the notable Toplis here, although we have not seen him for a couple of months. He started off by entertaining us very well, but we thought it was too good to last. I should advise you to listen out for him on that "ten valve set," though.

Tips.—Meg, Ginger and Andy, please note that "Deed No. 1 has been duly carried out." No! This does not refer to Don's car, although that will also have to be carried out. Don't forget to bring back the necessary with you. You will want it.

Open Letter.

East of Suez, June 1st, 1928.

My Dear Peterkin—Regarding our talks last year on the painful subject of draft dodging. To-day is the first of June. This brings back to both of us the sweet memory of a "return" due to reach a certain town on the south-east coast to-day.

Those who have dodged it for the last ten years should by now have commenced sweating, and round table conferences must be initiated at once in order to determine what is to be done about it this year.

You, my dear Peterkin, are innocent, but some are guilty. Remember nineteen twenty-seven.

Yours, TINY.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Cambridge Barracks, June 12th.

It raineth! These heaven-sent drops have awakened me to my duties: the monthly notes.

We have been having very hot and dry weather, with plenty of work thrown in, and in consequence very little energy is left at the end of the day.

Congratulatory.—Capt A. B. Bushby has passed the 1st class interpreter's examination in Urdu. Jolly good! especially as he has been but two years or so in the country.

Arrivals and Departures.—Sigmn Bevan P. has been posted to this unit from A Corps, Karachi. We hope he will enjoy his change of Corps. U/L/Corpls Ruffals and Healy, Signalmen Hallon, Symons, Gillatt, Donnithorne, Carr, Tillott, Atkinson and Abbott T., who were formerly attached to us, are now posted on strength. They are all with the Experimental Section.

There are no departures to record except that the two invalids, Sergt Carpenter and Sigmn Gibson, who left during the trooper, have now been struck off strength.

Corpl Finn V. has gone to Poona on a cookery course. Many and varied are the menus we hope to get when he returns. There is one consolation, however: indigestion can be cured. Mind your bed and equipment, Vic; the rissoles can look after themselves.

Trade Ratings.—The courses are proving their benefits already. Fifteen O/W A/T have now qualified as B.iii. Eight linemen have passed from B.iii to B.ii, and three from A/T to B.iii. This is the game that brings the jolly old shekels into one's pocket.

Promotion.—Congratulations to Sergt Lawman on attaining his present rank.

Corporals' Mess.—I hear that we shall shortly be moving into a much more commodious domicile, and will be given a billiard table on which to spend our spare moments and annas. Roll on, that day!

In consequence of strange, weird and awe-inspiring noises which have been heard in the vicinity of the present mess, one of the corporals was doubtful as to his safety in entering the place. This was at three o'clock in the afternoon. Visions of sun-madness, D.T.s, etc., crossed his mind. I have been advised

authentically that it was a newly-arrived member practising his *music*, vocal and instrumental. Depot Battalion, Mounted Wing, please advise when H.S.M. took this musical turn (?) For your information, I think he will get over it, especially when his mem-sahib arrives and hears a selection.

Educational.—The results of the last 1st and special examinations have just arrived. Congratulations are extended to the following on obtaining the coveted 1st class certificate: Corporal Clarke R. M., L/Corpls Hale E. C. and Wood W. F., and Sigmn Ranson. They are brainy people, without a doubt (I'm one of them!) L/Corpl Benten and Sigmn O'Brien passed in geography and English and geography respectively. There were no failures. Sergt Lee passed in English for the special certificate. Stick it, Jigger; you'll get it yet—that's two in hand.

General.—The M.I. room and heat-stroke centre have now been moved to one end of the sergeants' mess bungalow. Very handy! It is suggested that notices be placed outside the former to the following effect: "No connection with the firm next door," "Under the personal supervision of the Medical Officer," and "All drinks guaranteed." It would liven up business a bit for all parties, especially if the mess also bill their place (near the bar) with, say, "Fill up here before going next door," or "If we fail to satisfy, go next door; they have a special cupboard." I always believe in a little competition!

"Why spend money on the pictures?" This was a remark I heard the other morning. It would appear, so I am told, that all the entertainment one could wish for may be had "buks" any morning by going to see the senior and junior n.c.o.s on slow marching, etc. "A sight for sore eyes" was another remark I heard. Words failed me—I'm one of the aforementioned class! Does such a case come under the heading of justifiable homicide?

When a certain sergeant returns from Upper Topa in the near future, we expect to see one of those famous Pepsodent smiles. Nice new teeth do make a difference—I wonder?

Sergeants' mess stoppages evidently *do* make a difference in the monthly annas when it comes to final settlement. I am told that some of the sergeants contemplate going on the "tack" and are giving up smoking for a month. This is sad news, indeed.

Agony.—To L/Sergt Brundell: "Look here, Alf, what about that letter Corpl Searle is most anxiously awaiting? If you only saw the tears that are shed each mail-day, I'm sure you would . . . Righto: that's a promise—I'll tell him.

"Leave it to Me" sends memories to Ginger and Daisy, of Cavalry Troop fame, Tidworth. Are you still sore?

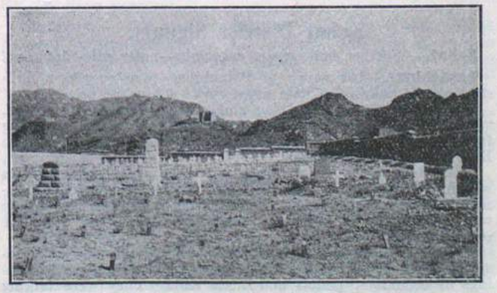
ECHO.

Peshawar District Signals.

June 11th.

Departure.—On the morning of May 12th we bade farewell to Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., on his departure for Simla to take up his new appointment as Staff Officer to the Signal Officer in Chief (India).

The majority of the unit went to the railway station to bid him farewell, and although it was a merry party there, we were also sad at losing such a splendid commanding officer. There was profound silence when the train left, and we all knew that it would be a long time before we got such another officer as Major Phillips.



British Military Cemetery, Landi-Kotal

The enclosed photograph shows the grave of the late Sergeant Clarkson J., who died at Peshawar on August 10th, 1927.

Arrivals.—Good old Hatcher Boy! We are all pleased at seeing you helping the interests of the Corps. They say that old soldiers never die. That is perfectly correct as regards the R.E. Signals. There are not many left now, and it is up to those who are in this new Corps to keep alive all the old traditions. We must congratulate Sigmn Hatcher on bringing into this world another Branch and so swelling the contributions to our estimable Journal.

Shall I relate to the world how two B.O.R.s from this unit were picked to attend a course of stretcher drill at the local hospital? This is what appeared in Unit Orders: "The undermentioned will attend a course of stretcher drill at the British Military Hospital, Peshawar: Sigmn Hatcher, Sigmn Scratcher." Of course, with such a combination of names, they both passed with flying colours!

Promotions.—We offer our congratulations to the undermentioned on their recent promotions and appointments, and trust to hear of further promotions before long: Corpl Penny L., appointed Lance-Sergeant. L/Corpl Grant A., M.M., promoted Corporal. It is really wonderful what this Special Roster does for a fellow!

General.—I'm very sorry to say that Nutty did not pass for his higher rating. Perhaps they thought it would be far too expensive an item for the Government if they were to buy him a special lorry.

Who was the young soldier who, given the order to don his spine pad, decided to hide it underneath his shirt; and, also, is it a good cure for prickly heat?

Our Day.—After the exodus to the hills for the summer of the majority of the Company, it is usually recognised that all who remain on the plains should put in as much time underneath a mosquito net as they possibly can. Well, about a week before Whitsun it was proposed that the junior n.c.o.s of the unit should have a day's outing. This proposal was agreed to, and arrangements made for the innumerable things that had to be prepared.

The morning of Whit Monday dawned, and our charabanc—in reality a relic of the Khyber caravan route—was duly loaded with such stores and provisions as we had agreed on. Then, to make it really appear as if we were leaving "The Nag's Head" at Holloway for a trip to Southend, we had our photo taken. That ordeal over, we weighed anchor and set sail for Cherat.

Except for a couple of halts for liquid refreshment, and about a dozen halts through engine trouble, our journey was uneventful.

Arrived at Cherat, our first task was to find a sheltered spot in which to erect our camp kitchen. After some searching we found a precarious spot perched on the side of a khud. Nevertheless, this being the best site available, we unloaded our charabanc—and then the cook and a couple of willing helpers did the rest. The remainder of the party tripped off to visit our Construction Section, who were in Cherat at the time. Greetings over, and after a little chat about the weather, etc., we wended our way back to the improvised "Warren stove." What a huge meal was then thrust upon us! Roast chicken, spuds, greens, pickled onions, sauce, and a hunk of bully, were the first course;

On the roof (motto "Excelsior!")—L/Cpls McPherson D. C., McCullagh W. and Lingard F.
On terra-firma—Cpls McCormack M. and Grant A., M.M., L/Cpls Beard C., Riando B. and Smith L. H.
The others—Allah Ditta (the chef) and Sarah (the "Lady Dog.")

the second was the sweets; and the subsequent ones were "Help yourself, there's plenty of it."

After this excellent repast we proceeded to explore Cherat and the surrounding district. We ultimately found General Willcock's celebrated seat, reputed to be the one on which he sat whilst directing operations against the tribes.

Our explorations over, we returned to camp for tea. This was disposed of with ease, and then we made preparations for our return journey, as the majority were not in favour of trusting to our driver on the Cherat road after dusk. We eventually arrived back at Peshawar, feeling as if soldiering in India were really worth while.

We must thank the members of the Experimental Wireless Section at Cherat for their hospitality, and trust that we shall be able to return the compliment one of these days.

PESHDISTSIGS.

Waziristan District Signals.

H.Q. Section, Razmak.

General.—Our sincere apologies are tendered for our absence from these pages for the last few months, our late scribe having departed to Belgaum on a brain-burnishing course.

Since our last appearance in print the H.Q. Section have effected a change of station from Dera Ismail Khan to Razmak, a small section only remaining at Dera Ismail Khan. This took place on May 2nd, when three British officers, thirty-one B.O.R.s, one Indian officer, and ten I.O.R.s left the 125 degree area for a much-needed climatic change. We admit that we did not march the distance, the mechanised force playing the important part—hence our new name (given us by our other Sections) of "The Six-Wheelers." (Albions, this time, Brigade Signals.)

By the time these notes appear L/Sergt Willingale, of Green Howard fame (late leading sidestroke, Pompadours) will have joined the ranks of the benedicts. We wish him success in his new venture. From reports we glean that a bag of flour would have been most useful to hide the hero's blushes whilst the banns were read. It has also been reported that a large tribe has been seen moving south.

Training.—Visual operators have been attached to Razmak Brigade Signals and are undergoing some intensive training. They have up to the present participated in four Brigade schemes and have more to come.

The departures to the Northern Command Signal School, Upper Topa, are too numerous to mention in detail, but we wish them every success and sincerely hope they attain the standard of last season.

Educational training has claimed two more victims—Signalmen Hayward and Weston—for 1st class certificates. Keep it up, lads; batons *have* been found in haversacks.

Appointments and Promotions.—Corpl Smith to be Lance-Sergeant, w.e.f. 14/12/27. L/Corpl Fields R. to be Corporal, w.e.f. 17/12/27. Signalmen Fisher and Swift to the ranks of the unpaid.

Birth.—To Sergt and Mrs. J. Watts, a son (John Frederick Gerald), 22/4/28.

Arrivals.—Capt G. C. Winckley, M.C., R.Signals, from leave in Kashmir. Sergt Sargent, L/Corpl Tanner, and Sigmn Phyall from 4th Indian Divl Signals, Jubbulpore.

Departures.—Major J. A. F. Mair, M.C., R.Signals, for eleven weeks' leave in U.K. Sergt Willis and Sigmn Button and their families, and L/Corpl Shipley, to 4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret we read of the death of Signalman Cleal, late of this unit, who was accidentally shot at Manzai and passed away at Millbank Hospital, London. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all his relatives.

AREFED.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

June 12th.

General.—Life is fairly uneventful these days, and there is nothing much to report.

A dance was held in the Rink here, three weeks ago. It was voted a great success, and the proceeds (which were considerable) will enable the unit to forward a good round sum to the Benevolent Fund of the Old Comrades Association. The band was in fine form, and the dance was well patronised by all arms of the Service in the district.

The annual musketry classification is now finished. Some very high scores were obtained, and the unit average was well above that of previous years.

Individual training is now completed, and many can rest from their labours, content in the knowledge that they are stepping up to higher ratings.

The half-season relief takes place some time next month, and no doubt many of those who are stewing on the Plains are looking forward to a move to Ranikhet.

This summer the usual alarms on account of forest fires have not been so frequent, for which all ranks are indeed thankful.

Pathan rifle thieves are again operating in the district, rifle bolts having disappeared from the Depot, though no case of theft has occurred in this unit.

It may be of interest to those families of the unit who are on Blighty leave to learn that Mrs. Hebbard has made a complete recovery from her recent serious illness. She was admitted to hospital in March, with enteric, but is now in Ranikhet with the rest of the families.

Arrival.—Sigmn Gale from 4th Indian Divl Signals.

Things We Want to Know.—The name of the lady who, on passing the bungalow where the band was at practice, exclaimed, "Aren't the Signals lucky to be so near the wireless!"

The name of the man who moved two yards to his left on the firing-point when he found his shots were going to the right of the target.

INK.

Kohat District Signals.

Kohat.—Weather hot—scribe succumbs—notes nil—'nuff sed!

Parachinar.—Let us go to Parachinar (our very own hill-station) and rake in a little copy. Ah! a hive of bees!

Early Morning.—Pirouetting and physical training. Slogan, "Keepin' moving." Someone was heard to say on returning from parade: "My legs pucca ache." We are sending him to Kent for some more "hops."

After Breakfast.—Flags a-wagging to the right of me; helios winking to the left of me; behind me the schoolmaster, surrounded by a very intelligent band, trying to explain that a map was not exactly "a phawtaw sergeant." Where can I go for refuge?

I sought the mess tent, and dimly visible through an atmosphere thick with petrol and magnetos, I saw some weird drawings of colanders, pistols and little ends. They were talking about a "Triumph," I believe, but it looked much more like a defeat to me.

Still, the work goes on, and heads swell visibly—so does the pay roll, we hope.

Afternoons.—These are devoted to recreation, and the evenings to sport. Note the difference, please! Recreation is when the provost sergeant (a busy man) ably leads a noble army of diggers who are slowly perforating the camp floor with sumppits.

Sports! Ah, here we shine! Two games a night at anything you like, and an all-unit six-a-side tournament thrown in. On holidays we turn the countryside into a chota Oval and bow to King Willow. Some aquatic sports were held recently, but no results are to hand.

He's Been Crowned!—Sergt Hudson F. to be C.Q.M.S.

Now He's in a Mess!—Corpl Murphy G. P. to be L/Sergeant.

Bar Two.—L/Corpl Andrews H. to be Corporal.

Bar One.—Signalmen Neeve F., Norris J. E., Bilsby V. W., Hicks F. G., and Ryalls W. A. to be U/L/Corporals.

University Notes.—Sergt Lydamore A. W. and Signalmen Salter A. W. and Michie J. P. have obtained the coveted red certificate with one "d" superscribed. Don't bother to look in Pears. Ask us!

To all the above we tender our congratulations, commiserations and speculations. Do not forget the P.T. slogan: "Keepin' moving."

Heard Recently.—"Four hundred in the old Thrift Club, my boys—give us a fag, Jock!" Guess who!

WOG.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

June 22nd.

In compiling these notes, we will start with some straight stuff. Herewith extracts from Part II. Orders.

Obituary.—With deep regret we have to announce the death of No. 394747 Sigmn Toy W., at the British Station Hospital, Jubbulpore, on April 26th. It will be remembered by old members of the unit that owing to his being in hospital he was unable to be repatriated last trooper. We offer our sincere condolences to his relatives.

Unit Command.—Captain (now Major) W. M. Miller, M.C., R.Signals, has assumed command of the unit vice Captain C. A. Murray, R.Signals, who is on Blighty leave. We trust our new C.O.'s stay with us will be a pleasant one.

New Officers.—We welcome to our midst Lieut C. A. R. M. Bolton, Prince of Wales' Volunteers, and 2/Lieut E. D. Good, R.Signals. The latter has a Corps Rugby "Jimmy," which will, we hope, be "atora 'muddy" when these notes appear in print.

Arrivals.—The following have recently joined us, and we wish them all the best: (a) Married Pads from Blighty: Sergt Harrington, Sergt Batchelor, and Corpl Cousens, all complete with half-sections and little troubles. From Waziristan Signals: Sigmn Alfy Button, complete with needle and thread; a valuable acquisition to the hockey team. (b) Lonesome Bachelors: Sergt Swaine (Pachmari 'Erb), Corpl Duncan, Signalmen Adlard, Attrill, Costello, Harvey, Hensby, Parker, Watkins, Williams, all from the S.T.C. (India). From Waziristan Signals: L/Corpl Shipley (time exposed).

Departures.—F/Sergt Maguire and family to Quetta. Sergt Sargent (Sniper) and family, and L/Corpl Tanner, to Waziristan Signals. Sergt Applegate and Sigmn Gale to Meerut. Sigmn De Courcey (Yus, mate!) to Pindi. Sergt Coffin (the Admiral) to S.T.C. (India). Cpl Colmar and family to A Corps, Karachi.

Marriage Knots.—Congratulations to Corpl Page (Pip) on his marriage to Miss Rose Edith Sadler, and to L/Corpl Owen (Woppem), who said "I will" whilst holding the hand of Miss Nellie Cecil Wynn Browne.

Extensions of Service.—Sergt Steed to complete 21 years with the Colours. Sergt Bell to ring for 12 years with the Colours. L/Corpl Owen also to complete 12 years (in India).

One Step Up.—We expect drinks all round from the following on attaining their present rank: Sergt Batchelor, L/Sergeants Cummins (Curry), Winter (Speedy), and Jarvis (the silent one), Corporals Duncan and Evens, and U/L/Corpl Carruthers.

Corporals' Mess.—Although only about six of us are doing picquets, etc., the mess is now thirty strong if we count Slim Rogers as three. We presume that the garden will soon fade away now that Tunda has his dinner at 19.30 hours "roz roz."

On two occasions recently we have been at home to the sergeants at tennis, followed in each case by a lively dance and social evening. The unit jazz band backed us up with their combined and individual talent, and but for the appearance of "Anxious Moments," Bill Bates would have been performing still.

Hops.—Have you ever had a moan? You should have heard the pay bloke create one when he saw what had been spent "on the book" at the two Signals Association jazzes. These two dances were held on the Railway Institute tennis courts, and (assisted by the natural perfume-laden atmosphere peculiar to the East and by Steele and Coulson's product) were voted unparalleled successes, not only by the unit but by the whole station.

Dancing was of the non-stop variety, our own and the S.T.C. bands rendering all the latest in the way of Charlestons and Blues, to say nothing of the time-expired dances such as the Lancers. Three cheers for Capt Paton, our worthy president, and L/Corpl Mc'Laven M. C. (Master of Ceremonies). We are looking forward to a repetition of these functions after the monsoon.

JOSABUN.

Gems of English Verse.

"Music Hath Charms."

It was a summer's evening,
And all was calm and still;
The sun, in all its splendour,
Had set behind the hill;
The dhobi, with the washing,
Had called upon the troops;
The boys had said "Goodnight, sahib"
And brought in all the boots.

Some of the troops were reading,
Some had a tale to tell,
When from out across the Miadan
There came an awful yell—
We all forgot the story,
The books went with a bump:
That yell was one of torture,
And our hearts began to thump.

Another scream of anguish,
And none of us dared to move,
When out spoke Tashy Rooker:
"Let me my service prove."
He dashed across the Miadan;
We wished him best of luck;
We still could hear that moaning—
Ye gods! that man had pluck!

Yet still the noise grew louder
And louder as he ran;
We followed up behind him,
Then all stopped like one man,
For we knew where those sounds came from:
They came from the corporals' room—
But on rushed our brave old soldier,
Prepared to meet his doom.

He smashed the door with a chopper,
Because it his pathway blocked;
The noise came from within, sir,
And the gol-darned door was locked.
He stared as the sweat poured from him,
And fell to the floor with a moan,
For there, with a pile of music,
Sat Bates with his saxophone!

DASH.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

June 26th.

The hot weather is here in earnest now, and the Troop is reduced to that state of lethargy and boredom usually prevalent during the summer. The only amusement that appeals is the consumption of ices and iced drinks at the cafe, and even that gets monotonous after a time.

Two welcome breaks in the monotony have been the outings organised by the Signals Association. The first of these was to Chak Dara Fort through the Malakand Pass. An enjoyable run was followed by a swim and an excellent tea. Everyone voted

the outing a success, so a fortnight later the same miscellaneous assortment of vehicles was again requisitioned to convey the Troop to another spot, this time being nearer home. The outing was again voted a success. Much speculation was caused concerning the identity of an alleged nigger minstrel, but this was set at rest when he lost his disguise in the water.

Sport.—The cricket team is now very busy in the Hot Weather League, but so far they have not been very successful.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Haigh on his promotion to that rank, and to L/Sergt Handley on his appointment on the Royal Signals roster.

Local News.—In a personal interview granted to our special correspondent, Hostile Ben announced that the reign of terror he recently established is definitely over. He went on to remark that although he does not mind risking whatever missiles may be lying about, he deplores the unsportsmanlike conduct of some of his late victims, who now carry with them immense rocks with which to assault him. At present he is feeling very sore on the subject (and elsewhere) and declines to play any longer.

? ? ? ?—It has been suggested that much of the premature grey hair in the Troop is the result of riding in a certain sidecar. The victim of a trip up the Malakand Pass has certainly aged considerably, and rumour has it that he wanted to get out and walk.

Why did our "rough" refuse a certain pressing invitation?

We notice that our ex-"he-man," having made our medal his own property, is now well in the running for a presentation of the same nature in "Lazy A."

Can D and E Troops tell us the correct procedure for the swopping of grooming brushes and iodine for oily rags and puncture outfits?

Reference June notes, E Company. It is thought there might have been forty-one thieves. Does he know any more about caps, S.D., etc.?

ARTOC.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, July 7th.

General.—A quiet month! The Company is running smoothly along. The operator signal course is nearing its close, and a fitter signals class is under instruction, so by the time these notes appear in print we shall profess "to know some stuff."

Most Remarkable.—Without incurring the wrath of Lulu, of No. 3 Company A Corps, I should like to question him on his paragraph headed "Cricket." Do men enlisting in '22 finish in '28? I am not informed whether Lulu has been to Egypt, but if he came here he would find that a man enlisting in '22 invariably finishes in '30. It's not mathematics, but it's fact. O.L.!

During Visual Scheme.—Caller: "Address to, Supt., Peas." "T" was given by receiving station. Message handed to Supt. at receiving station read: "Soup peas"!

Query?—Is it essential that a Tommy *must* have beer with his supper? For answer apply to Box Ford Drivers c/o M.T.garage.

Information.—The Section wish to inform Bill Naylor that his protégé is carrying on with the good work, and now that he is on his own, he has the whole of the area of the hut and stores for his "matchless activities."

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on their promotion: Corpls Butler, Ward and Else, and L/Corporal Dawson. I understand from good authority that immediately these promotions were known, a copy of the Corps Roster was demanded and calculations were made with much relish.

Beware! and again beware! for L Company, Jubbulpore, are doomed. The powers-that-be have informed the undermentioned that they will be held for transfer during the coming trooper. I won't put the undermentioned in, but inform the local brewer to lay on a permanent pipe to the sergeants' mess, for you're getting five of 'em. C.S.M Jeffery, please note.

Egypt Calling—To Sigmn Davies H., who is requested to inform Sigmn Dale M. if the price of stamps has been increased.

To all in general, to say that after all this time Shaker Newlove has at last got sunburnt. I said I'll tell the missus, Shaker.

To Freddy Neeve, ex-rat: Write to Tibbin Barnard. Ackdum.

To a Jock L/Corporal: When is the prominent notice on an unmentionable building to be removed, please? F. H. D.

P.S.—Would the Editor please inform me who won the light-heavy weight boxing championship of the Corps in 1924.

P.P.S.—What about our five akkers, Sporty?

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, July 7th.

The last shall be first.—Usually the "agonies" are put at the end of our notes, but I have been specially requested to begin this time with the startling news that Corpl Jock Robertson is willing to "bang" a few stamps if only Bill Sabine (one of the "pals in Tut," at Crowborough in 1922) will write to him.

By the Briny.—Parties are proceeding fortnightly to the seaside camp at Sidi Gaber, Alexandria, for the annual change of air. Apparently the sea air must be good, judging by the countenances of the last to return from the camp.

The Call.—Sigmn Smith J. stopped, looked and listened on the 2nd July, and then moved on with his arms slightly the heavier. H.Q.'s baton champion (Bill) has returned his baton to stores, and is now settling down to a quiet and untroubled existence.

Sympathy is extended to the son and heir born on June 8th to L/Corpl Wright F. B. C. E. C. on its being inflicted with the names of Colin Desmond Richard Perry Crossthwaite Wright. Poor little blighter! Surely a case for the N.S.P.C.C.

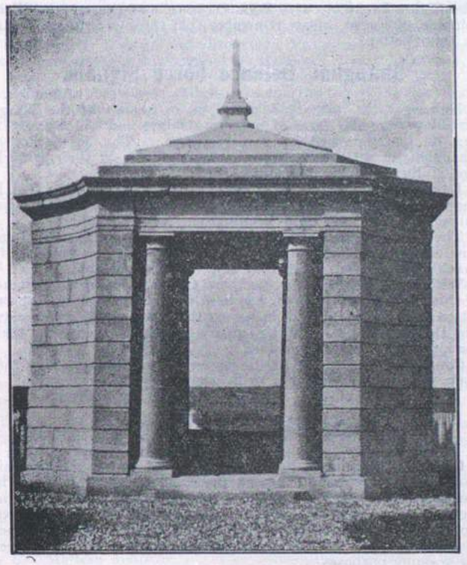
Bas-Reliefs on Walls of Babylon.

A Conundrum.—Quite a few members of our happy contented little band have applied for a transfer to India during the next trooping season. Why do they wish to leave this ideal, pleasant, delightful place? Everyone seems to be asking—why?

Artful Dodgers.—L/Corpl Beach and Sigmn Cooper have gone on three months' leave to the U.K. Buck went last year and has gone again this year, and *still* some people can't smell a rat.

Sights Worth Seeing.—Grannie (or is it Argus?) learning to ride a push-bike.

How do they do it?—Fancy getting a medal for never getting found out! Anyhow, congratulations to two successful recipients of rootie medals in C.Q.M.S. Harrison and Sergt Kent W. E., who appear to have managed it for eighteen years.



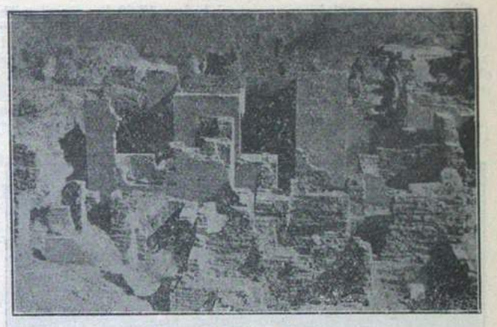
Tomb of General Maude, Baghdad.

Books that could be written.—We feel certain there is a large amount of hidden talent amongst us. Unknown authors are on every hand. Taking two each from our Sections, the following books that could be written would make wonderfully interesting reading.

H.Q.—"Snakes and their Habits," by Nobby.
"The Story of a Baton," by Bill.
H.—"Blue Eyes I've Seen," by Swede.
"Knees I've Kiwi'ed," by Porkie.
J.—"What to do when Lost in the Desert," by Mumty.
"Rissoles, and How to Cook Them," by Ginger.
K.—"Where is My Wandering Polly to-night? by Sailor.
"Moucians I Have Heard," by Goolam.
S.T.—"The Guardsman Who Stopped It," by Bud.
"Why Hair Won't Grow on a Woman's Chin," by Buck.

Heard on the Courses.—Some of our instructors are delighted to learn that:—

We can draw two spots 1½ in. above each other.
To increase the range of a telescope, two telescopes should be placed in series.
A telescope has an ejector screw.
M.O. means "Move on."
A test set No 2 has a micro-ammeter.
The tangent screw clamps helio mirror to the stand.
The contacts 2 and 3 of a Fullerphone send out positive or negative potential to line, to counteract earth currents.



Excavated Ruins of Babylon.

A Reminder.—Sigmn O'Callaghan J. and Dvr Read A. (Sailor) would like to hear from Sigmn Harry Outhwaite, believed to have sailed for England last spring. They would like their memories *refreshed* of former happy days spent together.

Last, but not least.—Busty would very much like to hear from his old pal Mac, believed to have now left the Service. What about a few lines to an old commy, Mac?

ART.

Corporals' Mess.

Amid howls of derision and polite remarks such as "'E can't write," etc., yours truly now scribes for the mess as well as the Company—and it *is* a mess, too, for last month we had the builders in, and they knocked the mess down and put it up again, apparently just for fun and to spoil our drill with wet paint. The rumour that the N.A.A.F.I. were erecting a bedroom for the habituals was quashed, Eenie now being at H.Q.

Excitement.—A ping-pong tournament is now in progress, and is causing tremendous speculation. We know several members who have "put their shirt" on the winner, unless they've been to "the dogs," for they always wear a singlet.

Several cricket matches have been played against other messes with varying results; but why can't we turn out a better team from fifty-five members? We miss the stalwart "first wickets" such as Widge, Snowy and Pat. Maybe they are playing with snowfalls at the Depot.

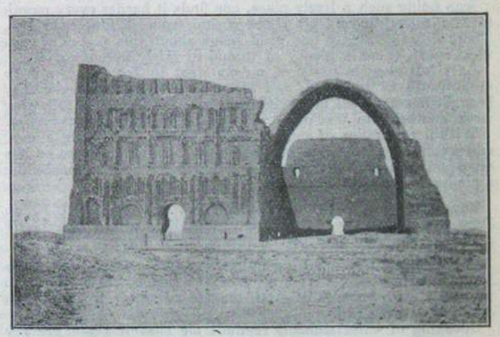
Stop Press to Company Notes.—A.V.B. (North China). Rd. O.K. Tks. Tommy.

F. H. D.

No. 2 Section, No. 2 Wireless Company, Baghdad.

June 30th.

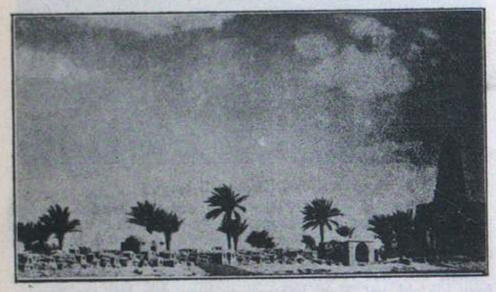
With the advent of the hot season and a temperature of 117 degrees in the shade, sport has fallen off, and apart from a few games of cricket and tennis there has been nothing doing of late.



Ctesiphon Arch, near Baghdad.

The games cannot be commenced before 17.00 hrs., and with sunset at about 19.30 hrs. it will be seen that there isn't much time available for sport. The chief form of exercise consists of rising at odd moments throughout the night and plastering one's body with Bamber oil in an endeavour to keep a few million sandflies at a respectable distance.

A whist drive was held in the canteen recently, and again proved how true the old adage is that "all Jews are lucky": Corpl Davies carting the prize.



Tomb of Sitt Zobeidah (wife of the author of "The Arabian Nights") Baghdad.

Congratulations to L/Sergt Macdonnell, Corpls Miller, Wort and Mullins upon their recent promotions; and to the following upon their recent educational successes. Special: Sigmn Pike (passed in four subjects: physics (E. and M. and H, L and S.), English and mathematics. 1st class: L/Corpl Brown J. and Sigmn Ledger. Special mention should be made of Sigmn Pike, who sat for five subjects for his "special" and failed in one only (French) by the narrow margin of three marks. Better luck next time!

Some photos of interest are enclosed. I was going to write a short description of Iraq, but as it is possible that there are several n.c.o.s and men at home who have been warned for drafting to this sunny clime, I think I will refrain from doing so. I don't want the blood of suicides on my conscience.

It was noticed in the June WIRE that Daisy, of the Hong Kong Section, referred to that place as "the land of awful smells." Anyone who approaches within ten miles of Baghdad will readily agree that Daisy is poaching on our preserves.

Agony.—Snowy sends his salaams to Sigmn Legg, Cairo, and says "What abart it?"

BAN.

Iraq Signal Section, Hiniadi.

General.—With the passing of May, I presume we come to June, and with it an ever-increasing number of entries for the Kipping cup. The record, however, still remains in the same quarter, I believe, and has a distinct "Scoth" air about it.

Iraq being such a lively place, one finds it harder every month to find something to say (loud cheers from various quarters). There is undoubtedly one good point about this place: if you want sport, there is plenty of it and in fairly decent variety.

Last full moon a party of n.c.o.s went to Zor, a place fifty miles south of Baghdad, and after a very exciting night they brought home a wild pig weighing some 200 lbs. The following week another trip was made, and this time two pigs returned.

Within two miles of our bungalow anyone possessing a gun, and knowing which end to use (which, I think, is more or less necessary) can get a really good bag of various animals, including a pie-hard or two.

Departures.—Lieut C. H. Lyddon left this unit for U.K. on June 2nd, being invalided home. We all hope for his speedy recovery, and our very best wishes go with him.

Entertainments.—As I have already stated, nothing much ever happens here, but in view of the fact that a short time ago we ran a concert with success, we are running an impromptu dance this week-end.

Speaking of entertainment reminds me that if there are any golf enthusiasts in Blighty desirous of changing their course, then this "burg" is the place to fulfil their desires. Our neighbours (No. 2 Section No. 2 W/T Company) over on the right bank have a course all their own, and sight of it reminds me of something a well-known politician once asked: "Is England losing ground?"

Congratulations to the Corps in Egypt on their gaining the cup for the best-all-round unit. We agree with F.H.D.: it *is* in the right place, and we all hope it stays there, too.

Conversation in general nowadays leads to one thing: "Roll on, the boat"—and though it's far ahead, we are all wondering who will comprise the new draft.

The latest joke in the Section relates to the S.B.O.s. They say they are still working hard. Oh, my!

Agony.—Will Sigmn Hayden V., believed to be in Quetta, India, please communicate with Swede Whiting of this unit? also Sigmn Leake A. with Dick Dickenson of this unit? Sigmn Linacre, of Egypt, please remember that Queeny Feltham is still in this Section.

Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

June 7th.

This year the military celebrations in honour of the King's birthday took the form of a 21-gun salute and the firing of a feu de joie, followed by a march past. The population of Shanghai turned out en masse, and judging from their remarks they fully appreciated the display.

During the month the W/T Section has taken over the R.A.F. short-wave station, and regular communication is being maintained with Ismailia and Wellington, New Zealand.

The summer camp at Wei Hai Wei has been opened, and any tips on how to look run down and in need of a rest will be thankfully received. Eat rice and live underground, Nick!

With the collapse of the Northern Chinese Army, the first act of this Chinese comic opera has been brought to a close. Speculation is already rife as to how soon the Government will remove the Defence Force, and the super-optimists are washing their sea-kit-bags. Quelle esperance.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Bevan on his promotion. May that little sparrow soon be able to fly again.

WUN LUNG.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, May.

General.—Summer is here once more, and we are promised six months of sultry damp heat and the usual heavy rainfalls. The one bright feature of the summer months is the launch bathing picnics, which tend to make the heat bearable. The Kowloon Docks have again been good enough to place their bathing beach at our disposal; also their water polo pitch, which will be utilised for training purposes.

Up to the time of writing rain has fallen almost ceaselessly for eight days, and there is a promise of still more to come. Over fourteen inches were registered at the Hong Kong Observatory for the first seven days, and consequently all outdoor sport is at a standstill.

King's Birthday Parade.—The review in Happy Valley, arranged for the 4th June, was cancelled owing to continuous rain rendering the ground unfit. An alternative programme was arranged, however, and the troops of the Garrison marched past the Cenotaph in column of fours, the Officer Administrating the Government (Hon. C. T. Southorn, C.M.G.) taking the salute.

It is believed that this was the first occasion on which the Corps has been represented at a King's birthday parade in Hong Kong. Owing to the smallness of our numbers, the R.E. and the Royal Signals combined to form a composite Company.

Bathing Picnic.—On Whit Monday the local Branch of the Signals Association held a bathing picnic at Island Bay. Including guests there were nearly fifty present, and a very enjoyable day was spent by all. Fortunately for all the weather clerk turned off the "juice" sufficiently long for us to have a good time, but on the return journey he repented and gave us a full day's ration all at once. (Who was the man who said "I can't swim"?)

Agony.—Tosty is asked not to let a 1½d. stamp stand in the way of keeping his promise made on the boat at Hong Kong. Sigmn Weeks would like to hear from Sigmn Wather (ex-rat).

DAISY.

Malta Signal Section.

General.—Having decided upon a journalistic career on the completion of my pontoon (Association, please note and forward to "The Times," "The Daily Mail," "The News of the World," etc.) I have taken over the reins as unit representative and hope to supply some interesting notes for insertion in the Corps Magazine.

Without being unduly optimistic, I predict an increase of 50 per cent. in the sales of THE WIRE when it is known that Mimate will regularly contribute notes. The Editor may have an entirely different opinion, but—well, 'nuff sed!

Sunny Malta.—Before going on to the general doings of this Section, I should like to say a few words about this delightful island. The powers-that-be say I shall sojourn here for five years, maybe six; but all's well that ends well (September 1930).

Now, if memory serves me right, Columbus, when he set sail in the Spanish Armada and discovered Malta, said, "'Tis liken unto a gem set in a background of Reckitt's blue." That's all he said! He wouldn't commit himself any further. Well, I think he must have been talking through the top of his hat; but as I am not quite sure of my English history, perhaps I had better leave Columbus alone and give you my impressions of it.

The first thing that attracts one's attention on arriving at Malta is the amount of sea water lying around. Malta, as you all know, is an island; or you should know, if you've got your Group E. It is situated in the—in the—well, you all ought to know where it is; look at the map of—well, any old map will tell you.

There are no rivers in Malta except in the winter, when all the streets become rivers.

Its inhabitants consist of the Navy, Army and Air Force, a few Maltese, and millions of goats.

Its chief industries are goat breeding, stinging and twisting of troops, and manufacturing of smells of which there are forty-nine different varieties. Valletta is the capital, and consists of two main streets known as Strada Reale and Strada Stretta. The first-named consists of shops where the married families get stung. The second is where the troops get stung.

The climate of Malta is not so bad. It is very mild in winter and very hot in summer. Both can be alleviated by wearing all your clothes or none at all according to the season.

In winter the pastimes are football, hockey, etc., and plenty of dances. In summer, cricket, tennis, water polo, and swimming.

The streets of Malta consist mostly of steps, and one can stand at the front door and look down into a neighbour's bedroom and see the Maltese maidens. . . (The concluding chapters of this thrilling serial will be published in our next issue—p'raps!)

Please note that we have no connection with any other Tourist Company. Further information will be supplied to all and sundry on receipt of postal order or cheque, addressed to the unit representative of the Malta Signal Section. All postal orders and cheques should be crossed—where marked X.

I strongly recommend this place for those who wish to become good looking (all handsome men are slightly sunburnt). After five or six summers you should be an Adonis. See Section photograph, sent C.O.D. under plain cover.

Appointments.—Congratulations to A/U/L/Corpl Keywood on attaining a foothold on the first step of the ladder of fame. His march past now is "Excelsior."

Musketry.—The annual musketry has just been completed by this Section, the average working out at 77.6, which is not bad considering the entirely new conditions under which we had to fire. From this experience we hope to do much better next time. Our C.O. kindly presented a cup for the best individual shot, which was won by yours truly. (Answer to Correspondent: No, you are misinformed; it was not a wangle.)

L.S. and G.C. Medal.—Congratulations to our section sergeant on attaining this reward for long and faithful service. It is intended to start a class of instruction on how to obtain this medal, and candidates should possess the following qualifications: a kind face, passed recruits' drill, and be able to say "Hee hee!"

Leave.—By the time these notes appear in print, our O.C. (Capt G. R. Halliday), L/Corpl Walters, and Signalmen Chapman and Clark will be enjoying a well-earned rest in a far far better land. The last-named has wangled it to remain on the home establishment. There being no one else in the Section having earned a rest (the writer excluded) all correspondence on this subject is now closed.

Agony.—Will No. 2315534 write to No. 2315532 in Malta?

Malta Horse Show.—The annual horse show of Malta took place recently on the sports ground at Marsa, and was a great success. Much praise is due to the committee and all who assisted in the management under the direction of our O.C., Captain G. R. Halliday.

Works.—Proceeding with my first edition in a more serious vein (for the benefit of the old Malta Signal Sectionites, our Bill, Hong Kong, kindly note) work is the order of the day—(and night; ask the troops!)

Owing to our added responsibilities—the provision and maintenance of R.A.F. ground communications—the powers-that-be say that too much direct labour is employed; hence the sudden activity on the part of the troops.

We are in the throes of providing two new exchanges, together with approximately three miles of buried cable in ducts and two miles of aerial for the R.A.F.; also making preparations for a complete change-over from our present system of telephones (magneto) to C.B. When it is taken into consideration that the linemen in this Section consist at present of four n.c.o.s and four men, who must work in a temperature of 90 odd in the shade (of which there isn't any), it will be seen that this Section is not exactly on a rest cure. In our spare time (this is really the time we should be having our meals) cable testing with bridge and megger is indulged in, there being about fifty miles in different lengths buried in all parts of the island.

MIMATE.

THE "TERRIERS"

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Burlington St., Manchester.

This period is more or less the aftermath from camp, and about all the excitement we can look for is a little musketry and a week-end camp now and again.

We are finding the ordinary targets on the miniature range rather too easy for some of our people, who demonstrate their powers by hitting such things as a cigarette or an empty case (cartridge case, not cigarette). Of course this is very good, and we hope they will be able to keep up the same standard when on the open range.

And speaking of the open range, one would think that, with all the precautions which are taken, accidents should be impossible. At any rate, we had a striking example of what might have been quite a bad one.

A man, after firing his own rounds (and having had the object of the hoisted and lowered red flag explained to him) remembered he had left his waistcoat on the forward firing point. Probably with no intent to commit a crime, he ran down the short bank and got some yards towards his waistcoat before anyone could stop him; but a lusty shout from at least half-a-dozen brought him back to safety. Of course, he may have been looking for excitement as well as the waistcoat!

Recruits are still coming along, which is quite a good sign in this quiet season.

It is a change to be able to hold riding drills in the open now. The result is rather better riding, and the cause is not far to seek. In ordinary circumstances it is not too pleasant to fall off a horse, as most of us know quite well; but it is far less pleasant to fall off when a large crowd is gathered round the railings. We are now going in for *jumping* in the open, and are expecting improved results.

No. 3 (East Lancs.) Company, 2nd Corps Signals (S.R.)

Drill Hall, Burlington St., Manchester.

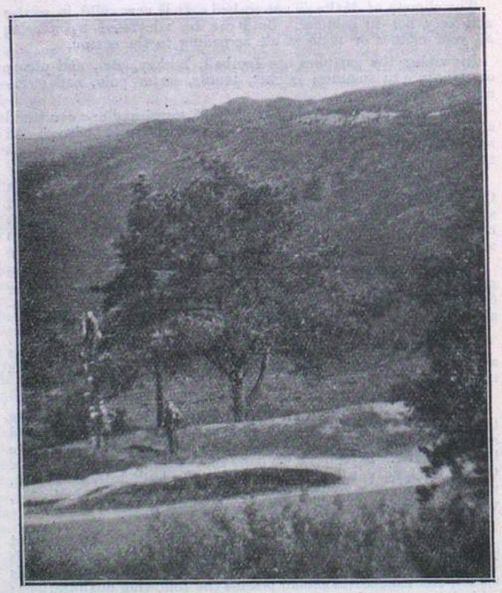
The annual training of this Company, which took place at Aldershot between June 17th and July 1st, marked a distinct advance in the cohesion and utility of the unit. There is not the slightest doubt that association with our corresponding Regular formation is of prime importance in establishing our place in the scheme of things. It only remains for the several Supplementary Reserve Companies associated with us to train together to complete the picture!

We welcomed the opportunity of taking a not unimportant part in a Staff College exercise, and recall with pleasure the kindness and assistance extended to us by Command and A Corps Signals. We ask for nothing better than to participate in similar schemes in future (and as often as possible!) Modesty forbids us to mention the letter of appreciation which the officer commanding received later!

The weather being mainly fine, the camp at Watts Common made a pleasant venue; and close association with the famous Tattoo, together with visits to places of beauty and interest around Aldershot, provided just that antidote to work which calls for repetition. So here's to our next camp at Aldershot!

We must not omit to mention that the cricket match with No. 3 (West Lancs.) Company 1st Corps Signals (S.R.) resulted in a win for us by four wickets.

"A Spot of Cricket."



Using the Cat Ladder on Airline, Hindhead.

No. 3 (East Lancs.) Company, 2nd Corps Signals, at Aldershot, 1928.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

My correspondents have again forgotten the date, I fear, and Old Spark is left to spin out as best he can. No doubt the near approach of camp makes all those who *do* work very busy.

During the past month Nos. 1 and 2 Companies have held week-end camps—No. 1 at Thorverton, and No. 2 at Coppathorne. Both were favoured with ideal weather and all went well.

Just at the time of writing a letter from our late adjutant (Capt A. W. Roberts, M.C., who is now at Peshawar) has come to hand. His letter was apparently written under extreme difficulties—with a temperature approaching 120 degrees. Phew! However, with the aid of a squad of fanning men and iced drinks he pulled through with his task and produced a most interesting letter.

We were particularly interested to hear of his loss of weight—now down to quite genteel proportions, he says. He sends most cordial greetings to all in the Wessex Signals, with a donation to the sports fund. This kind thought will, we assure him, give us feelings of great pleasure. It is nice to feel that our old adjutants—I know they'll forgive the adjective, which is really meant in an affectionate way—think so kindly of us.

A further bit of good fortune has come our way in the shape of another cup. Capt G. W. Odell, our present adjutant, has given one for the best-turned-out limber and pair on the C.O.'s inspection at annual training. We are grateful to him for his kindness, and we hope it will provoke keen competition. "Hats off to the adjutants!" I says. "Here's to 'em!"

It is with the deepest regret we have heard of the sad misfortune which has befallen R.Q.M.S. Boulger, M.C., D.C.M., formerly of "The Corps," and now of the Wessex Signals. We extend our sincerest sympathy to him in the sad death of Mrs. Boulger, which took place at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital on June 12th. She bore her long and painful illness patiently, but could not, unfortunately, battle with the serious operation she underwent.

OLD SPARK.

The Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of No. 3 (East Lancs.) Company, 2nd Corps Signals, 1928.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Drill Hall, Stamford Brook, W.6

Notes for this month will, I am afraid, be rather scanty. Owing to preparations for our "vacation," things are not as they should or could be. Surrounded by packing cases and various portions of tied-up furniture, I am in fear that at any moment the table—sorry, I mean my bureau—will be pinched. I am mourning for my trusty typewriter this month, since it was screwed down in the early stages of the upheaval.

Training.—As usual, training this month is more in the nature of preparation for camp. There is much to do; more so, this year, as we have a good number of recruits who need the necessary instruction to ensure that a mess tin is *not* carried in a kit bag. It is perhaps not necessary to say that Canterbury is to be our seat of learning this year. More of this next month.

General.—In the next issue it is to be hoped that many interesting accounts will be available, both serious and humorous. So many things happen at camp that I should be able to put out some good copy. I am afraid I am letting myself in for this—but, still, it's for a good cause.

Answers to Correspondents.—(1) Yes; grown-ups can collect cigarette cards—they look well pasted on cardboard!

(2) A quarter-bloke has three stripes and a crown—also a car!

There goes the bureau. Cheerio!

THE TYPEWRITER BASHER.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

General.—Owing to lapse of memory (or shall I say being so busy?) Companies have forgotten to send in any notes. However, they may be excused this month, as we are all moving into camp at Barry on Saturday, July 14th.

By the time these notes appear camp will be a thing of memories—and, let us hope, pleasant ones. We only want Sol on our side, and I am sure we shall have a good time.

During the past month the one topic of conversation has been camp, camp, and more camp; so I had better not say any more now.

Training.—Training has been going on apace during the last month, and Headquarters are looking forward to seeing the seeds of information bearing some fruit.

YEA.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

Supplementary Reserve Units, Glasgow.

General.—The above units are now packed up ready for camp, and the Cable Sections have got their wagons like pictures; so now it's "Ahoy for the sea."

The advance party, under Capt J. C. Anderson and Sergeant Cooper V., P.S., proceed to Troon on July 10th to put up the canvas and get all ready for the main body coming in on the 13th. The dismounted party will be transported by motor buses. The mounted personnel travel by road, and will be saddle-sore by the time they have done the thirty-eight miles. The wagons are to be sent by train this year, so the mounted men should be in camp earlier.

Miniature Rifle League.—The league has now finished, and the Permanent Staff must be congratulated on running out winners with a score of 2956. The officers were second with 2213, and the sergeants' mess third with 2156. Well done, the Staff! Now I suppose we shall be seeing you flashing those badges on your watch-chains (if you are lucky). Congratulations to Sergt Cooper V. on making the highest score (are you going to fill the pot, Vic?). Names and scores of the winning team:—

Sergt Cooper V.—81, 80, 88, 75, 79—403.
Sergt Wylie J.—75, 79, 81, 75, 79—389.
R.S.M. Terry G.—85, 47, 80, 83, 87—382.
Sergt Atkinson F.—78, 62, 83, 75, 83—381.
C.S.M. Peat W.—73, 80, 60, 80, 77—370.
Sergt Hoyland V.—56, 76, 77, 85, 73—367.
Sergt Roberts J.—57, 68, 78, 65, 65—333.
Major J. E. Smith—44, 59, 83, 67, 78—331.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Peat W., Sergts Cooper V. and Atkinson F., on being permitted to remain another year with the P.S.

A Chestnut.—An Aberdonian strolled in to the B.B.C. with twelve egg shells and asked if he could have them relayed (relaid).

SUPRE.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, July 13th.

Notes this month must be brief, for everyone is busily preparing for our annual outing, which (so rumour says) is to be very strenuous indeed this year.

We go to Hereford on July 29th, and given decent weather and a good advance party to have things ready for us, we should have a first class time in every way. It will be a pleasant change from Porthcawl—and besides, some of our n.c.o.s are too well-known there.

We welcome Mr. S. C. Cadogan on his appointment to the unit, and extend our heartiest congratulations to Capt Gardiner on his promotion to that rank—congratulations in which every member of the unit will join.

Our week-end course on July 7th and 8th was a good one, marred a little by rain, which fortunately only started as the scheme finished on Sunday evening. The cable and telephone wagon detachments got a good soaking, though. The scheme and the unit worked well, and it was a good finale to hear everything reported "through" within seven minutes of the time at which the last move was to have been completed.

The W/T Section had bad luck with their C sets, the generator of one breaking down for the second time within a few minutes of taking its load; and the other had engine trouble, but this was put right by the Section. They deserve praise for the way in which they overcame the difficulties. Anyway, it was a good trial run for annual training, and the M/T showed that it is a great improvement on horse transport.

We wonder why people are asking if officers on schemes carry *all* their rations on the back of the car!

We welcome an old 53rd man on rejoining the unit, Sergeant Forse (C.S.M. during the war) having come back to us to take charge of the M/T.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

During the past month we have been preparing for camp, and by the time these notes appear we shall have returned from our "holidays" and be anxiously waiting for the bounties.

The majority of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies have now completed their musketry course, which was fired on the miniature range of the 7th Battn. Essex Regiment.

A good number of members from Nos. 1 and 2 Companies visited the 56th Divl Signals headquarters at Calthorpe Street, W.C., with the hope of passing the Trade Board held there. Apparently only a few managed to come through with flying colours, but a fortnight at annual training will bring the unlucky ones up to scratch, and at the next Trade Board they should be 100 per cent. wallahs.

The committee of the Woodford Green fete (held in aid of the Jubilee Hospital) allowed all members of this unit free admission if they were in uniform. Two events were open for all Territorial units—the V.C. race and mounted wrestling. This unit managed to pull off both events.

We hope that Capt Rowe will be able to throw some light on mechanically-drawn cable wagons on his return from the 4th Division. Then we shall move at the rate of knots.

YED.

55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Mason Street, Liverpool.

For the last few months intensive training has been in full swing, and it is amazing to see a gathering of familiar faces now that the time for camp approaches. The cry is often heard, "How many drills have I to complete to qualify for pay at camp?"

A jolly week-end camp was spent at Knowsley Park on June 2nd and 3rd. A signal exercise scheme was run on a small scale, and some useful information gained. One or two of our long-faced chums gave us a great deal of trouble to commence with, but settled down in harness towards the end.

We are very busy just now preparing for our annual camp, which is to be at Holyhead ("Once seen, never forgotten") and we are all hoping that Sol will put in an appearance on at least fifteen days during the camp period from 5th to 19th August.

At the moment there is a continual buzz around the Q.M. stores, with a little tap occasionally with a hammer—presumably an auction sale of spare parts. Sorry! I'm wrong again; cases, wood, packing; contents various, for transportation to Holyhead.

During a recent Trade Board an intelligent youth was asked to give the conventional sign for a watch receiver. The reply came, "Three brass balls."

Notice.—Found wandering around the See Ess Em's tent at night, a pair of socks, grey, Army pattern. Owner may have same on paying expenses of keep.

By the Way.—It has been said that one of the P.S. Instructors has arranged to run his fleet of *cars* from the camp to Holyhead, at a margin price of 3d. per head, during the annual training.

FIVE–FIVE.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

Although no notes appeared from Calthorpe Street last month, it was not because we had nothing to report. On the contrary, we have been submerged in work. The past six weeks have seen our own members airing their knowledge of Part IV. before the Trade Board, while other units have been sending fairly large numbers of men for classification. In addition, of course, our drills have been carried on as usual, and everyone has been displaying a pre-camp liveliness: waggons have been re-painted, brass and steelwork polished, and stores got ready for the great day.

I say the "Great Day" without the slightest hesitation, because in my eight years' experience of the Terriers—whatever growls and grumbles there may be at drills or at camp—I have yet to find the man who does not look forward eagerly to the day when we fold up our civvies and don the uniform of the Royal Corps for that all-too-short period; and I have come to the conclusion that if life in the Regular Army is half as enjoyable as our camps, then the soldier is indeed a man to be envied.

We have also carried out driving drills each Sunday morning, and it is confidently expected that the value of these drills will be obvious at camp.

Training this year is being carried out at Shorncliffe, where Nos. 1 and 3 Companies will have an opportunity of combining pleasure with work. No. 2 Company are situated rather less fortunately, at least geographically, as they will proceed to Larkhill with their Artillery Brigade; but although missing the delights of the seaside, they will no doubt have quite a good time.

Congratulations.—The sincere congratulations of all ranks are due to Sergt Oliver S. E., who has been awarded his "gong" for having successfully evaded detection during eighteen years. Here's the very best, Olly!

A presentation was made to Sergt Carey of a certificate, the authenticity of which I view with the gravest suspicion. It commemorates his service of 26 years 96 days with the Terrible Police Force (this looks like a mutilation of "Territorial Force") and states that his conduct while serving was "more than we can stand." The signature is that of Mike Doolan—which name I cannot find in the "Gazette." Anyway, whether Paddy feels honoured or not, it has certainly caused a great deal of amusement.

Regrets.—It is with regret that I have to report the loss to the unit of our old friend C.S.M. Gardner, who will be leaving us immediately we return from camp, on completion of his service. I feel safe in saying that wherever he goes the very best wishes of his comrades, especially of No. 2 Company, will go with him. By the way, Ralph, did Fred ever have a drink with you?

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Corps Cricket Notes.

Royal Signals v. Royal Military Academy.—Played at Woolwich on May 29th and 30th, and resulted in a win for the Corps by two wickets after an excellent game.

The Shop won the toss and batted first on a plumb wicket. Wickets fell cheaply to start with, Lieut Walford and Captain Barclay keeping an excellent length. A valuable stand for the seventh wicket enabled the Shop to reach the total of 193.

The Corps started badly, losing six wickets for 47, but Major Drayson and Sergt Carpenter added 65 runs for the seventh wicket. A splendid last-wicket stand by Capt Thursby-Pelham and Lieut Scott enabled the Corps to declare before lunch on the second day at 195 for 9.

The Shop left us 171 to make in two hours, and by means of an excellent innings of 81 by Lieut Walford, and fast scoring by every one who went in, we won with four minutes to spare.

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Mr Hewetson b Lieut Walford...	0	lbw b Lewis-Barclay	4
Mr Hamilton not out	89	c Cpt Pavey b Scott	20
Mr Bibro b Lieut Walford	7	run out	27
Mr Garthwaite b Lieut Walford	0	c Crpntr b Walford	12
Mr Lenton c Vyvyan b Carpenter	30	c Mathew b L.-B'cly	15
Mr de Chassiron b Lieut Walford	30	c Walford b Scott	16
Mr Godby b Lieut Walford	11	c Pavey b Walford	14
Mr Mauser b Sergt Carpenter...	1	c Walford b L.-B'ly	18
Mr Ireland-Smith b Lt Walford	0	b Carpenter	29
Mr Hunt lbw b Lewis-Barclay...	4	st Pavey b L.-B'cly	0
Mr Lascelles b Lieut Walford ...	4	not out	9
Extras	17	Extras	8
Total	193	Total	172

Bowling—1st innings: Lieut Walford, seven wickets for 71, and Sergt Carpenter two for 27. 2nd innings: Capt Lewis-Barclay, four for 35, and Lieut Scott two for 18.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Major Vyvyan c Hewitson b Lascelles	21	c de Chassiron b Garthwaite	5
2/Lieut Knox c Godby b Garthwaite	1	b Garthwaite	0
Lieut Walford lbw b Garthwaite	0	c Bibro b Linton ...	81
Capt Mathew b Garthwaite	14	b Garthwaite	2
Major Parsons b Bibro	2	lbw b Hewetson ...	28
Capt Pavey c Hunt b Bibro	5	c Bibro b Lascelles	17
Major Drayson b Hunt	39	b Garthwaite	10
Sergt Carpenter b Hunt	26	c L.-Smith b L'celles	1
Capt Lewis-Barclay c Bibro b Garthwaite	3		
Capt Thursby-Pelham not out ...	29	not out	12
Lieut Scott not out	44	not out	9
Extras	11	Extras	10
Total (9 wkts. dec.)	195	Total (8 wkts)	175

Royal Signals v. Royal Army Service Corps.—Played at Aldershot, on the R.A.S.C. ground, on May 31st–June 1st. The Corps again lost the toss, and the R.A.S.C. opened the batting.

A sensational start was made, seven wickets falling by lunch for 50—an excellent performance by Signals. A timely stand for the eighth wicket, and an unorthodox though stout-hearted innings by L/Corpl Ware, enabled the R.A.S.C. to finish with the respectable total of 217. The Corps replied with 225.

The R.A.S.C. batted well in their second innings, but an epidemic of dropped catches deprived us of the chance of victory.

We were left with 249 to get in two and a half hours. We tried to get them, and for some time were up to time, but a startling collapse occurred, and we only just escaped with a draw when 90 runs were wanted with only two wickets in hand.

Colonel Rawson made a welcome re-appearance in Corps cricket after a long sojourn in Egypt. Both he and Captain Mathew batted excellently.

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Maj C. L. Tudor c Thursby-Pelham b Lewis-Barclay	2	b Walford	27
Lieut E. D. Dynes c T.-Pelham b Lewis-Barclay	13	st Pavey b Drayson	56
Capt T. E. Clarke b L.-Barclay	3	b Lewis-Barclay ...	106
Lieut-Col. W. N. White b L.-B'ly	0	lbw b Drayson	0
Corpl J. R. Lawton b L.-Barclay	3	b Drayson	0
Capt Bavin c Carpenter b Walf'd	8		
Major P. A. Arden b Walford...	5	b Lewis-Barclay ...	4
Capt L. A. Tudor b Walford	13	not out	12
L/Corpl W. C. Ware not out	111	c Cpnter b Drayson	26
Capt G. B. Holmes b Drayson...	44	not out	9
Sgt M. Varney c Walford b D'son	7		
Extras	8	Extras	16
Total	217	Total (7 wkts. dec.)	256

Bowling—1st innings: Capt Lewis-Barclay, five wickets for 55, and Major Drayson two for 11. 2nd innings: Major Drayson, four for 78.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Col Rawson c Dynes b Varney ...	37	c Clarke b Dynes ...	56
Maj R. E. Vyvyan lbw b Varney	32	b Clarke	13
Lieut J. E. S. Walford c Arden b Tudor	34	lbw b Holmes	8
Capt F. A. H. Mathew b Arden	65	not out	23
CaptG.P. Pavey c Clarke b Arden	3	c Clarke b Arden ...	3
Sgt A. Carpenter c Clarke b A'dn	6	lbw b Arden	6
Major F. G. Drayson lbw b Dynes	17	c White b Varney ...	2
Lieut G. S. Knox lbw b Clarke	12	c Dynes b Varney...	2
Capt Thursby-Pelham b Holmes	5	c Lawton b Varney	0
Lieut T. A. R. Scott b Holmes ...	2	not out	28
Capt Lewis-Barclay not out	2		
Extras	10	Extras	8
Total	225	Total (for 8 wkts)	159

Royal Signals v. Royal Tank Corps.—Played at Aldershot, on the Officers' Club ground, on June 11th and 12th, and resulted in a win for the Royal Tank Corps by 182 runs.

The Corps once more lost the toss, and the Royal Tank Corps, going in first, compiled 330 runs through good batting by Colonel Hulton, Lieut Peacocke, Capt Pedder and Capt Loup.

With three-quarters of an hour left for play on the first day the Corps lost five wickets for 32 runs, but a timely stand by Lieut Cole and Sergt Carpenter the next morning improved matters to such an extent that the total reached 205 before the innings closed.

In their second innings the Royal Tank Corps were enabled to declare at 205 for eight wickets, Colonel Hulton batting well for 96.

Left with 331 runs to get in two and a half hours, Signals' batting again broke down before the bowling of Pte Davies. The only two men who played with confidence were Lieut Cole, who again batted brilliantly, and Sergt Carpenter.

ROYAL TANK CORPS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Lt.-Col. W. J. Hulton c Col Rawson b Major Walsh	38	b Walsh	96
Lieut T. K. Prickett c Corpl Ryan b Sergt Carpenter	26	c Ryan b Cole	0
Capt P. D. Loup b Carpenter ...	108	b Barclay	32
Lieut J. R. Peacocke c Capt Barclay b Carpenter	52	c Carpenter b Cole	14
Capt G. R. Pedder c Major Walsh b Carpenter	31	c Thursby-Pelham b Carpenter	30
Capt H. P. Groves c Col Rawson b Lieut Cole	14	c Rawson b Cole ...	5
Lieut K. P. R. S. Dunnolly lbw b Lieut Cole	8	b Carpenter	0
Lieut T. M. Synge not out	27	b Carpenter	8
Capt R. B. Kellar b Lieut Cole...	0		
Capt Drew b Carpenter	2	not out	6
Pte Davies c Thursby-Pelham b Carpenter	8		
Extras	16	Extras	14
Total	330	Total (8 wkts. dec.)	205

Bowling—1st innings: Lieut Cole, three wickets for 68, and Sergt Carpenter six for 110. 2nd innings: Lieut Cole, three for 59, and Sergt Carpenter three for 48.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Col Rawson c Davies b Kellar ...	0	lbw b Davies	7
Major Vyvyan lbw b Davies	2	b Davies	9
Major Parsons c Hulton b Davies	9	b Kellar	5
Capt Mathew b Kellar	1	c Peddar b Kellar...	3
Corpl Ryan run out	3	c Hulton b Kellar ...	2
Major Walsh b Davies	16	b Prickett	13
Lieut Boyd b Prickett	27	b Davies	4
Lieut Cole st Peddar b Hulton ...	81	b Davies	56
Capt Thursby-Pelham not out ...	13	b Davies	0
Sergt Carpenter st Peddar b Peacocke	30	not out	37
Capt Lewis-Barclay c Dunnolly b Kellar	5	c Peddar b Kellar...	0
Extras	18	Extras	12
Total	205	Total	148

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers.—Played on the Scotton ground, Catterick, on June 19th and 20th. For the fourth time in succession the Corps lost the toss, and the R.E. batted first on an apparently easy slow wicket. As things turned out the wicket was not so easy, and excellent bowling by Lieuts Walford and Scott led to a most sensational collapse of the R.E.s, who were all out for 18—the smallest score yet made on the Scotton ground. Corpl Ryan gave a good exhibition of wicket-keeping.

The wicket was not easy, but our small score is apparently accounted for by the fact that the majority of the team had been playing a few days earlier on the fast plumb wickets of Aldershot. It was certainly the slowest wicket we have played on this year. Lieuts Scott and Boyd, Sergt Carpenter and Corpl Ryan batted well.

The conclusion of the first day's play left the R.E. requiring 73 runs to save the innings defeat, with six wickets in hand.

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By lunch on the second day, however, the match was finished, and the Corps had won by an innings and 5 runs, the R.E. being all out for 118.

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Lieut Swann b Scott	5	c & b Walford	2
Lieut Kellett b Scott	6	st Ryan b Drayson...	14
Lieut Walter b Scott	0	b Drayson	6
Lieut Percival c Cpntr b Walford	1	c Cpnter b Walford	2
Spr Price st Ryan b Walford	0	c Scott b Walford...	30
Capt Minnis b Walford	0	c Boyd b Carpenter	6
Lieut Monteith b Scott	2	c Scott b Walford...	17
Lieut Maclagan c Ryan b Scott ...	0	b Drayson	4
Sergt Galliford c Pavey b Scott ...	0	c Ryan b Carpenter	13
Spr Daniels not out	0	not out	3
Lieut Bader lbw b Walford	3	c Brown b Scott ...	16
Extras	1	Extras	5
Total	18	Total	118

Bowling—1st innings: Lieut Walford, four wickets for 6, and Lieut Scott six for 11. 2nd innings: Lieut Walford, four for 24; Major Drayson three for 32; Sergt Carpenter two for 24.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS.

Corpl Ryan c Price b Daniels	21
2/Lieut Knox c Percival b Bader	8
Lieut Walford c Kellett b Minnis	1
Capt Mathew c Maclagan b Minnis	6
Sergt Carpenter lbw b Bader	22
Capt Pavey c Swann b Minnis	5
Major Drayson c Price b Daniels	0
Lieut Scott not out	49
Lieut Boyd c Galliford b Minnis	23
2/Lieut Worrall c Kellett b Monteith	5
Capt Brown c Price b Monteith	0
Extras	1
Total	141

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Cricket Results.

S.T.C. v. The Rooks.—Played at Darlington on May 23rd, and resulted in a win for the Rooks by six wickets.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

Capt Pavey b Brown	7
J. S. Knox b Brown	4
Corpl Ryan c Cherry b Goodrich	10
H. M. Longden c and b Brown	0
L. C. Boyd b Cherry	17
Sergt Carpenter c and b Brown	20
C. C. Worrall b Brown	3
T. A. R. Scott c and b Cherry	1
C. Ruck b Cherry	3
R.S.M. Anderson not out	11
Sigmn Wall c Brown b Cherry	3
Extras	4
Total	83

THE ROOKS.

Mr Wade b Scott	5
Mr Levy c Ruck b Carpenter	30
Mr W. Brown c Ryan b Scott	16
Mr Goodrich not out	12
Mr Pratt c and b Carpenter	0
Mr F. Brown not out	9
Extras	14
Total (for 4 wickets)	86

S.T.C. v. Yorkshire Gentlemen.—Played at York on May 24th, and resulted in a win for the Yorkshire Gentlemen by 49 runs.

YORKSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

A. O. Elmhirst run out	52
A. W. Becher c Drayson b Carpenter	36
G. L. Sowerby c Boyd b Worrall	0
J. P. Kitching c Pavey b Worrall	1
C. E. Anson not out	34
W. T. White c and b Walford	1
C. R. Maxtead c Scott b Walford	8
W. G. Harriot c and b Carpenter	7
K. Lister Kaye c Walford b Scott	32
E. S. Rudd Clarke c Wall b Scott	0
J. A. D. Jefferson b Scott	0
Extras	18
Total	189

Bowling—Scott, three wickets for 54 runs; Walford, two for 48; Carpenter, two for 47; and Worrall two for 6.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

Major F. G. Drayson b Becher	8
J. S. Knox b Lister Kaye	9
J. S. Walford c and b Lister Kaye	17
Sergt Carpenter b Becher	1
L. C. Boyd b Becher	0
Capt G. P. Pavey not out	54
J. L. Longden c Becher b Lister Kaye	9
T. A. R. Scott b Lister Kaye	17
C. C. Worrall b Lister Kaye	3
C. Ruck lbw b Harriot	0
Sigmn Wall b Lister Kaye	1
Extras	21
Total	140

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Catterick Garrison.—Played on the Scotton ground on July 2nd and 3rd, and resulted in a win for the Garrison by 33 runs.

CATTERICK GARRISON.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Lt W. G. Haslwood c & b Worrall	40	c Carpenter b Scott	9
Lieut R. A. Monteith b Carpenter	3	c Scott b Carpenter	15
Lt E. V. H. Hudson b Hatfield	73	c Carpenter b Scott	19
Capt C. N. Barclay b Dempsey	15	c Scott b Carpenter	6
Sergt Kennett c & b Hatfield	10	c Cpntr b Hatfield	0
Pte Ramsey b Hatfield	0	absent	0
R.S.M. Anderson c Scott b Hfield	0	c Boyd b Carpenter	0
Lieut P. Watson b Dempsey	3	c Boyd b Carpenter	9
Lieut H. Murray c & b Hatfield	8	b Scott	2
Sergt O'Brien not out	14	b Scott	12
Major Cobb c Dempsey b Cpntr.	10	not out	0
Extras	3	Extras	2
Total	179	Total	74

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK).

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Capt Pavey b Hudson	1	c Kennett b Hudson	0
Lieut L. C. Boyd b Hudson	8	c sub b Hudson	14
Sgt Carpenter c Barclay b H'dson	35	b Hudson	8
Corpl Ryan b Hudson	0	c Watson b Kennett	23
Lieut E. J. Hatfield b Kennett	0	c & b Hudson	11
2/Lieut G. S. Knox lbw b Hudson	29	b Kennett	15
Lieut T. A. R. Scott c Monteith b Hudson	17	b Kennett	4
2/Lt C. C. Worrall c & b Hudson	4	run out	0
Capt J. H. Brown c & b Kennett	14	b Kennett	2
Sergt Dempsey b Kennett	7	b Kennett	4
Boy Whitehouse not out	2	not out	1
Extras	16	Extras	5
Total	133	Total	87

Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Depot Battn. Royal Signals v. 4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps.—Played at Catterick Camp on June 23rd, the Depot Battalion winning by an innings and 86 runs.

4TH BATTN. ROYAL TANK CORPS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Capt Havelock-Davies st Ryan b Drayson	16	c Ryan b Drayson	7
L/Corpl Crotty st Ryan b Wall	0	lbw b Drayson	6
Lieut Shaw c Ryan b Drayson	0	b Boyd	10
Lieut Pullibank b Wall	4	c Napper b Drayson	13
R.Q.M.S. Jones run out	4	c Napper b Drayson	22
Pte Wilkinson st Ryan b Boyd	13	st Ryan b Boyd	2
Sergt Bees b Wall	2	c & b Boyd	0
Pte Large b Drayson	0	c Ryan b Boyd	1
Pte Scoble st Ryan b Drayson	0	b Drayson	3
Sergt Alley lbw b Napper	1	b Boyd	0
Pte Mickleston not out	0	not out	0
Extras	3	Extras	15
Total	43	Total	79

Bowling—1st innings: Major Drayson, four wickets for 21; Lt Boyd, one for 8; Sigmn Wall, three for 9; and Sergt Napper, one for 2. 2nd innings: Major Drayson, five for 34, and Lt Boyd five for 14.

DEPOT BATTALION, ROYAL SIGNALS.

Corpl P. Ryan retired	101
Corpl Bygrave run out	5
Lieut E. J. Hatfield c Capt Davies b Jones	7
Lieut L. C. Boyd retired	34
Sigmn Wall not out	13
Sergt-Instr. Hart not out	24
Extras	24
Total (for two wkts. dec.)	208

Depot Battn. Royal Signals v. Richmondshire.—Played at Richmond on July 4th, the Depot Battalion winning by 51 runs.

DEPOT BATTN. ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieut Hatfield b Day	3
Corpl Bygrave lbw b Swainstone	12
Corpl Ryan b Jones	48
Lieut Worrall b Jones	23
R.S.M. Anderson c Day b Jones	6
Sergt-Instr. Hart c Day b Cherry	1
Lieut Boyd b Cherry	2
Duncan b Jones	0
Hinton b Hodgson	15
Napper c Husband b Wheatley	11
Wall not out	2
Extras	7
Total	130

RICHMONDSHIRE.

H. Diamond lbw b Worrall	11
H. Wheatley c Hatfield b Worrall	0
G. Day b Wall	17
C. Cockett c and b Wall	3
C. Husband lbw b Hatfield	28
H. A. Jones b Wall	0
Hodgson not out	12
D. Cherry run out	1
H. Swainstone c Ryan b Hatfield	0
T. Alderson c Worrall b Napper	3
B. E. G. Close st Ryan b Napper	2
Extras	2
Total	79

Depot Battn. Royal Signals v. 26th A.C. Squadron R.A.F.—Played on the R.A.F. ground on July 11th, Signals winning a close game by six runs.

26TH A.C. SQUADRON R.A.F.

F.O. Hall c Duncan b Worrall	28
F.O. Loughman b Worrall	2
L.A.C. Nowell c Griffiths b Malpass	20
Corpl Daniels b Boyd	12
A.C. Grayson c Boyd b Malpass	3
A.C. Wilkinson b Malpass	0
A.C. Burt c Worrall b Malpass	0
A.C. Priestman run out	7
A.C. Smith b Boyd	3
A.C. Graham lbw b Boyd	0
A.C. Edgehill not out	2
Extras	23
Total	100

Bowling—Lieut Worrall, two wickets for 19; Lieut Malpass, four for 21; and Lieut Boyd, three for 13.

DEPOT BATTN. ROYAL SIGNALS.

Lieut Hatfield retired hurt	23
Lieut Boyd c Grayson b Hall	37
Sergt Hindon run out	1
S/Sergt Hart run out	13
Lieut Eve c Nowell b Smith	2
Lieut Worrall c Nowell b Smith	10
Sigmn Duncan b Nowell	2
Lieut Malpass b Smith	6
Sergt Napper c Priestman b Nowell	0
Sergt Griffiths not out	1
Sigmn Webb b Nowell	0
Extras	11
Total	106

Athletics.

The last of the inter-Company relay meetings was held on July 9th on the Scotton ground. Conditions were good, and a bigger assembly than usual watched the final matches in the Athletic League, which has proved very popular and brought to light a good deal of previously unknown talent.

The points in athletics for 1928 are now as follows:—

	D	E	F	M.W.	D.W.	School
Individual Championships	8	42	45	19	19	9
Coy. League Athletics...	60	100	160	80	20	40
Coy. League Tug-of-War...	14	8	14	24	4	20
Standards	—	10	10	5	5	1
	82	160	229	128	48	70

F Company, in addition to being the leader in athletics for Mackworth points, are also the winners of the cup originally presented by Major Cobb for the winner at the annual relay meeting, and now re-allotted to the winner of the Relay League.

The Training Battalion team, although handicapped by very inclement weather, have been training steadily under the supervision of Major Naylor and Capt Kennett, and are going to give any other unit a good run for their money at Aldershot on the 20th and 21st July.

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Our mixed medley relay team—Sergt Cotterell, Cpl Murphy, Sigmn Pells and Sigmn Hicks—left all opposition standing in the open relay at the Cameronians' sports on July 11th, and should meet with similar success at the Middlesex Regiment's sports and other meetings at which they are competing shortly.

Sergt Cotterell won the Army three miles at the championships on June 27th and 28th for the eighth successive year, and once more receives our hearty congratulations. His time this year, 14 min. 41 4/5 secs., is the third best he has recorded in this event, the best being the present Army record of 14 min. 34 4/5 sec. run in 1926.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Athletics.—The inter-Company relay league having finished, we think that when the final positions are published we shall be third. This is a very satisfactory result, as E and F are far too strong for us.

We met F on July 9th, and they beat us in nearly all events. This was quite expected, as they are well trained, and we have lost a number of our good runners who have been transferred to the Army Reserve. We hope next year to go one better and finish up at least second; and there is no reason why we should not manage this if everyone would realise that we require forty men in a team and that a little training makes all the difference in the world.

Congratulations are extended to Dvr Gaston on beating L/Corpl Broadley in the two miles. It was an excellent performance, and one which we quite expected to happen before the season was over. Well done, Gaston! we hope to hear great things of you this cross-country season.

Cricket.—We are not doing so well as we might at this. The main trouble appears to be that some of our good cricketers are otherwise engaged when there is a match to be played. If we are to get the Mackworth trophy we want as many points as we can get for cricket. So come along, now, you cricketers, and see if you can make up for the matches you have lost us.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Cricket.—So far we have had a most successful season, having played four matches and won them all. We have discovered one promising youngster in Sigmn Bell J. He bowls slow medium left hand, but needs to learn a little more control of length: also he must keep his head if he is hit about.

D Company v. F Company was rather a one-sided affair. We batted first and hit up 150 for eight wickets, thanks largely to a first-wicket stand of 86 by Mr Knox and Mr Lewis. We declared our innings closed, and F Company were then dismissed for 62, Mr. Scott taking eight wickets for 23.

D Company v. Mounted Wing.—This was an interesting game, but spoilt by the weather. A continual drizzle fell during the whole of both innings. Mounted Wing turned out with only nine men, and were all out for 52. We started badly, losing two wickets for one run, but later improved, and by means of good knocks by Capt Pavey and Signalmen Bell and Bellinger we got the runs required for the loss of only four wickets.

D Company v Dismounted Wing.—This proved to be a high scoring game. Dismounted Wing batted first and put together 148. Sigmn Bell bowled very consistently, taking five wickets for 46 runs. Our team set about their task with a will, and knocked off the runs in an hour—150 for four wickets. Captain Collins made 36, and Mr. Knox 76 not out.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Sports.—Our heartiest congratulations to our athletic team, which has not only won the inter-Company athletics by 69 points but also the Major Cobb cup. The result is due to carefully-organised training and real team spirit and keenness.

We are in the middle of the boys' sports, and a full account will appear in the next WIRE. The form shown by boys of all ages has surprised even those who have been training them, and there is no doubt that we have some magnificent athletes in the making—some who will add further honours to the Corps and carry on the good work of "Joe," Murphy, Beeton, Broadley, Ayres, etc., etc.

Our best wishes to the T.B. team in the Army athletics. We confidently expect to be in the first three, with the Yorks and Lancs. and the 3rd Battalion Royal Tank Corps our chief dangers.

Cricket.—E Company beat us by two wickets after a most exciting and particularly pleasant game. They had to get six runs to win, with five wickets to fall. Three of these went with the addition of only four runs, but then a full pitch to leg was correctly dealt with by a lance-corporal who is not at *present* in the running for a Test Match trial!

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Sports Meeting.—The following are the results of the various events in the sports held on June 22nd:—

880 yards relay—Won by B Section (Sergt New, L/Corpl Webb, Signalmen Innes and Joy)

Long jump—Won by B Section (Corpl Mathews, 18 ft. 4 in.; L/Corpl Warner, 17 ft. 3½ in.)

One mile relay—Won by B Section (2/Lieut Thuillier, Sergt New, Corpl Mathews, Dvr Somers)

High jump—Won by C Section (Swinson, 4 ft. 6 in.; Woodhams, 4 ft.)

One mile team race—Won by A Section.

400 yards relay race—Won by B Section.

Putting the shot—Won by A Section (L/Corporal Myddleton, 30 ft. 5½ in.; L/Corpl Staerk, 25 ft. 11 in.)

Three miles team race—Won by A Section.

Swimming Sports.—These were held on July 13th, with the following results:—

One length, free style—1, 2/Lieut Thuillier; 2, Sigmn Wood; 3, Sigmn Parry.

High diving—1, Sigmn Whittle; 2, Sergt New; 3, L/Corporal Myddleton.

Three lengths, free style—1, Sigmn Beswick; 2, 2/Lieut Thuillier; 3, Sigmn Parry.

Spring board diving—1, L/Corpl Myddleton; 2, Sigmn Whittle; 3, Sergt New.

Two lengths, back stroke—1, Sergt New; 2, Sigmn Wood; 3, Sigmn Wathen.

Plunging—1, 2/Lieut Thuillier; 2, Lieut Talbot; 3, Sgt New.

Inter-Section team race—Won by B Section.

No. 3 Company.

Sport.—In the realm of sport not much has happened. We managed, however, to beat both Nos. 1 and 2 Companies at cricket, thus making sure of the trophy.

We must again congratulate Corpl Bishop on finishing third in the "open to the world" jumping at the Command Horse Show. He had really hard luck, considering that "Knotty" was the only mount to clear the augmented wall jump, after the King's cup winner (from Olympia) had declared it to be impossible. (Anyhow, Bish, better luck at Tidworth.)

The Company held a very successful sports meeting on July 16th, the outstanding feature of which was the running of Corpl Hammond (J Section), who snatched long-standing laurels from Sigmn Holmes (H Section).

A devastating-looking female (complete with offspring) resolved herself into the redoubtable Marie of "Oat-Crusher" fame (that interesting relic was not, however, on show). "She" was soon surrounded by a mob of enthusiastic kiddies.

There were several thrilling displays in the trick riding—especially when a certain famous Norton Combo overturned and catapulted the said Marie some distance amid a flurry of lingerie.

The tug-of-war, which was believed a certainty for H Section, resulted in their being beaten in the first round by a scratch team from J Section, who were, however, beaten in the final by L.

In the inter-Section relay, despite a gallant effort by the C.O., the unit H.Q. lost their long-standing championship.

The three-legged race showed the "Peter Pan" spirit of our veterans, for every officer, from the C.O. downwards, competed.

After tea we adjourned to the jumping ground for the mounted events. The wrestling on horseback, of course, attracted much interest, and was won by H after a hard tussle with J.

100 yards—Corpl Hammond, L/Corpl Robins, Sigmn Holmes.

High jump—Sigmn Jarvis, Sigmn Wilson, Sigmn Holmes.

880 yards—Sigmn Shaw, Dvr Fountain, Sigmn Carruthers, Sigmn Saltern.

220 yards—Corpl Hammond, Sigmn Holmes, Sigmn Neale, Dvr Fountain.

Boot race—Dvr Golightly, Pte Grove, L/Corporal Edwards, Sigmn Whapshire.

440 yards—Corpl Silk, Dvr Fountain, Sigmn Neale, Dvr Hyde.

Three-legged race—L/Corpls Robins and Pearce, Sergts Inman and Walker, Pte Grove and Dvr Hall.

Hurdles—L/Corpl Hose, Sigmn Pugh, Sigmn Wilson, Sigmn Holmes.

One mile—L/Corpl Pearce, Sigmn Carruthers, Sigmn Colley, Dvr Easto.

Putting the shot—Corpl Bishop, Sigmn Ferrier, Sigmn Jarvis, Sigmn Kelly.

Long jump—Sigmn Richardson, Sigmn Jarvis, Sigmn Carruthers, Sigmn Mallard.

Slow motor-cycle race—Sigmn Holmes, Sigmn Shaw, L/Corpl Rogers.

Tug-of-war—L Section, J Section.

Peg race—Sigmn Ellis, Sigmn Colley, Dvr Fountain.

Ladies' race—Mrs. Grant, Miss Macgarver, Mrs. Hoare.

Inter-Section relay—Company H.Q., L Section, H Section, Unit H.Q., J Section, K Section. Winning team: Captain Mathew, C.S.M. Bayliss, L/Corpl Pearce, Sigmn Saltern, Dvr Henry.

Pair jumping—Dvr Cannell, Dvr Fountain.

Individual jumping—Dvr Ingles, L/Corpl Pearce, Signalman Reardon.

Tent-pegging—L/Corpl Pearce.

V.C. race—L/Corpl Pearce, Dvr Easto, Dvr Campion, Sigmn Husk.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Cricket.—The only match worthy of note this month is the semi-final of the N.I.D. cup, in which we played the Royal West Yorkshire Regt. It will be a surprise to many to read that we had reached the semi-final, but that was the luck of the draw.

The game was played at Comber on July 11th, and the team consisted of Captain H. N. Brown, Lieut F. K. Morton, Lieut A. D. B. Cocks, R.E., Sergts Sheale and Beverley, Corporals Roberts and McLachlan, L/Corpl Gandey, Signalmen Williams, Goody and Manser.

After losing the toss we were sent in to bat and made a total of 153 runs, Sigmn Williams scoring 49 and L/Corpl Gandey 39, most of the others getting double figures.

The West Yorks batted after the tea interval and were soon dismissed with a total of 63, of which 21 were extras. Sigmn Williams was on the top of his form in bowling, and his average shows eight wickets for three runs; he also made a very good catch from Lieut Cocks' bowling. The last man was run out by a splendid throw-in from Lieut Cocks. The fielding of the team was excellent, many runs being saved by their speed.

All are now looking forward to the final, in which we meet the Sherwood Foresters. It is a big thing for such a small unit to beat the pick of a battalion, but we have done it once and hope to do it again.

Rhine Signal Company.

Congratulations to the Egyptian Signals on winning the best all-round unit shield. Well done! Good wishes for the future from Sergt (Tubby) Minns, L/Sergt Devey, Signalmen Baker W. H. (Doughy), Tom Mayer and Darkie Rowe. Back one of these days plus bints. Salaams to all!—Sieeda.

Tennis.—Tennis is going great guns! On July 7th we played the return match, at our barracks, against the R.A.V.C., losing by three games. Some excellent tennis was seen. Results:—

Singles—L/Corpl Phillips, lost by 4—6; Sigmn Hills, won by 6—3; C.Q.M.S. Sharpley, lost by 3—6; Sigmn Funnell, won by 6—5; Sigmn Baker W. H., lost by 5—6; Sergt Minns, lost by 1—6.

Doubles—Signalmen Baker and Funnell, lost by 5—6; L/Corpl Phillips and Sigmn Hills, won by 6—2; Sergt Minns and Corpl Emsley, lost by 3—6; C.Q.M.S. Sharpley and Sergt Brandon, won by 6—2; Sergts Callegari and Crockford, won by 6—1; Sergts Devey and Minns, lost by 4—6.

We have entered for the junior n.c.o.s and men's Rhine Army tournaments; and individual singles and doubles championships (inter-Company) are being arranged.

Cricket.—Owing to camp and numerous inspections and ceremonial parades, our cricket league matches have had to be postponed. We commence in the league on Saturday, July 14th.

Royal Signals v. 8th Hussars.—Played on May 27th, when we won by 88 runs. Scores:—

Royal Signals.

Sergt Minns b Pearman	21
Sigmn Funnell not out	57
Corpl Roberts c Gill b Llewellyn	24
Sigmn Hills c Ray b Marriott	44
L/Corpl Phillips lbw b Marriott	10
C.Q.M.S. Sharpley b Shepperd	3
Extras	16
Total (5 wkts. declared)	175

8th Hussars.

Llewellyn c Knight b Hills	11
Pearman b Hills	2
Shepperd b Minns	33
Marriott run out	2
Lambton c Roberts b Hills	3
Savage b Hills	4
Dunn b Minns	0
Adey c Phillips b Minns	12
Gill lbw b Minns	5
Ray not out	12
Amos b Funnell	1
Extras	2
Total	87

Bowling—Hills took four wickets for 38 runs; Minns four for 41; and Funnell one for 4.

Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess v. Royal Engineers Sergeants' Mess.—Played on May 25th, the result being a tie. Scores:—

Royal Signals.

Corp Roberts b Machin	14
Sergt Nash b Warwick	0
Sergt Devey b Allcock	12
Sergt Minns c Hayward b Machin	16
C.Q.M.S. Sharpley c Gollings b Machin	0
Sergt Gordon b Allcock	0
Sergt Callegari b Machin	5
Sergt Penfold b Machin	0
Sergt Brandon b Machin	2
Sergt Minion b Warwick	19
Sergt Lewis not out	0
Extras	18
Total	86

Royal Engineers.

Hindley c Lewis b Minns	2
Humphreys b Penfold	3
Gollings b Minns	0
Machin b Nash	18
Martin c Roberts b Penfold	13
Wheatcroft c Minion b Nash	3
Bradley c Gordon b Roberts	4
Warwick not out	23
Allcock b Nash	7
Hayward c Callegari b Nash	0
Hallams c Callegari b Nash	2
Extras	11
Total	86

Straight Shootin'.—Two teams have been entered for the Rhine Army shoot, and practice has commenced on the miniature range. Let us get the sporting spirit "cracking," and we will challenge the Gypo Sigs to a week-end rally or a trip on the Rhine.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Football.—The combined Signals (Rawalpindi) football team, which is at present at Upper Topa, has been doing very well of late.

The Murree Brewery tournament is at present in full swing. We were able to reach the semi-final, when the Seaforth Highlanders beat us by 4—0. Up to then we had beaten the Tank Corps by 2—0, the 22nd Battery R.A. by 1—0 (after two replays) and the Topa Signals (rest of Northern Command) by 1—0.

We now have to meet the losers of the other semi-finalists—Inniskillings or Sherwood Foresters—for the Uniacke cup.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarter and Brigade Sections, Razmak.

Football.—Razmak Brigade Section v Combined Hospital, won by 7—1.

Hockey.—Razmak Brigade Section v H.Q. Section, won by 4—3. H.Q. Section v Burmese Sappers and Miners, drew at 2—2. Razmak Brigade Section v H.Q. Section, won by 3—0. Razmak Brigade Signals v. 20th Medium Battery R.A., won by 3—1. Razmak Brigade Signals v 1/11th Sikh Reg., lost by 0—2.

The latter match was a creditable performance by Razmak Brigade Signals, as the 1/11th Sikh Regiment are the runners-up to the All-India team, and also won the Waziristan District tournament at Bannu last year with a magnificent score of 13—0.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

Sigmn Leach was runner-up in the Ranikhet Area novices boxing tournament. This competition was for absolute beginners, and though he was unfortunate Sigmn Leach is to be congratulated on his performance. He should prove an asset to the unit in future. He fought four contests, winning the first by a knock-out and the second and third on points. In the last he was beaten on points by a very narrow margin.

The unit is represented in both the Depot football and hockey teams, Sergts Richardson and Gudgeon being selected for the football team, and Sergts Hebbard and Fawl for the hockey.

In the Depot sergeants' mess billiards tournament, the Signals were again gallant losers in the final, after defeating three other teams.

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

Cricket.—This month fewer matches have been played, owing mostly to the heat.

At the beginning of the month we played our first cup game with No. 30 (B) Squadron R.A.F., and won by a fairly large margin.

In the second round we met B Depot R.A.F., and after some excellent cricket in the second innings, and a fine display of batting by Sigmn Hill W., we lost by only five runs. (Hard lines, "Will-um.")

Water Polo.—This is still going strong in the Section, and we have only lost two league matches up to date and one friendly.

In the last six matches we have relinquished only one point, and although now second in the league we are hopeful of soon taking the lead again.

As there is some talk of the local authorities ploughing up our football and hockey pitches, we are seriously thinking of forming a committee among the "'Erbs" for the purpose of instituting a marbles court on the parade ground. We might be able to keep that!

No. 2 Section, No. 2 Wireless Company, Baghdad.

Cricket.—Although not able to repeat last year's notable performance of winning the Iraq inter-Services knock-out cricket cup, the combined representative team of the Iraq Signal Section and ourselves suffered defeat in the second round by the narrow margin of five runs only.

The first round, against No. 70 Squadron R.A.F., Hinaidi, was won by eight wickets, Signals showing a marked superiority throughout the game.

In the second round, against B Squadron R.A.F., Hinaidi, Signals stood in the precarious position of requiring over 80 runs with a "tail-end" of four wickets to fall. Sigmn Hill, of Hinaidi Signals, must be commended on his brilliant effort to "save our bacon." His seventy runs, with the help of some excellent stone-walling by the remaining batsmen, brought the opposition and spectators to a pitch of nervous tension, only to be frustrated by a clever catch when one "sixer" divided victory from defeat. We have the consolation of knowing we were vanquished by a team that promises a long run in the competition.

Signalmen Dodson and Batten were selected to represent No. 2 Wireless Company.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Tennis.—Our first Garrison League match was played on June 6th, our opponents being H.Q. K.O.S.B. The scores were: R.E. and Royal Signals, 60 games; H.Q. K.O.S.B., 39.

The Hong Kong League games, in which we opposed the Chinese Recreation Club and the Club de Recerio, resulted in a win for the former by 60 games to 39, and for the latter by 51 games to 48.

Signals representatives in these matches were Signalmen White and Durand.

Billiards.—A tournament has been held in the juniors' mess. The four surviving players will meet the seniors in a match for the Buck cup. Sappers Williams and Rimmel and Signalmen White and Durand have qualified to meet the final four of the seniors' mess.

Malta Signal Section.

At present sports here are confined to cricket, tennis and swimming, cricket being "all the go," with swimming a good second.

Tennis.—Not many of the Section indulge in this sport, but it should be mentioned that our F.-of-S. is pretty keen on the game and represents the Royal Engineers in the Command W.O.s and Sergeants' Tennis League men's doubles.

The R.E.s are runners-up to the R.A.O.C., and by the time these notes appear the F.-of-S. will have a pot to put on the table. (You 'aint filling it up with Adam's ale, Quarter, are you?)

The R.E. ladies (God bless 'em!) have won the championship of the Command League, so they also will have a pot and the League trophy. Well played, Mrs. Lacey and Mrs. Cooper ("mine's a cup of tea.")

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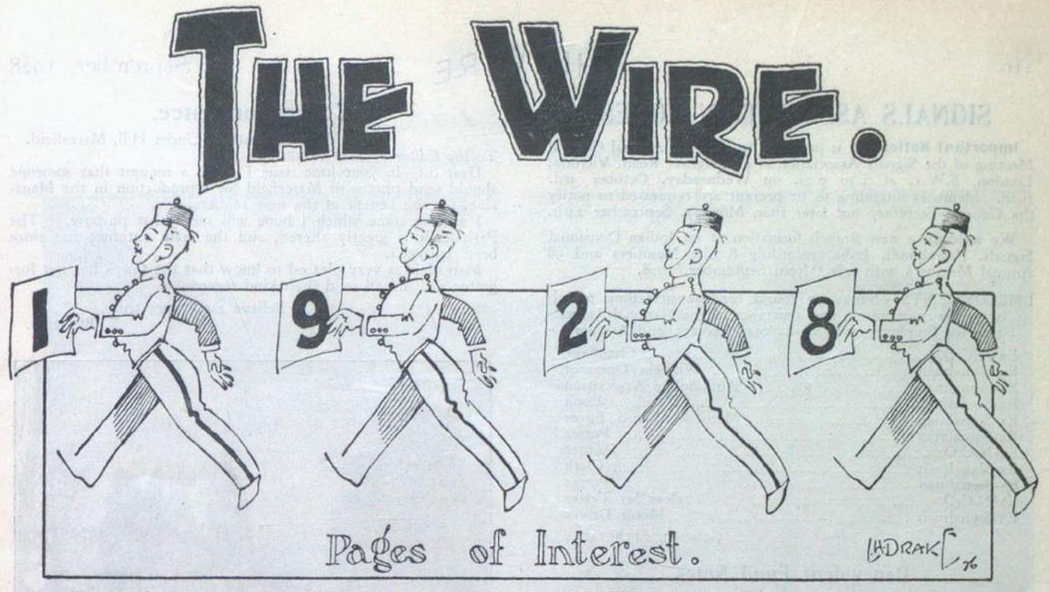

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
Telephone: Victoria 2081
Telegrams: "Sigasn Churton London."

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
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VOL. IX.—No. 103 SEPTEMBER, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

Important Notice.—It is proposed to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Signals Association at 95 Belgrave Road, Victoria, London, S.W.1, at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3rd, 1928. Members intending to be present are requested to notify the General Secretary not later than Monday, September 24th.

❀ ❀ ❀

Our readers will be interested to know that Capt Kingsford Smith, who recently completed the first air flight from America to Australia in the "Southern Cross," is an ex-Signalman. He was a corporal in the 4th Australian Divisional Signals, and served as a motor despatch rider in France. When a vacancy occurred in the R.A.F. he was transferred to England for training in that Force. He was later employed as a pilot by the West Australian Airways Ltd., whose aeroplanes carry on a weekly passenger and mail service between Perth and the north-west ports. We therefore offer our humble but hearty congratulations on his splendid achievement.

❀ ❀ ❀

The hon. secretary of A Corps Signals (Karachi, India) Branch of the Signals Association would be glad to hear of or from any ex-member of that unit now in civilian life, especially with regard to his success in obtaining civilian employment either through the agency of the Association or through other channels.

❀ ❀ ❀

We welcome the re-appearance of unit notes from the 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi, and extend cordial greetings to all ranks of that unit.

The following letter requires no explanation:—

Dated from Sussex, 16/7/28.

"The Secretary Signals Association.

"Dear Sir—My wife and myself wish to express our grateful thanks to the Committee for their very prompt and generous assistance. The money was duly received and arrived at a time when it was very badly needed.

"We are pleased to know that there is such help available from an Association like "Signals," and if serving members only realised what good work was being done there would, I am sure, be few non-Association members. May I add that I hope to repay you at a not far distant date, when things are a little brighter, and so enable you to assist some other unfortunate member in a similar predicament to my own. Again thanking you, and wishing the Signals Association every success,

"Yours gratefully ——EX-SIGNALMAN."

❀ ❀ ❀

An interesting competition will be published at an early date, offering cash prizes of £30, £10 and £5 to successful competitors. Copies of THE WIRE should be ordered beforehand, to secure the necessary coupon.

❀ ❀ ❀

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra at home or abroad). Cash with order.

EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

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We welcome a new Branch formation at 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi, India, recording 6 Life Members and 98 Annual Members with effect from September, 1928.

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:—

Ex-N.C.O.	Chauffeur
Ex-Signalman	Wireless Operator
Ex-Signalman	Automobile Association
Ex-Signalman	Cook
Ex-Signalman	Motor Mechanic—Fitter
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-N.C.O.	Painter
Ex-Signalman	Clerk
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-N.C.O.	Wireless Set Tester
Ex-Signalman	Motor Driver

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from:—
Lieut D. A. L. Dwyer

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, Dover. In domestic difficulties. £2 allocated from Association funds.

2—Ex-Signalman, Southend-on-Sea. In distressed circumstances. £5 allocated from Association funds.

3—Ex-Signalman, Brighton. In domestic difficulties. £5 allocated from Association funds.

4—Ex-N.C.O., London. In temporary difficulties. Employment found and £2 advanced from Association funds.

5—Ex-Signalman, London. In temporary difficulties. Employment found and £2 advanced from Association funds

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

NOTICES.

Educational Qualification for Promotion to Warrant Officer Rank.

War Office, July 16th, 1928.

It is announced in an Army Council Instruction that no exemption from obtaining a 1st class certificate of education before promotion to warrant rank will be given after January 1st, 1930.

Correspondence.

The Homestead, Under Hill, Maresfield.

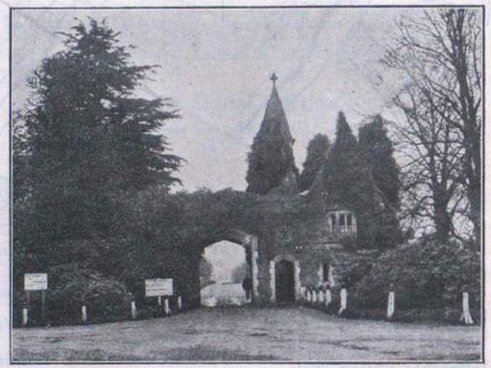
To the Editor of THE WIRE.

Dear Sir—In your June issue I noted a request that someone should send photos of Maresfield for reproduction in the Magazine, for the benefit of the new soldiers.

I enclose some which I hope will serve that purpose. The Park itself is greatly altered, and the main entrance has since been enlarged.

Maresfield is very pleased to know that the Corps has not forgotten us, and all send their kind regards.

Believe me, yours truly,
E. BILLINGS.



[We thank this lady for her kindness, and reproduce the photos of the Main Entrance Gate and Headquarters Office in Maresfield Park.—ED.]

When motoring, a strict observance of the rules and courtesies of the road is not sufficient: one has to allow for the other fool ignoring them. Which reminds one of the following epitaph:—

"Here lies the body of William Gray,
Who died maintaining his right of way;
He was right—quite right—as he drove along,
But he's just as dead as if he'd been wrong."

* * * *

He who is of no use to himself is of no use to anyone.

Small thanks to the man for keeping his hands clean, who would not touch the work except with gloves on.

* * * *

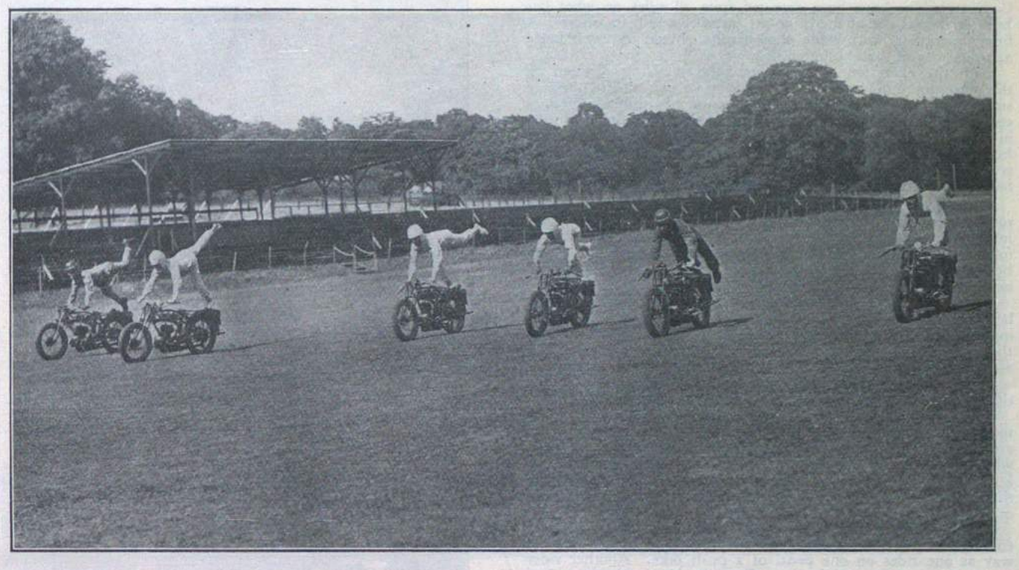
Hope springs eternal in the human breast,
Man never is, but always to be, blest.

* * * *

Criticism is like champagne: nothing more execrable if bad—nothing more excellent if good.

SOUTHERN COMMAND TATTOO, TIDWORTH

Riding Display by Royal Signals Motor Cyclists



(Photos by The Central News Limited, London)

Trick Riding on Motor Cycles.

The motor-cycle display by the despatch riders of the Cavalry Divl Signals (under Lieut Holland) during the Southern Command Tattoo at Tidworth is worthy of being placed on record. Congratulations have been received from all sides on what has been acclaimed one of the brightest turns of a brilliant show. A brief description, with some photographs, should convey a fairly accurate idea of the exhibition.

With the exception of one searchlight, which is directed on the glittering uniforms of a band making its exit on the opposite side, the arena is in darkness. The sound of throbbing engines comes from the right of the arena, and the beam of light, turning in that direction, reveals a row of large white paper hoops. Each hoop stands in front of a " jump," which (it must be explained) is a wooden plank rising in a steep gradient from and ending four or five feet above the surface of the ground.

All searchlights are bearing on this equipage when, with a roar of engines, a row of despatch riders dressed as Robots flash into the arena and up the jumps. A leap through the air is followed by a crash as the machines pass through the paper hoops, landing a considerable distance ahead. A second row of motor-cyclists appear and repeat the performance.

Without pause the party sweeps up to the centre of the arena before the spectators have realised what has happened. Wheeling in a single line, the performers, riding at full speed towards the Royal Box, come to a dead stop on the extreme edge of the arena and give vent to a lusty shout by way of greeting.

Figure riding follows, the onlookers experiencing thrill after thrill as the machines apparently only avoid collision by inches.

The daring acrobatics in the trick riding that follows prove most effective, the feats bringing roars of applause. The cyclists are seen driving their machines at thirty to forty miles an hour while standing erect on the foot-rests with hands outstretched, kneeling on the tank also with arms outstretched, lying back on the saddle with head resting on the rear carrier, and in many other weird positions.

One performer rides with the right foot on the left rest, controlling the handle-bars with the right hand, in much the same way as one rides on one pedal of a push bike. Another rider stands erect on the saddle, controlling the bars with the aid of two pieces of cord. Much amusement is caused by a pillion rider and the driver of a machine continually changing places. Another pillion rider excites admiration by jumping from one cycle to another while both are maintaining a high speed. Bearing another man on his shoulders, one performer careers round the arena with hands outstretched. Another machine bears two men, one on each foot-rest. Unbounded laughter greets the appearance of a surf rider on a board drawn by a sidecar. Feats too numerous to mention are packed into a few minutes' display, the climax being reached by the appearance of a motor-cycle bearing seven men.

Abruptly and without apparent reason all machines exit, and in a flash the arena is empty.

A mobile signal office, with despatch riders following, enters and halts on the far side of the arena. One of the despatch riders is given a message and he sets out across the arena. His path lies over an area swept by hostile fire, and his course is dogged by exploding shells. Without warning a shell explodes in front of the racing machine, which crashes, the rider being thrown over the bars to the ground. A reserve arrives, takes the message from his fallen comrade, and carries on.

A machine bearing two men now arrives on the scene. The unconscious man is laid across the tank of the cycle and driven back to the base by one rider, while the other, getting the crashed machine into running order, quickly follows.

The despatch rider who has delivered the message is now seen returning. He is badly wounded and his strength is nearly spent. He rides unsteadily, slowly picking his way through the enemy's barrage. At last he reaches the base and, handing in his report, falls exhausted.

The lights fade and the scena is over!

A full-size photograph that appeared in *The New YorkTribune and Herald* must be mentioned here. This was published with a glowing reference to the trick-riding of the " British Royal Corps of Signals." It was cut out and sent to Sergt Adcock by an old Corps man. Thus spreads the fame of the Signals!

NAB.

One of the " Jumps " at the Southern Command Tattoo, Tidworth.
(Photo by The Central News Limited, London).

Plain Tales.

Anticipation.—The turf of Salisbury Plain is quivering in its roots at the prospect of feeling Joe Cotterell's shoes across it in the near future.

Note 1: Joe has got away from the S.T.C.
Note 2: Watch Joe.

On a Night Scheme.—Guaranteed perfectly true. Money back if not satisfied.

Officer i/c Cable Section (about to enter woods : time 11 p.m.) " S-sh! Quiet everywhere. Mustn't wake the birds."

Presumably this is in connection with the little-known movement started by the Society for the Preservation of Dickies Dormer, which has, amongst other things, introduced india-rubber hammers and jumpers for night work.

In the Chair.—Of all the terror-inspiring individuals in the British army, the dental officer must be accorded first place. Yet he is invariably a kindly and considerate soul, who does his best to make you feel you are his very special client.

I am afraid the majority of us do not appreciate the value of a good tooth-brush until we hear his quiet " Sit down there, lad." What regrets for missed opportunities when we hear the chink of needles, forceps, pliers, saws, knives, and hammers,

SOUTHERN COMMAND TATTOO, TIDWORTH

Riding Display by Royal Signals Motor Cyclists

(Photo by The Central News Limited, London)

or whatever his tools are called! What fools we call ourselves as we watch the assistant dragging that horrible drilling gadget into position! What a horrible sensation as that—for the love of Mike, shut up!

"Unaccountables."—"The onlooker sees most of the game," so I've heard. Without any doubt, the caterer of a sergeant's mess sees and hears enough to furnish material for a book. A book, I may add, which would only be fit for private circulation.

Waiter (as tray of glasses crashes to the floor): "S'all right, sergeant; they're only dirty ones!"

A gentleman whom I suspect could write a very interesting book, full of satire, is the brewery traveller. Should he ever undertake the job, I should advise him to call it "Parasites and Bloodsuckers" or, for the benefit of the simple-minded, "People one meets."

J.: "What are you going to have?"
V.: "Er—I'll have a glass of water and a small Players."
J. (slightly staggered): "Sure you wouldn't like a box of matches as well?"
V.: "No, thanks: I had a box of matches with B. just now."

What's bred in the bone comes out with the seventh pint.

Heat Wave After Order.—All w.o.s and n.c.o.s will take immediate steps to have the indelible pencil marks denoting their ranks removed from their bare arms. Issues of iced lemonade will be discontinued as from reveille on August 1st.

The main guard will not, in future, mount in shorts and tennis shirts.

The Strange Case of the Flat Parsley.—Claribel Gooly threw her eyes across the room and fixed them in a terror-stricken stare on the opposite wall.

On considering this action, she came to the conclusion that it was rather silly, so she gave a piercing scream (round about top C, I think) and fled into the street, where she was knocked down and killed by a small steam lorry, driven by a short-sighted man with a far-away look in his eyes. This man had only one leg, so it serves her jolly well right. That will teach her not to be so beastly confident.

Ukan Larfe slept on in blissful ignorance of the terrible things that were happening. The roof fell in on his chest. The rent fell due on his birthday. The Company fell in on the markers. Still Ukan slept on, messing up the whole story and keeping the readers in suspense.

Outside, the newsboys were yelling "Mysterious death of a left-footed macaroni bender from Pimlico! Speshul!"

That's another one gone, anyway.

Another powerful instalment next month. BARLEUX.

Round the Stations.

Mark these Signals at Belfast—these amateur sheiks!
Note the havoc on soft Irish hearts each one wreaks,
As a pretty colleen off he bears.
By the dozen these dandies sail forth on the spree,
In civilians decked out so extravagantly,
That a stranger is apt to take Belfast to be
A resort for the millionaires.

From all over the world the winds wantonly waft
Upon Catterick cold, which, in permanent draught,
The full blunt of the worst weather bears.
This bleak spot, with its breezes full laden with rains,
With its snow-laying blizzards that whiten the plains,
With its blustering gales and fierce hurricanes,
Is the sport of a million *airs*.

Tuneful Tidworth is glutted with numerous bands,
And each bandsman, to exercise his tireless glands,
All day long on his instrument blares.
Nine o'clock every morn bands of brass start the strife,
Promptly followed by bands that employ drum and fife;
Then, when jazz adds its quota, one's deafened for life
In a din of a million *airs!*

Breezy Bulford is where all the runners hang out,
And whose trainers, with fervour that's almost devout,
Very tenderly tend to their cares.
It is rumoured these runners will everyone beat,
And that when they have run every team off its feet,
Upon Salisbury Plain they will challenge and meet
A picked team of a million *airs!*

Here are tidings from Smallshot! What do they reveal?
The event of a barracks de luxe or ideal,
One of these really first-class affairs.
Blame not those who in this paradise do reside,
If—proclaiming its modern improvements world wide,
Or expounding its assets and beauties with pride—
They display a million *airs!*

Ere we shake Smallshot dust from our unworthy feet,
Let us dare look upon the home of the elite—
Let us call and see how A Corps fares.
A most massive moustache all good soldiers must show,
And those baby-faced youths, after stripes, would forego
A full seven days' pay if each only could grow
On his lip just a million *hairs!*

NAB.

Corps Promotion Roster – Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. II. (C.S.M.)—

*6390371 Payne J. 17/2/28

Appointed C.Q.M.S.—

2307174 Coffin E. 1/4/28
*3436641 Hudson F. 1/4/28
1[illegible]0371 Smith O. 7/6/28

To be Staff-Sergeant (Farrier)—

2307026 Harris G. 18/7/28

To be Sergeant—

*1407601 Hodge C. 20/1/28
*5876773 Lawman H. 20/1/28
2554668 Gent W. 1/4/28

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

*5764741 Smith W. 4/12/27
*4527970 Penny L. 20/1/28
*5488595 Cummins A. 20/1/28
*2310659 Shiner A. 5/2/28
2306266 Cooper E. 3/3/28
2310575 Richardson J. 3/3/28
2308130 Jarvis E. 3/3/28
2312077 Addison, L. 8/3/28
2306935 Strickland W. 1/4/28
1850114 Male J. 4/4/28
2310994 Stather R. 12/4/28
2312911 Packman W. 25/4/28
2312884 Winter W. 26/4/28
2306854 Ellis J. 27/4/28
2309322 Andrews E. 27/4/28
2309594 Gilmour A. 27/4/28
2306799 Batchelor W. 27/4/28
2309008 Miles H. 27/4/28
2313923 Cook, T. 27/7/28
2314281 Challen W. 29/4/28
2314099 Crabtree N. 29/4/28
2308167 Murphy G. 29/4/28
2309826 Macdonnell D. 29/4/28
1854807 Nichols J. 1/6/28

To be Corporal—

*1860365 Grant A. 4/12/27
*2314647 Fields R. 17/12/27
2309036 Bremner W. 3/3/28
2316422 Wood E. 3/3/28
2315937 Healey T. 3/3/28
2309817 Wilson E. 3/3/28
2309576 Elkins E. 3/3/28
2315020 Crowe F. 3/3/28
2310990 Brown A. 3/3/28
2310499 Allen E. 3/3/28
2309540 Starling C. 21/3/28
2315182 Andrews H. 1/4/28
2315303 Bigg E. 4/4/28
2314580 Armstrong T. 14/4/28
2314545 Stoner E. 24/4/28
1850295 McKee T. 25/4/28
*2306779 Smith, C. 27/4/28
*2316138 Ward D. 29/4/28
2309768 Williams A. 29/4/28
727719 Piper R. 16/5/28
2309707 Morgan W. 1/6/28
2309440 Matthews A. 1/6/28
2314982 Taplin C. 17/6/28
2312763 Durke T. 19/6/28

DISCHARGES

2306122 C.Q.M.S. Squibb G. 24/7/28
2306255 Corpl Morel G. 6/7/28

TRANSFERS TO ARMY RESERVE

2315175 L/Sergt Flint T. 19/7/27
2315015 Corpl Baker S. 27/6/28
1026814 Corpl Whyte C. 9/7/28
29094 Corpl Mellor H. 17/7/28
2315392 Corpl Carnell S. 28/7/28

* *Denotes Special Roster (India)*

"Over the Top" in Civil Life.

BY "SAALO."

[*By kind permission of the Editor of "The Snapper."*]

"When you're out of a job, and you ain't got a bob,
The Labour Exchange is no good;
Just lift up your crest, and chuck out your chest,
As every bold man should.
Then go on your own, where the jobs are grown,
And interview the Boss;
It's a gamble I know, but should you go,
You may just win the toss."

Following on heavy losses sustained in an unsuccessful business, I came to a point when a job of work was imperative, and even to the point when any job was a job. I wrote for jobs, I asked for jobs, I walked miles for jobs, all, it seemed, to no purpose. Twice a day for nine months I invaded the Headquarters of the Workless (or Fred Karno's) Army, as the Local Labour Exchange was named and nick-named. I began to feel that—

"The Battles of War, though hard to face, only last a while,
But the Battle of Peace would be Hell indeed if we had not learned to smile."

And it is this ability to smile through misfortune that makes us the wonder and envy of other peoples. I do not speak for myself; there were hundreds placed as I was, and they could all smile. They were all ex-Service men, and so—

"The smile upon a Tommy's face has landed there to stay,
And nothing in this world can take its place.
It's the hallmark of a soldier when he's looking into Hades,
And Hades itself can't take it off his face."

Though we had donned mufti for khaki, the face we could not change, and there you are; so we lived and hoped, and so to this day many are still living and hoping for that job, or better job, to turn up. At the moment I am in the hoping-for-a-better-job class. I have found my feet and learned to stand alone, and if this brief story of my efforts gives heart to any struggling ex-Service man, then it will not have been written in vain.

ONE IN A CROWD.

Came the day when I found myself in desperate need of a job of work, and for the first time I found myself at the counter of the Local Labour Exchange registering my name for employment. It was somewhat like enlisting again with:—Name, please? Address? Last employment?

I was asked what kind of employment I could do, and here I was stumped. I could do heaps of things, but there was space on the registration form for one trade only, and the Exchange would have one job only. I had no trade, or, rather, no recognised trade; my education qualified me for clerical work, and this I at last decided for, but, what hopes! I found there were hundreds of clerks registered with about as much hope of getting employment in that line as a snowball has of freezing in, say, Aden. However, I left it at that, and commenced to haunt the Labour Exchange, and here, if I did not find a job, I did find a whole world of interest and amusement. Bad as things were, there was never a day without a good hearty laugh. Many a man found an unexpected job from a chance remark passed in a joke or in irony; many a smile, many a sigh, but seldom a lost temper. The following shows what I am trying to convey:

Enter exceptionally well-dressed stranger. Instinctively parade draws more or less to attention as stranger glances round, and then somewhat sheepishly relaxes.

A voice in a stage whisper: "Ah! 'fraid all the £1000 a year jobs are booked up, old sport. We may have a few at seven hundred and fifty, or one or two snow shovelling jobs. What do you say. Bai jove! What! What!" Result: Loud laughter. But the ultimate result was the man who had spoken found himself in a comfortable job as a storekeeper, which job he still holds. The gentleman at whom he had poked fun was looking for a smart man, and being a stranger to the Unemployment Exchange, had walked into the out-of-works' entrance instead of the Manager's office. Evidently he appreciated a good joke.

Here's another:—There walked up to the counter a diminutive figure about 4 ft. 11 ins., and weighing about 7 stone, in top coat and boots. The clerk, somewhat from force of habit, asked: "What Regiment?" The stentorian "1st Battalion Grenadier Guards!" he received fairly brought down the house. Even the manager, who a moment before had been sternly calling for silence, had to find a back room in which to conceal his features. I never heard the sequel of this, as I had to hurry off after a job that was not there when I arrived.

These and other incidents helped to lighten one's gloom, and, to a certain extent, prevented one from dwelling too dismally on one's prospects. I personally was less fortunate than the majority of my fellow unemployed, in that I was drawing no dole, as it was called. The circumstances of my service were such as precluded me from drawing unemployment pay until I had a certain number of stamps on my employment card. I, of course, being on the look-out for my first job, had none. It was just nine months before I obtained my first more or less permanent job, but in the meantime, by doing a few days work here, and a week or two there, I had managed to get sufficient stamps on my employment card to qualify me for unemployment pay. It really seemed to be the irony of fate the first week I might have drawn something for nothing I should step into a job that lasted nearly two years, but to me it was a stroke of good fortune to get the job.

It is a great thing to be a handy man, and during the nine months I was searching for regular employment I became successively: Clerk, accountant, pastrycook, rough carpenter, nurseryman, pipe remover from damaged green-houses, debt collector and gardener. Most of these jobs taught me chiefly how not to earn money, but the little I did earn was a great help. The pipe job, in particular, I took on in complete ignorance of what the job really was. I was offered 6d. per pipe for every pipe taken out, and ten days of the most back aching, hand blistering and thumb bashing job I have ever tackled brought me in the magnificent sum of thirty-five shillings. When offering me the job the man I was doing it for omitted to mention that broken pipes did not count for payment, and as there were as many broken as sound pipes, I really received about 3d. per pipe. I need not say that the broken pipes took just as long, and sometimes longer, than the sound ones to deal with. This sharp man of business informed me that the broken pipes were a dead loss to him. He said not a word about receiving so much a pound for old iron. I found this out later, and stored the knowledge in my grey matter for future use. I did, however, retaliate by getting two sacks of potatoes from him, and when they were safely on my premises told him the old iron would pay for them. He was staggered, but I never received a bill for the potatoes, and we are still, more or less, good pals.

Who would not be a pastrycook; plenty of buns, cakes and tarts? Yes! but dough punching in an atmosphere of one hundred and oofty degrees, with a hundred and one sickly, sweet and sour smells combined is apt to make one wonder who really would be a pastrycook. I have a very decided preference for home-made pastry now.

As a debt collector I managed to collect one small amount after putting forth immense efforts of persuasion. One requires oceans of patience, a wonderful amount of tact, a ready smile, an angelic disposition, and a shock-proof heart. As an education on how to get "summat for nought" it was excellent. For living at the expense of any shopkeeper, some people take the palm. They have a nerve of cast iron, and a face that would do credit to a statue. I gave it up. Short of County Court proceedings, I feel sure those debts would be like the tramp's chicken dinner—they'll never come home to roost.

The other jobs mentioned were just jobs with rather more work than money in them, though this may not have been the boss's opinion; it all depends upon the point of view, but they all taught me something, and I was gaining experience.

Everything comes to an end, as the motorist said when his car shot over the cliff, even bad luck, and one evening a youngster told me that his brother had been taken on at a hospital near. Having a knowledge of hospital work, picked up in India, I, next morning, was up at the first note of reveille and duly presented myself at the hospital as an applicant for employment.

After the usual cross-examination re my qualifications, character, next-of-kin, wife's Christian name, past, present, and future, etc., I was entered on the books of the hospital as nursing

orderly, Class III., No. —? and was, much to my satisfaction, ensconced in a fairly permanent job.

I found there were lots of things to nurse and look after in a hospital besides patients, and the first objects of my loving care were bass brooms, buckets, sweeping brushes, swabs, and the plants in the garden, with all the tools and implements appertaining thereto. I also discovered that these things required much more nursing than patients do. The monthly inspection was always a time of stealthy moves, and some of the strategy and tactics carried out in an effort to prove all correct would have done credit to a G.O.C. trying to show that an obvious defeat was really a strategic success carried out according to plan.

Hospitals are wonderfully surprising places, and the more one sees of the inside working of these docks for the repair of human vessels damaged on the sea of life, the more surprised one becomes. Smiles and pathos are brought to the surface in the bearing of the patients in a way that is bewildering. From the patient with a slight illness who continually cries for his mother or brother, to the one who with a touch-and-go injury or illness, whose only thought is for the winner of the Cup, Cambridgeshire, or a "fag," there is always something out of the common for every day of the week, and the work is so interesting, so full, and so absorbing that it is no wonder that one forgets one's own troubles and cares, and sees only a world made bright by the sufferings its inhabitants are called upon to endure.

Personally I can tell you very little of work in the wards. I spent only occasional turns of duty in them. Most of my time was spent in the workshops, where, being handy with carpenter's tools and being something of an amateur cabinet-maker, painter, etc., I was kept pretty busy.

There were two of us in the workshops, and to keep pace with the amount of broken furniture and broken or damaged other things, apart from new work, gave us little time to slack; nevertheless, we found plenty of cause for laughter in our everyday work.

We were ordered one day to renew the beeswax on the borders of the corridor floors. This was carried out. Two days later the staff was busily engaged in painting the walls of the same corridor a beautiful green. The order to cover up the beeswax was carried out, more or less, so that the beeswax, like the chameleon, changed its colour, and, to put the lid on it, it was then decided to distemper the upper half of the walls and the ceilings. I leave you to imagine the effect of the last job on the first two. As my partner said, we can now leave off wondering why the cost of running a hospital is so high.

One other bright incident in connection with my hospital career I now call to mind. When a high official was coming to visit the hospital it was decided to re-paint the fire buckets. Unfortunately the order was left so late that we only managed to get the last one done on the afternoon before the inspection. It was our intention to leave them in the workshop overnight, and we offered to be at work a little earlier than usual next morning, so as to get them on the stands and filled in good time. This suggestion was turned down by our chief, and he insisted on our putting them on the stands straight away.

This proved another case of a badly judged kick sending the ball off the island, as we say at football matches.

During the evening one of the night duty people thought the cookhouse floors would look nicer for a new lot of sand, it being the custom to cover the concrete floors with bright yellow sand, and having nothing else handy to carry the sand in, the newly-painted fire buckets were brought into use. The white paint inside the buckets was still wet, so you can judge our feelings when we saw those buckets next morning.

When our visitor arrived all the staff was congregated in the Recreation Room to listen to a speech on "Economy." As my pal said, when he put his money on an "also ran," "I don't like to think about it."

There was another occasion when a patient, leaning over the piano, felt something drop out of his pocket and heard it go somewhere inside the piano. He promptly reported the loss of half-a-crown. We were ordered to strip the piano, and found inside a large overcoat button. The patient then thought to feel in his pocket, and found the half-crown still there. He looked foolish; we looked daggers. What we said in the workshop afterwards I am not going to tell you.

We discovered, or rather the discovery was forced upon us, that a man can do any and every job somehow, and I am afraid that is really how some of our jobs were done, i.e., *somehow!*

I pass no comments on the running of that hospital. I simply give facts. Neither do I wish to complain in any way. I was always well treated by my superiors, and I owe them many thanks for a happy time. I was extremely sorry when, after nearly two years service, I, with many others, was discharged, and I again joined the ranks of the (Fred Karno's) Army of Unemployed. Were we dismayed? Not a bit! It was only a phase in this great war of civil life. We went our ways, all bent on the same job, i.e., to get a job. Some struck lucky in quick time, some had to wait. Did we envy the lucky ones? Well!

"Don't envy other fellows for the luck with which they meet
In a manner that betokens sheer dismay,
Or the lady of good fortune, if she passes down your street,
Will most surely turn her face the other way."

To speak the truth, I was too busy worrying people to death in asking for work to bother about envying others their good luck in getting it, and my perseverance had its due reward. After three weeks of false scents I secured work with a building contractor, who took me on as an improver (carpenter).

Here I found a real man's job of work to do; hard was hardly the name for it. It was a rush job, and had to be completed within a certain time, and because accuracy in jointing and levels was of the utmost importance, our Guv'nor would not allow us to do it at piece-work rates. We were allowed to work overtime, and our day was from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., with half-an-hour break for dinner. No tea interval was allowed, so by the time I arrived home I was about ready to eat the tablecloth as well as the food upon it. It was hard slog all the time, and backache and blisters were as common as blackberries in September. One or other of my workmates would occasionally pass the remark: "This is killing work," and with memories of my former out-of-work days I would think:

"One often hears—'tis a killing job—
From a man with an aching back,
But real hard work ne'er harmed a man,
The killing is in the lack."

I was quite happy and contented, and the time of year being just before Christmas, the extra wages from overtime came in very useful and ensured for that year a real happy Christmas for myself and family. Early in the New Year the job ended, and the Guv'nor, having a slack time, had to stand us off temporarily. He gave me a promise of further work as soon as possible, and that promise was redeemed, but in the meantime I had obtained other employment, and so I never returned.

On finding myself minus a job, I again commenced the old familiar round of "Nothing doing" except signing on. The dole came in useful now, and to add to this I spent my evenings in repairing furniture for people in the village, and doing any kind of odd job that would bring in a little extra cash. My day was fully used up in interviewing various employers of labour, and regarding these interviews:—

"Seeking a job in a world that is hard
Oft leads to abuse and to blows,
But stick it! You'll find the job will arrive,
If you don't care a darn if it snows.

"'Tis one's smile works the trick if a vacancy's there,
Don't tell a long tale of your woes,
But just let them see you'd be glad of the job
Though—you don't care a cuss if it snows.

"Thoughts of despair should be left on the shelf,
I have been through the mill—goodness knows—
I am qualified quite to tend this advice—
Don't worry—just smile if it snows.

"Do not moan to the Boss about wife and the kids,
He can't help it, and don't want *your* woes;
You're more likely to get the right job if you say
That you don't care a brass if it snows."

The above, plus a certain amount of respect towards the gentleman you are interviewing, and a very large amount of confidence in your own ability to do the job you are asking for, is about the best advice I can give any man trying to work his ticket out of the workless army.

Three weeks of "Nothing doing; call again next week," and "You are just too late," and I had again secured a job of work. I came downstairs one morning, and looking into the letter box was surprised to find four letters. Thinks I to myself: Hallo! what's up? There's summat up, or summat. Letter No. 1 ordered me to report next morning at a certain office for an interview. No time stated. Letter No. 2, ditto; No. 3, ditto; and No. 4, the same. Now I was in a stew. I meant having one of those jobs, but the question was which one. There was no picking the best paid; I could see that difference of pay, if any, would be very slight, so I decided to go first to the nearest. I was up before reveille next morning and away like a bird. Calling at the first place, I was informed there would be nobody there to see me until 9 a.m., so I went on to No. 2, only to hear the same tale, and No. 3 ditto. No. 4 was some four miles away, so I ruled that out and went home to breakfast, returning to No. 1 about 8.30 a.m. Nobody there, so went on to No. 2 again, and arrived there at the same moment as the foreman, and got the job.

I struck lucky. I had some sort of an education, and so I was employed on conveying stores from the yard to different points of the works, and at odd times turned to work in the office, and picked up the rudiments of draughtsmanship, and in general obtained a fair insight into the working of a builder's office. I was kept busy, often worked overtime, and more often took papers and documents home to do there. And I was happy. I believe the knowledge that one can do a job really well gives one greater happiness than anything in this world.

"A little bit of heaven is the birthright of us all,
And rich and poor can hold it, every one,
True happiness is quite within the power of our call;
We can find it in a job of work well done."

So I found it, and so I find it still. In these days one cannot choose one's job, but given a job, one can always do it well. Many of my workmates told me I was a fool to work so hard. Well, I can only say that I hope I shall always be such a fool, and at any rate I was a happy fool, and that's that. After a time I was given the job of looking after the jobs, and so had to do a bit of ordering this man to do this and that man to do that, and so on.

This arrangement did not, at first, go down very well with many of the men. Officially I was a labourer, and paid at that rate, so one could understand that it went somewhat against a better paid man's grain to have to take orders from a lesser paid man; and to illustrate the class war that does exist, as distinct from differences between Capital and Labour, I might say that the trouble that did arise was mainly due to the fact that I gave a certain order to a certain carpenter in the presence of a bricklayer and his labourer. His forceful: "You go to ——!" sent me back a couple of paces, but I replied quietly: "I am going there at once to make it a bit warmer, pending your arrival!" When he arrived at his destination, which was represented by the office, my chief informed him, in language more forcible than polite, that when he gave a man an order through a subordinate he did not want that subordinate to be told to take a holiday out of his turn, and consequently he had decided that he could very well do without his (the carpenter's) services.

The non-appearance of the carpenter next morning, if it did not stop the grousing, certainly saved any further trouble, and made things much easier for me.

We hear a lot of talk these days about class war, and I can assure my readers there is a bitter class war raging throughout the land, but not between Capital and Labour; that is only a field day compared to the war between the bricklayer and carpenter, or between the skilled and unskilled workmen, often on the same job. I know one man personally who, having risen from the position of bricklayers' labourer to bricklayer, will not now associate with labourers, and his attitude of reserve would do credit to a Cabinet Minister faced with a cheeky street urchin.

I also know a bus conductor's wife who sneers openly at the wives of common labourers. I could quote dozens of like cases. Oh, yes! Most decidedly there is a class war.

We have heard a lot lately about a certain men's leader and his war against the aristocracy, but this is not a class war, because, in the opinion of most of the workmen I know, he (the men's leader) is no class. One does not, in this part at all events, hear the working man say much against the gentry, as they call the upper classes; rather is his anger against the tradesmen and the prices charged for commodities. He sees a man start in business this year with, say, a horse and cart, or perhaps only an errand boy on a bicycle, and in approximately twelve months the same man is running two or more Ford vans and perhaps giving one or two handsome donations to local charities, and he says to himself: "I suppose that is why I have to give sixpence for a penny cabbage," or whatever the commodity may be. Shopkeepers, without exception, strenuously deny any intention of profiteering, and talk loudly about overhead charges and risk of depreciation of stock, but—well, I leave it at that.

To get back to my job, as the navvy said after he had slipped off the scaffold, I was becoming quite a good builder. I could estimate costs with a fair amount of accuracy, assist in taking levels, and I was entrusted with the job of taking measurements, etc. I was promised further advancement when I had gained sufficient experience, but that did not materialise, though it may do in the course of time.

My chief was a glutton for work. Time did not exist for him, and he had a meal only when he was hungry. Many a time we would start a job first thing in the morning, and keep at it until late in the afternoon without a stop, when he would remember that something had been missed, and would then take me out for a large glass of milk and a bun, or bread and cheese. His enthusiasm was infectious, and I also got into the habit of forgetting meal times. If I had the choosing of that man's epitaph when he receives the Great Call, I think it would run something like this:—

"His job came first, and second, and third,
He only had one aim—
He made his only sport his work,
And played a splendid game."

Work went on and time flew until nearly two years had passed, when my chief received promotion and went away to fields and pastures new, and following on many drastic changes in the firm, with heavy reduction in establishment, I too moved away, not to fields and pastures new, but to the Labour Exchange to look for the dole pending finding another job. This was a distinct shock to me, but by now I had got nearly used to shocks, and had learned to take things as they came. I was discharged on the Friday, and on the Saturday I walked into the Labour Exchange to sign, and overheard a conversation to the effect that there was a job for a painter going near by. Not waiting to sign on, I shot off, and by great good luck ran into the right man and got the job. One had to be quick in those days.

I commenced work on the Monday morning, but my life as a painter was destined to be very short-lived. It happened thus: On reporting for work I was ordered on a job some few miles away. The foreman-painter to whom I reported was a very young chap, barely out of his teens, and whatever his qualifications as a painter may have been, his experience in handling men could have been little. During the forenoon I had kept hard at it, and comparing my work with another man's on the same sort of job, was congratulating myself on the progress I had made. During the afternoon while I was keeping busy, our very young foreman shouted up to me, "Get a move on up there!" Not liking his tone and thinking the rebuke undeserved, I retorted, "I will get a move on down there if you talk to me like that!" I was on a very high ladder at the time, and, unfortunately, a moment after I had spoken I had to descend to replenish my pot of paint. Judge of my surprise on reaching the ground to find our foreman had bolted, apparently under the impression that I had returned to terra firma to "get a move on down there." I had to smile, but the upshot was that my job ended with my day's work. To my requests for a reason for his standing me off, the sole satisfaction I could get from this foreman was, "Because I want to." And that was that!

Off I started again on the hunt for work. Monday I worked, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday I signed on and hunted. Saturday evening I heard a very faint rumour of work, and following up the clue, I obtained a job as a bricklayer's labourer, starting on the Monday. We talk about education. I am tempted to ask: What is education? During my service I had obtained a 1st Class Certificate; I had, in addition, learnt to use the typewriter; I have a smattering of two foreign languages, and, being always a learner, have, as I grew older, picked up this and that, to add to to my knowledge. I felt proud of my achievements, and had I been asked, would have answered I had at least a fair education.

On starting my job as a genuine bricklayer's labourer I felt, and was actually called, a fool. It was true I was, but I persevered, and soon picked up further knowledge, but the next man who tells me that a bricklayer's labourer who cannot read and write is uneducated will hear something that I trust will do him good.

I found there was a wonderful lot to learn in the Building world, and first and foremost was what I may call the language,

English, as such, is taboo; slang only is used among the workmen. Some of this I had heard, much I had to pick up, but one gets hold of it gradually. My bricklayer was an old hand, and finding I was a beginner, started to throw the language at me in an effort, no doubt, to show his wit. His "Lend me a Lord of the Manor" or "One on the Nob" left me cold. I at once fished out the tanner or bob he was asking for. I had heard that when I was a boy. He left me sitting up one day when he asked me to fetch the Grace of Gawd. I use his own pronunciation. After a steady think I placed the gawd in its right way as God, and it was easy then to rhyme this with hod. As another, he would say, "Shove yer Lord Lovell into the didn't oughter," or "Into the Fisherman's Daughter." This would come out when the mortar was a bit too stiff; he would mean use your shovel in the mortar. There are many more expressions used, but it would require a book of languages to explain them all.

I never knew that bricklayer's name. He was introduced to me as "Sailor," and Sailor he remained all the time I was on the job. Even the Guv'nor called him Sailor. Whether he had been a real sailor in his younger days I cannot say, but if so, judging from his language when he was put out, I should be inclined to think that he was on one of those ships that trade between Wapping and East India Docks with four legs on the tow path for motive power.

But with all this, he was a good, hard-working bricklayer, and a good instructor. He treated me well and taught me a lot, and in reality his rough coat and rougher tongue hid a heart of gold. He was a hard taskmaster, but always knew when breaking point was in sight in regard to his labourers, and a change of job would always come just when one felt another hod of bricks or mortar up the scaffold would about break one's back.

I was initiated into the mysteries of carrying the hod. To see a crowd of bricklayers' or plasterers' labourers running about with a hod on their shoulders gives one, quite naturally, the idea that it is easy. It is! But not to the untrained man. I thought it was until I tried; for one thing I did not stop to think that twelve nine pound bricks were just four pounds short of a hundredweight, plus the weight of the hod and a possibility that the bricks may have absorbed a certain amount of moisture, so that one has a little over a hundredweight to cart about. For another thing, I can assure the great uneducated that the pole of a loaded hod is not unlike a wild Army transport mule: it requires firm holding or it is apt to kick in a most demoralizing manner. My first attempt to carry a loaded hod ended with my sitting on the ground amid loud laughter from my workmates, but I conquered the "baste" in a very short time, and heard no more about it. One day, while we were roofing a bungalow, I had a hod full of tiles on my shoulder and a slight slip sent one of the tiles out of the hod. It came back almost immediately, accompanied by a flood of abusive language, conveying information from Sailor that I had nearly cut his something or other ear off. I got ratty, and retorted, "It ought to have cut your tongue off." Sailor and I were a bit cool towards each other for a day or two afterwards, but it passed off.

Shortly after I was transferred to another building to assist the carpenter to put up roof timbers. The weather was rough and cold, we had rain and snow alternately, with very rough gales of wind, but I found, much to my surprise, that one can keep quite warm under such conditions so long as one keeps going, and for a good healthy job of work I can recommend nothing better than putting the roof on a high building in bad weather.

One soon finds confidence in oneself, providing one takes interest in one's work, and I was becoming quite expert in the building trade, both as clerk and as a workman. We were progressing very nicely with the roofing job, when the proverbial fly got into the ointment with a rumour that on the completion of the job we were engaged on we would most probably find ourselves out of work.

It seemed that our boss had no new work in sight, and failing anything turning up, he would be compelled to stand us off for a while, but—

"Trouble never troubles if one never troubles trouble,
So keep your pecker up and smile it through;
Let old trouble see his threats can never make your terrors double,
Then you'll find that trouble never troubles you."

I refused to be disheartened, and my optimism was justified. Just when I was expecting to hear that my services would be no longer required, or some similar message, I received a letter from my previous employers, asking me would I care to take up employment with them again. They offered me a job as a labourer, with a footnote to the effect that there were prospects of advancement for an educated man. I accepted by return, and was ordered to report on the 15th of February. I received this letter early in January, and then had one of those lapses to which we human beings are subject, and in consequence put myself out of work for three weeks. It happened this way: I received the letter, as I said, early in January, and after reading it through once put it in my pocket and never looked at it again. It is most unusual to receive a month's notice before starting work as a labourer, and without looking again at the letter I took the 15th of February for the 15th of January, and on the following Monday off I trotted to my new job. I say trotted; I could with greater truth say I slipped and slithered all the way. A heavy fall of snow on the Sunday stayed any thought of riding a cycle, and as the job was some eight miles from where I lived, the prospect was none too pleasing. But worse was to come. I was up long before the early worm on that Monday morning, and about one hour before dawn had started my long Gaby glide or slithery slide to work. The Charleston was not known then, but I believe it must have come to birth in the steps I saw other people execute on that January morning. Tired! Getting through that snow made me feel more tired than the hardest bit of work I had ever done.

I arrived at last at my destination, and handed in my order to report. I was then sent on to my job about half a mile away, and commenced snow shovelling. At dinner time I was surprised to receive a message to report to the head office at 2 o'clock. The messenger informed me that I had reported a month too soon. Not thinking for one moment that I was at fault, I comforted myself with the idea that they (the firm) having made a mistake, I was sure of something to do, as the firm would be sure to fit me into a job of some sort until my own job was vacant. I bumped! To my amazement my letter of introduction was produced, showing that I had made the mistake. Did I feel foolish? Well! I wished the floor would open and let me through, and the astonishing thing about it was that seven or eight persons had read that letter and not one of them had noticed the date was February and not January.

So there I was with a month's unemployment staring me in the face, an eight mile walk home through deep snow, and the knowledge that on arrival I would have to tell my wife that I was, in very truth, a real live silly ass.

To sum up that disastrous day: I was up at 5 o'clock, on the road at 6, worked hard for half a day (for which I received no pay), walked altogether 16 miles in atrocious weather, arrived home too late to report to the Labour Exchange, and thereby lost one day's out-of-work pay, with the conviction that the person to blame for my burden of trouble was myself. I felt as big as a new-born babe for the remainder of that day.

"When another man calls you a silly—
His words p'raps will leave you quite cool,
But you go very hot
When of doubt there is not
The least shade that you are a darned fool."

Every cloud has a silver lining, and in this case I could see the silver lining quite clearly, in that I was sure of getting that job when the month was up; but the question was what to do in the meantime? I went down to my former employer and explained matters to him. I mentioned that I felt a fool. His answer was clear and concise, "You are!"

I did not try to excuse myself. I said I was an ass, and my late guv'nor agreed, but he promised to keep me going and to give me a start as soon as the weather cleared sufficiently to allow him to commence on the foundations of a house he had been commissioned to build.

I said the weather was bad. It was, and it got worse, and for two weeks any hopes I had of laying the foundations of that house vanished in snow, hail or rain. I had tried for other jobs, but jobs where weather did not matter were non-existent; then my star of destiny shone again, first with a faint glimmer, and next day with a full glow. On the Friday of the second week I had been to the Labour Exchange to draw the dole, and strolling through the town thinking how much my wife could buy if the money were ten times as much, I heard my name called, looked round, and saw a gentleman for whom I had, in one of my previous jobs, done a lot of odd jobs. He was mounted, and he asked me would I mind holding his horse while he went inside a shop. When he came out, about twenty minutes later, he gave me half-a-crown.

Feeling happy, I arrived home and burst in upon my wife with, "Lucky star is up again!" It was next morning the post brought me an order to commence work on my new job on the eighth instead of the fifteenth of February, so I stopped looking for work and for one week put on my best suit and took things easy.

On the 8th of February I reported for work, and found that I was up against something new. I am still on that job and still learning.

There is a staff of three employed on the job, consisting of one foreman, one engineer, and one research worker. We combine these duties with botany, agriculture, and various other kinds of jobs. The work is hard but very interesting. The research work consists mainly in capturing, educating and training a very small gentleman named Actorutus Viaticus, but more popularly called Spring Tail, in size about one-tenth of an inch in length, and in thickness negligible. He is proclaimed, amongst our fraternity, the champion froth blower of the world, and can give points and a beating to the greatest hurricane, cyclone or tornado. Horticulture and agriculture take up a good deal of our time, and we have to work out the results of various kinds of manure used in feeding the soil. Repairs to fencing, disposal of a material called sludge, drainage and filtration all help to keep us busy, and the days pass quickly enough.

As one goes on one learns that life is a wonderful thing. One can realise that the purpose of life is work; whether it be human, bird, beast, or the plants that grow, one must work or die, and in realisation of this great fact comes the truth that happiness can only be attained by giving of one's best. Pessimism is the proof that laziness breeds discontent, and on the other hand optimism is the proof that work breeds happiness, for whoever saw or knew a lazy optimist?

The engineering side of the work gives me little cause for sleepless nights, but I think it gives my mate a few occasionally; his remarks concerning his pet sometimes approach the lurid. We have only one pumping engine, but it, at times, gives more trouble than fifty motor bikes. It will go beautifully some days; on others it refuses to go at all. Why, we cannot say, but there it is.

"We screw and unscrew, clean and oil,
Put in a lot of anxious toil,
Then with our blood near on the boil
We'll turn the crank, but only spoil

"Our tempers more; we cannot say
Just what she'll do from day to day.
One morning p'raps quite bright and gay
She'll sing a different roundelay,

"And starting up as good as good,
She'll run just like an engine should.
If I dared print our thoughts I would
Just name her—if I only could."

So much for the engine, but when all is said and done she certainly helps to make the time pass quickly.

On looking back over the past five years, hard as the life has been, I cannot see how or in what way I might have bettered it. It has been a tough struggle, and poor as it has been in cash value, it has been rich in experience. We stand now with a good home, a happy family, and a poorly paid but permanent job. I have the satisfaction of knowing that if things do not get any better, they will not, given good health, get any worse. I have fought the battle quite alone, and after the first year of struggle have appealed to no person or organisation to assist me, neither in the future will I do so. I can stand on my own strength to secure what daily bread we require, and I feel that with the gaunt spectre of unemployment vanquished, I will be enabled to go on with victory in sight.

I have my job, and my garden and allotment, plus a few spare jobs, to fill in my days. I find enough to fill in every hour I live, and I ask no more of life. Should a better position be my future portion, I will welcome it with open arms, but if my lot is to be always a lower one, then I will go on doing my best, sure in the knowledge that I will find my reward in the consciousness of "A job well done."

A Few Thoughts on the Heliograph.

An operator should know all about the heliograph. I mean to say, if he sees one lying about somewhere he shouldn't think it is an A set or a D.iii. He should cultivate that spirit of deduction displayed by detectives in all the best magazines and be able to say at once "Aha! a helio!"

The instrument derives its name from the Latin "helio" (the sun) and "graph" (to write or draw). On second thoughts I'm not quite sure that the words *are* Latin. They may be French, Spanish, ancient Egyptian, or Bashi-Bazouk. I don't know. You probably don't, either, so it doesn't matter. Actually I've heard it given a lot of other pithy and descriptive titles. This being no place for profanity, however, I will not bore you with these.

The first thing to do is to erect the stand. This is a perfectly simple affair, with three legs that open out to form a sort of tripod. These legs are of equal length, though after you have spent some time in trying to get the top level, you will rather doubt this statement.

The great idea is to show the darn thing you won't stand any nonsense. Get a half-nelson on leg No. 1 and drive it into the ground. Then get a Tilden fore-hand strangle-hold grip on No. 2 and drive *that* into the ground. No. 1 will probably come out in the process, but ignore that and begin on No. 3.

Now, as soon as you take your eyes off No. 2 it will start a conspiracy with No. 1. As you innocently take hold of No. 3, Nos. 1 and 2 will swing playfully inwards, removing about an acre of skin from your fingers. Lay the stand down and kick it round the universe for a few moments to relieve your feelings, but don't be too long, because you are only allowed two minutes to erect and you've probably taken about five already.

The best way to make the stand keep upright is to get a convenient chunk of rock and place it on the inside of the legs. Failing any rocks, get a ship's hawser and tie each leg to any adjacent protuberance such as an oak tree.

It is not advisable to fix it to any car that happens to be standing by, as it may inconvenience the owner to have to wait till you've finished signalling before he can move off. Besides, if it is one of the latest light cars, the stand will very likely pull it over and kick it to death.

Anyway, having erected the stand somehow, you may bestow your attention on the other parts. These are contained in a natty little leather case, so designed that while it is the hardest thing in the world to get things out, it is even harder to get them back again.

Take out the mirror and hold it firmly with one hand, keeping the case open with the other; then draw out the flat thing that clamps on to the mirror—I forget its name—and fix it in place. (I am fully aware that you haven't three hands; but if you are going to let a little thing like that worry you, it's no use attempting to tackle a helio. Use your teeth if no other method strikes you.)

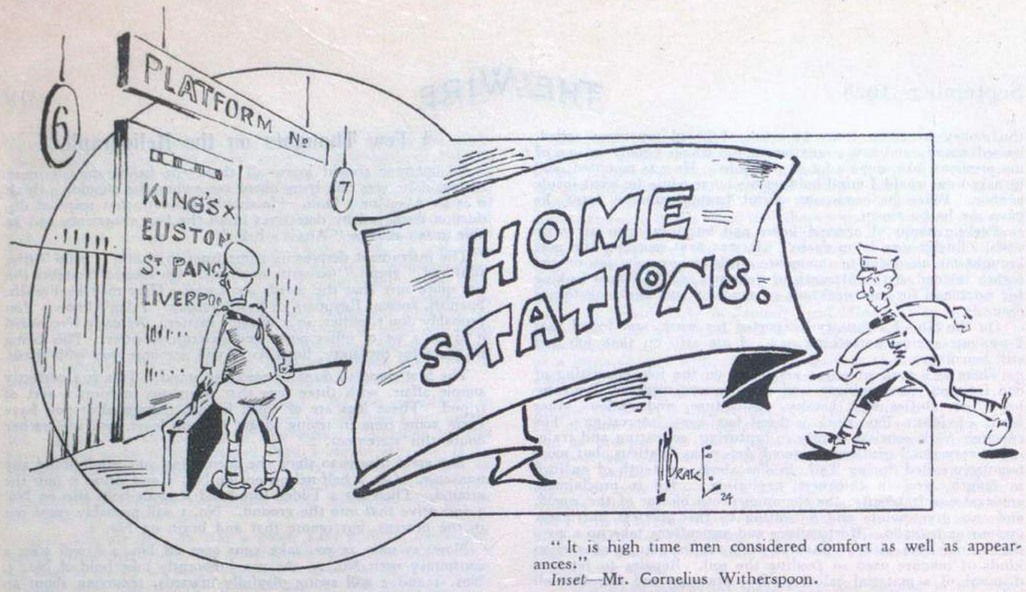
Next screw the mirror to the stand. Rummage in the interior of the case again for a gadget that is called a bent sighting arm. It has a compartment in the case to itself, but it won't be any use looking there for it. It will probably be at the bottom in such a position that it is practically impossible to extricate it. Don't despair! Get a pin and deal with it as you would a refractory winkle. Then place the rod in position, and lo! your helio is erected.

Now comes the ticklish part of the business. On the mirror is a spot; on the sighting arm is a cross; and somewhere on the horizon is your distant station. Get all these in line. Mind you, it's not as easy as it sounds. You will generally find that after getting the spot and the cross in line, someone has run away with the distant station. Start again, and don't take your eyes off the distant station this time. That's better! only now the mirror has shifted a bit. Take a deep breath and have another go.....

About this period someone will stroll up languidly and enquire "Haven't you finished yet?"

Don't be rude to him. Just kick him in the face, grab the nearest rifle and shoot yourself. They won't have helios where you'll go—they do their signalling with fires.

J. H. F.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Much to the surprise of all the weather continues fine and warm. This unusual occurrence is looked upon by the "dismals" as warning of a severe winter. However, everyone is taking full advantage of the fine spell by taking all the leave that is going.

August leave has come and gone. Nearly all the Company left camp for various destinations, and returned with plenty of energy for a fresh start at flag-bashing, etc.

On August 9th, with the other units in the S.T.C., we entertained the Terriers with a gymkhana, tea and a smoking concert. The gymkhana was enjoyed by all, and much amusement was caused by the mounted tug-of-war, the Terriers proving very successful in this event. For the tea it was arranged that the visitors should be split up amongst the various Companies, and at about 5.30 p.m. all repaired to their allotted dining halls, where tea of first-class quality and quantity was heartily enjoyed. We fully expect to hear that there has been a rush at all the recruiting offices to join the Signals. We were all very glad to see how our fellows endeavoured to make the visitors at home. This is the kind of thing we want: it gives the Terrier a good impression of the Regulars.

Quite a number of the Company have been provisionally warned for service abroad, mostly in India, with a few for Egypt and China. The old sweats are being pestered now with all sorts of questions as to messing, leave, and various other items of general interest to the young soldier proceeding abroad.

Arrivals.—Corpl Hirst, L/Corpl Wheeler and Sigmn Fraser from the Rhine Signal Company; Sigmn Smith A. W. from E Company; and a big batch (too numerous to mention by name) from the Depot Battalion. To all we extend a very hearty greeting, and hope their stay with the Company will be a happy one.

DON.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Hot Stuff.—Met my friend Witherspoon during the heat-wave last week.

"Can you tell me," he asked, "why it is that men are so absurdly conservative in the matter of dress?

"Rather than appear conspicuous, which of course is altogether ridiculous, they suffer agonies in the form of starched collars, tight-fitting clothes and hard hats.

"A white cotton shirt open at the neck, white flannel trousers and straw hat are, I consider, ideal for this time of the year, and would *not* look out of place in the city.

"It is high time men considered comfort as well as appearances."

Inset—Mr. Cornelius Witherspoon.

Drafts—and Draughts.—The spine-pad season is upon us again, and many of the old and comparatively old hands will soon be leaving on a protracted tour abroad.

Mention of drafts conjures up visions of large vessels, and I will deal in passing with a visit I paid to Liverpool this last week, whilst on a holiday tour.

If there were others, like myself, who expected to see the great Atlantic liners in the docks, they were disappointed. It appears they are docked out of sight, although how the "Majestic" is hidden I do not know! I think the captain takes it home with him until somebody wants to go for a sail to America.

Departures.—Sergt Carpenter A. and Sigmn Blades T. to F Company, T.B. Sigmn Smith A. W. to D Company, T.B. Sigmn Davey F. T. to Depot Battn. Signalmen Collyer E. W., Fowler F. and Timms W. L. to 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot. Signalmen Horne W. J., Duckworth A. T. and Woodard J. to 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot. L/Sergt Cotterell W. M. to 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford. Sigmn Watmore C. S. to A Corps Signals, Aldershot. Eddy's best wishes to all!

Arrivals.—Sigmn Morrison R. from A Corps Signals, Aldershot. Sigmn Hatton A. C. from 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot,

L/Sergt Gale C. W. from Bermuda Signal Company. Sigmn Taylor E. S. from Rhine Signal Company. Corpl Jeffers W. H. and L/Corpl Burton W. from D Company, T.B.

Seeing the World.—I wish to notify the Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, of my admiration for their map of the world, painted in coloured distempers on the wall of the drill-shed. It is an admirable piece of work, showing all Signal stations throughout the world, and in view of its dimensions (14 ft. by 20 ft.) it cannot very well be overlooked by the recruits, for whose especial benefit the work has been executed.

Did I say *all* Signal stations? I beg your pardon! There is one lacking—Bermuda.

Transfers to Army Reserve.—L/Sergt Flint T. E., 19/7/28. Sigmn Charman H. F. 3/8/28.

Congratulations.—To L/Sergt Anthony J. upon his marriage on July 7th. To L/Corpl Taplin C. upon his receipt of the second bar. To all those who have classified in their trades, and obtained certificates of education.

Births.—To Corpl and Mrs. Saunders A. W., a daughter (Margaret June) on July 5th. To Sigmn and Mrs. O'Neill T., a son (Derrick Clarke) on July 7th. To Sigmn and Mrs. Laurenson J., a son (Bryan James) on July 8th.

Wesleyan Memorial Church.—On Wednesday, August 8th, the camp was honoured by the visit of Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, who attended the dedication service at the opening of the new Wesleyan Memorial Church.

News Wanted.—Corpl Emblem, of this Company, would like to keep in touch (through the medium of THE WIRE) with the 1st Indian Divl Signals, Rawalpindi.

Odd Piece.—The employees of Pullars, Perth, might be forgiven for passing the remark: "Eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow we dye."

. . . . . .

I don't know why I put that it. It just occurred to me; that's all.

L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—For days now the boys have been busily engaged in the pleasurable occupation of applying elbow grease in large quantities to the various articles of equipment which add to the soldier's glory when walking out. To-morrow (August 2nd) sees a general exodus from the Company lines to all parts of the United Kingdom, and the boys will be away from their military duties until the 22nd.

Our boys are very particular about their turn-out at all times, so one can imagine with what zest they use brush and burnisher in their leave preparations. The air is filled with song, and the huts (owing to the immense amount of energy being expended within) veritably rock on their foundations.

See them in the morning when they are all ready to board the waiting buses! Glistening eyes, glittering brasses, and the carriage of full-blown Guardsmen. Whips carried and used as per book, and each little chest (?) fairly bursting with pride. Yes, they can do it, and are worthy members of the Corps which is gradually making a great name for itself. We can add with confidence that the older members of the S.T.C. are just as proud of these lads as are the parents themselves.

Digging Operations.—We haven't a "pimple," but we have a rugby field which often becomes partially flooded during the winter months. The O.C. decided that drainage would remove the trouble (H_2O), so all ranks attached themselves to a spade, pick or barrow, and commenced the attack. The boys enjoyed the work immensely, and very quickly cut a trench through the affected parts the full length of the field, and then on to a lower level. The "very little 'uns" were given the easier jobs and the "young he-men" of the Company carried out the actual digging. And didn't they make old Mother Earth fly, and also the myriads of bricks which they came across during their excavations! They did it so thoroughly and so quickly that on the day before leave we found the work completed. The drain could not be properly tested, as there has been a shortage of rain lately in this area. Still, we know that it *will* be a success, and that our exertions will be rewarded when the season comes along.

Departures.—It is difficult to express how sorry the boys are to lose Sergt Payne. He goes to the School of Signals, and we hope he will soon be promoted. The boys owe a great deal of their smartness to him, as he was responsible for giving the majority of them their first lessons in forming fours, saluting, etc. We are, however, delighted that he has not been posted away from the S.T.C., and no doubt he will still help the young idea to use straight lefts and heavy punches.

Arrival.—We heartily welcome Sergeant Carpenter, who takes the place of Sergt Payne.

LE CHEVAL NOIR.

A good wife

knows that home-baking, properly done, can be a real pleasure. Bird's Egg Substitute makes it easy. A short half-hour in the kitchen, with the aid of B.E.S., will produce large cakes and small cakes for the family in abundance.

Bird's Egg Substitute

serves in place of both eggs and baking powder. It also gives cakes and puddings a delicious flavor.

E.S.41d The 1½d. pkts., as well as the 7d. and 1/2 tins, contain splendid recipes.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

Aldershot Command Signal Company.

Wireless Station, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot.

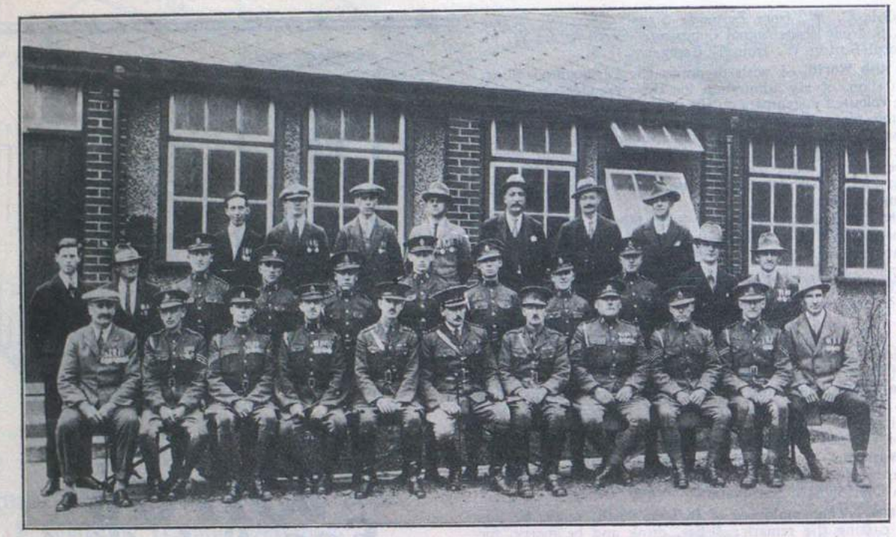
Introduction.—The veil which has so long obscured this Company is now about to be lifted, and it is hoped to keep the Corps posted as to our activities. This, doubtless, will prove but mildly interesting to many, but we hope that to old members and friends of the Company it may prove a link in the chain of remembrance and help to recall happier (?) days.

The station, like the Corps roster, has altered vastly. Gone are the old 150 ft. masts which have so long been one of Aldershot's landmarks, and in their stead have risen two 70 ft. service masts as a temporary measure.

The hut which has seen so many rats (of the field and "ex" variety) has been demolished to make way for a new brick building—which has, alas! not yet arrived, although it is expected any year now.

The F set is housed temporarily in store, but the 1¼-k.w. and a 500-watt from A Corps manage to add to the pleasures of wireless fans in the district.

The staff, as will be seen from the accompanying photograph, is also new, having been gathered from the corners of the earth—and Catterick. The only exceptions are the Quarter-bloke and Sigmn Heaps. The latter, by the way, is shortly publishing a book the title of which is "To China and back in six days."



Aldershot Command Signal Company, 1928.

Those possessing wireless sets who have been in the habit of finding their position in the ether by means of our musical note will soon be without this cheap but reliable type of wavemeter; for it is hoped shortly to bid goodbye to the "higher band" and to commence operations—and oscillations—on short waves. For this purpose we are all assiduously practising the short Morse code; for it appears to us that as the wave is shortened, the length of the dots and dashes must be clipped correspondingly. Otherwise the first train of waves would not—but, anyway, work it out for yourselves. Why should I do it all?

And as I say, we are to be found daily "punching it out" good and short. The "short-timer" referred to has been designed by myself, and I don't mind giving you the rough idea.

The receiver comprises essentially a defective valve, followed by a stage of slow-frequency edification, smooth re-action being obtained by tightly coupling the Vernier condenser with the aerial tuning rheostat. Malformation is effected by a rejector arrangement, whilst the rectifying valves ensure a steady flow of l.t. to the plate of the last valve.

Several novel features are embodied in the set, chief of which are the following: A specially designed valve (in which the grid is placed out of bounds); this tends to stop much of the body-rapacity effect which is so noticeable with this type of set, whilst the judicious use of screaming brings the effect down to an absolute minimum. The filaments are lit from the standard 125-volt 6 a.h. service battery, and the h.t. supply gives a steady 6 k.w. at the north end of the grid leak. The straight-line amplification curve of the slow-frequency valve proves once and for all what can be done with a high potential on the filament rheostat, a flow of imagination, and high potential language.

Should anyone feel keen to build such a set, I shall be glad to supply diagrams. As regards the transmitter, I haven't thought it out yet, so we shall have to send our messages by post.

Promotions.—We extend hearty congratulations to Sergeant Tolley on his recent elevation to that rank.

Arrival.—Sigmn Coker E. G. is welcomed to our midst, and we hope his sojourn will be a pleasant one.

Discharges.—Last month we bade goodbye to Sigmn Bennett W. J., who has returned to civilian life for a change. We have also lost Sigmn Laws E. A., who has been discharged for reasons of health. We sincerely trust that James' health will soon show considerable improvement; and we wish them both the very best of good luck.

A. W. H.

1st Divisional Signals.

I am afraid the notes from this unit this month must necessarily be brief, as our pukka correspondent is at present taking a well-earned rest, basking at the seaside.

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome to the fold Sigmn Davies and twelve others from the S.T.C.

We wish the following (who have departed for civilian life) the best of luck: Corpl Morel, Signalmen Pound A., Archer G., Waldron D., Blyth E., and Hookway J., Drivers Blackburn R., Booker E., Arnold E., and Benjafield J. (a loss to the boxing team).

Births.—Congratulations to the following: Lieut J. Wynn (son), C.S.M. Butcher (daughter), Sigmn Croucher W. (son), and Sigmn Brown G. (daughter).

Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Corporal Utting S. on attaining paid rank, and to Signalmen Brown T. and Woodfield J. on being appointed U/L/Corporals.

Royal Signals Band.—We were pleased to have a visit from the band from 6th to 13th August. A first-class programme was arranged, and everyone had a chance of hearing them. The opinion was expressed by everyone, including other corps and regiments, that it was really first class; and we take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Ricketts on having brought the band to its present pitch of excellence. It has not been an easy job for him, but he has stuck to it and is now rewarded for his labour.

Sergeants' Mess.—On August 11th we received a visit from the 47th Divl Signals (T.A.), who were in camp for a fortnight at Rushmoor, for a band concert in the mess. A glorious evening was spent in renewing old acquaintances.

Divisional Training Camp.—The unit is at present busy preparing for camp—the advance parties go very shortly. Our next notes will be from the Sussex area (round about the Depots and our old home at Maresfield). We are only hoping that the weather will be kinder to us this year than it was last.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mons Barracks.

General.—The break period (both training and weather) has now set in, and furlough is being enjoyed (?) prior to our proceeding to Lavington Park Camp, near Petworth, Sussex, for our Brigade and other training.

The weather does generally break about this time every year, and I suppose that our position will give us a good mixture of 1925 plus 1927 weather. That remains to be seen.

Referring to my paragraph re the two Jocks, last month, I have since heard that neither towel nor soap was taken: thus, in the words of Jock 2, he "saved a rub o' both!"

Arrivals.—Forgive my putting in this heading, but every unit seems to get arrivals from somewhere. This month we are the exception—we ain't got none! A look around the Troop, and we note the dwindling numbers: we are nearly back to pre-mech. days, as the key-bashers are now "bone scratching."

Departures.—Our best wishes go with L/Corpl Bryant and Sigmn Shelley, who have left us on return to civilian life. It is very pleasing to know they have obtained good employment.

More Probables.—L/Corpl Marsh for India; Sigmn Askew for Malaya; and Sigmn Ferguson for Shanghai (not Egypt).

Congratulations.—To C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Flynn, School of Signals, on his recent Guilds successes.

Information: Required and Otherwise.—Can any person kindly give us any information regarding E Troop Cavalry Signals, last heard of at Tidworth, Wilts? It is thought they may be hiding behind the recently formed Cavalry Divl Signals. It is also thought by some (including myself) that they have not yet recovered from the footer game played last season. It is quite probable that they have been crushed under the weight of the "touching epitaph" intended for us but which, owing to the luck of the game, rebounded on them.

To "Mimate," Malta: Do you mean "Tee-hee"?

To Artoc, B Cav. Brigade: Awfully sorry cannot advise. This is one of the things that just seem to happen!

TROOPER DON.

Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, August 15th.

Iron, Old, Assorted.—The establishment of the mechanical transport of this unit being complete, the figures make interesting reading. We have four Crossley Kegresse 30 cwt. semi-track vehicles and three Guy medium six-wheelers, fitted with the new "M.A." type wireless set, while five Morris six-wheelers bear a smaller set termed "M.B." type. In addition there are six Morris six-wheelers for maintenance purposes, and three combinations with twenty-six solo motor-cycles to keep our despatch riders busy.

Exit the Clothes Props.—Telegraphy and telephony can be used on these new sets, communication being maintained while the vehicles are on the move. Obviously the advantage gained and the time saved by the elimination of the complicated business of erecting cumbersome masts is incalculable.

Tattoo Asides.—The Tattoo has been dealt with elsewhere, but mention should be made of the supers and those workers who put in quite a lot of hard work behind the scenes. Nor must we forget Messrs. Brice and Wainwright, who pasted the paper over the hoops. The former, after borrowing and blunting all the scissors in the unit, declared the task a "snip." The latter, however, was given this job instead of a vocational course. We understand that he is now a qualified wall-paper hanger and bill-sticker in his spare time. We thought him more suited either for a position in the public eye such as a sandwich-man, or for an occupation aspiring to higher things such as a window cleaner in New York.

Local Celebrities: No. 1.—We were able to secure a special interview with Dinty Moore, the famous chef. He received us, dressed in his usual costume bearing the elaborate design in black and white.

He expressed a great dislike of his own surname. "Why!" he exclaimed, waving the fish slice, "when a man comes to the door and asks for *more*, I don't whether he means me or potatoes." Just then a man did come to the door. "Dinty," he said pleadingly, "like Oliver Twist I'm asking for more." "Mate," replied Dinty, emphasising with the fish slice, "like Oliver Twist, you've had it."

"Take the wash-up," went on the chef, as the hungry one made his exit. "When I pointed out that he had left some brick-dust in the pot I was going to stew in, he asked if I was going to make a stew with no flavour to it."

"Of course, you did flavour it?" we murmured.

"Of course I did," responded the chef warmly; "I let it burn a bit."

N.B.—This interview may not be reported accurately, as the reporter had difficulty in reading his own shorthand.

Drafts.—Many of us have been warned for a military Cook's tour overseas. A witty comment should find its way here, but how can one be humorous when wondering how many tomato seasons one will live to see? Methinks, Nab will soon have to give Ad notice of a winding-up of the partnership.

NABAD.

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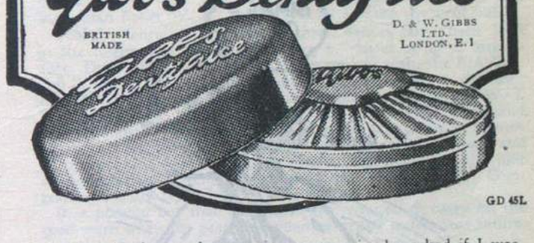


GD 45L

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Tidworth.

General.—During the past month we have been rather busy with manœuvres, the means of communication being W/T and D.R. The visuals have not been brought into use very much except for aeroplane communication. I wonder when they will decide to convert the inside of a horse into a mechanical engine or, better still, substitute horses for motor-cycles.

Our old grey mare (Maggie) has passed away: one more jumper gone west.

Sport.—We regret that our sports notes are nil.

Attachments, Rations and Pay.—Sigmn Richardson F. ceases to be attached to this Troop w.e.f. 14/8/28.

Sigmn Richardson attached for rations and pay to Miss Lillian Mary Moore, w.e.f. 14/8/28. Congratulations, Richi!

Arrival.—Sigmn Purll A. from Depot Battalion, S.T.C. He's a big lump of a boy, but we have bags of room. Welcome to the Troop, Tiny!

BLACKBIRD.

Southern Command Signal Company.

August 15th.

General.—The holiday season is in full swing again, and some are more fortunate than others with the weather, although it is generally good this year. Talking about holidays, I intend to forward for publication each month until Christmas the various types of flappers one encounters in every-day life. No. 1 is the September flapper.

Race for the Nursery Stakes.—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. J. Gibbs, of this unit, on the arrival of a daughter (Lilian May Dorothy) on August 12th.

The September Flapper.

Acidulated.—During my holidays I fancied a nice cool drink of lemonade made from fresh lemons (nothing stronger, thank you; although I am an A.O.F.B., I only joined that because there is no froth on my lemonade!); and as they say a little of what you fancy does you good, I proceeded to the market-place wherein the lemons congregate. Approaching a philanthropist, I enquired the price of his acidulated fruit. "Fourpence each," he replied, without even turning a hair. "Fourpence!" I exclaimed in surprise. "Aye, fourpence, sir; and I'm losing money at the price." His voice was far from pleasant, and I looked into the crafty profiteer's eyes. If I had lived in the days of my great grandfather (whoever he was) I should have cried, "Come out, varlet, upon the broad highway, that I may smite thee with my trusty *cuspidor* (I think that's what they used to call 'em) you thieving scurvy knave." Anyway, I didn't think it advisable to thus address him under the circumstances, especially as he was twice my size and weight, so I quietly paid him fourpence, and with my lemon tucked tightly under my arm left the vendor muttering something about "there wasn't much got out of sucking lemons at sixteen bob a ruddy case."

Travelling.—During my train ride from Darlington to Salisbury, an American who shared my compartment began speaking about theatres and asked my opinion of the slick transatlantic crook *carmedies* now being played in London. I informed him I had not seen one, and he commenced to tell me about a play he had witnessed in Noo York City prior to his visit to England. "Would you believe me, bo, it started with a moider and faded out in the thoid act with the guy gripping his goil in a brawny embrace." After he had finished, it occurred to me that there are certain compensations in being deaf. COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

All Aboard.—Hi! wait a minute. I haven't done THE WIRE notes yet. Dear dear. Here we are, the second bundle, just rushing off on a long week-end and leaving such an important job. Shan't be long!

Southern Command Tattoo.—This was held at Tidworth on August 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, and was the great success that everyone guessed it would be. The Signals on their motor-cycles gave a daring and skilful display of how motor-cycles should (or should not) be ridden. Alf Pechar and Cyclone Charlie, of dirt track fame, would do well to keep their eyes peeled if these lads come their way.

Fame.—Lieut X: "I see Cotterell is posted to this unit." Lieut Z: "Cotterell, Cotterell, who the dickens is Cotterell?"

Our Enlightened Public.—Dear old gent (to Sigmn Smudge, on leave): "What regiment do you belong to, my lad?" Sigmn Smudge: "I'm in the Signals, sir." Dear old gent: "Really: and what signal box do you work in?"

Annual Binge Notes.—Our annual sports take place on the Beacon Ground and Bulford Fields on August 15th and 17th. A report will appear in the next WIRE, as these notes will be out of our hands before then. Training for the events is in full swing, and we may expect a very good show. Some remarkable talent is often revealed at annual sports. Men who are so modest that they refrain from entering certain events afterwards declare that they could have walked away with them.

I have been told by a witness (whose word I have some hesitation in accepting) that a certain n.c.o. employed in the unit office, and often seen with a mail bag, is hot at putting the shot. My informant told me (with his hand over his heart) that this n.c.o. heaved the shot so far on one occasion that a special D.R. was detailed to fetch it back. Well, all we want is a fair sky and plenty of spectators. The competitors and officials will fix the rest.

P.S.—Nebby Ward is being asked to explain why he has left himself out of one of the events.

P.P.S.—It is all right. The event he has not entered for is the ladies' race.

Birth.—To Q.M.S. and Mrs. G. Wray, a daughter (Pamela Marguerite) at Salisbury, on August 3rd. Congratulations!

Sergeants' Mess.—This pleasant month of August has brought many old friends within our circle. We hailed the bright lights of the 2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals, who are in camp near Ludgershall. I don't know the names of all of them, but the following pushed the boat out, amongst others: R.S.M. Nichol, C.S.M. Ticky Willis and C.Q.M.S. Simnett P.

Let me tell those Maresfield jockeys that the last-named hasn't forgotten how to man-handle a gee-gee.

The morning after their special visit, I found *half-filled* glasses under the piano, in the piano, on the window-sills, on the mantel-shelf, in the fireplace, and behind the clock. No wonder Nick was still able to say "The Ecclesiastical Commissioners" four times right off. Ah, well! I decline to tell you anything about Ticky.

The Band Visit.—Sorry I shall have to delay an account of the visit of the Corps Band. Must get this away before they come. However, I haven't the faintest doubt about them. We shall try to give them a good time, because we know they are going to tickle our musical palates.

I am still sorry Spud Marsden is not with them. Oh, boy! how he used to tear 'em off on his trombone after the eighth pint! R. F. B.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

General.—The test scheme of the unit is now over, and the unit has split up for August leave. Whether they are recuperating or looking for the now famous message, goodness knows!

The departure of J and L Sections to join their respective Brigades has depleted our ranks more than ever, and a skeleton unit will take part in the concentration in September—or should I say "improvised" instead of "skeleton"?

Not the least pleasing feature of the past month was the visit of C.S.M. Dido Harris to the unit, while on leave from Hounslow.

Another feature, far less pleasing, has been the arrival in camp of a home-made cigarette fiend. Why is it, I wonder, that some people are never happy unless they are making others miserable? Quite a lot of people are hoping that one of these days, when he is dipping in the swill tub for his infernal mixture, he will fall in.

Arrivals and Departures.—This month has seen the departure to the Rhine of Drivers Franks and Floyd. Dear old Nathan! How we shall miss those little friendly gatherings from six to seven o'clock in the evenings!

Our arrivals include Sergt Smith J. E. (who leaves for Shanghai in September) and L/Corpl Robson with his racquet.

Marriage.—L/Corpl Ball T. to Dorothy Caroline Blyth, at Wivenhoe, on August 6th. Felicitations!

Congratulations to F/S/Sergt Harris G. on his promotion.

Valentines.—Very few have yet been received for this unit. A complete list will be given, for the information of overseas units, as soon as possible. Fancy Eastward ho, Bob! Won't Harry be pleased? Are you taking the garden with you? Don't forget to tell us all about hot-house plants.

Shanghai.—Evidently we are a "Pip" Company for S.D.F. Signals. Sergt Smith is a lineman. Is anyone coming home? Frankie has dropped anchor behind the bar. Poor old Frank!

Enquiries and Answers.—A.J.K., Singapore: Nothing doing. S.D.F. counts. Am writing.

Tommy, S.D.F.: Bless your ticket in the champions.

Nick: I didn't know you had time to eat rice.

WELLER.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

Three months have elapsed since this unit's notes were last in THE WIRE; yet, although plenty has happened, it is surprising how few items of interest can be gathered.

On July 2nd practically the whole Company went to Ballykinlar for the annual concentration of Signals. The schemes were all satisfactory and interesting, especially one in the Mountains of Mourne where a futuristic war was held. Enemy casualties were very slight, however; one cow, I hear, refused to yield milk for four days owing to fright from a Lucas lamp.

The schemes ended and the Company returned on July 25th, but during this time the semi-final and the final of the N.I.D. cricket cup made an appreciable break. It should be of interest to know that the Sherwood Foresters, whom we beat in the final, are the battalion who knocked our Training Battalion out of the Army cup last football season. This was certainly "a little of our own back"—a very creditable performance!

Whilst boarding the train on our return from Ballykinlar and saying goodbye to the various other units who participated in the concentration, I was very pleased to see Sergt Sheale presented with a cricket cap from the Foresters. A kind thought of theirs—but they might have got a man's size!

That favourite health resort of ours is open to visitors again this year. Bohill, some people call it; others—well, it depends if they stayed there or not. L/Corpl Rushto and Sigmn Howard went there, taking with them a C set to while away the weary hours. Others will have joined them by now, whilst the remainder prefer Ballynahinch. The latter is certainly the better place, but Rusty will tell you it is too far from Lisburn.

During the recent excavations around the Company office, a certain young person was moving the weeds and dirt (so I'm told) from one heap to the centre of the pathway. When asked why he did not put it in the waiting tub first time, he replied "It's too far to throw it in from here, corporal." I am told there is no "bull" about this yarn, but I believe there is.

We must congratulate L/Corpl Williams E. on his recent appointment, and Sigmn Quilter on obtaining his coveted D.ii. Well earned! I hear that Sigmn Brider has remustered to "soliciter" now, yet his war cry is still the same: "Under 15 and over 45."

The last month has shown a marked decrease in the strength of this unit. We welcome Sigmn Smith from Blackdown, and bemoan the loss (I nearly said fate) of Signalmen Barker and Gapper, who have left us for Tidworth. To Corpl Roberts, Signalmen Chick, Cranke, Edwards, Tyre and Stone, we wish all the very best of luck in their new rôle on the Army Reserve. As by the time these notes are in print I myself will be one of them, I will say goodbye to all. I hope to hear regular news through the pages of THE WIRE. C. W. N.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, August 15th.

General.—The annual review of the B.A.O.R. is now a thing of the past, and rumour has it that units here have been ordered to return all rulers to stores. They will be issued, in lieu, with a photograph of the Signals marching past the saluting base. Hem!

The Command rifle meeting, which took place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th July, resulted in a very close contest. We were unfortunate in not lifting the cup, and were beaten into third place by a narrow margin of 10 points behind the winners. Individual prizes were won by L/Sergts Johnson and Devey and Signalman Baker W. H., whilst Tubby spotted the pool bull.

Social.—Since our last notes, three dances have been held in the Regimental Institute, "Jimmy's" band being in attendance. During the interval of the dance on July 17th, the B.A.O.R. "B" League runners-up medals were presented to the unit football team, the inter-section indoor games shield to the W/T Section, and the inter-section football shield to the Command and Maintenance Section. The third dance was given as a send-off to the sections leaving for their various training areas, and an opportunity was afforded to present the prizes for the unit singles and doubles tennis tournaments (see Sports Notes). Congratulations are offered to all recipients.

It is pointed out that volunteers are required to carry on the good work when the present committee depart in the near future.

Medals.—We tender congratulations to L/Sergt Johnson P. on being awarded the long service and good conduct medal for 18 years undetected. Now blow for daddy!

Arrivals.—Sixteen other ranks were welcomed to the land of Dotz during the month, and we hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

Departures.—Our best wishes are extended to the following: Signalmen Baker D. and Williams T. to the Army Reserve. Corporal Hirst, L/Corpl Wheeler, Signalmen Boswell, Horne, Towell, Hurst, Brennen, Sherwood, Butler, Hale, Fraser and Moulinie to Catterick and Eastwards.

Training.—On the 12th inst., the 1st Brigade Signal Section left for Hahn, and the 2nd Brigade Signal Section for Konigstein, to take part in the Brigade training.

Noted.—Heard in Quarters. 1st boy: "My dad is higher than yours." 2nd boy: "No he ain't: my dad's a corporal." 1st boy: "Yes he is, 'cos my dad's a wanted officer."

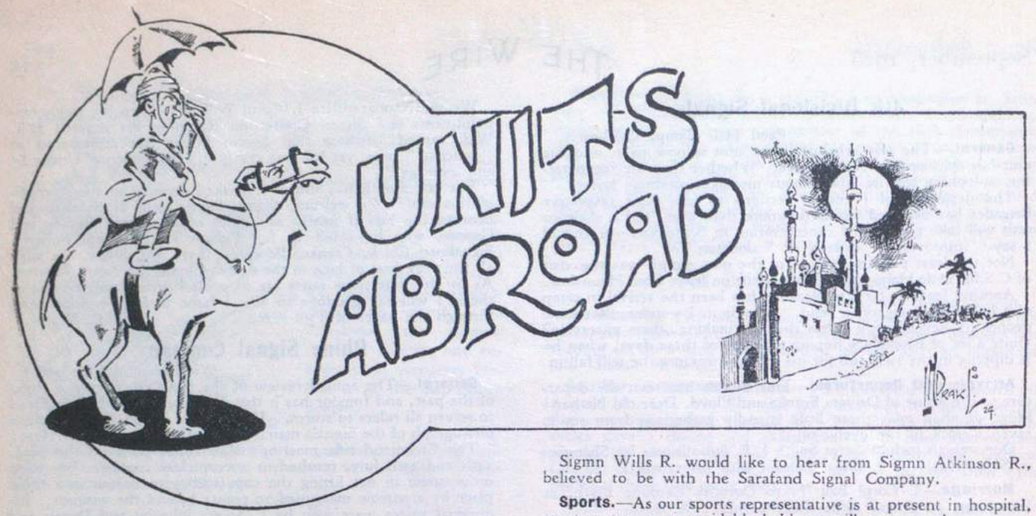
To be Noted.—Paunee Waters, late Quetta: What's yer map ref.?—Hilo.

Weller: Have you still got any "little winkles?"—P. J.

Jack Cowley, late Iraq: Request location.—Minnie.

Sergeants' Mess.—A whist drive and dance was held on the 21st July and was voted a great success. During intervals the company were entertained to a musical interlude by L/Sergeant Rumble and his Hawaiian guitar, a few mirthful moments by Sigmn Baker W. H., and exhibition dancing by Mr. B. L. R. A. Walsh. Thanks to the committee for such a splendid evening.

On August 4th the mess members, with their wives and friends, proceeded by charabanc through the Wispertal Valley (z.m. wet). A halt was made at Hohenstein for lunch and "fuel," and at Geisenheim for tea. After tea indoor games and spot dances were indulged in, and several prizes were won. (Note: there is only one spot in a dance.) A post-entry flat race took place during a break in the weather and was very amusing until the leading file fell. Leaving Geisenheim about 7.30 p.m. the return journey was completed without casualties, after a very enjoyable day. GROCK.



A Corps Signals, Karachi.

July 12th.

General.—Nothing of great consequence has happened here recently, although we had about four hours of rain last week, which is indeed out of the ordinary routine of Karachi life.

The main item of interest at present is "the boat." The first boat, "The City of Marseilles," arrives here on October 30th and leaves on November 6th, and with it we shall lose a number of the locals.

Our Signals Association representative has published some really good results. Our number of life members is now 50, annual members 134, and WIRE subscribers 95. This is really excellent! The balance sheet for 1927 showed Karachi as submitting £84, and our subscriptions and donations to date for 1928 are £89 5s. 3d. For such a small unit this is indeed an excellent example of esprit de corps as regards Association work. Credit and praise must be given to those who have worked so hard to produce such good results.

A rather humorous letter was received from a local dhurzi, who submitted a claim to work for this unit. It read as follows:

"Sir,—With due respects and humble submissions, I most respectfully beg to *pray* that you would graciously please to allow me to carry on tailoring, shoemaking, shaving and washing for your *gallant troops*. Permit me to submit, sir, that the major portion of my life has been spent on carrying out the above works *British* Military and since the last as many as 18 eighteen years I have been working honestly and satisfactorily.—Yours, etc., etc. ——."

Training is still being carried out with the usual enthusiasm, and our Motor Construction Section are at present engaged on a speed test in erecting a route (a special effort of speed is certainly required to turn out at five o'clock in the morning!)

Topliss's band has at last been formed, but as a photograph of it was taken under a banana tree, we think it should be known as the Banana band. This will, no doubt, interest old friends of Topliss in Aden.

Arrivals.—C.Q.M.S. Newstead from 2nd Divl Signals, Quetta (may his stay be long and pleasant). L/Corpl Rawson from a "muscle-binding" course.

Departures.—Signalmen Beaven and Coates to Rawalpindi.

Akorpz Calling.—Sigmn Evans (Chicko) of this unit would like to hear from A. Dunk, late of the Rhine Signal Company.

Sigmn Knox would like to hear from Sigmn Costigan.

L/Corpl McKay would like to hear from Jock Taite (no relation to Harry).

Sigmn Brooks would like to hear from L/Corpl Carnegie, last heard of at the Rocks.

Sigmn Greene A. would like to hear from Sigmn Taylor L. D., last heard of at Jubb.

Sigmn Wills R. would like to hear from Sigmn Atkinson R., believed to be with the Sarafand Signal Company.

Sports.—As our sports representative is at present in hospital, sports notes are unavoidably held over till next month.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Cambridge Barracks, July 11th.

We have again arrived at the "review" season of the year in India. The individual service of all ranks is now undergoing a strict personal review, and the pros and cons of repatriation by this and the next trooper are carefully considered by every individual. Those whose names have already appeared for return to Blighty this year are most joyful, and some are crossing off the days on the almanac with much gusto. The "lure of the East" takes a very back place nowadays; as a matter of fact, in view of the position to which many have consigned the East, it should be at a non-compass bearing somewhere about the warm centre of the world.

Officers.—Sincere congratulations are extended to our adjutant, Capt W. D. McGregor, 1st Gurkha Rifles, on the award of the O.B.E.

The majority of the officers are at present on leave at various places in the hills.

Promotions.—Congratulations are also extended to the following on their recent promotions: L/Sergt Lawman to be Sergeant. Corpls Miles and Crabtree to be L/Sergeants. L/Corpls Wood E. G., Winton and Smith C. A. to be Corporals. L/Sergeant Batchelor to the same rank on the Corps roster. L/Sergeant Bremner, Corpls Elkins and Brown A. to be Corporals on the Corps roster.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following into our midst: Corpl Tanner from the 4th Indian Divl Signals (proceeded to the Experimental Section at Cherat). Signalmen Nicholls S., Donnahey, Smith F., Moss and Marshall from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore. Sigmn Coates F. from A Corps Signals, Karachi. May they have a good time with B Corps!

Training.—Training and courses are going strong. By the end of the hill season we should have no Group E people whatsoever: at present there are but ten in the whole unit.

Our Heroes (No. 1).—During the week one of the workshops personnel was seen to purchase a fine fleshy banana. He removed the skin, then threw away the fruit, and commenced to eat the skin. Overwork might account for this action, but then, there is no accounting for individual tastes. I think the staff-sergeant of the Workshops Section had better not overtax this youth in the future. However, for the present he may hold the championship for this week's most strenuous effort.

General.—I always maintain that aunts are a nuisance sometimes. One in particular is giving us a lot of trouble nowadays: Anti-Malaria. During the whole of last week we spent the first two hours of each day in clearing grass and weeds from around the bungalows. According to reports, it seems that mosquitoes

have changed their diet and have gone in for barrack-room-surroundings grass—if it may be called grass. I think the stuff which grows around our little home must be some species of wire-netting and tanglefoot; anyhow, it takes some moving *and* language! Since the first few days' work it has rained, and I observe (with that sinking feeling) that where I was positive no vestige of grass remained after my onslaught, green shoots are now well established. The new estimate of the time required to remove *all* grass is now 21 years!

Can anyone tell me why rotten jobs last "for keeps," but real cushy ones are finished in no time? I've read "Rules for Detention Barracks" and other racy literature, but can find no answer to the question. I wonder if "mossies" like mustard and cress, as I am thinking of sowing these seeds in order to counteract the grass. Advice, Barleux, please!

An energetic person can never keep still for any length of time. We must be overflowing with energy, thanks to prickly heat. Some of the attitudes I have seen would make an excellent advertisement for "Keatings" in the "before using" position.

The corporals' mess have to advise the Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, that the musical member of their mess has now been transferred to the sergeants' mess. Music hath charms, but some music I prefer "Miles" away.

Agony Column.—To George, of D Company, T.B. Evidently the mail boat has sunk; please imi.—R. W. T.

Will Sigmn Biggs Hiram K., believed to be at Sialkot, drop a line to Sigmn Parrack R. H. of this unit?

Well, that will do for this month. Au revoir!

ECHO.

Peshawar District Signals.

How about it now?—110 in the shade, and I have to write notes to interest the world in general. Anyway, I willingly sit at the typewriter pushing out these few words, and wondering if those few spare spots of prickly heat on my back will disappear soon.

One of the standing jokes of the unit is that of the telegraph operator at Jamrud who, one fine summer day, after a hectic night, received the following message: "Mine sweepers proceeding to Landi Kotal." Although that joke has faded into the dim past consequent on the Khyber telegraph circuit being taken over by T Company Indian Signal Corps, it looks like being resuscitated. Already a so-called "Admiral" is training his bonny lads in seamanship; and in walking past his barrack-room such sayings as "Lower the boat," "Stand to for a broadside," etc., can be heard. Of course, no names, but!

We welcome A/Sergt Dickinson as our new education instructor, and trust that he will feel at home at our seat of learning. Of course it is not our fault that we have so many in the unit in possession of 1st class certificates!

It can be read in the Big Book that bread was once made from stones, but really, the contractor who issued figs instead of fish for breakfast one morning deserves more than passing comment.

"Q" Sheets.—In a little while I shall be in a position to understand these "Q" sheet dances that I mentioned some time last year. Oh, for the sights of Murree, etc., etc. I'll tell the world why everyone hates to stay on the Plains during a nice summer such as we are now enjoying.

Arrival.—We must offer congratulations to L/Corpl and Mrs. Varley on the arrival of a welcome addition to the family, and trust that in time he will wend his way to this sunny clime and find us old stagers still soldiering on and wondering when that boat will roll on.

Promotion.—Congratulations to Sigmn Kempster on attaining the stripe. We trust he will not have to wait too loog for the pice.

Courses.—The courses at Landi Kotal and Peshawar have concluded and the results are extremely gratifying. Out of forty-one who attended, only two failed to obtain higher ratings. This points to our efficiency in trade ratings. Let's hope that when the Topa crowd come down they will show the same results.

Hospital.—It is with regret that we have to note that our adjutant, Capt J. A. I. Watts, has been admitted to hospital. We trust that he will soon recover and be with us once again.

PESHDISTSIGS.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarter and Brigade Sections, Razmak.

General.—On Friday, June 22nd, fifteen B.O.R.s of Headquarter and Razmak Brigade Sections, with an escort of ten Khassadars, went a few miles over the hills and enjoyed a very successful picnic organised by Lieut W. Gracie.

The object of the trip was to find sufficient water for a swim, but this enterprise met with little or no success. However, pickles, steak and kidney pie, etc. (away from barracks) compensated them for their loss.

On the following Friday a detachment from these Sections went on temporary duty with the 15th Field Company Burmese Sappers and Miners and a battalion of Gurkhas, the remainder of the Brigade escorting them to Bibizai, where it is intended to bridge the river bed. Here they found more water than they desired. A heavy storm caused spates in the various tributary beds, which, draining into the main bed, gave them a real birthday present.

The C.O. (Capt G. C. Winckley, M.C.) in company with the quartermaster (Capt W. J. H. Bull), while proceeding from Razmak to Dera Ismail Khan by car, almost met their fate in a river bed near Piaza through the same storm.

Congratulations to the D.R. with despatches for Razmak who upheld the Corps motto "Through" (wet). He found a flooded river-bed near Sararoga, some twenty-two miles out, and chancing the depth—for he carried the mail—he throttled up and rode into it *and* under it! Well done, Jackie; how you got the bike out is a mystery, but we got the mail o.k.

The casualties at Bibizai numbered two Gurkha soldiers wounded on the first night there, but no more have been reported. It seems as though all the angry Mahsuds have left Waziristan.

The drafting return for repatriation to the U.K. includes some forty-four other ranks of this unit stationed at various places in Waziristan. This will be a great loss to the unit, many of them being really old hands and efficient tradesmen. We hope the R.O. will send us reinforcements of similar calibre. We would like to hang on to you a bit longer; but of course you old soldiers with a dhobi mark must see foreign service now and again.

Training.—The detachments away with the bridge-building parties have almost knocked this item of interest on the head. Two small brigade schemes have been carried out with success by those left behind.

Educational.—Firsts are being given away, to judge by the number who have recently qualified. Chief amongst the offenders are Signalmen Bulley and Crawford, and L/Corpl Smith W. —the latter obtaining a "d" in geography. Sigmn (A/Sergt) Clark F. A. managed a "d" at the Army School of Education, Belgaum. Congratulations to them all!

Appointment.—Corpl Parsons L. to be Lance-Sergeant w.e.f. 27/4/28, vice L/Sergt Stafford (reverted).

Departures.—Forty-four B.O.R.s to England. Thorah pichi.

AREFED.

Manzai Brigade Signal Section.

General.—Hallo, everybody! Manzai calling! Not having "scribed" for a long time, I expect everyone thought we (like the old soldiers) had simply faded away. But no; we have only been hibernating. Once or twice we came out of our shell and migrated to the Wana District, just to have a chat with our neighbours there and let them know we were still alive. The last time we went to visit them they did not like us so well, and disturbed our sleep two or three times—three men and eight mules of the Brigade being wounded. The march back was accomplished without incident, however, except a few sore feet; but everyone scrambled in somehow, none falling by the way. Rumour has it that we are going out again shortly, but like our old pal, we must "wait and see."

Life here at present is one long dreary round of sun, heat haze, sand storms, and at least *two* spots of rain now and again.

Training.—This has been automatically restricted to a minimum owing to B.O.R. personnel being on leave, Command, and temporary transfers to other sections of the unit for the relief of others going on leave. The few left behind have been whiling

away the happy hours in line office construction and sorting out the Morse alphabet from " X's."

We have not been able to do any swimming lately, owing to a severe shortage of water in the reservoirs, that remaining in the swimming tank becoming too dirty to swim in. The tank is being filled again shortly, so we shall soon be able to enjoy ourselves once more.

Sport.—At present we are concentrating all our energies on the Brigade hockey tournament. We are severely handicapped owing to the constant changes in the Section. Still, our efforts have not been too bad, for we have only lost two matches out of two! However, we hope to do better than this in the near future. Football and cricket are in abeyance pending the construction of suitable grounds.

We feel dubious in mentioning yet another item of sport: rabies dodging. We have shone far more brilliantly in this sport than any other: battle honours so far being a draw—one B.O.R. in hospital and one deceased bow-wow. The beauty of this sport is that it can be conducted without the aid of referees, in unlimited area, and with your own choice of weapons.

MOBUS.

Bannu Brigade Signal Section.

General.—Congratulations to Signalmen McCann and Dawes on reaching the dizzy height of " unpaid." How many photographs did Darky have taken? Also to L/Corporal Smith and Boozy Crawford on their educational attainments; perhaps the latter got his through not thinking of " X's " on the fatal day.

Training.—This has been at a standstill owing to leave, etc., but we hope to make up for lost time in the future. Messrs. Shorter and Haddow are in training for the pokey die championship of the " Tochi." They may be seen training in the canteen every night from 6 p.m. until closing time, and they are holding classes every morning to teach the young and inexperienced how to pay for chars all round.

H. A. G.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

I daresay it will surprise many readers of our widely-circulated Journal to observe these notes from the one and only 1st Indian Divl Signals, who have remained so silent these many months. At any rate, in offering my sincere apologies to one and all for having withheld my pen, I can safely say that henceforth every effort will be made to ensure a regular monthly contribution.

Perhaps it is partly due to the absence of notes from this unit that we have such a low percentage of O.C.A. members, but (thanks to a newly-organised and energetic staff) I hope to be able in the near future to record a very great increase of members—for there is no doubt that THE WIRE is at all times eagerly looked for and enthusiastically received by all Signals abroad.

I will now proceed to narrate a few of the events which have occurred of late in and around this particular unit.

Our C.O. (Major L. H. Morse, M.C.) being away at the Senior Officers' School, Belgaum, the Division is now under the able guidance of Capt. E. L. Farnall, who has temporarily taken over the duties of commanding officer.

We are very pleased to have Corporals Robertson and Nobbs back with us again, and both are to be complimented on having qualified respectively as B.i. and B.ii. operators, signals, at the S.T.C., Jubbulpore. I guess we shall see a few sparks flying during the training season in the khuds, when they speed up on the sounder—what?

As is usual during the hot weather practically half the personnel of this unit are away in the hills, at the Signal School, Upper Topa, where they are undergoing various courses with the object of becoming highly efficient tradesmen. May every n.c.o. and man make such progress and pass the required test with flying colours! By so doing they will further add to the laurels which this Division has already gained.

Marriage.—We have a further marriage to chronicle—one which will be of interest to all who have served in the unit. Lieut H. R. I. Firth, whilst on leave in the U.K., was married to Miss Bell. We shall be glad to have them both with us.

Agony.—Sigmn Lamb J. would like to hear from Sigmn Edson (Tony) last heard of at 4th Div. Step on the gas, Tony!

Sigmn Penfold C. would like to get in touch with Driver Hayward E., last heard of at Bulford. Buck up, Ern!

Sigmn Fray C. would like to hear from Sigmn Mitchell, Bulford. " Donne know."

Sigmn Perry G. would like to hear from Sigmn Hawkins (Sherbet), late of this Division.

Sigmn Frost W. would like to hear from L/Corpl Elmes A., having lost his address.

A. E. L.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

July 20th.

After one or two storms separated by intervals of a few days, the wet season has at last set in and rain has fallen daily for the last fortnight. It is not safe to go far from barracks without a waterproof, or a soaking and a cold may result from the heavy showers which occur at any moment.

Some of the hill roads are in a shocking condition, and several breaks and falls of boulders have been reported on the Kathgodam-Ranikhet motor road. These breaks occur every year, and gangs of coolies are constantly employed in road clearance and repair work.

The mid-season relief arrived here on July 11th, covered with prickly heat (they made us feel very itchy to look at them) but looking very brown and well. They were relieved to get up here, away from the stables and the heat, but by their appearance the hard work and sports down in Meerut kept them very fit.

Since their arrival we have commenced a new training programme which provides for training O/V's as O/L's, O/L's as O/W's, and other trades for higher ratings. We all hope to succeed in attaining our new ratings by the end of this hill season, and the efficiency of the unit should be greatly improved.

In addition to this trade-training, a very ambitious sports programme has commenced. Every evening volunteers in their dozens turn out for training in boxing, rugby, high and long jumps, putting the shot, and all other sports. Everyone is keen, and if this keenness is kept up we shall soon be able to turn out some very good teams.

Basket ball, which everyone imagined was a lady's game until they played it, has captured our fancy, and league and scratch matches arouse great enthusiasm.

For the organisation of all these sports we have to thank Lieut L. W. J. Dryland, who is a very keen sportsman himself and has succeeded in arousing our sporting spirit.

All ranks of the unit heartily congratulate Capt F. H. Bury on his promotion to that rank, and we are very sorry that he will be leaving us for the home establishment this trooping season.

A Barrack-Room Conversation.—First man (reading a paper) " I see that the Japanese have placed the death penalty on Communism." Second man: " What's that? Placed the death penalty on Pelmanism?"

Appointments.—Signalmen McLean and Chamberlain appointed U/L/Corporals.

Education.—Signalmen Arrend, Denyer and Chamberlain awarded a 1st class certificate.

Kohat District Signals.

General.—We must first of all express our keen appreciation of the July number of THE WIRE. It was a departure which we are sure will meet with approbation everywhere, and it will especially hearten the detached sections of " the Corps " who serve in the outlandish spots—the " Ewshotts of the Empire."

Weather.—The thermometer is still bubbling here, and July promises fair to give us a heated farewell. Of course she would especially like to bid adieu to Dub, but his " burning fiery furnace " days are over now.

Moves.—Consequent on the casualties which we reported last month we are to say goodbye to C.Q.M.S. Barnett A., who is on transfer to the 4th Divl Signals. May the eve of his " pont " be devoid of any more flitting!

Sigmn Salter has returned from the Army School of Cookery at Poona, determined to cook anybody's goose—as per specification.

Doings.—The unit is still spread all over India—some at Upper Topa in training; some at Parachinar, also in training; and then the faithful few who keep things going in Kohat, working!

N.B.—To all who have been anxious about Sigmn Lloyd F. G., who has had a gruelling time in hospital, we are pleased to report that he is now getting " braw and bonny " in Upper Topa.

Look out for our report on the Regimental Thrift Club of the unit in next month's notes. It will open your eyes and tickle your " canny " fancy.

WOG.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

July 27th.

I have quite a lot to write this month, but (as Coir would say) " Blow it, Mr. Pelman has let me down." But adjust your receivers; here is something coming through.

Bed-time Stories.—There was once a big, strong, but very foolish soldier, who neglected to polish his kit-box and omitted to red-raddle and whitewash the verandah just when the big general was due. But he was laughing in the end, because the big general took no notice of the bungalows but enquired after the health of the soldiers. " Cleanliness is next to healthiness." But I digress.

Officers.—We welcome Capt C. S. Butcher, A.I.R.O. (nothing to do with the Air Force) from Ranikhet, and 2/Lieut J. F. Longfield, R.Signals, from the S.T.C. We trust their stay with us will be a pleasant one.

Lieut C. A. R. M. Bolton has gone to Blighty for a qualifying course. Good luck, sir; but why three suits of silk pyjamas?

Arrivals.—Corpl (Shoey) Archer has joined us from the S.T.C. prior to his anticipated departure to his native heath, where horses are less restive. We are certain of plenty of vocal support in sports now.

Departures.—L/Corpl Hanna (Char Pice) and Sigmn Lewis to Waziristan District Signals; and Signalmen Calladine and Martin to Peshawar. What lucky dogs these Peshawar people are!

Brains.—Congratulations and grunts of surprise to Sergeant Lemon, L/Sergt Winter and Sigmn Mortimer on being graded 1st class educationally: and to Sigmn Nix on biting a couple of chunks off the special. (Accomplish this task while you are young, " Pants," because you get browned in India.)

The Coming Trooper.—Time and tide wait for no man, neither do boats. It is satisfactory to note that the repatriation lists are being forwarded from the hub of Signal activities at Chatham this year. Joe's name is on the list, together with forty-three others, and we—ahem!—will leave a gap in the unit which it will be impossible to fill (anyway, that's what mother says). Roll on, that big boat!

Musketry.—We completed our annual firing just as the monsoon scored its first bull. It chased us off the ranges twice, but we outwitted it by stealing down two hours before gunfire was due. C.S.M. Brown caused a great sensation by scoring 104 in the classification. There was a rumour that spoons would be presented to top scorers at each range, but we won't delve too deeply into the past.

Training.—I nearly forgot it, but though almost last, perhaps it isn't least. The C.O. has received the following memorandum from the C.S.O. Southern Command:—" I wish to place on record my appreciation of the standard attained by 4th Indian Divisional Signals in individual training during the year 1927-28. I fully realise the difficulties which had to be overcome to fit in training to raise individuals to this standard. The results are very satisfactory, and I trust the efforts made last year will be continued during the present individual training season."

Christmas Dinner.—No arrangements have yet been made. When will this unit wake up?

JOSABUN.

English, Yes, No!—The following is a copy of a letter received by a certain musician of the 4th Indian Divl Signals, Jubbulpore:—

" G.I.P. Quarters, Jabalpur.

" Dear Bate Man,—It has come to my know that you are an student off music and of the violin for the lesson to other student therefore I am enquiring from you for the how much price for my Son to be the violin player in your accademy of violins which I come to knowledge you are chief inspector of.

" Therefor please write one letter for me to let my Son be the violin player in your Instute of making of the dance music and so I am expecting the letter from you just now when my Son will start on violin I can close now because I have said all therefore I am closing the chit.

" I am, please, MOHD HUSSAIN."

Gems of English Verse.

" CAUGHT."

It was the hour of midnight:
The troops were all in bed—
You could tell that by their snoring:
'Twas enough to raise the dead—
But one, a young lance-corporal
(Whom we'll call " Mac " for short),
Could not obtain a wink of sleep,
No matter how he fought.

At first he started counting sheep;
It drove him nigh insane:
He went up to a thousand,
Then started once again.
Just as he thought he'd have a smoke
A shadow crossed the floor,
And, looking up, he saw a "Shape"
Standing outside the door.

His heart was thumping loudly,
His feet were cold as tripe,
But he put on his tunic
(He had to wear his stripe);
The Shape moved on in silence,
But then it glided back,
And with an exclamation
Fell right in the arms of Mac.

The Shape and Mac fought wildly;
They both fell on the floor;
Then Mac sat on his capture
And gave an awful roar,
For instead of a black " loose wallah "
Whom he surely thought he'd found,
'Twas only the picquet sentry
Doing his midnight round.

—DASH.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

July 18th.

The days come and go with that dreary monotony peculiar to the Indian summer. About half the Troop are taking the annual rest cure at Upper Topa, and the unfortunates left behind can usually find plenty of work without having to search for it.

A close observer may detect a certain furtive look on the features of all, especially on first entering the bungalow. This, however, is not a sign of demoralisation, but simply a healthy respect for the electric punkahs. The latter appear to take a malicious delight in swinging from their appointed orbit to catch the unwary, leaving the unfortunate victim rubbing his pate and murmuring endearing names.

When these notes appear I shall be invaded by a howling horde. Umpteen copies of THE WIRE and umpteen dainty fists will be shaken under my nose, and the universal plaint will be " Can't yer find something more interesting to burble about?" Periodically during the month they roll along with the brightest of bright suggestions, and demand the insertion of various " cold ones." Having no intention of calling down upon myself the wrath of the gods, it is necessary to develop a convenient lack of memory.

Sport.—Our cricket team are very determined to emerge from the Hot Weather League with either the cup or a wooden spoon.

Appointments.—Hearty congratulations are extended to Corpl Arnell on attaining that rank on the Corps roster; also to U/L/Corpl Dirs J. on gaining that dizzy height.

Another Hibernian Anecdote.—" Haggis," our local Scot, astounded the mess bearer by demanding a " chabbis " with which to consume his " burrrrgoo." At the inopportune query as to whether he wanted to make it last longer, he was highly indignant.

"Snaps" by the Camera-Man of C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop on the way to Camp, 1927.

Horse Lines, Sharkot Camp, 1927.

Wireless Section crossing the River Swat, near Dargai, during 1927 Camp.

"The Broken Road," Risalpur. Trans-Border Tribe returning to the Plains on the approach of cold weather.

Pabbi, the well-known Loose Wallahs' Headquarters.

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop entraining at Risalpur en route to Meerut, March 3rd, 1928.

Agony.—Sigmn Jackman C., of this unit, would like to hear from 1st class pack pony leader A. T. Husk, last heard of in 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.

Ariel would like to hear from Redgy, of A Corps.

ARTOC.

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

July 26th.

It seems terribly inadequate to quote the usual formula: "We must apologise for the absence of our notes in THE WIRE." We cannot think of an original excuse for our long silence, so we will try to cover our confusion with the following notes.

General.—We arrived here on March 3rd, our place in Risalpur being taken by B Troop, who (according to report) are not enamoured of it. The move was greatly appreciated, as the surroundings here offer many more opportunities for sport and social intercourse. We had to camp out for about six weeks after our arrival, as our barracks were not completed, but to hardened campaigners that was a mere detail (cheers); and we now occupy the most up-to-date barracks in India, or at least they are reputed to be such (many of the inhabitants are dubious).

Our main occupation during the last few months has been training remounts taken over from A Troop on relief. Yes, they have some rough—decidedly rough—riders. Our rodeo section, with Corpl Barclay in charge (much to our regret, he has been posted to the home establishment) cut quite a number of antics and performed evolutions not found in training manuals during the first few days, but we now have our broncs well in hand and are making very satisfactory progress. (Efficiency—that's our second name; ain't we modest?)

We are really becoming a highly educated Troop, for everyone is trying for his next certificate or a higher rating. Furrowed brows are the order of the day, but despite many bright suggestions the elusive quantity of "X" eludes us. Does it really equal "T" or "B 2"?

Sergt Sneddon has returned from Saugor, and L/Corporal Lourie from the 4th Q.O. Hussars, after undergoing equitation courses which they passed very successfully.

Entertainment.—We have enjoyed two very successful whist drives, and a social which we are hoping to make a regular feature. We have the talent, but it has yet to be fully exploited. Thanks are due to L/Corpl Elmes and Sigmn Robinson, by whose organisation these events were made possible.

Education: Firsts.—100 per cent. at the last exam. L/Sergt Jones (well done, Taffy).

Courses.—L/Corpl Wolfe and Sigmn Wright to Jubbulpore for an operator, signals, course. May success attend their efforts!

Congratulations.—To Signalmen Wolfe, Turrell and Walton on finding one in their haversack. (Don't forget there is a general's baton—but you're likely to go cross-eyed before you spot it.)

Heard in Stables.—Sergeant i/c: "Brush that horse down." Signalman: "I'm afraid to, sergeant." Sergeant: "Why?" Signalman: "His fur's coming out."

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo.

General.—A general change has been effected in the personnel of our out-stations. Once again we hear pleasant shouts of "Ich ich pah" and "Goo goo nunc." Old members, please note that Taxi has joined the Gug-nuncs. Another old face is that of our friend who arrived at Alexandria minus a kit bag. Evidently somebody watched over him like a guardian angel this time, as he reported with everything complete. The first day of his arrival, however, he kept up his good name by folding up his plate and mug instead of his kit. Dope!

Courses.—No. 1 Opsigs Course has been brought to a fairly successful termination. Congratulations to L/Corpl Dunn and Signalmen Lumby and Newton on obtaining another step towards their Foreman-of-Signals.

No. 2 Course is now in full swing, with all the usual arguments as to this, that and the other, in the bungalows during the off-duty periods. How many men to a signalling station, George?

Education.—Hearty congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Dorrington, Sergts Cole and Holness, Corpl Ward, Signalmen Ryder and Whiting, on obtaining the elusive 1st. Also to Signalmen Weller and Bradley, L/Corpls Hart and Harper for their attempts. Keep it up, lads! Remember Bruce and the spider.

Promotions.—Two more aspirants to the cross-batons have been substantiated in L/Corpls Hart and Dawson. Congratulations to A/L/Corpls Barnard and Harper, who have joined the ranks of orderly corporals and conducting reliefs.

Leave.—Lieut C. F. Newsom to South Africa (good hunting, sir!) L/Sergt Collins and L/Corpl Collins to U.K. (some people have all the luck).

S.O.S.—Harry will see Jones in Sheffield to wet the all-round shield. Sigmn Monaghan of this unit would welcome news of Sigmn Charnock, last heard of at Catterick in 1927. W.N.B. would be pleased to know if Sigmn George Turner has recovered from his illness.

W. N. B.

Corporals' Mess.

General.—At last our entertainments committee has succeeded in its endeavours to cheer up our flagging spirits. Numerous cricket matches have been played, and all arrangements ably carried out by the staff, with Stagger as the master mind. He did everything except arrange dates and times of matches, teas and grounds. However, his partner in crime managed to pull him through every time. Good old Tempus Fugit!

A grand carnival dance was held on Saturday, July 28th, and was voted a brilliant success by all who were present. Towards the end many were present in body but not in mind. However, with such a successful beginning, it is to be hoped that these dances will become frequent.

W. N. B.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, August 1st.

Caught at last!—Sigmn O'Connor E. commenced to work for his living on July 21st, when he left his haven of rest at Moascar to come to Polygon. Still, he's not looking too bad on it, though his waist-line has certainly decreased. Sigmn Bazley A. has gone to Moascar to take O'Connor's place, doubtless feeling he deserves a rest.

Needs Swallowing.—The T.S.B.O.s came up with a rush, a few days ago, to tell me about the subscriber on the Abbassia Exchange who rang up the operator and asked him if anyone had rung him (the subscriber) up. On being informed in the negative, he said he thought no one would, but in any case he had left a note on his telephone saying he was out!

Ladies Believe in Fashions.—So do some of our 'Erberts, the latest style being a vision in breeches, *no* puttees, but *with* spurs. Good old J: we're proud of you!

Might be the Ramblings of a fervid mind, as another of J's leading lights (Sigmn Waite) asked me to put in the following. To Sigmn Bartley at Catterick: "Virtutis Fortuna comes to the old rampant lion on a ducal crown." If Sigmn Bartley can make head or tail of that lot, he deserves to win all the cross-word puzzle competitions that he goes in for!

To the Land of Chop Suey—and pig-tailed ladies. Sigmn Townsend (yet another of J's personalities) wants a full description of the matrimonial adventures of Sigmn Rayment P. Now, didn't he warn you that you *would* get bitten, Ray?

We're still waiting for it!—"A fine day will be selected for scrubbing out huts." Vide the new Egypt Signals Standing Orders.

A Rifle weighs 8½ lbs.—or thereabouts. Some of us can hardly believe it! We're on musketry nowadays, and when doing muscle exercises with our best friends and taking the left hand away, it feels more like 8½ tons!

Prospective Benedicts.—Of course that's only guesswork, but L/Sergt Thomas R. H. P. and L/Corpl Gratwicke S. G. have just left us for three months leave in the U.K. Scented and pink-coloured letters, with mystic signs on the back, had been pouring in prior to their departure: so, adding two and two together and *not* making five of it, it's worth taking the odds that by now (like the poor deluded ones who *will* try to back the Derby winner) they are sadder and wiser.

Perpetual Bachelordom will suit Sigmn Saunders (Taffie), another one who has gone on three months U.K. leave. There's no need to worry over Taffie: he's a cert. 100 to 1 against!

The Army's the life, my lads!—That's what Sergt Kendall says, and he certainly had the courage of his convictions to book on for another nine to complete 21 years.

J's in the Limelight again!—Their brightest light of all—Daphne—glowed so brilliantly that she's now sewn one on each arm.

Be sure your sins will find you out.—"Yemkin," says Sigmn Nicol J., with a knowing grin, when reading the orders decreeing that he has been awarded a medal for eighteen years of sinning and never having been found out.

ART.

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

July.

General.—As someone mentioned in the July WIRE, it seems the usual thing to begin with "General"—so here goes. To begin with, I want to apologise to Don (D Company T.B.) and Weller (4th Div.) for the absence of notes in previous issues; but on the departure of our previous contributor, some difficulty was found in finding another. All o.k. now, Pozzie, eh?

We all thoroughly enjoyed the July issue, with its Supplement, and especially the story of "Cinderella up to date" by L. H. D. If he would like further information on Americanisms, I can recommend Aileen Stanley's new record, "I'm goin' to dance wid de guy wot brung me." This, by the way, can be borrowed from "Allslops."

The sun still does its best to outshine our shining stars, but in spite of this, work still goes on (yes, Lofty, I said *work*). Recently our linemen have been busy moving the main w/t station, Southgate, to Hinaidi, and fixing up their new quarters. And the S.B.O.s still persist that they are working hard (?)

Education.—Just at present a good number of our members are going to evening classes in Baghdad, all out on the Education Stakes, and we are hoping to get a good return at the October examination.

Entertainments.—On Sunday, July 15th, we held another impromptu dance, and it was quite a success.

At last we have an open-air cinema in the Cantonment, and next Friday and Sunday they are giving a show there. We are all hoping it is o.k.—it will be something of a novelty for many of us to see a film.

Game and other Shooting.—A small party of n.c.o.s went pig shooting at Zorr this week, and were quite successful, returning with two pigs. The pork out here, however, is nothing like one gets in the U.K.

Agony.—Corpl Frampton would like to hear from Lofty, of the Depot Battalion, Catterick. What about it, Bert?

The S.O.S. of Sigmn (Swede) Whiting is repeated.

We have seen no notes from No. 1 Company 2nd Divisional Signals since May. Can it be that they are all otherwise employed in shifting the traffic block in Fowler's Road, or have all the B Section horses got loose? Come along, now; wake up!

HINAIDIAN.

Aden Signal Section.

Steamer Point.

General.—So far we have been very lucky in having nothing like schemes or training, and we are wondering if we are to have any pokey drill. Of course, most of the personnel are staff-employed and consequently have no time for parades, etc.; and under the new establishment we hold no mobile stores, either.

Exchange work and maintenance of lines are the order of the day and the talk of the tea-tables. We have had a case of heat-stroke, and more than half the Section have been initiated into the mysteries of denghue fever and prickly heat: but the main whim seems to be the big boat.

Departure.—Sigmn Bob Bristow left us on June 28th per s.s. "Narkunda," for U.K. Some people have all the jam: but nevertheless we were very sorry to lose such a good sportsman, and wish him the very best of luck in civvy street.

Postings.—The undermentioned have been warned for posting in the near future: To India: Sergt Finney W. and Sigmn Chitty W. To Egypt: Corpl Hart R., L/Cpl Hawkes J., Signalmen Morrison J. and Clements G. (the bhoys of the Old Brigade).

Appointment.—Sigmn Bartley H. G. appointed U/L/Corporal on May 16th. Keep it up, Bart, me boy: it is the first step, y'know.

Re-musterings.—Signalman Williams T. re-mustered I.M.T. Group A, class iii., w.e.f. May 24th. Sigmn Steele H. R. re-mustered Clerk C.iii.b. w.e.f. June 1st.

Agony.—Has Barleux forgotten his erst-while Q.M. Clerk? ("Wot abart it, Bob?") Will Trunko, last heard of at Razmak Brigade Signal Section, deign to write to Mick?

ACIER.

North China Signal Section.

Tientsin Detachment.

British Headquarters, July 26th.

Many months have elapsed since we last appeared in THE WIRE. We make no attempt to apologise, as we consider our three reasons are fairly good. One, possibly the weakest, is that we have no scribe with a prolific pen. Another, and better, is that we have nothing to talk about except a subject which is not always popular, namely, work. The third is—but no, we will refrain from mentioning it, or we shall be accused of being martyrs to duty.

Situation Report.—The Nationalist Armies who for two years have been fighting, in Chinese fashion, to gain possession of Peking and Tientsin, occupied both cities during the month of June. The change of power was made fairly quietly, this being undoubtedly due to the presence of strong international garrisons. The five-barred flag of the Northerners has now completely disappeared and its place has been taken by the Kuomintang's multi-pointed white star on a blue background.

Whether the advent of the "People's Army" will bring peace to North China is problematical. Graft still exists, and new methods of squeeze are being introduced.

Wireless.—A little whisper has reached us from U.K. to the effect that we ought to let the Corps know what is being done out here by short-wave wireless. It certainly seems that very little is realised at home of the possibilities of this extraordinary development of w/t.

The latest addition to our group of stations is Linsi near Tongshan. Sergt Thomas and his little band are to be congratulated on the speed with which they erected and established communication. Just to show what can be done with short-wave, we may mention that within about eighteen hours of their arrival, in darkness and in a strange land, they had worked on various wavelengths with stations at distances varying from 80 to 1300 miles—and most of these stations were *not* on the lookout for Linsi. The power is less than 100-watts, and the set is not a portable one.

Corpl Bill Pagett, late of Ewshott, will be interested, though possibly not surprised, to know that during the period when all lines between Peking and Tientsin were cut, the s.w. sets proved equal to all traffic demands (the Press included) despite acute daylight-fading.

A recent note from the C.S.O North China Command confirmed our opinion that short-wave w/t is paying for itself over and over again, including the maintenance of personnel, quite apart from the essentiality of the service. The volume of traffic passed during the one week quoted is positively staggering, considering the low power of the sets and the long distances between stations.

We fancy that China must be proving the finest if not the largest training school for wireless operators that the Corps has ever had. A few months ago many left-footed operators were to be heard, but now most of them appear to be getting over the effect of months of technical training at home spent on fatigues, horse-grooming, etc. There! now we suppose we have put our feet into hot water, but this remark simply had to come out.

Congratulations to all those gallant sportsmen who have so worthily upheld the reputation of the Corps on the sporting field this year. Without appearing too discriminating, we should like to mention the Aldershot boxers, the Bulford runners, and—last but not least—the whole Corps in Egypt. Eight years of struggling have at last brought their reward, and long may Egyptsigs retain that championship!

HSING-HAI.

Malta Signal Section.

My Future Career.—Last month I decided upon a journalistic career, but this month I have to start deciding all over again because—well, it happened like this. I asked our Association to give the leading papers a quiet tip that I proposed taking up journalistic work on the completion of my one's only, and to forward a copy of my notes as a recommendation. From the replies I have received, I have no doubt that the Association did its share.

For the benefit of readers I append a few of the replies selected at random (the originals may be seen on application to our head offices).

"DAILY ——."—Dear Sir. Having received a specimen copy of your notes for consideration, I regret to inform you that we do not employ painters or house decorators."

"WEEKLY ——."—We beg to inform you that we do not employ a cross-word puzzle composer. This is done by our office boy in his spare time."

Another states that as the general public do not appreciate articles written in Greek, Latin or public-house language, my recommendation could not be considered.

These, as I said before, are just a few replies selected at random.

Now, I ask you, dear reader, what is a fellow to do now-a-days? —Sign on for an extra year, or queue up for the dole? I shall be glad to receive any advice on the subject of my future career from anyone. Please enclose postal order to the value of what you can afford, to cover the cost of liquid refreshment run up on the slate while these notes are being punched out on a stuttering typewriter.

No doubt, my readers will say "Don't let little things like that worry you; go on trying, and perhaps one of these days you will get placed on the retired list."

Sunny Malta.—Last month I promised the concluding chapters of my thrilling serial. New readers commence here.

Transportation.—The means of passenger transportation in Malta are unique and varied. We have the one-horse carrozzin (if the journey is under twenty miles) and two-horse carrozzin if over; both are known to the troops as "krotzy" or "garry." These are weird and wonderful pieces of mechanism, and if they happen to get in a tram line (the wheels of the garry, I mean) you stand a good chance of being deposited unceremoniously amongst the refuse in the gutter. They have only one speed: dead slow.

The drivers (Gawd bless 'em!) have a habit of saying, when asked how much the fare is, "What you like, sahib." Naturally one thinks "What a jolly sort of person," and immediately offers what he considers a reasonable fare. When the driver sees this, well!—the atmosphere turns blue-pink-yellow, and in less than two minutes you find, to your great indignation, three parts of the Maltese population (not counting the goats) surrounding you and taking sides with your driver.

Naturally you think discretion is the better part of valour and part with your hard-earned brass to satisfy the driver's voracious demand, which he isn't backward (when he has the natives' moral support) in expressing in terms more forcible than polite.

We also have gate carts and the more modern tramcars and motor vehicles. There are over two thousand licensed vehicles on the Island, and one can imagine the congested state of the traffic when the area is approximately only a hundred square miles—half of which is under cultivation. That portion of the Island which is populated and negotiable has three parts of its streets or "stradas" built step-fashion, making them only negotiable for pedestrians.

Valletta, the capital of the Island, has only one entrance in the shape of a narrow bridge, and all pedestrians and vehicular traffic have to pass in and out over this.

Of course, we have policemen on traffic duty at various points, and they take post in some convenient doorway, waiting to rush out and take particulars of any collisions that occur under their noses.

To give them their due, however, if one pulls up and toots loud, long and often enough, they will probably appear (if it is safe, of course) and give you the right of way. It is not advisable, though, to take too much notice of their signals, as drivers approaching from the opposite direction invariably ignore them and proceed on their way unmolested.

Pedestrians are well catered for, there being a convenient gutter on either side of the road in which they are free to walk. The pavements or sidewalks are allotted to the herds of goats that roam about at will. These work in conjunction with the sanitary department, eating up all the refuse which is deposited in the streets from the houses.

Summer Sports and Pastimes of the Maltese.—These consist mainly of swimming and festas. Nothing need be said about the former, but a few remarks about the latter may be interesting.

" Festa " means a festival for the Maltese. Each village holds a festa, when a general holiday is proclaimed and the neighbouring villagers attend, making merry from one to three days.

The festa season commences after Lent, preceding the carnival, and continues until every saint and church has been fêted. The Maltese, being confirmed Catholics, naturally possess many churches, and to fête each of them takes practically a period of six months, as many as three and four festas being held in the course of a week.

The Maltese believe in creating the loudest of dins, and illuminating their houses and churches with as many electric lights as possible. At night the illuminated churches present an appearance of splendour and may be seen for miles around. The preliminary firework display is a waste of good money ; a few lessons from Mr. Brock would certainly improve matters. To make as many bangs as possible is the Maltese idea of effect ; machine gunfire, I think, is the only term by which the display can be described. Accompanying the continuous explosions is the clanging of bells, so the reader may guess what an inferno has to be contended with.

The tit-bit of the festa is the religious procession that takes place early in the evening. Leading the procession, large numbers of choir boys carrying candles of great length slowly wend their way along the narrow streets. In the centre of the procession walks the parish priest surrounded by individuals in holy orders, who bless the streets and kneeling villagers. Weird chanting and singing is carried on by the members of the procession, who finally arrive at the church about to be blessed. Into the church they file, also carrying life-size effigies of specified saints. Those villagers who cannot get into the church commence the festivities outside. At this point a fair is held, similar to our local fairs in England, but of course on a much smaller scale. About eleven o'clock a better firework display is given : less noise is made ; and the amount of money invested in this item, more or less about £200, is a little better spent.

The main idea of creating so much noise, I believe, is to drive away all evil spirits. It may do this, or it may not ; but, living as I am in the centre of about six churches, it nearly drives me to drink!

General Notes.—These must be very short this month. The troops being on detachment with the Air Force base at Calafrana, hardly any news is leaking through. The work being carried on there consists of burying cable and installing a new exchange.

Sport.—No sport has taken place in the Section this month, but two of our number (L/Corpl Dunn W. and Sigmn Johnson W.) were selected to play for the Sappers versus the Artillery in the semi-final of H.E. the Governor's cricket cup. The Sappers won comfortably by an innings and 187 runs.

The Section, with the aid of one or two Sappers, have won several matches with local teams.

Agony.—Are Bill Barlow and Sapper Napper (last heard of in the 27th Div. Salonika Force) anywhere in the Corps? If so, will they please communicate with Tim White, now in Malta?

A letter from Sigmn Radford would be appreciated by Sigmn Vise (Vic).

The Best of the Month.—A candidate at the classification of signallers, on being shown the ten-fathom water line on a one-inch map and asked what it represented, replied, " A track, sir."

MIMATE.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

August 11th.

General.—Here we are again, after mis-firing for the August issue of THE WIRE. However, no doubt many will be pleased to hear news of the Section.

Things in Gibraltar are much about the same. It is not an easy job to write notes about the Section and Gibraltar. Being such a small unit and confined in such a small area, we find little relaxation beyond the usual winter and summer sports, and consequently have little to write about each month. But 'nuff said for the present. We do not want to discourage anybody who is due to join us during the forthcoming trooping season. After all, this place is what one makes it.

Congratulations to L/Corpl Savage D. P. (Rhine Signals) on again being awarded the stripe. We sincerely hope that another one will shortly accompany it.

Although very late, we wish to congratulate C.Q.M.S. Hocking on being awarded the never-found-out medal.

Married Families Outing.—On Saturday, July 28th, the old crocks and young crocks departed for the day to Cork Woods. This place is situated about ten miles from Gibraltar and is a favourite rendezvous for picnicing. We left about 9 a.m. and arrived about 10 o'clock at Miraflores, where we stopped for luncheon and light refreshments. We then proceeded to the Cork Woods, arriving at 11.30 a.m.

The day was spent in feeding, paddling and cricketing. After tea, races were arranged for the old and young crocks. A cricket match, Ladies versus Gents, was won by the Gents, 23 for 4 declared (batting left-handed) ; Ladies all out for 19.

Just prior to the departure for home a photograph was taken which we reproduce. We arrived back in Gibraltar about 9 p.m. after having had a very enjoyable day. Everybody is looking forward to the next trip.

Drafts.—We understand that Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Harris G. and family are due to be with us shortly ; and to them we extend a hearty welcome, and trust they will find the Rock to their liking.

Leave.—Our O.C., Capt J. C. McDonald, M.C., has left us for three months leave in the United Kingdom. We hope the change will be beneficial.

A Corps Signals.—Those about to be posted to Gibraltar can obtain answers to their many queries either from L/Corpl Steele or Signalmen Gresham and Poulton. Date of sailing will be given by Sigmn Gresham ; particulars about canteens, cafés, clubs (particularly clubs) by Sigmn Poulton ; or for first-hand information please write to Sigmn Cook F. of this unit (enclosing stamped addressed envelope). Information as to the Rock since 1704 can be given by L/Corpl Steele.

CALPE.

THE "TERRIERS"

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Once again the time has arrived for the scribe to take up his pen. The only difficulty is the scarcity of news.

This is very much the period of anti-climax after camp, and is mainly occupied by routine work and preliminary training. Musketry is to the fore just now, and as a result of a competition No. 3 Company are sending a team to represent the unit in the open musketry competition. Besides this, of course, all our crack shots are taking part as individual competitors. We sincerely wish them the best of luck.

We must congratulate Mr. Beckett on his promotion to Captain, and wish him still further success with his Section at Blackdown.

From Orders it would appear that Nos. 1 and 2 Companies are to have a week-end camp on August 23rd. Let us hope they have a fine night for the occasion! Though severe weather *might* harden them considerably, we fear that this process is none too pleasant—and we really don't wish them any harm!

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

Our annual training this year was held from July 24th—August 12th at Weymouth, where the three Infantry Brigades of the Wessex Division, with R.E., R.A.S.C. and R.A.M.C., were also encamped.

On the first day No. 1 Company ran telephone pairs to each of the Brigades and Divl H.Q., and the Signal office was manned during the first week by No. 3 Company and in the second week by No. 2 Company personnel. D.R.L.S. service was also established for the period of the training.

On the whole the camp has been a highly successful one, and the unit's efficiency has been greatly increased. The Brigade Signal Sections were able to do a bit of real work ; and on the " big day," when there was a Divisional tactical exercise with troops, all three Companies were " in it both feet " and received commendation from the G.O.C., Major-Gen. Sir George Jeffreys.

In a Divisional camp there are, of course, plenty of inspections which have to be made so that the powers-that-be can see whether the Territorials are earning their little bit of corn. Our list of visitors included the C.I.G.S. Field-Marshal Sir George Milne, Major-General H. H. S. Knox (Director of Military Training), Lieut.-General Sir Reginald Stephens (Director-General of the T.A.), Lieut.-General Sir A. A. Montgomery-Massingberd (G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command), and Major-General the Right Hon. J. E. B. Seeley (Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire). All were entertained at the Signals mess, which on some days was a very busy concern—a veritable Hotel Cecil. Our able P.M.C., however, managed to cater satisfactorily for all.

The competitions for the various trophies produced keener rivalry than ever.

The Moore efficiency cup for Company turn-out was a " dead-heater " affair, and Nos. 2 and 3 Companies are to hold it jointly for the next year. No. 1 Company ran them very close and would have won but for a badly-prepared parade state.

The Roberts signalling cup was won by Sergt Preston's team of No. 1 Company.

The Odell cup for the best-turned-out limber wagon and pair probably caused the most exciting competition in the history of the Wessex Signals. One Company came to camp with a limber wagon which had evidently been the object of much care and attention. This roused the blood of the other Companies, who thereupon decided to set about *their* wagons.

On the day of the trial five most wonderful limbers (it seems a shame to call them limbers: far too mundane a word)—three from No. 1 Company, and one each from Nos. 2 and 3—lined up, and the judges had a most difficult task. Members of the three Companies surrounded the area, waiting breathlessly for the verdict, which went to No. 1 Company, Dvr Challice being the winner, with Dvr Kelly (also of No. 1) second. A scene of great enthusiasm followed, because No. 1 Company had not been looked upon as serious competitors. Their brace of wagons and pairs were as near " spot " as could be. The other Companies put up a real good show.

Space prevents me from saying much more of our 1928 annual training, except that it has probably been the most successful we have yet held, and that there was smooth and cheerful working all the way round.

OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6

The last tent-peg has been pulled up, the last earwig squashed, and we have returned from Canterbury, that city of memories of Old England, gabled houses and sunlit courts. Please excuse the poetical burst—it must be the sun! As promised in the last issue I herewith append a running commentary on our camp.

Training.—First of all I must expatiate a little on the weather. To those who were in the unit at its foundation the two weeks we have had were the finest ever. We have had some previous good spells, but this one absolutely beat them all. To the clerk of the weather, thanks very much, O.M.

The site of our temporary home was perfect ; a little hard, perhaps, and rather thickly populated with earwigs, but who worries?

For the first week training was more in the nature of instruction and preparation for the big scheme which lasted for two days. This was evidenced by the fact that the operations were a great success—one up to us!

The unit paraded at Canterbury Cathedral on the first Sunday, with the Guards and Buffs, and although I didn't see much I believe it was a brilliant spectacle.

The final of the billiards tournament resulted in a win for Corpl Geere, with C.Q.M.S. Willis as runner-up.

Sergeants' Mess.—The mess had the pleasure of entertaining the respective messes of the Guards and Buffs to a social on sports night, and judging by the visitors' remarks this went down very well—as did the refreshment!

An attempt by some of the younger members to introduce a camel to the mess was a failure—(curse that syphon!)—still it caused a good deal of laughter: one stop—two stop—three!!! The visitors were also much amused by a skit on the way in which arms drill should be done.

During the evening the mess was honoured by the presence of Lieut.-Colonel Coleman, O.B.E., T.D., and officers of the unit.

I am commanded by my sales manager to insert the following: " The WIRE sales *can* and *must* increase, so will all regular customers please persuade the erring ones to purchase a copy each month?" He has a first-class express delivery service for procuring fresh supplies should he run out. One thing more: no tick.

Please note my change of nom-de-plume. I have found that writing is quicker than typing, and gives the Editor much less correcting to do.

THE SCRIBE.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Darlington.

The unit proceeds to camp on August 12th at Marske-by-Sea. Every effort has been made to keep up the standard which was reached at Shorncliffe during last year's training, and it is hoped to carry out the training on similar lines.

The first week has been allotted to Company commanders, with inter-Company sports, football matches, etc., in the afternoons, ending with the unit sports on Sunday, August 19th.

The second week will be devoted to training under the commanding officer and the adjutant, and will include the annual inspection of the unit on parade by the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command and also the G.O.C. 50th (N) Division on Tuesday, August 21st.

The unit will march out and bivouac for the unit tactical signal exercise (48 hours) in the Commondale area. Information has

been received that the exercise will be directed by the G.O.C. 50th (N.) Division and Divisional staff.

It is interesting to note that Nos. 1 and 2 Companies are now up to peace strength, and recruiting for No. 3 Company is proceeding well.

A. C. S.

No. 3 (Darlington) Company.

We are pleased to report that the strength of our Company has now reached 85, and it is hoped to proceed to camp a hundred strong.

On July 28th and 29th the adjutant conducted a Trade Testing Board, and the undermentioned succeeded in qualifying: Corpl Ainsley W., L/Corpls Robinson W. H., Robinson H. O., Mountford R. C., Riddle R. O., and Scott W. E., Signalmen Brand J. E., Oxlee P. and Porter F. H.

We heartily congratulate the following on their appointment or promotion to the rank shown:—L/Sergt Ainsley W.; Corpls Robinson W. H., Robinson H. O., Mountford R. C., Riddle R. O., and Scott W. E.; L/Corpls Brand J. E., Oxlee P., Kirby C., Clark G., Brown C. A., Dennison R., and Jefferson R.

The brevity of our notes for this month is regretted, pressure of work being the cause. It is hoped that time will permit of relating our experiences at our first camp in the October issue.

A. C. O.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

As foretold in the August issue, camp was the brilliant success anticipated. Never has old King Sol worked so hard; a fortnight's brilliant weather, which put everyone in a good mood and enabled schemes, etc., to be carried out interruptedly.

During the first week two schemes were carried out, both of which reflected great credit on those participating. This undoubtedly was the fruit of hard work during winter courses and the sectional training. It also served to give all ranks an idea of what was required of them on the big push, i.e., the Divisional signal exercise. In spite of orders being issued that a wireless silence was to be maintained, the sets (like Nelson) winked the other eye and gushed forth in all their glory. So far there has been no complaint from the beam service.

Schools for young operators were in being during the first week, some forty or fifty candidates endeavouring to stretch their headgear from normal to outsize.

Now for the camp's greatest success (sic): riding schools for sergeants. These were the joy and happiness of all pay sergeants and ex-naval ratings. No n.c.o.s were known to leave camp any evening until after the issue of regimental orders, and the looks of anxiety suffusing the faces of readers made a picture no artist could paint. The offer of sundry bottles of Bass was received by the R.S.M. in stony silence, and extra names were added to the roll.

The first Tuesday saw the G.O.C.-in-Chief Scottish Command in camp for his annual inspection. Every part of the camp was visited during the morning. The General returned at 1 o'clock to inspect the food being issued to the men. This was a good thought on the part of the General, as it served to prove and settle what has become the topic of conversation: "Had the C.Q.M.S.s brought their shaving kit to camp." As before, there was no complaint.

A Divisional signal exercise under the supervision of the G.O.C. Highland Division was carried out on Wednesday, July 24th, orders for the scheme being issued by the General Staff on the previous evening. The scheme took the form of an advance, and was carried out in the true Signals spirit: "Say what is wanted and leave it to us." Great credit is due to all ranks for the efficient way in which communications were laid and maintained. When "Cease Fire" was sounded, I think (in fact, I am sure) the operations were brought to an abrupt conclusion because the General Staff did not know what next to give us that might get us into a tangle. The G.O.C. Highland Division, in a special order of the day, "praised all ranks for the efficient way in which the scheme had been carried out."

On Thursday the unit held the annual sports, which everyone will agree was "the goods." They must have been, for the different "bits of goods" that seemed to have stuck to the sergeants were very noticeable. Lord and Lady Provost Lewis, of Aberdeen, and many other notable people, were present and entered into the spirit of things splendidly. At the termination of the sports Lady Provost Lewis presented the prizes, which were many, thanks to the usual generosity of the many friends of the unit and some hard work by the committee. A summary of the prize winners is shown elsewhere.

YEA.

No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

General.—The long-looked-for camp is now over, and judging by general opinion it was, with the exception of Nairn, the most enjoyable one in the history of the Company.

The weather was glorious, the training not too strenuous, and above all the food was excellent. One of the outstanding features of the training was the employment of mechanical transport in place of the usual foot-slogging. This was a great advantage compared with last camp, when sections had to walk miles before commencing work, with every advance increasing the distance from camp.

The Divisional exercise was sprung on the unit during the second week of training. This exercise, in addition to being kept very dark by the staff, was delivered to the unit at very short notice. Considerable anxiety was caused the powers-that-be by the number of men who could only attend camp for the first eight days. This naturally weakened all sections, but in spite of this unavoidable drawback the exercise was carried out with the usual efficiency.

Sport.—The Company, with its 40 per cent. of recruits, managed to bring away the unit boxing and football cups, together with a large proportion of the valuable money prizes that were so generously presented at the annual sports. The Johnston cup, handed to No. 3 Company by the Fife Association, was won by K Section and was duly filled by the section officer, Lieut J. A. Dick.

Sigmn Brand H. again distinguished himself as an all-round athlete, and collected the usual number of prizes.

Drivers Marshall, Reekie and Farmer walked away with the prizes given by Major R. B. Lockhart, T.D., for the cleanest harness in the Company. In addition to this, Dvr Marshall won the first prize in the unit competition for the best-turned-out pair of horses.

Golf.—All enthusiasts are greatly indebted to the directors of the Parmure Golf Club, Carnoustie, for so kindly granting them the privilege of their course for the unit golf tournament.

A nasty head wind was experienced on the outward journey, and as a result scoring was somewhat higher than expected from certain dark horses. The result was a most interesting one. Major McHutcheon and Capt Reid tied for the trophy with scores of 53. Sergt Whittet and L/Sergt Stephen (both of No. 3 Coy.) tied for the subscription prize with 55, and on a replay L/Sergt Stephen won. Congratulations are extended to the winners, and warmest thanks to our commanding officer, Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., for his gift of the cup.

Training.—A detachment of No. 3 Company, principally from the Kirkcaldy Sections, are now preparing for the special parade in which (under Lieut J. A. Dick) they will take part at the military ceremony in connection with the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York to Dunfermline.

Sergt Whittet, L/Sergts McLean, McLennan and McIntosh, having completed their strenuous course of "rough" during camp, are now considered qualified to take over rough-riding duties.

THREESOME.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

Annual Training.—The advance party left Glasgow for Troon on July 10th under the command of Capt J. Barclay, T.A. (38 other ranks, T.A. and S.R.). This party proceeded by road in lorries, with a certain amount of stores for the quarterbloke, officers and sergeants' mess.

The weather was not what it should have been. What with wind and rain this party had a very rough time before the main body arrived, as you can guess when one store marque was blown down eight times with twenty men hanging on the ropes,

The main body left Glasgow on July 13th, and likewise proceeded by road in motor buses. The horses also proceeded by road, and the wagons by rail. The road party left in two different sections—the S.R. first, followed by the T.A. These parties, I hear, had a very good time. Of course there was plenty of excitement as usual, owing to the jockeys not being accustomed to their horses and the horses not being accustomed to the load they had to carry.

I hear from good authority that training was far in advance of previous years, which of course throws great credit on the adjutant and permanent staff for their good work during last winter.

Sports.—These were held on July 21st and went off in splendid style. Everyone was very interested and a good afternoon was spent. I am sorry I cannot publish a full list of the winners.

LOWSIGS.

Supplementary Reserve Units, Glasgow.

General.—The personnel of the above units have gone back to their civil employment after fifteen days in camp. They were more like water melons than sun-burnt babies when the camp broke up, as the man in charge of the heating apparatus was none too kind to us, but the old boy with the watering can was well to the fore. But this did not damp the spirits of the lads whether at work or at play, and on the whole the camp proved a great success, though there was gloom over us during the second week when one of the drivers died in Kilmarnock Hospital.

Sections.—The Airline Sections were soon at work on the first afternoon in camp, building a four-way route from Wallacefield to Gailes Camp and Irvine Moor, and had completed the route the next day when communications were opened. During the remainder of the camp the sections put in plenty of work at practice, and the efficiency of each section could be seen by the way the routes were constructed.

The Cable Sections arrived in camp with their horses during the first afternoon, having covered the thirty-odd miles in good time; and though the men were a bit fatigued, they did very well, being in the saddle for such a long period. The sections did not start laying communications till Monday, but when they got under way they soon did all that was required. At practice during the remainder of the camp they showed up very well.

The Air Force Signals Sections arrived with the main body and were early at work. The Signal office was a picture and would have done credit to any standing office. The four telegraph circuits were soon at work when the Airline Sections had completed the lines, and during the remainder of the camp they got through a lot of traffic. The D.R.s were well employed and did their runs as per book.

Sports.—When these were held the sun was on its best behaviour. This put everyone in a holiday mood, and the spectators enjoyed a grand show. C.Q.M.S. and his rouges did a lot to keep the fun going by their antics and weird garbs, and by their scrounging they collected about £7 for the unit's benevolent fund.

The honours in the inter-Company competition were very even, and the T.A. must be congratulated on running the S.R. to such a close finish, the total points for the S.R. being 62 and for the T.A. 60.

The list of winners is too big to publish, but they must be congratulated on their performances. In the technical competitions, Sergt Mc'Neil's Cable Detachment (T.A.) must be congratulated on beating the S.R. detachments; also Dvr Piper (No. 3 Company T.A.) on winning as the best-turned-out single horseman, and L/Sergt Stewart's team (No. 1 Company T.A.) on winning the Brigade signalling competition.

Obituary.—All ranks of the unit express their deepest sympathy with the bereaved in the death of Dvr Watson W. H. during camp.

SUPRE.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

The unit assembled at Stratford on Sunday, July 15th, to entrain for Seaford, Sussex, for annual training. The camp was the best of post-war times for this unit, both from a military and holiday point of view. The programme of training had been carefully prepared beforehand to allow the men to finish work at 2 p.m. each day, and this was very much appreciated by all ranks. The weather was exceptionally good, and the sea being only a few minutes' walk from camp, everyone was able to take a daily dip. Excursions to Brighton (per lorries) were arranged for the Companies, who took full advantage of them.

On Wednesday, July 25th, a tour of inspection was made by the Divisional Commander, Gen. Sir T. G. Mathieson, K.C.B., C.M.G., accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer (Colonel H. A. Vernon, D.S.O.) and the Deputy-C.S.O. (Lieut.-Colonel A. S. Angwin, D.S.O.). For the General's inspection a scheme utilising all sections was arranged. All sections maintained communication throughout the scheme, and the result was very creditable.

On Thursday, 26th, the unit sports were held, the arrangements for which by the committee (Major P. J. Bowling, Capts W. E. Rayner and F. A. Manley, and R.S.M. Adams, M.M.) left nothing to be desired. Credit is certainly due to R.S.M. Adams for the way in which he scrounged hurdles from the villagers for the jumping course, and to Mr. Kenyon (late R.S.M.) for obtaining the flags and bunting which gave the arena its final touch. We were well supported by our band, who rendered tunes to the spectators' admiration. Unfortunately they are not up to strength, but with luck we hope next year to be able to produce one of the best bands in the county.

The wireless trophy presented by our hon. colonel, General R. B. Colvin, C.B., was again won by No. 1 Company, who had hardly anything to fear from Nos. 2 and 3.

The visual cup presented by Capt G. E. Weber was won by No. 3 Company, who had a very large number of points in hand. This cup would certainly look nice at Stratford, so we look to No. 2 Company to bring it home next year.

Congratulations are extended to all who have recently stepped up one on the ladder of fame. Names are too numerous to mention.

Arrangements have been made to hold a regimental dance at the Town Hall on October 2nd, and it is hoped that all ranks will give their support to make it a success.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals and S.R.

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

Little can be written about the 56th this month, as the unit is in camp at Shorncliffe; but from reports I hear that they have struck a really fine camp and are having a very enjoyable time.

No. 2 Company, though, have returned from their training, so I can fill up a bit in telling about it.

On Sunday, July 29th, we moved off from headquarters about fifty strong, and entrained at Waterloo for Larkhill, where we arrived about 4 o'clock after a good march from Amesbury Station. We took over a standing camp alongside our comrades of the 91st Brigade R.A. in the Artillery Practice Camp.

We spent a couple of days quietly, owing to the non-arrival of our horses, but they trickled in by degrees until at last we had enough to allow of serious work being done. We immediately commenced schemes, two waggons being used and visual stations co-operating with them.

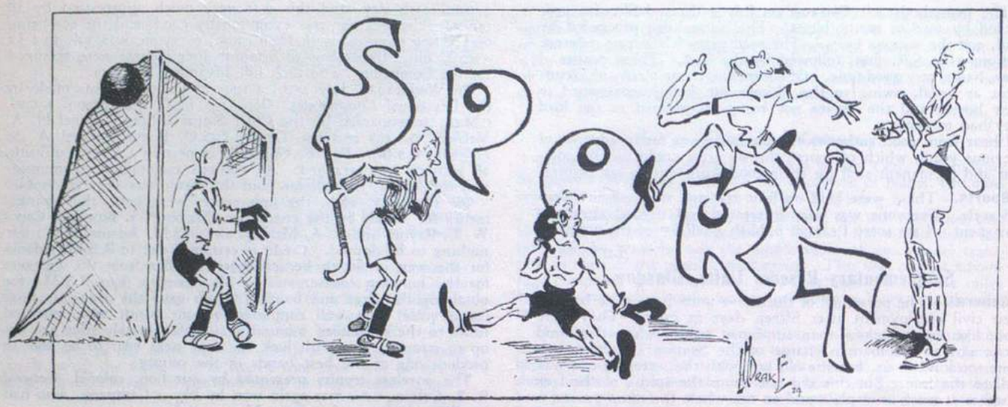
On Saturday morning a turn-out competition was held between E Section (under Sergt West) and F Section (under Sergt Boyes). After the inspection the sections laid a line with one buried and one pole crossing, delivered a message to the base, and then reeled in. The affair was a great success, two really fine turn-outs being shown. The competition attracted a large audience of gunners, both Territorial and Regular, who saw lines being built at top speed. The result was a win for F Section.

The Company was inspected by Colonel Waley Cohen, who is now hon. colonel of the unit, and we were visited by him while out at work. Colonel H. F. Fox, commanding the unit, paid us a visit during the first week.

Although much hard work was done, time was found for sport, and two games of cricket were played against No. 363 Battery, both of which were won by us. We also entered three events at the Brigade sports, winning two and being second in the other—altogether a pretty successful time. The mounted sports, unfortunately, were run off without us, as a nasty accident to L/Cpl Powell (who was taken to Tidworth Hospital) rather upset our team and the sports were temporarily forgotten.

Special mention should be made of Corpl Gare, who wielded the willow successfully, and in the first game uprooted the off stump no less than six times.

ADSUM.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Cricket Results.

S.T.C. v. Cryptics.—Played at Catterick on July 13/14th, and resulted in a win for the S.T.C. by two wickets.

CRYPTICS.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
J. Jenner b Walford	16	c Ryan b Walford	8
C. H. West c Dempsey b Carpntr	27	c Boyd b Walford	109
J. I. Outram c Carpenter b Walford	0	c Walford b Boyd	35
G. V. Pearce c and b Carpenter	47	b Walford	10
H. M. Brice-Smith c Wfd b Scott	0	b Scott	2
J. Hale c Walford b Scott	4	lbw b Scott	2
N. R. E. Wilkinson c Anderson b Carpenter	1	c Boyd b Walford	8
Major F. R. Cobb c Ryan b Scott	1	b Scott	4
R. Mace b Carpenter	4	not out	0
H. Napper c Dempsey bCarpenter	2	c Brown b Walford	c
I. C. Duncan not out	7	lbw b Walford	0
Extras	25	Extras	28
Total	134	Total	206

Bowling—1st innings: Walford, two wickets for 35; Carpenter, five for 39; Scott, three for 34. 2nd innings: Walford, six for 66; Scott, three for 43; Boyd, one for 30.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
L. C. Boyd c Duncan b Jenner	55	not out	16
Corpl Ryan b West	22	b West	40
J. E. S. Walford b Jenner	8	b West	0
Sgt Carpenter c Napper b Pearce	14	c B.-Smith b West	15
Sgt Dempsey c Wil'son b Outram	46	c Jenner b Pearce	0
H. Lewis b Jenner	20	c Wilk'son b West	3
T. A. R. Scott c Brice-Smith b Cobb	15	c Jenner b Pearce	5
R.S.M. Anderson c Outram b West	30	b West	0
Capt J. H. Brown run out	8	not out	13
Sigmn Lundie not out	0	b West	8
C.S.M. McGregor c and b Outram	0		
Extras	8	Extras	19
Total	226	Total (8 wkts.)	119

Fencing Notes.

Bradford Fencing Club.—On Saturday, July 14th, the S.T.C. fencing team visited Bradford for a match with foils, sabre and épée. The bouts took place in the open under ideal weather conditions.

Each team furnished four fencers in both foil and sabre. Bradford won the foils easily, gaining eleven victories in the sixteen fights. The sabre, however, was very close, the S.T.C. losing by two fights (7—9). The épée bouts, with three fencers on each side, concluded a most interesting match. The victory again went to Bradford with six wins in the nine fights.

S.T.C. teams—Foil: 2/Lieut D. N. Van der Goot, 2/Lieut G. H. S. Balmain, Sergt-Instr Hart, Sergt-Instructor Tomblin. Sabre: Major R. E. Barker, Lieut R. L. K. Allen, Sergt-Instr Hart, Sergt-Intr Tomblin. Epée: Lieut Allen, 2/Lieut Van der Goot, 2/Lieut Balmain.

Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Depot Battn. v. 1st Battn. Middlesex Regiment.—Played at Catterick, and resulted in a win for the Depot Battalion by four runs.

1ST BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.

Capt N. Lyon c Worrall b Wall	4
Capt H. Phillips b Worrall	6
E. V. H. Hudson c Ryan b Wall	33
Sergt Kennett b Wall	0
Pte Lindsay st Ryan b Wall	0
Corpl Elliot b Boyd	14
M. Watson c Ryan b Wall	8
Sergt Thomas run out	7
Dr. Elliot not out	5
Pte West c Drayson b Boyd	0
J. M. K. Herapath lbw b Boyd	1
Extras	11
Total	89

Bowling—Wall, five wickets for 45; Worrall, one for 15; Boyd, three for 18.

DEPOT BATTALION.

L. C. Boyd b Hudson	11
Corpl Ryan b Kennett	41
Major Drayson c Phillips b Kennett	4
Sigmn Willshire b Hudson	0
Sigmn Wall b Hudson	1
Sigmn Duncan b Hudson	4
C. C. Worrall lbw b Hudson	1
P. B. G. Gambier not out	13
Corpl Bygrave st Thomas b Hudson	5
Sergt Napper b Kennett	1
Sergt Wensley b Hudson	5
Extras	7
Total	93

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Cricket.—We have again done very well on the cricket field. We have played four matches, losing one only, during the past month. This, considering how the Company is continually being changed by men being posted away, is very satisfactory. The first match for the month was against the School. Lieut T. A. R. Scott bowled splendidly in this game, taking six wickets for sixteen runs. We declared at 75 for eight, the School taking 68.

In the next match, against E Company, some splendid batting was shown by 2/Lieut Knox (71) and Sergt Herbert (69). These two take a bit of shifting once they are settled at the wicket. Sigmn Perfect showed up well in this game, making two excellent catches. This man is worth watching, and with practice should make a first class player (Egypt Signals, please note). Result—D Company, 203; E, 110.

In the return match against the School we were severely handled, the School taking 327 against our modest 89.

Our next match was with the Dismounted Wing, resulting in another victory for us with 192 runs against 148 for the Dismounted Wing. Some excellent batting was again seen.

Boxing.—On August 1st, at the Blood Pit, an exhibition fight was arranged between Signalmen Govier and Williams (Civil Service champion, of the Depot Battalion). Some very good boxing was seen, Tich putting up a very good show. Unfortunately he will not break himself of the habit of holding—a habit which immediately arouses the suspicion of the referee. The verdict was given to Williams on points.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

The return of the details of the S.D.F. Signals in April gave a fillip to sport. No unit cricket team has been found, but No. 3 Company have played and done well against many local sides during the summer.

The system of weeding out the lookers-on and giving all and sundry a chance has resulted in the discovery of much previously hidden talent.

It is to be hoped that this lesson will be taken to heart by those responsible for turning out a football team this season. With a strength of 250 to 300, this unit should give a better account of itself than in the past, if only past errors are rectified.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Cricket.—After our remarkable win against the Royal West Yorks Regiment, we had to play against the Sherwood Foresters in the final of the N.I.D. cricket cup.

The Cricket Team.

Back row (left to right)—Lieut. F. K. Morton, Signalmen Manser, Gapper and Goody, Sgt Sheale, L/Cpl Gandey, Cpl Roberts, Sigmn Cowan.

Seated—Sigmn Williams, Major-General E. F. Ready, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., D.S.O. Captain H. Noel Brown.

Front—Sgt Beverley, Cpl McLachlan.

Sigmn Williams, the captain, won the toss and decided to open the innings with Goody. Williams went on to make 34, but Goody was soon replaced by L/Corpl Gandey, who carried his bat through with 52 not out. Other scores were Sergt Sheale 16, Corpl Roberts 15, and a few smaller figures. Our score was 126.

Sigmn Williams took the first over in the Foresters' innings, with Goody at the other end. The score gradually crept up until they reached 108 for eight wickets. At 122 another wicket fell, and the last man was caught without scoring, leaving us the leaders on the first innings by four runs.

Our second innings was opened and play continued for half-an-hour, stumps being drawn at 6 o'clock with our score at 23 for one wicket (Williams being very well caught for 2).

The following day took the score to 80 before L/Corpl Gandey was bowled for 28. Sigmn Goody carried on for 38, and then wickets fell until they came to our veteran, Sergt Sheale, who was not to be dismissed under 23. The close of the innings showd 123 runs, and the Foresters left to get 128 to win.

With 6 for one and 12 for two things looked very hopeful, but they soon reached 100 for six. There was then great excitement, which grew as the score reached 108 for seven and 118 for eight. The Sherwoods were now batting very carefully and taking all the odd runs they could, until with a splendid return from McLachlan a "run out" stood to our credit and the score was 123 for nine. Only five more runs for the Foresters to win, and the last man meaning to get them! The players hardly dare look at the board; people could not sit still, for excitement was intense. The last man on going in was any colour but his natural one, and the next ball from Goody he struck into his wicket.

It is hard to remember what happened after that. Everybody seemed to go suddenly mad in releasing their pent-up feelings. Mrs. Ready, the wife of the G.O.C. Northern Ireland District, presented the cup with a few well-chosen words, after which all retired to the pavilion for tea.

Many thanks are due to the Central Fund for the splendid luncheons, and to Major-General and Mrs. Ready for the much-appreciated teas provided by them.

Rhine Signal Company, Wiesbaden.

Tennis.—The singles tournament has finished, and Signalman Baker W. H. wins for the second year in succession, with Sergt Nash E. as runner-up. Result: 6—4, 6—0.

The doubles tournament was full of surprises, and has finished with the final being played in fine rain. Signalmen Jackson J. and Moorhouse were winners, beating L/Corpl Wilcock and Sigmn Driver (ex-rats). Result: 6—2, 6—3. Congratulations to the winners and runners-up.

Cricket.—The team renewed its acquaintance with the I.A.R.H.C. Cricket Club at Coblenz on Sunday, July 22nd, and an enjoyable day's outing was spent by 27 other ranks, ladies, and Joan. Signals won by 65 runs.

SIGNALS.

Sigmn Funnell c Wigley b Pyke	3
Corpl Roberts lbw b Pyke	10
Sigmn Hills run out	0
Sergt Minns c Rowlands b Warren	120
L/Corpl Phillips c Knight b Warren	49
L/Corpl Knight not out	20
Sergt Devey b Vann	11
Sigmn Moorhouse c and b Rowlands	2
Sergt Callegari c and b Vann	0
Sigmn Jackson not out	0
Sigmn Mayer b Vann	6
Extras	6
Total	227

I.A.R.H.C.

Mr. Pyke b Minns	0
Capt Michelson c Callegari b Minns	17
Mr. Langley b Funnell	0
Pte Wigley c and b Minns	1
Mr. Vann b Minns	21
Pte Dobson c Roberts b Mayer	23
Mr. Rowlands lbw b Phillips	31
Mr. Knight run out	40
Capt King c Devey b Minns	3
L/Corpl Warren c Moorhouse b Mayer	10
Pte Keating not out	0
Extras	16
Total	162

Bowling—Minns took five wickets for 53; Funnell one for 31; Phillips one for 16; Mayer two for 7.

League Matches.

July 14th—v. E. Supply Company, lost by 5 runs (Roberts 38).
July 15th—v. R.E., lost by 37 runs (Roberts 25).
July 22nd—v. R.A.O.C., lost by 33 runs (Roberts 50).
July 26th—R.A.O.C., lost by eight wickets (Hills 69).
August 1st—v. Hussars, won by two wickets (Roberts 40).
August 9th—v. Military Police, drawn.

Swimming.—A water polo league would be a welcome summer sport here. Quite a number of the Company visit the Stranbad regularly, either to swim or to study form(s) and to put in some practice at push ball. I hope Mrs. Savage left the spring-board behind, because Miss Jones will soon be using it.

Running.—Congratulations to Lieut McCormack on winning the " B " League three mile race in the B.A.O.R. sports.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarter and Razmak Brigade Sections.

Basket Ball.—H.Q. Section v. 8th Indian Infantry Brigade Transport, lost by 4—7.

Hockey.—Razmak Brigade Section v. 1/1st Gurkha Regt., won by 4—2 ; v. Medium Battery R.A., won by 2—1 ; v. 1/11th Sikhs, lost by 0—2 ; v. H.Q. Section, drew at 3—3 ; v. Nondescripts, lost by 0—7 ; v. Hospital, won by 2—1.

Football.—Razmak Brigade Section v. Hospital, won by 2—0 ; v. Cameronians, lost by 0—7 and 0—5.

Bannu Brigade Signal Section.

Hockey is the chief sport at present, there being no football owing to lack of opponents. One creditable performance was our victory over the Police after a hard game and without the aid of our two professionals.

The results of the matches are: v. Police, won by 3—1 ; v. 5/7th Rajputs, lost by 1—2 ; v. D Company 2/14th Punjab Regt., won by 4—0 ; v. Combined Cavalry, won by 2—0 ; v. 2/14th Punjab Regt., lost by 1—3 ; v. 5/7th Rajputs, won by 3—1.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

Sports.—I am afraid that, as we are very much below strength, I cannot record many long lists of victories ; but, nevertheless, several interesting matches have been played.

Hockey.—Versus B Corps Signals, won by 4—3 and 3—1 ; v. 3/9th Jats, lost by 1—4 ; v. 33rd Battery R.A., won by 1—0.

Football.—Versus B Corps Signals, lost by 0—5 and 1—2.

Boxing.—Signalmen Moncrief (light-heavy), Guthrie (light-weight), and Delannery (feather) fought in the Murree Hills tournament. The standard of boxing was certainly better than that of the Rawalpindi tournament, and our men, although they put up very good fights, were beaten.

Swimming.—At the aquatic sports held at Rawalpindi we entered two teams, A and B, but through some slight misunderstanding on the evening of the sports our two teams arrived at the baths too late to compete, and both the teams and the supporters were, I am sure, very disappointed.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

Sport.—The unit team opposed the 4th Q.O. Hussars in the Meerut and Lucknow District boxing tournament. Grit and perseverance were the chief qualifications of our team, but the wider experience of the cavalrymen carried the day. The hope that we should have Corpl Richardson to carry our light-weight banner was dashed at the outset, when we heard that he was dangerously ill in Meerut. Misfortune further dogged our footsteps when the M.O. found a slight defect in the heart—stout though it is—of Sigmn Cleary, our feather-weight.

In Sigmn Trevanna we have a boxer of great promise, who fought against a redoubtable opponent with sufficient effect to warrant an extra round but ultimately received a losing verdict. Three others, Corpl Crumney, Signalmen Norton and Saunders, deserve special commendation for their pluck and loyalty.

The Chief Signal Officer Eastern Command witnessed the bouts, and the next morning he had a few words of cheer and praise for the team, each member of which made a very creditable and sporting effort.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

Hockey.—Cheers! For the second time in three seasons we have won the Garrison hockey cup. After a bye in the first round, we reached the final by beating the 40th Battery R.A. by 2—0 in the second round. We met the 71st Battery R.A. in the semi-final and ran out victors by 4—1. The final, against D Company P.W.V., was a ding-dong struggle, extra time being needed to settle the dispute. Capt J. E. F. Paton scored the only goal of a memorable game. The cup was presented by the Brigade Commander, and the occasion was celebrated in the usual manner. (It costs a chip eight to fill the cup with shandy.)

Winners of the Jubbulpore Garrison Hockey Cup, 1928.

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen Button and Lauder, L/Cpl Bond, L/Sgt Cummins, Lieut. C. A. R. M. Bolton, Sigmn James R.

Front—Sergeants Hinchley and Lemon, Capt. J. E. F. Paton, L/Sgt Talling, Sgt Marriot.

Football.—This has been overshadowed by rugby, but numerous friendly games have been played. We have the making of a fine team when the football season approaches.

Section Sports League.—D Section won the inter-Section sports cup, heading both the Football and the Hockey Leagues.

D Section, winners of the Inter-Section Sports League.

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen Haigh, Garner and Hamilton, L/Cpl Draper, Signalmen Cook, James and Grocutt.

Centre—Signalmen Day and Bell, L/Sgt Harper, Capt. B. S. Watkins, Sigmn Moody, Sgt Wise, Sigmn Lauder.

Front—L/Cpl Rigden, Sigmn Dyson.

Rugby.—Under Mr. Good's keen and able leadership we hope to make a good show in the Harwood-Little tournament. Unfortunately we have few experienced players, and casualties have accounted for far too many of the best tryers. Our first tournament game is against the S.T.C., and we promise them a good game now that we have adopted " Back up!" as our war-cry.

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

Sport.—Some people might think that we are too few in number to be of any significance in this sphere, but we hope to prove worthy of notice in later notes under this heading.

We recently took part in the Meerut Brigade Football League hot weather tournament, and (to quote the " Pioneer ") we were plucky to do so. 3rd Indian Divl Signals details combined with us. Owing to injuries, etc., we were unable to put the same team in the field twice in succession. However, we finished about the middle of the table, which was really a good performance under the circumstances.

Hockey.—We were beaten by C Company Dorsets by 2—0 in the first round of the tournament. We are now gaining experience in friendly matches and hope to give a better account of ourselves in the near future.

Boxing.—Everyone will tender congratulations to L/Sergeant Richardson J. M. N., who won the light-weight final (and a nice mug) at the Meerut District tournament recently. An illness prevented him from entering the " All India " at Mussoorie.

The Corps in Egypt.

Cricket—The Corps team has been greatly weakened by the departure on leave of Sigmn Saunders and L/Corpl Collins, two of our best players. The following are the results of Corps matches played during July.

Y.M.C.A. v. Royal Signals.—These two teams met in the second round of the Frank Cook cup at the Willcocks Recreation Ground, on July 12th, the game resulting in a remarkable and sensational victory for the Royal Signals by 42 runs.

The match provided plenty of thrills, in which the fortunes of both sides ebbed and flowed. Signals batted first, and Lovett was bowled by De la Mare with the first ball of the match. Poole was next bowled by Etches—two wickets for no runs. Five maiden overs were sent down, and it was not until the fortieth ball of the match that Signals opened their account. Collins was given a life before he scored, and was dropped twice during his innings of 40, which was however invaluable to his side. Saunders was the only other bat to reach double figures, and the Signals were all out for the small total of 85 runs. The bowling and fielding of the Y.M.C.A. were excellent. De la Mare distinguished himself by a remarkable catch which dismissed Saunders, and Moring dismissed Strike in like fashion.

The Y.M.C.A. started their innings with Etches and Todd, but the former was caught by Oldale after scoring six runs. Todd was run out after collecting 20, but in the meantime four other wickets had fallen, three of which fell at 46. Hughes played steadily, and Moring and Thom made a good stand for the ninth wicket. Moring was missed when the score stood at 80, and profiting by the let-off the pair soon passed the total of the Signals. They sent up the century, and the total of the Y.M.C.A. finally reached 116—a lead of 31 runs.

Under normal conditions this was almost sufficient to give them the match, as it was not thought there would be enough time to play two more innings. However, the Signals went in again at 3.45 and, hitting out freely, collected 119 runs for seven wickets in about an hour-and-a-half. The captain took a sporting chance and at the same time exercised wise discretion, and declared, putting in the Y.M.C.A. a second time with 89 runs to get to win in an hour-and-three-quarters.

The Y.M.C.A. started their second innings with Etches and Todd, and careful play ensued for a few overs, neither batsmen taking any risks. Todd made a single, but runs were almost impossible to obtain, as Saunders and Backhouse were bowling in deadly form. Etches was bowled by Saunders without breaking his duck, and Todd was caught by Saunders off Backhouse. Donnelly was next caught by Oldale, also off Backhouse, and three wickets were down for seven runs after thirty minutes' play. Saunders had now found a good length ; Simpson, De la Mare and Hayes were clean bowled by him, and he afterwards took the remaining four wickets. E. D. Hart, the only one on the Y.M.C.A. side who attempted to play the ball, had scored 21 when he hit a skier from Saunders and was well held by Oldale. Hughes, Moring and Thom were dismissed without scoring, and Hay-Smith again carried out his bat.

Saunders took eight wickets for four runs—a really wonderful performance for which he was heartily applauded by both sides at the conclusion of the game. The Signals' fielding was very fine ; all the players were like rabbits, pouncing on the ball on every occasion, and this with Saunders' bowling won the game for them. The game was full of exciting incidents from start to finish, and was played in the most sportsmanlike manner.

Royal Signals.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Sigmn Lovett b De la Mare	0		
Sigmn Poole b Etches	0	b Etches	36
L/Corpl Collins lbw b Etches	40	b De la Mare	17
Sergt Honnor b De la Mare	3		
Sigmn Saunders c De la Mare b Hughes	17	lbw b Etches	9
Sigmn Strike c Moring b De la Mare	5	c Simpson b Etches	2
Sigmn Oldale c De la Mare b Hughes	0	not out	3
Sigmn Dickerson c De la Mare b Etches	5	c and b Simpson	32
Major Tillard b De la Mare	6	b Etches	0
L/Corpl Smith not out	4	c D'nelly b Hughes	19
Sigmn Backhouse lbw b Etches	0		
Extras	5	Extras	1
Total	85	Total (7 wkts dec.)	119

Y.M.C.A.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
R. Etches c Oldale b Backhouse	6	b Saunders	0
Rev. H. W. Todd run out	20	c Saunders b Backhs	1
F. G. Donnelly c Saunders b Smith	0	c Oldale b Backhse	0
R. E. Simpson b Strike	5	b Saunders	8
G. H. De la Mare b Smith	0	b Saunders	1
W. M. Hayes c Backhse. b Strike	3	b Saunders	7
Col. Hughes c Collins b Smith	17	c Poole b Saunders	21
E. D. Hart b Saunders	2	b Saunders	0
A. G. Moring c Poole b Backhouse	16	c Strike b Saunders	0
W. Thom b Collins	21	b Saunders	0
J. Hay Smith not out	7	not out	2
Extras	19	Extras	6
Total	116	Total	46

Bowling—1st innings: Saunders, one for 21 ; Backhouse, two for 34 ; Smith, three for 21 ; Strike, one for 15 ; Collins, one for 3. 2nd innings: Saunders, eight for 4 ; Backhouse, two for 8.

Heliopolis Sporting Club v. Royal Corps of Signals.—Played at Heliopolis on July 28th, the game ending in a draw.

Signals won the toss and elected to bat. Scoring was dreadfully slow until the advent of Strike, who lived up to his name and dealt with the bowling accordingly. His 54 was scored in about twenty-five minutes, and included a six and eleven fours. He collected 39 runs in his first two overs.

For the Club, Laird (79) was top scorer, and was unfortunately run out at a critical stage of the game. Giles (23) and Hanworth (13) were the only other members of the side to reach double figures.

Royal Corps of Signals.

Sergt Honnor b Laird	12
Sigmn Lovatt c Giles b Laird	21
Sigmn Stone c Godwin b Locker	10
Sigmn Poole c Henderson b Giles	8
L/Corpl Panter c Pywell b Locker	18
Sigmn Dickerson not out	22
L/Corpl Smith c Sheffield b Pelling	8
Sigmn Strike c Henderson b Giles	54
Sigmn Oldale not out	10
Extras	25
Total (for 7 wkts., declared)	188

Heliopolis Sporting Club.

Major W. B. Laird run out	79
W. Hanworth c Lovatt b Backhouse	13
R. H. Giles c Honnor b Panter	23

S. B. Pelling c Backhouse b Panter	3
J. D. Locker not out	5
H. Sheffield c Stone b Panter	0
A. R. Godwin b Strike	0
P. H. Henderson c Lovatt b Strike	0
S. Lewis st Oldale b Panter	2
Capt Pywell b Backhouse	3
W. Clark not out	0
Extras	11
Total (for 9 wickets) ...	140

Bowling—Strike, two for 6 ; Backhouse, two for 41 ; Panter, four for 27.

Five other matches were played, resulting in one victory and four losses:—

v. R.E.s, Cairo, won by two wickets and 47 runs.
v. Gezira S.C., lost by 7 runs (Sigmn Strike 51 in quick time ; Sigmn Lovatt 37 in 3½ hours!)
v. Royal Scots, lost by three wickets.
v. R.A., lost by 26 runs (L/Corpl Panter, a newcomer to the team, took four wickets for 11).
v. 12th Lancers, lost by 24 runs (L/Corpl Panter, four for 25)

Swimming.—The Corps are doing very well at swimming, and in the Command Swimming Relay League competitions have an unbeaten record. This augurs well for our chances in the Command competitions to take place in a few weeks at Heliopolis. It is to be hoped that Sigmn Sparkes will be fit and well by then, as he is one of the best swimmers in Egypt, and we would greatly miss his services if he is unable to turn out.

The Corps gala took place on July 21st, and following are the results in detail:—

One length free style (37½ yards)—1, Sigmn Taylor (21 secs.) ; 2, L/Corpl Hart ; 3, L/Corpl Andrews.
Diving—1, Sigmn Bloomfield ; 2, Sigmn King ; 3, L/Corporal Andrews.
One length back stroke—1, Sigmn King ; 2, Sigmn Denny ; 3, Corpl Corbett.
Diving for plates—1, Sigmn Rolls ; 2, Corpl Corbett ; 3, Sigmn Robertson.
One length over-arm—1, Sigmn Grose ; 2, Sigmn King ; 3, Sigmn Silverstone.
Two lengths free style (handicap)—1, Sigmn Taylor, scratch (52 secs.) ; 2, Sigmn Cheal ; 3, L/Corpl Andrews.
One length breast stroke—1, Sigmn Grose ; 2, Sigmn Cheal ; 3, Sigmn Bloomfield.
Plunging—1, Corpl Corbett (52 ft. 9 in.) ; 2, Major J. A. S. Tillard (47 ft. 3¼ in.) ; 3, Sigmn Taylor.
440 yards—1, L/Corpl Andrews (7 min. 50 sec.) ; 2, Sigmn Wright ; 3, Sigmn Ryder.
880 yards—1, Sigmn King (15 min. 21 sec.) ; 2, Corpl Corbett ; 3, Sigmn Ryder.
Five lengths free style—1, Sigmn King ; 2, Sigmn Grose ; 3, L/Corpl Andrews.
Bobbing for corks—1, Sigmn Riley ; 2, Sigmn Speck.

Tennis.—In the preliminary round of the Command tennis team competitions, we defeated the Somerset L.I. on our courts. As it is three years since we scored any points for tennis towards the best all-round sporting unit trophy, we are considerably bucked by the fine show our representatives put up against a good class side. Let's hope they will do the same in the next round!

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Cricket.—The Company cricket team is having a fairly successful season. One disappointment, however, was the defeat by H.Q. Squadron The Royals in the small units competition. Results of matches during the month are as under:—

v. Military Police, won by 77 runs.
v. No. 3 Company Egypt Signals, drawn.
v. No. 216 Squadron R.A.F., won by four wickets.
v. Veterinary Hospital, won by 31 runs.
v. R.A.O.C., won by five wickets and 66 runs.
v. M.G. Company S.L.I., won by 89 runs.
v. No. 208 Squadron R.A.F., lost by 112 runs.

Congratulations to Taffy on his wonderful bowling performance for the Corps in the Frank Cook cup match versus the Y.M.C.A. Eight wickets for four runs is not bad!

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

Cricket.—Our team have done exceptionally well this season for such a small unit, although they did not again win the cup. We are still using the willow in a "friendly" way.

Water Polo.—The Water Polo League has finished, and we were successful to the extent of finishing as runners-up, for which our team received bronze medals. Considering this unit is only 63 strong compared with 2000 to 3000 R.A.F. in Iraq, I think this is a creditable performance, and speaks well for the Corps.

HINAIDI LEAGUE.

Iraq Signal Section: Played 18 ; won 11 ; drawn 3 ; lost 4. Goals—for 24, against 14. 25 points.

v. 30th (B) Squadron R.A.F., won by 3—1 and 3—0.
v. Armoured Cars R.A.F., draw at 0—0 and 1—1.
v. 55th (B) Squadron R.A.F., points awarded and won 3—0.
v. 70th (B) Squadron R.A.F., lost by 0—1 and won by 2—1.
v. A.H.Q., Baghdad, R.A.F., won by 2—0 and 2—0.
v. A Depot, R.A.F., won by 1—0 and 1—0.
v. D Depot, R.A.F., lost by 0—1 and drew at 2—2.
v. B Depot, R.A.F., won by 2—0 and 2—1.
v. C Depot, R.A.F. (winners), lost by 0—3 and 0—3.

Our team was chosen to play a representative team picked from A.H.Q. Baghdad, Armoured Cars, and the 30th, 55th and 70th Squadrons ; and we were leading by one goal two minutes before time. The other side, however, had the luck to get two goals very quickly.

Aden Signal Section.

Soccer.—As this Section is only a very small unit compared with the others here, we have combined with the detachment of Royal Engineers (Aden Fortress Company) for sports.

The combined team played their first match on July 5th, and up to now have done very well, not losing a single match. We are hoping that they will keep it up. The Signals are the top unit in Egypt, so why not here?

The match with the R.A.F. was very evenly contested, and played in an excellent spirit, both teams being all out. Owing to an injury to Sigmn Kneller's knee chances were missed, but the draw was a fitting result to a hard and thrilling match.

Here are the results up to date of posting (not bad, you will admit). We are hoping to go far in the Wills cup competition.

July 5th—R.E.-Signals 2 (Kneller) ; H.Q. R.A. 0.
July 9th—R.E.-Signals 3 (Kneller 2, Henderson) ; R.A.M.C. 1.
July 12th—R.E.-Signals 3 (Kneller 2, Henderson) ; 9th (Minden) Battery R.A. 0.
July 16th—Signals 7 (Kneller 5, Finney 2) ; 7th Heavy Battery R.A. 2nd XI. 1.
July 19th—R.E.-Signals 1 (Kneller) ; R.A.F., Khormaksur, 1.
July 22nd—R.E.-Signals v. R.A.M.C. Match abandoned, in our favour.
July 23rd—R.E.-Signals 3 (Kneller 2, Hawkes) ; H.Q. R.A. 3.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

Cricket.—We greatly miss our O.C., who was a tower of strength in our team, but Lieut O. C. Adams (2nd Battn. East Surrey Regt.) who is acting C.S.O. and commanding the unit, is eligible to play for us in friendly games and has given us considerable assistance in our last two efforts. We have unearthed two good bowlers this season, and they have already proved their worth, as the following will show:—

Sigmn Marshall—Five for 30 ; two for 17 ; three for 25 ; seven for 37 ; five for 20 ; six for 17 ; five for 62.
Sigmn Taylor—Four for 54 ; two for 30 ; three for 31 ; three for 40 ; seven for 15 ; five for 23.

The following matches have been played:—

v. H.M. Dockyard Tower, lost by 62—103.
v. H.M.S. "Cormorant," won by 126—107.
v. H.M. Dockyard Tower, lost by 107—128.
v. R.A.O.C., won by 106—105.
v. H.M.S. "Cormorant," lost by 66—105.
v. Royal Engineers, lost by 46—179.
v. R.A.S.C., won by 109—73.
v. Staff and Departments, won by 111—59 (1st round cup).
v. Royal Engineers, won by 101—44.
v. Local Defence Flotilla, lost by 94—232 (2nd round cup).
v. R.A.M.C., lost by 80—158.
v. H.M.S. "Cormorant," won by 145—45.
v. R.A.S.C., lost by 112—152.
v. R.A.O.C., won by 193—126.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The annual sports were held at Weymouth Camp on August Bank Holiday, the event being a great success. The following are the results:—

Driving (open)—1, Dvr Pike, No. 3 Company ; 2, Dvr Rogers, No. 2 ; 3, Dvr Gilpin, No. 1.
Driving (recruits)—1, Dvr Woolacott, No. 3 Company ; 2, Dvr Pearce, No. 2 ; 3, Dvr Chamberlain, No. 1.
100 yards—1, Sigmn Rowe, No. 3 Company ; 2, Lieutenant Bailey, No. 3 ; 3, Sigmn Williams, No. 1.
Boys' race—1, Boy Gilmour, No. 1 Company; 2, Boy Howard, No. 3 ; 3, Boy Crelly, No. 1.
440 yards—1, Sigmn Robins, No. 2 Company ; 2, Signalmen Williams (No. 1) and Rowe (No. 3) dead heat.
Tent pitching—1 Sergt Bridle's team, No. 3 Company ; 2, Sergt Field's team, No. 3.
Horseback wrestling—1, L/Corpl Castle's team, No. 3 Company ; 2, Sergt Allen's team, No. 1.
Relay race—1, Sigmn Rowe's team, No. 3 Company ; 2, Corpl Mihell's team, No. 2.
Tug-of-war—1, Lieut Moss's team, No. 1 Company.
Pole ball—1, Corpl Nicholls, No. 1 Coy. ; 2, Dvr Hedgland, No. 1 ; 3, Dvr Beautyman, No. 2.
V.C. race—1, Corpl Nicholls, No. 1 Coy. ; 2, Sigmn Walker, No. 2 ; 3, Sergt Butler, No. 2.
Obstacle race—1, Sigmn Gove No. 3 Company ; 2, Boy Scrivens, No. 1 ; 3, Corpl Mihill (No. 2) and Sigmn Bussell (No. 3) tied.
Marching order—1, Sergt Field, No. 3 Coy. ; 2, Sigmn Roach, No. 1 ; 3, Corpl Packer, No. 3.
All ranks' relay—1, Lieut Balding's team, No. 2 Company ; 2, Capt Odell's team, H.Q.
Consolation race—1, L/Corpl Cowell, No. 1 Company ; 2, Sigmn Locker, No. 3 ; 3, Corpl Field, No. 3.
Murray cup—No. 3 Company, 26 points ; No. 1, 20 ; No. 2, 10.
Silver cigarette case for highest individual points—Cpl Nicholls, No. 1 Company.

44th (H.C.) Divl. Signals, Stamford Brook, W.6

In between our days of work at Canterbury camp there was found time for a little athletics, an afternoon being set aside for sports. Here again we had the best show ever attempted, both for arrangements and actual performances. The results are as follow (I hope they are correct):—

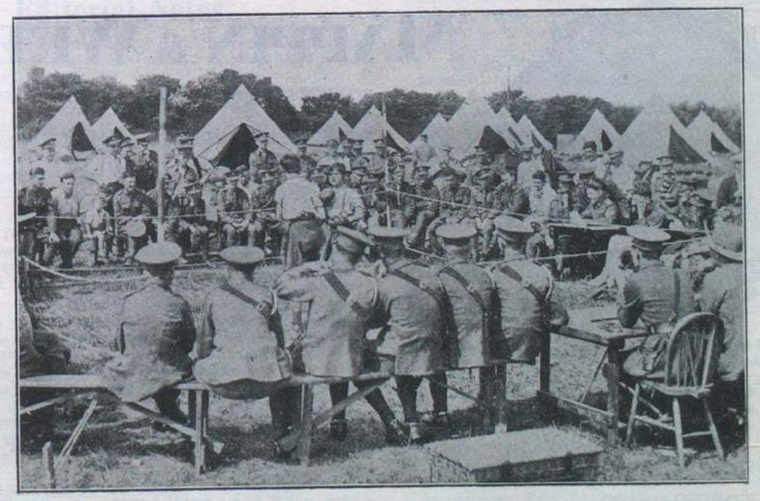
100 yards—1, Sigmn Foden ; 2, Sigmn Brandon.
Half-mile—1, Sigmn Dunn ; 2, L/Corpl Smith.
Long jump—1, Sigmn Foden, 17 ft. 1½ in. ; 2, Sigmn Brandon.
Boys' race—1, Boy Dymock ; 2, Boy Watson.
Veterans' race—C.S.M Geere.
High jump—1, Sigmn Foden ; 2, L/Corpl Howell.
220 yards—1, Sigmn Lewis ; 2, L/Corpl Howell.
Mile—1, Sigmn Dunn ; 2, L/Corpl Smith.
100 yards (officers)—1, Capt Firth ; 2, Capt Darby.
Boat race—No. 1 Company beat No. 3 Company. Sergeants beat Officers.
Relay race—1, No. 3 Company ; 2, No. 1 Company.
Tug-of-war—No. 1 Company beat No. 2 Company.
Obstacle race—1, Boy Dymock ; 2, Boy Snow.
Mounted musical chairs—1, Lieut Harris ; 2, Sergt Munt.
Sergeants' trophy—No. 1 Company.
Efficiency shield for highest number of points—No. 1 Coy.
Cable competition—Sergt Haley's detachment.
Driver and pair (best turn-out)—No. 1 Company.

Mrs. Coleman very kindly presented the prizes, and this brought to a conclusion a very successful and enjoyable afternoon.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

The annual sports were held while the unit was in camp at Barry. Individual winners were as follows:—

100 yards—Piper Brand.
Inter-Section relay—Unit Headquarters.
440 yards—Piper Brand.
220 yards—Piper Brand.
Officers' race—Capt E. B. Reid.
Old soldiers' race—Corpl Grigor.
Three miles—Sigmn Lenman.
Half mile—Piper Brand.
High jump—Sigmn Williamson.
Long jump—L/Sergt Ross.
Best pair of horses and harness—No. 3 Company.
Best-dressed Signalman—Sigmn Beaton.
Best-dressed Piper—Piper Blyth D.
Piping competition—Piper Brand.
Obstacle race—Sigmn McCart.
Mounted tug-of-war—No. 2 Company.
Mounted wrestling—No. 1 Company.
Dismounted tug-of-war—No. 2 Company.



54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals in the Boxing Ring.

Challenge cups were won for the year as follows:—
Hamilton-Leigh cup for the Company gaining most points at the annual sports meeting—No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.
Jayne cup, for the Company with the best Company lines at annual camp—No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.
Nairn cup, for the inter-Company tug-of-war—No. 2 (Stirling) Company.
Bald cup, for inter-Company boxing—No. 3 (Fifeshire) Coy.
Nicol cup, for inter-Company football—No. 3 (Fifeshire) Coy.

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

Sports.—Tug-of-war. No. 2 Company beat No. 1 by two pulls, and No. 3 by two pulls. No. 1 beat No. 3 by two pulls.

220 yards relay—This promised an easy victory for No. 2 Coy., but owing to Sigmn Detenon missing the corner and running through the ropes after being ten yards ahead, he gave No. 3 the lead; on resuming, however, he ran a great race to lose by inches only. No. 3 were first, followed by Nos. 2 and 1.

Obstacle race—Sergt Cooley was first and Sigmn Page second.

Mounted tug-of-war—No. 1 Coy. beat No. 2 by two pulls to one. No. 3 Coy. had a bye. In the final No. 1 beat No. 3 by two pulls to one. In their event, No. 2, in the third pull, had only two men left on their horses, but held the opposing team for some time until their horses moved. No. 1 must be congratulated on their win, for both teams were well fagged when the rope passed over the winning mark. No. 3 were second.

Wrestling on horseback—No. 2 had a bye. No. 1 beat No. 3. In the final No. 1 beat No. 2, who lost two of their team very early. No. 2 were second.

Four-legged race—1, No. 2 (Signalmen Detenon, Lee, and Frith); No. 1 were second.

Officers' jumping—Very good horsemanship was seen in this event. Capt W. E. Rayner was first, and Major Bowling and Capt Manley tied for second place.

Boat race—1, No. 3; 2, No. 2; 3, No. 1.

V.C. race—1, L/Corpl Parker and Sergt Simons (No. 1); 2, Sergt Long and Corpl Warner (No. 1); 3, Dvr Moody and Sigmn Detenon (No. 2).

Other ranks' jumping—1, L/Corpl Parker (No. 1); 2, Driver Moody (No. 2); 3, Dvr Raven (No. 3).

Officers' sword pegging—1, Capt Manley; 2, 2/Lieut Palmer.

Officers' tent pegging—1, Capt Manley; 2, 2/Lieut Palmer.

Inter-Company driving competition—1, No. 2 (Drivers Moody and Firth); 2, No. 209 A.F.A. Brigade Signal Section.

The unit athletic shield was won by No. 2 Company with 37 points. No. 1 came second with 35, and No. 3 third with 27.

The wireless trophy presented by Brigadier-Gen. R. B. Colvin was won outright by No. 1 Company.

The visual cup presented by Capt G. E. Weber was won by No. 3 Company.

Boxing.—The boxing took place on Saturday, July 21st, when only those who had not represented the unit were permitted to compete. Keen competition was shown, the boxing being good, clean and hard. The referee and judges were neutral—referee, Mr. Kenyon; judges, Sergts Dowie and Warren, both of the P.S.

Boys' contests—Boy Maurice (No. 3) beat Boy Clarke R. (No. 1) Boy King (No. 2) beat Boy Meddle (No. 3); Boy Lansdale (No. 1) beat Boy Piercy (No. 2).

Bantams—Sigmn Carr (No. 2) beat Sigmn Bent (No. 1).

Lights—First series: Sigmn Higgins (No. 1) a bye; Sigmn Dent (No. 3) beat L/Corpl Richardson (No. 1); Sigmn Lee (No. 2) beat Sigmn Smith (No. 3). Semi-final: Sigmn Lee a bye; Sigmn Higgins beat Sigmn Dent. Final: Sigmn Lee beat Sigmn Higgins. Higgins was a good fighter, but was worn down by Lee after a very good show.

Welters—First series: L/Corpl Barratt (No. 3) a bye; L/Corpl Pitteway (No. 2) beat Sigmn Meddle (No. 3); Dvr Pearson (No. 1) beat L/Corpl Sinfield (No. 2). Semi-final: Dvr Pearson a bye; L/Corpl Pitteway beat L/Corpl Barratt after an extra round. Final: L/Corpl Pitteway beat Dvr Pearson. Pitteway, a clever boxer, hit with precision and strength, and should make a good unit representative.

Result—No. 2 Company, 18 points; No. 1, 15; No. 3, 11.

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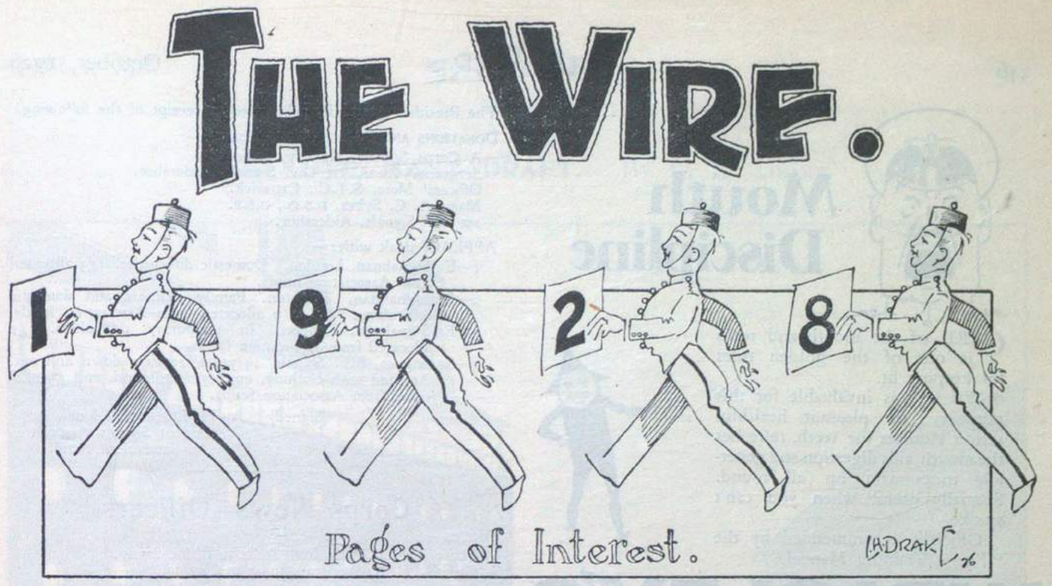

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
Telephone: Victoria 2081
Telegrams: "Sigasn Churton London."

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VOL. IX.—No. 104 OCTOBER, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

The attention of all WIRE readers is called to the Competition sheet inserted in this issue of our Journal. Substantial prizes are offered to successful competitors, and it is hoped that as many of our readers as possible will endeavour to send in a correct forecast. There are no entrance fees, and all who purchase the Magazine will be qualified to enter. Further competition coupons will be circulated with each copy of THE WIRE for November and December; and prospective competitors are advised to order their copies beforehand if not already subscribing members.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are asked to apologise for the absence in this issue of unit notes from the 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot. Readers may, however, anticipate a very interesting illustrated account of their unit correspondent's recent pilgrimage to France and Flanders with the British Legion, which will appear next month.

❀ ❀ ❀

Actuated by a desire to prevent all ranks of Royal Signals from being imposed upon when they arrive in India, a correspondent asks that the following may be published for their benefit:—

"New arrivals in India are advised not to hand money to any stranger who may offer to change sterling currency into rupees, especially when that stranger happens to be a native. Such exchange can invariably be effected on board ship prior to disembarkation, and there are also many official Bureaux-de-Change on shore for the benefit of those who neglect to take that early precaution.

"The modus operandi of the native 'confidence man,' who is invariably armed with an imposing ledger, is to accost newly-arrived British ranks, either on the dock-side or in the train, later, when the latter is in motion. He will often allay suspicion by asking for one's Army number, rank, name, etc., the details of which are laboriously entered in the aforementioned ledger.

"Having bluffed the victim into handing over his money, and promised to return in a few moments with the equivalent in rupees (at the rate of fifteen or so to the £), he will pass on to the next likely customer—and that is the last one sees of him! The train invariably slows down at certain points en route—a fact which is well known to our enterprising friend, who promptly takes advantage of the opportunity to drop off and —er! make up his accounts for the day."

[There is obviously something after all in the saying that "there is one born every minute." We thank our correspondent for his timely warning! Other Corps and Regimental Journals, please copy.—Editor.]

❀ ❀ ❀

We welcome the re-appearance of unit notes from the S.T.C. (India), and convey our salutations to all new members and subscribers of that unit. This additional support to Association activities is fully appreciated!

❀ ❀ ❀

Will unit correspondents kindly note, when submitting photographic illustrations for reproduction in the Magazine, that only *first-class prints* should be selected. Good blocks can only be made from good pictures, and it is a waste of time and money to attempt the reproduction of illustrations from inferior prints.

❀ ❀ ❀

All readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1928 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. Price 8/- per copy post free.

Mouth Discipline

CARE of the mouth and teeth is one of the golden rules for keeping fit.

Wrigley's is invaluable for this purpose. Its pleasant healthful action cleanses the teeth, refreshes the mouth, aids digestion and generally tones you up all round. Specially useful when you can't smoke.

Officially recommended by the "Flying Training Manual."

WRIGLEY'S

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order. EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

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:—

Ex-Signalman .....Ford Van Driver
Ex-Signalman .....Male Attendant (Asylum)
Ex-Signalman .....House Porter
Ex-Signalman .....Domestic Service (Silverman)
Ex-Signalman ..... Chauffeur-Mechanic
Ex-Signalman .....Labourer
Ex-Signalman .....House Porter
Ex-Sapper R.E. Signals .....Chauffeur-Handy Man

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

All who remember the late Staff-Sergeant W. Morris, R.E. (who died of malaria in the Sudan in December, 1922, whilst holding a post under the Sudan Government Telegraphs) will be interested to hear that his son, William Rowland Morris, has now entered the Royal Engineers as an apprentice draughtsman.

Rowland Morris was placed in the Homes for Little Boys at Farningham in October, 1923, under the Benevolent Fund Orphanage Scheme. He entered the competitive examination for enlistment in the Army as apprentice tradesman in July last, and passed fourth in order of merit out of 392 competitors, being first in the intelligence test with 94 per cent. We congratulate him and wish him all success!

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
A Corps Signals, Karachi, India.
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C., Catterick.
Major A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E.
1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.

APPEALS dealt with:—
1—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated from Association funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, Brighton. Family sickness and domestic difficulties. £6/10/0 allocated from Association funds.
3—Ex-Signalman, London. In temporary difficulties. £2 allocated from Association funds.
4—Ex-Sapper, R.E. Signals, 14 years' service, down and out. Assisted with clothing, employment found, and £5 allocated from Association funds.

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

Corps News—Officers.

MOVES—
Major J. A. F. Mair from India to Rhine Army.
Capt R. H. Rayner from India to Canada.
Capt W. A. Dimoline from W.A.F.F. to Catterick.
Lieut A. J. G. McNair from Aldershot to Kohat District Signals, India.
2/Lieut D. L. Hyde and 2/Lieut E. J. F. Heap from Aldershot to B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 17/8/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Royal Signals—
Capt C. A. Bridgland, D.F.C., retires, receiving a gratuity, 16/8/28.

REG. ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Capt C. A. Bridgland, D.F.C. (retired), to be Capt. 16/8/28, with seniority 25/4/23.

SUPPLEMENTARY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Anthony Greenhill to be 2/Lieut. 18/8/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
43rd (Welsh) Divl Signals—Frederick Rowland Hill to be 2/Lt. 1/7/28.

India Office, 24/8/28.

INDIAN ARMY—
The undermentioned Captain is granted antedate of rank in substitution for the notification in *The Gazette* of 20/3/25: Capt R. M. Lunt (now R.Signals).

War Office, 28/8/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Thomas Alfred Henry Lee to be 2/Lieut. 29/8/28.

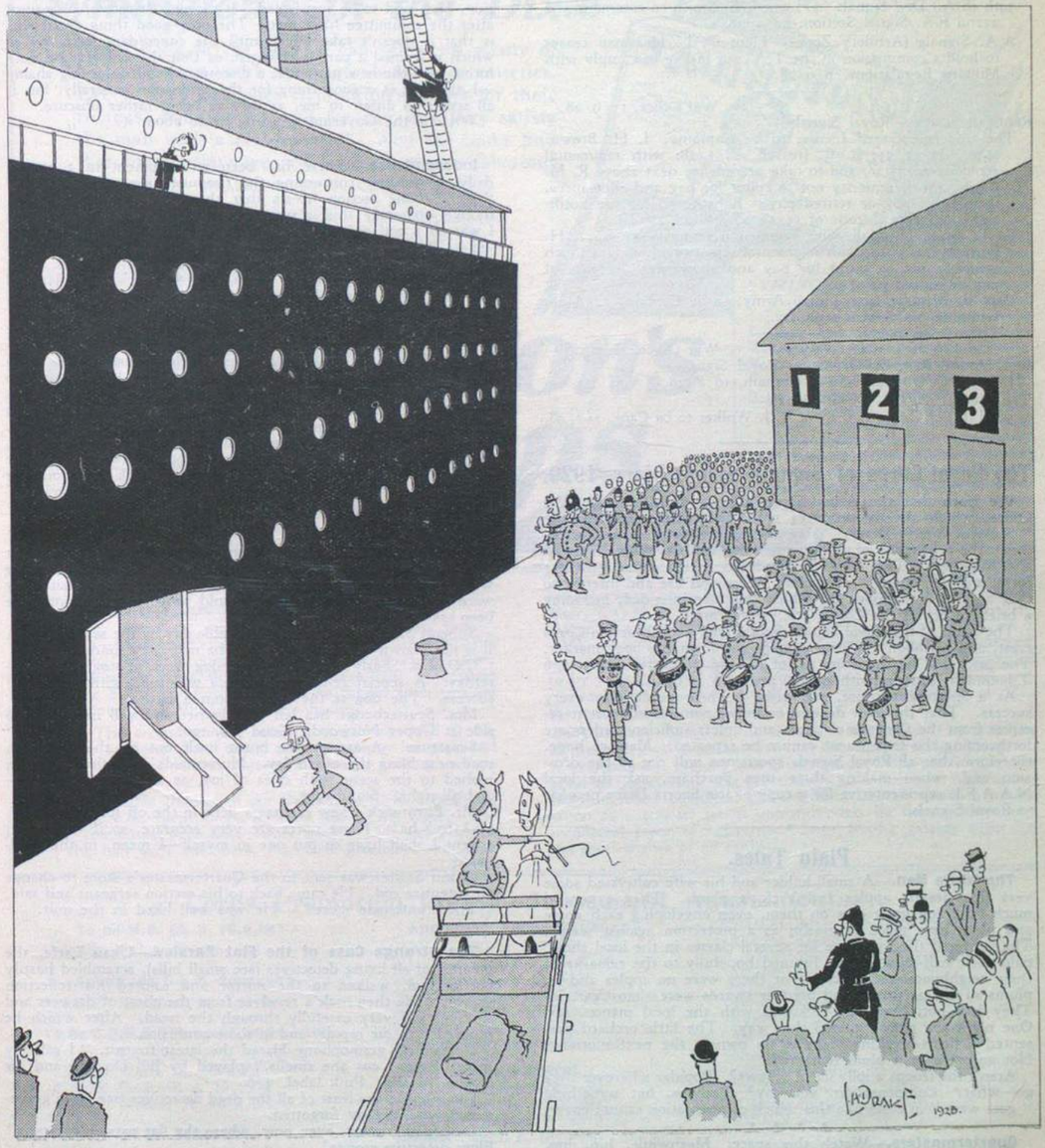
War Office, 31/8/28.

REGULAR ARMY—Royal Signals—
Capt R. H. Rayner, M.B.E., is seconded whilst employed as A.D.C. to the Governor-General and C.-in-C. of the Dominion of Canada, 7/7/28.

The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the R.M.A. to be 2/Lieuts. 30/8/28:—
Royal Signals—Asheton Thomas Sladen, John Henry Llewelyn Crichton, John Douglas Leslie Morris, Ernest Peter Blake, William Giles Daubeny, Francis James Godfrey Lyle, Joseph Robert Gordon Walker, Peter Goodeve Docker, Joseph Terence Addenbrooke, Arthur Basil Litchfield Anderson, Ronald Douglas King.

The undermentioned Gentleman Cadet from the R.M.C. to be 2/Lieut. 30/8/28:—Joseph Reginald Beeton.

THE "ONE MAN" DRAFT. By L. H. DRAKE.



War Office, 4/9/28.

REGULAR FORCES—P.W. Volunteers—
Lieut C. A. R. M. Bolton remains seconded for service with Royal Signals, 1/8/28.

War Office, 7/9/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. E. Smith to command the 232nd F.A. Signal Section, 22/3/28.
A.A. Signals (Artillery Zones)—Lieut T. L. Heasman ceases to hold a commission in the T.A., for failing to comply with Military Regulations, 8/9/28.

War Office, 11/9/28.

REGULAR FORCES—Royal Signals—
The undermentioned Lieuts. to be Captains: J. H. Brown, M.M., 23/11/27; R. C. Instrall, 28/2/28; with regimental seniority 30/1/21, and to take precedence next above R. M. Lunt. (Such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay.) Substituted for the notifications in *The Gazette* of 13/12/27 and 28/2/28.
F. T. Pope, 12/9/28, with regimental seniority 11/9/22; H. Bartlett, 12/9/28, with regimental seniority 13/9/22. (Such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay.)
Capt R. Maguire from Indian Army, to be Captain, 12/8/28, retaining his present seniority.

War Office, 14/9/28.

REG. ARMY RES. OF OFFICERS—Royal Signals—
Lieut F. C. D. French to be Captain, 16/8/28.
TERRITORIAL ARMY—Royal Signals—
52nd (L.) Divl Signals—Lieut R. J. Walker to be Capt. 2/7/28.

The Royal Corps of Signals Sports Diary, 1929.

We learn that the Army Sports Central Board at the War Office, which already produces with such marked success the "Services Sports Diary," is now contemplating, as an experiment, the production of an individual Sports Diary for each Corps and Regiment. These will be produced in the same attractive form, and will contain information of general use and interest to that arm of the Service for which they are intended, including a brief history of the Corps, etc., represented.

The cover of the Royal Signals Sports Diary will bear the Corps crest, and a ribbon in Corps colours will form the book-marker. The price will be the same as for the old production, viz., 2/6 if bound in leather (with pencil) and 1/6 in cloth.

As a sporting venture, we wish the new publication every success. That this will depend entirely upon the support it receives from the Corps is obvious, and unless sufficient orders are forthcoming the experiment cannot be repeated. May we hope, therefore, that all Royal Signals sportsmen will rise to the occasion and, when making their 1929 purchase, ask the local N.A.A.F.I. representative for a copy of the Sports Diary peculiar to Royal Signals.

Plain Tales.

The White Men.—A small-holder and his wife cultivated some very fine dessert apples and Victoria plums. They expended much time and great care on them, even enveloping each apple and plum in a piece of muslin as a protection against wasps. They entered their produce for several classes in the local show, paid their half-crowns, and listened hopefully to the remarks of their neighbours. It appears that there were no apples and no plums so fine as theirs, and premier awards were almost certain. They had not, however, reckoned with the local manœuvres. One night the troops passed that way. The little orchard presented a heart-breaking sight to its owners the next morning. Not an apple or a plum remained!

Aren't the troops a jolly lot of fellows? Popular wherever they go—what? Compensation, you say? Perhaps, but something "goes west" in cases like this which compensation cannot cover.

* * * *

Quartermasters.—Watch this space. Meanwhile, hip, hip, hip, hoooray!

Musicians' Corner.—Those of my pupils who were disappointed at the absence of this feature last month will be more than consoled by the important announcement I now have to make. Listen to me, boys.

When a note is sustained or held over, either by its note value or by means of a collar and tie, from a concord to a subsequent chord, against which it produces a discord, it is called a suspension, or is said to be suspended. It cannot, therefore, play until after the committee have met. The only good thing about this is that it doesn't take effect until the concordant harmony of which it formed a part is changed, so that the unfortunate note forms with the new harmony, a discord, which is a crying shame—I mean, it is a good thing for the profession generally, but it all seems so unfair to me, as well as being rather obscure.

What is the Government going to do about it?

* * * *

Independence.—There has been an argument in a certain daily newspaper concerning the pronunciation of the word "golf." One section insists that the "l" should be silent, though obviously this is pure eye-wash, because the last time I was on a golf course I remarked to my brother who was with me (tips), and a very decent chap he is, too. Works in a place where they make striped paint for Divisional and Corps signs. He was telling me that one about the commercial traveller and the—but never mind that now. Coming back to our washing, as the French say.

I think the "l" in golf should be sounded. I avoid the use of the word whenever possible, but there are times when one has to say it, or leave an awkward gap in the sentence. So I say "golluf" just to show that I don't care a jot, tittle, cuss, rap or darn. After all, it is a batchy game, Biffing a ball hundreds of yards (perhaps) and then tramping after it. When you get up to it, blowed if you don't have to biff it again, and then some. On top of that you may have to walk several miles to get home. When mechanised golf is introduced I may take to it. The scriptures tell us that all men are liars, but I think this should be amended to read, "Fishermen, golfers, and motor-cyclists." Golluf—and the same to you!

* * * *

Local Society.—The Blue Dominoes dance band have not been engaged to play at the Carlton Hotel this year. Neither were they last year, nor the year before. Previous to that, they were not in existence, or they would most certainly not have been asked then.

S/Sergt Slingwood spent an enjoyable day by the sea last week. It is not known where he obtained the necessary funds.

C.Q.M.S. Sourly and his alleged dog were photographed yesterday. A special re-inforced camera was used with indifferent success. The dog is the one without a hat.

Mrs. Scutterbudge has left the district and will in future reside at Upper Norwood. Good job, too.

Sensation! A tar-sprayer burnt itself out on the Tidworth road near Sling the other day. Nursemaids and school-children rushed to the scene with cries of joy, as also did several of—oh! all right. Stand easy.

Mr. Burntwick's new car has a dent in the off fore mudguard. Ha! ha! ha! These notes are very accurate, so if there *isn't* a dent I shall have to put one in myself—I mean, in the mudguard.

Sigmn Snifter was sent to the Quartermaster's store to change an antennae rod. He came back to his section sergeant and said, "There antennae more!" He was well liked in the unit.

* * * *

The Strange Case of the Flat Parsley.—Ukan Larfe, the greatest of all living detectives (see small bills), scrambled hastily out of bed, walked to the mirror and saluted his reflection gravely. He then took a revolver from the chest of drawers and shot himself very carefully through the head. After which he proceeded to die rapidly and in some confusion.

Upstairs, a gramophone blared the latest foxtrot, "I call my cutie 'Roses' cos she smells," played by Bill Domino and his Double Blanks. Pink label, 3/6.

Ukan Larfe, the least of all the dead detectives (see large gravestone), was already forgotten.

Dashed if I know, even now, where the flat parsley comes in! Blow detective stories!

The End. BARLEUX.

No Complaints when it's Symington's in the Dixie

Every cook in the Service can serve up plenty of real good soup—with Symington's fourteen varieties. Every Mess welcomes Symington's Soups for their richness and flavour and for the way they satisfy the man with a real appetite. And the cooks find that Symington's are real time-savers—no laborious preparation—no refuse to be cleared away.

All varieties guaranteed pure, all made from finest selected meat and vegetables.

No Trouble to Prepare—add Water and Boil.

Symington's Soups

Many of the best cooks use Symington's Soups in Stews, Meat Pies, etc.

SYMINGTON'S SOUPS
IN 14 VARIETIES:
Tomato, Pea, Lentil, Celery, Mulligatawny, White Vegetable, Mock Turtle, Scotch Broth, Kidney, Ox Tail, Hare, Green Pea, Onion, and the new CHESTNUT Soup
2d. and 6d. per pkt.
Other Symington Table Delicacies include:—Granulated Gravy, Jellies, Table Creams, Sponge Mixture and Salanaise.

W. SYMINGTON & CO. LTD. MARKET HARBOROUGH

12th Brigade Signals, Tasmania.

Hobart, July 20th.

Training.—Many aspirants for higher rank attended the n.c.o.s' class, which terminated recently with an examination. We are pleased to note that Corpls Meehan-Reid and Foster qualified for Sergeant. Congratulations to Sigmn Harrisson on gaining his 2nd class W/T operator's badge.

Social.—The second annual smoking social was held at the A.I.F. Club on June 28th, when a large number of past and present members and visitors enjoyed a splendid evening's entertainment.

In the regrettable absence of our O.C., Capt S. R. Houghton, D.S.O., M.C., V.D., Lieut C. A. Blakney was in the chair. The energetic committee of n.c.o.s under Lieut J. H. Jones transformed the hall with streamers, flags and greenery; and some splendid items were rendered by Capt T. A. Goward, Lieut G. Muir, C.Q.M.S. Drew R. and party, Messrs. George Hook, R. Taylor and many others.

The toast of "Our Guests" was proposed by the chairman, supported by Warrant Officer G. E. Every, M.M., and responded to by Captain F. W. Medhurst and Mr. W. Barker.

The programme was broadcast by the management of 7ZL, the local broadcasting station.

Departure.—Sergt Buring R. was "farewelled" by members of the sergeants' mess last week on his departure for Melbourne. A very pleasant evening was spent, supper being provided. The guest of the evening was presented with a leather travelling bag from his fellow-members; and C.Q.M.S. Drew R. made a presentation of a 30-watt set in miniature, lest he should forget this wonderful piece of apparatus. Sergt Buring carries with him the good wishes of all ranks.

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. Cl. II. (C.S.M.)—
*1407420 Haigh W. 20/1/28

Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—
*5763177 Newstead H. 1/4/28

To be C.Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals)
2314016 Montgomery K. 10/2/28
2314524 White A. 10/2/28
5766050 Bushnell A. 10/2/28
2314083 Walker A. 10/2/28

To be Sergeant—
*1850370 Conway C. 5/2/28
2308855 Oliver W. 20/6/28

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—
2310363 Lake A. 6/2/28
2311403 Handley F. 26/4/28
2312934 Brown V. 27/4/28
2314172 Parsons L. 27/4/28
2308411 Pack E. 27/4/28
2307448 Davis J. 1/5/28
2310408 Nicholson G. 20/7/28

To be Corporal—
2312738 Murphy A. 4/1/28
2314478 Scott H. 13/2/28
2311331 Woodford W. 13/2/28
1045282 Powell E. 13/2/28
3645240 Hayhoe P. 25/4/28
2200223 Harris A. 26/4/28
*2310681 Butcher E. 27/4/28
2309784 Arnell W. 29/4/28
17455 Morrissey W. 29/4/28
2313845 Norman S. 29/4/28
*2315325 Spencer H. 29/4/28
2315280 Millen S. 1/5/28
2308464 Butler T. 1/5/28
2315498 Williams H. 24/5/28
5608650 Policella J. 29/5/28
6733688 Bibbings S. 29/5/28
2310951 Polling R. 28/6/28
2315595 Basted S. 7/7/28
2310959 Slater G. 18/7/28

* *Denotes Special Roster (India)*

Razmak, Waziristan.

RAZMAK is situated at the northern end of the Suleiman range of mountains, at a height of approximately 6500 feet above sea level. The climatic conditions compare very favourably with those of England, the average temperature ranging from 40 degrees in winter to 80 in summer. Rain is frequent, due no doubt to the natural conditions of the surrounding country. Snowfalls during winter are extremely heavy, and warm clothing is essential.

The earliest record known to the author of troops camping at Razmak shows that in 1881 a force in two columns entered the Mahsud country. One column proceeded from Bannu up the Khaisora river; the other from Tank by the Takki-Zam at Jandola into the Khaisora, and from thence to the Badar Valley, eventually reaching Makin, some few miles from Razmak. This force was sent to curb the activities of a notorious hillman, one Umar Khan, who on January 1st, 1879, burnt and looted the village of Tank.

The Signals Lines

The Hockey Ground, Borrett's Tower

[The accompanying photos were taken by Corpl F. Fields.]

From 1881 to 1895 several expeditions and columns passed through Razmak and the surrounding Mahsud and Wazir territory, but it was not until 1895 that a suggestion of a permanent camp at Razmak was brought to the fore. Mr. Bruce, then Deputy-Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan, was the originator. His strongest supporter, Mana Khan, son of Sohan Khan, strongly urged the occupation of Razmak by a powerful garrison —his sole object being to stop Mahsud erosion on that side, owing to the numerous wars between Mahsuds and Wazirs.

The year 1901 brought more active operations against the Mahsuds, and Razmak was proved beyond doubt a very convenient centre for these operations.

1919 saw the commencement of another Afghan war. For these operations Razmak was earmarked to be occupied by a strong garrison, to provide the striking force when khassadar and political methods of settling disputes betwixt the various tribes failed. Hence a complete Brigade at Razmak.

Operations were again necessary during 1921-1924. The outcome of these operations was that Razmak grew into a verdant castle. Since 1923 many feats of engineering skill, the most evident of which are on the roads, have been performed. Labour is not bountiful, but the various Companies of Sappers and Miners and Indian Pioneer Battalions have left a never-dying monument of their respective achievements on these magnificent roads. In many places along the circular road which embraces some 4000 square miles, most of which is mountainous country, whole mountain-sides have been blasted and cut away so that the road may be made passable for the necessary convoys, etc.

Razmak is far from being a town. Its military garrison is divided into two portions—one occupying Lower Camp, which is comprised of tentage accommodation, and the other the Upper Camp. The latter is permanent in nature, being built for the greater part of blocks of stone. Here we have such buildings as the Residency, the Razmak Gymkhana Club, Brigade Officers' Mess, and all offices of District and Brigade Headquarters.

Both these camps are surrounded by a perimeter wall, with piquets at various intervals, outside of which are barbed wire entanglements. Situated outside the perimeter wall in commanding positions are more piquet posts—a larger edition of the "pill-box"—for defence purposes should the necessity arise.

The garrison boasts a bazaar where one can get such things as a soldier needs, from cigarettes to furniture on hire, some twenty-five different shops supplying these.

Watchmakers and photographers seem to predominate, the former doing a brisk business with the Indian sepoy, who seems to have one fixed ambition in life: to possess a wrist watch, no matter what shape, size or quality.

The photographer looks to the British ranks for *his* business. Photography is more or less a hobby amongst a good number in the garrison, and cameras and requisites are obtainable in the bazaar. To those interested in photography I may mention that some excellent views, etc., are obtainable here, and a camera is worth having in Razmak.

The Signal Section, normally sixteen British and twenty Indian ranks, occupy part of Tigris Lines, their neighbours being the 1/12th Frontier Force, P.W.O. Sikhs. Up to the present the Section have no canteen, but a "buniyah" next to the bungalow supplies the simple needs of the soldier.

A tailor and shoemaker are attached to the Section, but their work does not compare favourably with that of England, although the former is a good hand at copying.

For the information of married men I would mention that there are no married quarters whatsoever, women not being allowed within approximately seventy miles of Razmak.

Sport is a prominent feature in the daily life of a soldier in Razmak. Hockey easily takes first place. There are sixteen units in the place, and each can turn out a good team, and a really good game can be witnessed most nights of the week.

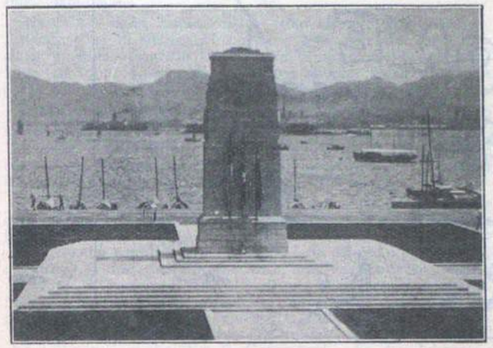
Units have their own basket ball pitches, but hockey, football and cricket grounds are limited in number, and consequently have to be controlled for allotment to the various units by a Central Board. This means that any one unit gets an allotment of two grounds for each game per week.

In conclusion I would say that Razmak is a very healthy station on the whole. The personnel who follow such trades as operators, visual and line, are almost always in the open and lead a very healthy life in consequence.

Our wireless personnel also get a fair share of the open, but as regards the other trades it is sufficient to state that they are practically negligible, as visual and wireless are the thing in this area.

AREFED.

HONG KONG—BY DAY AND NIGHT.



The Cenotaph

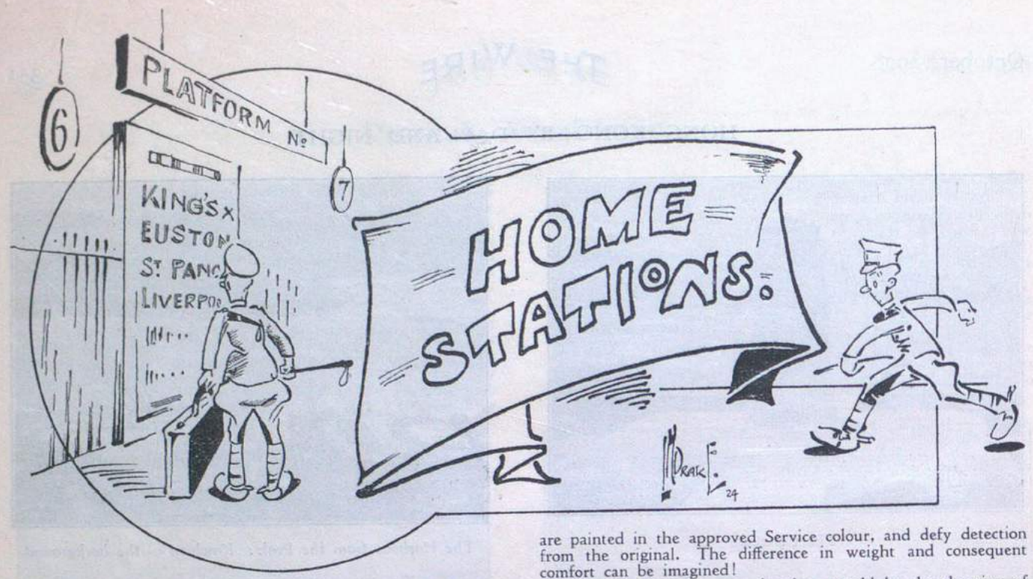
The Harbour from the Peak: Kowloon in the background

Hong Kong by Night

Statue Square

Des Voux Road

Des Voux Road



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Nothing much has happened in the Company during the past month. Training goes on as usual.

Owing to the large number of changes in the personnel provisionally warned for abroad, no one quite knows where he stands at present. However, I suppose it will eventually be known when and where the people concerned are really going.

Several of the Company are at present hard at work, swotting for the "first." If good attendances are anything to go by, there should be quite a number of "d's."

Congratulations are extended to L/Corpl Wheeler on his marriage, and to Sigmn Barnett W. on becoming the proud father of a bonny girl.

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to the newcomers from the Depot Battalion. We hope their stay with this Company will be a happy one.

Departures.—To E Company: Corpl Jeffers and L/Corporal Burton. To School of Signals: Signalmen Barnett, Husband, Dawes and Cunningham. We wish them all the best of luck.

Shooting.—A miniature range competition has just been started, to be run on the same lines as last year. We hope to see plenty of the younger members of the Company making their way to the range on Thursdays and Saturdays. It is a good chance to improve one's shooting, and there is also some money to be won.

Information.—For Bob Topp, Waddy, Jock and Co., and all ex-Donites: The marigolds are blooming profusely.

Agony.—Corpl Perry of this Company would like to know the whereabouts of Corpl Warren, late of Gibraltar Signal Section.

DON.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Uneasy lies the head. . .—It is stated that the authorities have decided upon the adoption of the fur busby (hitherto a distinctive feature of the full-dress uniform of the Royal Horse Artillery) by all sections of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and also by the Corps of Royal Engineers.

The adoption of the shako, it is understood, is to be extended to all line regiments and certain departmental corps.

The crowning glories of the British Army offer wonderful scope for originality and variety, and these latest decisions of the "gentlemen whose hats are of brass" appear to be a step in the right direction.

There is an establishment in Aldershot which makes a speciality of the manufacture of cardboard "steel" helmets. These are painted in the approved Service colour, and defy detection from the original. The difference in weight and consequent comfort can be imagined!

Real originality, in my estimation, would be the dressing of Life Guardsmen in gentlemen's bowlers.

I would then rest contented.

Road versus Rail.—On September 27th, 1825, the first public railway was opened between Stockton and Darlington. Since that far-distant date, man has applied himself to the task of improving those strange and wheezy machines first placed on the metals by Watts and Stephenson; and to-day, one has but to visit any of the great termini to see his monomark "Progress" (with a capital P) stamped on all things connected with railways.

But—and this is where I begin to warm up to my theme—since September 27th, 1825, the railways of this country have held a monopoly of passenger and goods transport; and a very pleasant feeling of security has caused our railway director to pat his roll-top desk and glance indifferently down upon the man who wants to get there, paying coin of the realm to the fellow on the other side of the grille. Everything in the garden was lovely, and if the 10.15 didn't leave until 10.20 it made not one scrap of difference to the cash register.

The state of coma into which the railway has gradually permitted itself to lapse is exemplified by an incident which recently befell me on the suburban line of the identical Company I had patronised to convey me to the North.

My train left, or was booked to leave, London at 1.15 p.m. That we were seven minutes late in starting is beside the point.

I left a town nine miles out of London at a time which, from past experience, has permitted ample time at the terminus to find a seat and settle down for the journey. But the "gentleman with the roll-top desk" slumbered contentedly beneath his cob-web quilt, and held us up for a full twenty minutes in a tunnel at the entrance to the main station—with the result that many others, in common with myself, would have lost the connection had not the express, as I have already pointed out, been delayed in its departure.

On September 27th, 1928, you and I will journey into Darlington, the home of the railway, and we will watch the departure for London of a dozen magnificent saloon motor-coaches. They will be carrying passengers from the home of the railway at half the price demanded by the erstwhile great monopolists. And the "gentleman with the roll-top desk" will see it too, and he will go all red and sticky round the collar.

And it will serve him jolly well right!

I Wonder?—Good powers of observation add a lot of spice to the daily routine. I wonder how many WIRE readers—regular readers, I mean—noticed that the type for the printing of the September number was different from that generally utilised? [Good man!—you win easily!—ED.]

Marriages.—Our hearty congratulations and good wishes to L/Corpl Wyse B. and Sigmn Cranson W. on their very recent marriages.

Departures.—Corpl Neal H. to the Boys' Technical School, Chepstow, September 1st. Sigmn Towell R. to 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford, Sept. 6th. Sigmn Perry C. to 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot, Sept. 8th.

Arrivals.—Sigmn Stewart G. A. from Rhine Signal Company, August 24th. In addition, I am faced with a total of some fifty or sixty arrivals from the Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion. I have not counted them all, but if any should chance upon this paragraph they may find a welcome between the lines.

Appointment.—Sigmn Johns W. C. to be L/Corporal. Keep going!

Ancient Perspiration.—Sigmn Badgy Brame is permitted to continue in the Service beyond a period of 21 years. We wonder if you will ever drop off the inventory, Badgy!

Purely Personal.—As my sub-title indicates, this matter is of a purely personal character between the fellow responsible for the entries in our Part II. Order book and myself.

I'll give the lad his due. As a rule, I am offered a good variety of "copy." He presents me with anything between railway warrants on repayment and the names of regimental sergeant-majors who, for reasons which do not concern any of us, are permitted to draw ration allowance at the higher rate.

This month, however, he has sold me both a "pig in a poke" and a "pup" in the Part II. Order book. So that I have no choice but to fall back on other matter. So be it!

Low Finance.—Money, we are told, is the root of all evil. This little story is founded on fact, and is dedicated to those seeking an overdose of root.

Within the last few weeks, two hundred and sixteen people have found themselves in temporary financial straits, and two hundred and sixteen written intimations have found their way into the post-bag of our Company pay-sergeant. Such is the penalty of fame!

But whereas this much-abused individual entertains no marked objection to being periodically inundated with pink paper bearing the preamble "Dear pay-sergeant," he would deem it a favour were the writer to leave the envelope blank.

? ? ?—"What," asks a recent article in the daily press, "is a bona fide Scotsman?" "When a fellow stuffs cotton-wool into his ears when he's asked to pay attention . . ."

You've heard that one before? Sorry! L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—The Company is once more back to its normal strength, the boys having returned from leave, all looking very well and contented. They very quickly settled down, and are now looking forward to rugby, etc. We have had several trial games of hockey and rugby, and expect to turn out really first-class teams this year.

Arrivals.—Capt D. A. Brown, M.C., 2/Lieut P. G. Docker, Recruit Boys Anthony, Boyland, Burden, Cliff, Larkin, Powell, Cope, Cox, Davidson and Smith. To all we extend a hearty welcome, and hope their stay in the Company will be happy.

Departures.—Signalmen Mace, Ratcliff, Thomas, Broom and Horne to Aldershot. Our best wishes go with them.

Drafts.—Corpl Murphy to Egypt, on 28/9/28. Provisional warnings have been issued to Corpl Jones D., L/Corpl Barlow J. and L/Corpl Way, for India. At last Records have found a pair of skates to fit Corpl Jones.

Appointment.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Sadler on his step.

Jinny, perhaps one of the best known "war-dogs," (and owned by our O.C., Major F. R. Cobb, M.C.) passed away on 21st August, her death being due to old age and to heart failure. She was in practically every battle from the Somme onwards, being wounded by shell-fire on two occasions—once at Dead Dog Farm on the Arras-Monchy le Preux road in 1917, and again at Warlus in March, 1918.

She produced seventy-six puppies, which are scattered all over Belgium, France, Germany, Upper Silesia and Great Britain. Jinny will be remembered by members of the 12th Divl Signals during the war, by the 2nd Divl Signals in 1919, by the Rhine Signals of 1919-1923, and by many members of the Corps who have been stationed at Maresfield or Catterick since 1923. So passes an old friend impossible to replace! FREDDY.

"Jinny."

Sergeants' Mess, Training Battalion.

The annual mess outing was held on September 4th, when members and their families turned out in force and spent a most enjoyable day at Redcar.

Two buses were devoted to the married men and their families, and one carried the "singles." Starting at 9 a.m. the party arrived in nice time for lunch at an hotel on the sea-front, after which an adjournment was made for the sands and sunshine.

The majority of single members broke the return journey at Middlesbrough and helped to swell the attendance at the Cleveland dirt track race meeting that evening.

School of Signals.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sigmn Sanders H. on August 12th (as a result of a motor accident at Stockton-on-Tees), and of Sergt Hamblin I. C., The Buffs, at Catterick Military Hospital, on August 21st, after a long illness.

Arrivals.—Sergts Walker W. S., The Cameronian Highlanders; Saddler W. C., The Loyal Regiment; Hayward H. A., The Northumberland Fusiliers—for duty as assistant instructors of signalling. Sergt (now A/C.Q.M.S.) Payne L. F. from the Training Battalion.

The following signalmen joined the School from the Training Battalion on September 10th: Barnett W., Cunningham L., Dawes S., Husband E., Drake R. M., and Horner S. W.

Driver Lucas R. joined from the Depot Battalion on Sept. 13th.

Departures.—The absence of notes from the School in the September WIRE accounts for the rather larger number of departures to be recorded. They are: Sigmn Jordan P., Drivers Mace L. E., Brown W., Hellier T., and Ward F.—all to the Army Reserve.

Sergt W. Hindon, The Beds and Herts Regiment (assistant instructor) to Dover on rejoining his regiment, August 10th.

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Sergt Shaw W. J. (The Loyals) to be Sergeant, 15/6/28; and the following Sergeants to be Acting C.Q.M.S.'s to complete the School establishment: Payne L. F., 7/8/28; Bruce J., and Strange F. G., 15/8/28.

Service.—A few more years at Catterick are assured for Sergt Hall H. F., re-engaged to complete 21 years' service, and Sergt White H. (The Duke of Wellington's Regiment) who has extended to complete 12 years with the Colours.

Hot Stuff.—The two men who have returned to us as qualified cooks, after passing through the Army School of Cookery at Aldershot: Sigmn Webb T. S., and Dvr Moxon J. E. No wonder the Admin. Company is looking so very fit!

The Speckless Cleanliness of a Butcher's Block

is absolutely necessary, and butchers know that the best method is regular scrubbing with WILKIE & SOAMES blue mottled soap.

Women who have used it once for washing clothes never use any other, because it gives a lovely lather, is economical, and leaves clothes beautifully clean and white.

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Marriage.—Congratulations are extended to Corpl Bygrave S. A. (Aldershot and India, please note), who was married on July 11th.

Foreign Drafts.—The open letter from Tiny of Karachi has not escaped notice. Those detailed provisionally for abroad are Signalmen Husband, Dawes and Drake, all for India.

In the near future we shall be saying goodbye to Capt F. S. Thompson, R.Signals, who is under orders to embark for Sarafand. He will be relieved by Lieut W. Scott, who recently completed the Cambridge University course for Royal Signals officers.

No. 95 Regimental Course.—The School's brief respite from regimental course duties has been broken by the assembly of the 95th Course, which commenced on September 6th. We are hoping to have the assistance of many of them in all branches of sport during their three months' stay here. In this respect the sergeants' mess has been able to strengthen its tennis team by the arrival of L/Sergt Sextone, Royal Artillery.

Married Families.—From all that reaches a bachelor's ears, one can imagine the good time the married families of the School had when Colonel E. A. Osborne, D.S.O. (Commandant School of Signals) entertained them on Wednesday, September 12th, at Piercebridge. The party left camp by bus just after midday, and spent a very jolly time at various games before and after tea. We hear the ladies' cricket team (ably captained by a former marshal of the Corps band) are applying to be recognised as competitors for the S.T.C. cricket shield.

Sergeants' Mess.

Guests.—During the latter part of July and early August we were able to shake hands with some old friends on the permanent staff of the 46th (North Midland) Divl Signals, and to make friends with many of the Territorial n.c.o.s during their annual camp at Gandale. Entertainments were arranged by the sergeants' and men's messes of the S.T.C., and with all modesty we are glad to say that the members of the 46th Divl Signals will have pleasant memories of their stay in the vicinity of the S.T.C. during 1928.

Tennis.—The popularity of tennis still rises, even though the season must surely come to a close before long. Our court is very pleasantly situated, being surrounded on three sides by chestnut and fruit trees and a wall, which provide an excellent shelter from the prevailing winds. Games may be played on almost any day despite the fresh breezes which blow across the camp from the moors. We have had excellent weather, too. Who said Catterick was dull? July full of sunshine, August mainly fair, and September here with every promise of continued good weather!

We had an excellent day's tennis when the Training Battalion mess entertained us on their court on Sunday, July 15th, finishing up with a pleasant impromptu social and dance. Since then we have had a succession of small and large tennis parties on our own court, including a match versus the 4th Battn. Royal Tank Corps (alas! we lost). In the latter match some excellent play was witnessed between Sergts Rhodes and Sextone (School) versus R.S.M. Bird and Sergt Fitzgerald of the Tanks.

To-morrow (September 16th) the Training Battalion are entertaining us on their court, and on Thursday next we are playing a return match on the Royal Tank Corps court. PETER.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Lavington Park Camp, Sussex, Sept. 12th.

General, and Notes from Camp.—We are now under canvas, and my apologies are due to Mr. Weather for running him down in last month's notes, as we have on the whole experienced delightful weather. What a difference to last year!

Most of our time here has been spent on the many and varied schemes set up for our training. The first fortnight was spent with the 1st Cavalry Brigade, and the remainder of the time with the 2nd Division.

During the cavalry schemes we had the experience of riding our Morris cars complete (with tracks on). And they were wanted, too! The 2nd Division schemes were in the nature of "buckshees," as we were attached to an infantry regiment, communication being kept up between Battalion and Brigade H.Q.s by means of W/T, which was especially successful in the case of the enemy cutting off means of communication by D.R. But what a difference! With cavalry it is all move and little work, but with infantry, all work and little move.

Trooper Don devised a system of indoor aerial for car-working which has turned out very successful, not only for short distance work, but for other purposes. One of the latter is the keeping away of persons who become over-curious, thus ensuring us comparative peace. In the words of one who was bitten: "Keep away from that car, sir; just look at my hand!" He said the car was "red-hot." Roll on, those elusive special-fitted wireless cars!

Overheard Somewhere in Sussex.—First lady: "So they be the Singals, eh?"

Second lady: "Yes; and it is said that they all be single men, too."

Corporal: "They are not all single; some are married."

First lady: "Do they be the ones with stripes on't arms?"

Corporal: "Yes; you see that one there (pointing to a drum-major)? He is the fourth husband of a second wife."

We left them, then, to work it out for themselves.

Departures (from the Unit)—Sigmn Stanton to Command Signal Coy. Aldershot, August 18th (from the M.Q. waiting list).

Sergt Colley has at last joined the official benedicts roll, after waiting for—er, sorry, we have lost count of the years he has waited!

Agony.—To Tiny, from Paddy: Ain't you ever going to drop a line?

To Buff, from the Troop: Thanks for letter; remembrances from all, and congratulations.

Horrors!!—Barleux, I'm shocked (and all sorts of funny things) at you, for reaping up experiences I wished to forget. I hope you read this, now that you have brought back to me all my sensations of the "chair."

He wished me a very good (?) morning when I interviewed him in the matter of my molars, and asked me to kindly take a chair. I did, for there was nothing else I could think of. He decided (without my permission) to have them all out, with "just a little whiff of gas." Two D.O.s and two ordinary Os arranged themselves around me.

D.O. No. 2 said "Breathe naturally"—as if I could! He then muzzled me, and I experienced a nice sweet sensation. I noted the clock, which pointed to ten minutes to noon. And then—somebody hit me! I'm sure they did, because I felt it, and my eyes rivetted themselves on that clock. It started going round quicker and quicker. My! didn't the time *fly!* Round and round went the fingers.

Up and up I seemed to go until I found I was in an aeroplane at the modest height of 10,000 feet, and then something went wrong with the works. The engine stopped. I did every stunt that was invented, including others not yet thought of. The aeroplane and I parted company. I tried to calculate how long it would be before Mother Earth and I met, by the simple process of formulating—you know that stuff about 32 ft. per sec. The clock was still going merrily round.

Ow! what was that—"Ten, eleven" (what a pull!)—"Twelve" (won't that blinking clock ever stop its maddening flight?)—"Thirteen, fourteen" (ah, that's better! the clock is slowing down; a vision comes of a man in white shoving something in my mouth)—"Fifteen" (he's got two heads! No, only one; there is a doubt about it)—"Sixteen." Ah, that's better, the blinking clock has stopped at last—it says seven minutes to noon. It can't be right! The D.O. is speaking to me: "Not a bad bag that, is it? Sixteen of the best (or worst), and going grand too. How do you feel?" Well, I didn't tell him what I felt or thought, but I'm sure that I could have put that clock in the place where those teeth had come from!

I only had eight more to come out, and the next time I saw the D.O. he took those too; but I am afraid my thoughts that time will not look nice in these columns. I know THE WIRE gets into the married quarters!

"Daily Mail" Pushball.—The first round of the *Daily Mail* pushball competition was played on September 12th, when we met M.G. and H.Q., K.D.G.s, who won the game.

TROOPER DON.

Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, Sept. 15th.

A Week's Scheming.—Having just returned from a six-day manœuvre, we are finding it rather difficult to compile these notes in time.

The manœuvre was a success from the unit's point of view, as we have been congratulated on maintaining an excellent service of communication under exceptionally adverse circumstances. Several individuals have been commended, and special mention should be made of the action of one sub-section whose W/T vehicle was unavoidably captured. By successfully hoodwinking the enemy into the belief that the set was "dis," they deterred them from intercepting messages and led to their being released as a worthless capture. The sub-section then returned to their original post, removed the planted "fault," and carried on with the good work.

Our Garden Party.—Although but for a short afternoon, the visit of the Corps band was a memorable event. We have to thank the C.O. and Mrs. Carter for giving a garden party to all ranks on that occasion. Everyone would express their appreciation of the happy thought which made it possible for each man to bring his friends and listen to the band in the privacy and agreeable surroundings of the C.O.'s garden.

The band, needless to say, gave an able performance, and we particularly noticed the rendering of the National Anthem at the conclusion. This proved quite a contrast to the perfunctory manner in which it is usually played. Our only complaint is that it seemed to come too soon!

Good Going!—Not often do we get news from the Tank Signal Section at Perham Down. We are informed, however, that about twenty-four M.B. W/T sets have been fitted in tanks during the last six weeks. Mounting a set in a tank being an awkward business, the number erected is to the Section's credit.

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Mechanised Petrol Store.—To construct this, you first select a 1914 pattern Ford lorry which has been decoyed from its customary milk round by an unscrupulous contractor. On this you load about three times as much petrol as it can safely hold, and then set off with the knowledge that you are in for a *rattling* good time! Sooner or later you will find that the contraption stops and refuses to go. The only way to make it go is to put a match to the petrol!

Well Played!—Some of us who were once stationed at Belfast wish to congratulate the Northern Ireland Signal Company on winning the N.I.D. cricket cup. For a Company with such small numbers to compete successfully with full battalions is "another one up" for the Corps.

"Round the Stations."—In reply to some queries from Bulford with regard to the above item in last month's issue, Nab wishes to state that the last word in the fourth stanza should have read "*hares*," and not "airs."

Local Celebrities: No. 2.—An interview with the bright light of the Section, the Hon. Ac Eddy Harold Lloyd, resulted in the following. (Blame him, not us!)

A motor-cycle I adorn—
Believe me or not;
I ride it to the manner born,
And you should hear me blow my horn,
For I'm hot—red hot!

The ladies fall for me like pins;
Not some—the lot!
The cook she smiles, the housemaid grins,
The nursemaid waves and spills the twins,
For I'm hot—red hot!

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Writer's Note:—

A chap who thus doth loudly brag,
The worst should be his lot;
Methinks, when he has passed away,
He'll speak the truth should he *then* say
"I am hot—red hot."

Marriages.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Rowe and Signalman Hubbard, who have become life members of the henpecked husbands' union.

Departures.—Our best wishes follow Sigmn Wheeler, who returns to civvy street; Sigmn Hawkes, who goes to the 4th Divl Signals; Sigmn Tyrrell, invalided; and Sigmn Joy, to Egypt.

NABAD.

No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company.

Blackdown, September 10th.

General.—We must first apologise for the absence of notes during the last three months. Really, we have very good excuses to offer, what with camps and manœuvres, etc.; and in this case the "etc." stands for a good deal more than one generally supposes.

In June the whole Company, with the exception of one man, performed at Liddymore Farm Camp, Watchet, Somerset, preparing the means of communication for the 1st and 2nd and Terrier A.A. Brigades R.A. for their annual "Archie" practice. A Maintenance Detachment (Capt G. St. J. Martin and twenty n.c.o.s and men) have been there ever since, and we hope to welcome them home at the end of this month.

G Cable Section proceeded to Gatton Park Camp, near Redhill, Surrey, in July, and laid and maintained communications for the 1st A.A. Searchlight Battalion R.E. until September 2nd, when they returned to Blackdown looking exceedingly well, although judging by appearances I imagine many of them were broken-hearted. Evidently there are plenty of nice girls in Surrey, especially in Croydon!

The end of this month should see our "happy little family" (as the sergeant-major calls it) all gathered in Blackdown, preparing for the G.O.C.'s inspection which is expected to take place in October. By that time the annual furlough will be close ahead, so roll on, October!

Several of the Company are on draft leave—two for India, and the remainder for the land where chopsticks are issued instead of a knife, fork and spoon. We hope they will enjoy their stay, wherever they go.

Casualties.—No wreaths, by request! It may interest some people in India to know that Corpl Goodison (late 2nd Indian Divl Signals) was married last May. He has our most heartfelt sympathy—also the sergeant-major's, from what I hear.

Arrivals.—Q.M.S. Grigg W. H., from New Zealand. Sergt Eastes A. C., Signalmen Tomlinson H., Robinson E., Bartle H. and Bott J., from Catterick. Sigmn Cooter T. from 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.

Promotions and Appointments.—It is rather late, but still, congratulations to the following: L/Corpls Morrissey and Norman to be Corporals, w.e.f. 29/4/28. Signalman Purdy to be U/L/Corpl w.e.f. 9/7/28.

Experiences Wanted.—G.R. (Blackdown) 350 c.c. 1927 Excelsior. Maximum speed. Will it stand a chance in next year's T.T.? Will engine stop in or fall out? Do both wheels go round the same way? Can corners be taken at high speed, or do they have to be straightened out?

Agony.—Will Ted Johnson write to H. Tomlinson, late of 107 Squad?

J. R. Steel would be delighted to hear from his old pal Nobby Clarke, late of the Ipswich Life Guards, and also from Franky Crawford, somewhere in India.

BLOKE.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, September 15th.

General.—By the time these notes are in print the holiday season will be ended, and everyone will have resumed duties full of energy after a rest.

During one of my usual strolls around Salisbury, I decided the other day to visit a well-known café in Silver Street (where most of the big bugs go—ahem!) On arrival at this noted place I seated myself at a small table and ordered my requirements. Suddenly the sound of spurs came to my ears, and looking to the

October—The Fast Flapper.

entrance (from whence the sound came) I espied a soldier-like man wearing the Corps uniform. I know he belonged to the Corps of Signals, because he wore "Jimmy on a rock cake" on his cap as well as his collar. He seated himself at a table close to mine (if he only knew!), a slim and pretty young lady with note-book in hand appeared, and the following conversation took place.

Signalman: "I'll have some eggs and chips, please."

"Yes, sir," replied the waitress.

Signalman: "Don't forget to fry them, turn them over, fry them again, turn them back again, and then you may as well throw them on the fire, because I don't want them now. I'll have two flying angels on horseback instead" (poached eggs on toast).

"Yes, sir," was the final answer, as the blushing waitress dashed to get the eggs.

Matters Musical.—I take this opportunity of congratulating the Corps band. There are few people nowadays who are entirely unresponsive to musical vibrations, and on hearing the Corps band recently the essence of their music stimulated and charmed me. I expect many will wonder where I heard the band!

On Sunday, August 19th, the 3rd Divl Signals of Bulford Camp held their annual old comrades parade, to which I was cordially invited. When I arrived at the camp, I had the pleasure of meeting several of my old pals and comrades whom I left two-and-a-half years ago in the far-off sunny clime.

The parade went off with a swing, with only one casualty. One old comrade had too many medals on his noted chest protector, and one of them refused to stay in its place, for it went down with a bang on the floor. It caused such a noise that everyone looked to see if *their* medals had taken a flying leap! Still, it was discovered in time, and with the aid of a safety-pin (handy things, safety pins!) was affixed in its proper position of fours (not plus).

There is one thing I desire to see: all old comrades who read this, and have THE WIRE regularly, looking in for this parade next year, and rolling up in their hundreds from the surrounding districts and villages of Salisbury Plain (the more the merrier).

Arrivals.—Waziristan District Signals, I am sure, would like to know that Piggy Fry (ex-storeman of that unit in Bannu) has arrived safely at 3rd Divl Signals; also Corpl Anderson.

And above all, the well known Quetta "pigeoneer" and D.R. (Sigmn Legg). I understand he takes care of his own pigeons now they are homing birds, as he has taken unto himself a wife in the vicinity of Salisbury. When I saw him he looked quite fat, but he did not recognise me, as he was on the motor-cycle combination.

Heard at the Club.—First Clubman (reading a daily newspaper): "It ain't right and it ain't fair!" Second Clubman: "What ain't?" First Clubman: "The left side of a dark Austin Seven."

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals.

Marne Lines, Bulford Camp.

Visit of the Royal Signals Band.—This, of course, was the outstanding event in our usually placid lives. We were expecting something good—and we were not disappointed. The Corps band thoroughly deserve the splendid reputation they have built up under the skilful hands of Mr. R. R. Ricketts.

On August 14th they gave a popular concert in the Regimental Institute. On the 15th they were in attendance on the Beacon Hill ground for our annual sports. On the 16th they vanished: I believe they went to Tidworth. Friday, the 17th, saw them again in the Regimental Institute, with an enthusiastic crowd enjoying another concert.

The Garrison Institute was the venue for all with three stripes and upwards on Saturday, the 18th, this being the mess dance. What a crowd! What a success! Nothing to touch it this year! The dance band portion supplied the music in masterly style.

Then, on Sunday, came the big parade: the church parade of the year, so far as it concerns the Signals. Several old sweats were on parade. Perhaps we can remember their names: ex-C.S.M. Johnson, D.C.M., Mr. Harvey, Mr. Heath, Mr. Cole. F/S/Sergt Holloway received the L.S. and G.C. medal at the hands of the C.R.A., Brigadier R. G. Finlayson, C.M.G., D.S.O., on this parade, and duly baptised it (the medal) when he reached the mess.

We were truly sorry when the band left us on Monday, 20th August, for a tour in the Isle of Wight. We all wish Mr. Ricketts and the band the best of luck and continued success, and hope that they enjoyed our company as well as we enjoyed theirs.

Eastwood Ho!—I am afraid that up to the present there is nothing further to report. Owing to the Command training which takes place very shortly, it will be necessary to place these notes in the hands of the Editor somewhat earlier than usual.

THE BUTTONS' CHORUS

(with apologies to a well-known song)

Bluebell, Bluebell
We all love Sergeant Bluebell
O.T. 'ot any old pot,
Made to shine in the shade
what, what!
We buttons all bless him
Not one but is clean and gleams
well
All the boys like Sergeant Blue-
Blue-Blue-Blue-Blue-Bluebell!

BLUEBELL

brings brightness and brings it quickly

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The name of Sergt Nicks W. J. A. may, however, be removed from my list of emigrants, as he has retired into private life. We are expecting some news re dates of sailing by every post.

Pride.—Esprit de corps is a very fine thing, and we like to hear of men with a good word for their unit and all that. Like everything else it can be overdone, and surely Signalman "S" is the lad who is overdoing it. Not content with comprehensive information on his shoulder-straps, he takes both Signal arm-bands home on leave and wears them in the streets of London Town, fondly hoping that he is both envied and admired.

R. F. B.

Births.—To Sigmn E. and Mrs. Hamilton, a son (Ronald Edward James) at Clutton Midsomer-Norton, on August 17th; another candidate for a cooks' course, Ted! To Corpl F. and Mrs. Slater, a daughter (Pearl Joyce) at Tidworth, on Aug. 13th.

Marriages.—Sigmn Runeckles C. to Ida Alice Ablitt, at St. Leonards Church, Bulford, June 20th. Sigmn Fookes E. to Alice Louisa Wiles, at Sculcoats, Yorks, on August 4th. L/Corporal Ray J. to Lillian Cox, at Farnham, on August 7th. Sigmn Dempsey B. to Elizabeth May Payne, at Isleworth, Middlesex, on Aug. 11th. Sigmn Hubbard to Gladys Marie Hall, at Basingstoke, on August 13th.

Married Quarters Roll.—Sergt Slater T. R., Aug. 10th. Everything comes to him who waits!

Arrivals.—C.S.M. Kneebone G. from 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, on July 11th. Dvr Roberts C. from Depot Battalion on July 19th. L/Sergt Cotterell W. M., from Training Battalion on July 30th.

Departures.—Corpls Baker S. J., Carnell S. and Tapley, Signalmen Overton, Thurbon, Royle, Stanton, Weir W., Salter W., Compton A., and Beck C., Drivers Walton, Reed A. and Brealey G.—all to the Army Reserve.

Sergt Nicks W. J. A. discharged under K.R. 370 (ix) (a) on August 30th. The best of luck, Bill. May you have no regrets!

Extension of Service.—Sigmn Boniface E. R. to complete 12 years with the Colours.

Promotions and Appointments.—Corporal Piercy W. to be L/Sergeant, w.e.f. 26/5/28. Sigmn Laver F. to be L/Corporal, w.e.f. 11/7/28. Signalman Peake C. to be L/Corporal, w.e.f. 29/5/28. Sigmn Smalley J. to be L/Corporal, w.e.f. 22/6/28. L/Corpl Polling R. to be Corporal, 28/6/28. L/Corpl Slater G. to be Corporal, 18/7/28. Sigmn Payne L. G. to be L/Corporal, w.e.f. 10/7/28. Sigmn Lapper S. to be L/Corpl, w.e.f. 18/7/28.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

General.—The Divisional concentration is the one topic of conversation, and all Sections are now working with their respective Brigades. The usual crop of funny stories has arrived. One concerns an officer who could not go over the top with his Section until his lunch arrived. The unit is still chuckling at the story of the P.R.I. who nearly burst his face-pieces through laughing at the G.S. (who had left their masks on the sideboard) when a tear-gas attack arrived.

Our first casualty occurred when Sigmn Gilbert sustained very bad injuries in a motor-cycle smash, necessitating his removal to hospital on the D.I. list. All ranks of the unit join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

This Nouveau Riche Business.—Our Colchester correspondent writes: "A scene typically English, exemplifying the change in post-war England, can be witnessed every Tuesday and Saturday at the home of the telegram soldiers. A long line of cars can be seen slowly—very slowly—winding their way to the ration house, where the complacent owners fill their luncheon baskets. Unfortunately the picture is marred by the wild scramble of poor married folk, who seek a loaf and half, the while casting envious eyes on the crumbs that fall from the rich men's tonneaus."

Scribbling in the above strain is quite likely to continue in the near future, as the present craze for cars continues. What, exactly, is the giddy idea? Is is absolutely necessary to get a car if you want exercise?

Oh, well! They help to fill up the camp. Wait till the pay-clerk arrives with his piccaninobile. Keep your heads down, you owners, when passing under charabancs!

Departures.—By the time these notes appear we shall have lost Lieut Gough and Sergt Smith E. H. to the S.D.F. Signals. We wish them bon voyage, and good shooting at Ewo.

At the end of the month we lose ex-Shanghailanders in C.S.M. Harris, Corpls Manning and Fox, and Signalmen Prickett, Jones, Barker, Crundwell and Smith J. G., who leave for civil life on completion of vocational training courses. We wish them a good start, and continued success in their new sphere.

Shanghailanders, past and present, will be interested to know that ex-Corpl Bill Williams, late friend of Miss Asahi, has recently paid us a visit. He is now driving an L.G.O.C. bus on one of the Croydon routes.

Miscellaneous.—W.J.P., Shanghai: Congratulations. I bet they were pleased at the Rectory.

Reg.: Are you still in favour of Protection? WELLER.

Scottish Command Signal Company.

The Castle, Edinburgh.

Promotions.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) White A. on attaining that rank w.e.f. February 10th.

Prospective Departures.—Orders have been received for the move of three of our personnel: C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) White A. to Sierra Leone, and Sergt Foley J. and L/Sergt Simmonds to India. We shall be sorry to lose such familiar faces, but our loss will be others' gain.

Musketry.—We have just finished our annual musketry training, having fired off our allowance of ammunition this month. As the Signals are not entitled to classify this year, results of class shots are not forthcoming. The firing was carried out in conjunction with No. 2 A.F.A. Brigade Signal Section, and we had four names in the first eight. Our O.C. (Lieut S. J. Fielder) was second, Corpl Daniell third, Sergt Willis fourth, and "your humble" eighth.

Agony.—I should very much like to see a line from L/Corpl Wheeler, late of Jubbulpore. What about it, Eric?

WEE RITE.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, September 15th.

General.—Owing to the great demand for personnel during the training period, our numbers at the base have become sadly depleted. More duty, more honour. "What, again! only on last week." "Another Wednesday, eh!"

The 19th R.A. Brigade Signal Section departed on August 31st for the "front," amidst cheers and tears.

On August 11th, about 120 other ranks, wives and friends went for a trip on the Rhine as far as Bopard. On the return journey a halt was made at St. Goar to enable some of the party to have their "annual," whilst others, feeling energetic, indulged in alpine climbing. The meals served on board were a great success, especially the tea (ask Blakemore). The return journey was completed about 9 p.m. after a very enjoyable day.

Traced.—A book entitled "The Guard's Supper," by Arfer Loaf, deals with the nightmares caused by overfeeding, and wives keeping awake all night to awaken their husbands when on orderly sergeant duty; it also gives tips on dart throwing.

Steps Up.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Montgomery K. G. and L/Sergt Nicholson G. on attaining those ranks. Do not forget the blacking, staff!

Births.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Anthony, a daughter (Gladys Olive), 18/8/28. To Corpl and Mrs. Salmon, a son (Reginald Charles), 27/8/28. To Corpl and Mrs. Betts, a daughter (Dorothy Ivy), 30/8/28. To C.S.M. and Mrs. Jones, a daughter (Pamela Mary) 1/9/28. Cheers!

Marriages.—At the Garrison Church, Wiesbaden, on Sept. 8th, L/Sergt Low G. A. (Tiny) to Miss Ada Lucy Jones (G.H.Q. Telephone Exchange). Another 4 o'clock lancer! Spin (India), please note.

Hats Off!—To C.Q.M.S. Sharpley W. O. R. on passing trade test as lineman, class 1; Sigmn Wilson A. on passing as clerk, class ii; and Dvr Hazelgrave on obtaining the 3rd class certificate of education. Also to L/Sergt Levy D. for re-engaging to complete 21 years.

Departures.—Best wishes go with the following: Corporal Critchley, L/Corpl Phillips, Signalmen Dunnell and Jones E. H., to Army Reserve. Sigmn Stewart C. A. to Catterick for draft.

Ticklers.—Mess Member (a book-worm) to Caterer: "Got any books there?" Caterer: "Got one—bags of money in it."

First Member (watching billiards): "Good shot!" Second Member: "Pure jam." First Member: "Give credit where credit is due." Caterer: "Been doing that all the month."

The tale of the darkened lamp—I thought it was through an accident. It wasn't; it was through (threw) the frying pan. Ask Darkie!

Track News.—H.F.B.D. wants to know when E.H.P. (Egypt) is going on the track westwards? Got a vacancy here for a good crack on the track.

Notice—We, the undersigned, after a careful perusal of recent events, do hereby solemnly declare and pronounce that we definitely refuse to lend kiwi, blacking, blanco or soap, or to stand for or change duties with the marginally named person, owing to his breaking away from the band. He may keep his C.R.A. and Christmas duff.—Signed Herrs F.U.N.F.

Sergeants' Mess.

During the past month the committee have been "cracking," and a very successful whist drive and dance was held on 25th August, when a full house was recorded.

On September 7th a bachelors' night took place, to prepare a lamb for the slaughter on the morrow. Included in the guests was Capt J. L. Low (late "Q" Branch, Maresfield), who is staying here for a short holiday. During the evening the "victim" was presented with a canteen of cutlery from the mess members. Several artistes were discovered during the community singing. Towards the end of the evening most of the members were showing photographs and talking about what happened in the war. Windows were fully opened. We should like to know what the mystery drink was composed of. Everyone had a ripping time—taken by the yard.

GROCK.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

We apologise for not sending out any notes from Jubbulpore for the past few months.

Officers.—We are all sorry to lose Capt R. H. Rayner, M.B.E., who has been transferred to the home establishment, and 2/Lieut J. F. Longfield, to 4th Indian Divl Signals. On the arrivals list we welcome Capt F. W. S. Jourdain, from leave ex-India.

Promotions and Appointments.—We extend our congratulations to the undermentioned: Sergt Coffin to be C.Q.M.S. L/Sergts Hodge and Coleman to be Sergeant. Corpls Cook, Marchant and Gilmour to be L/Sergeant. L/Cpls Bigg, Welch, Armstrong, Southwell and Ellison to be Corporal.

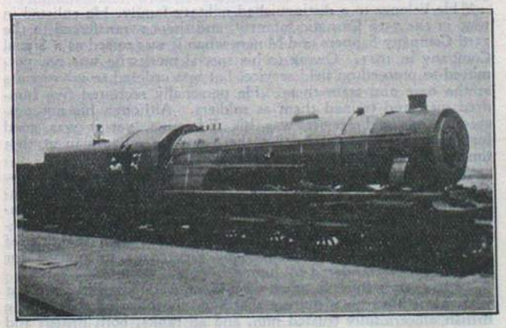
The undermentioned have taken their first step up the ladder: Signalmen Price, Woodbury, Hodges, Taylor, Phipson Scott, Patching and Sinclair.

Transfers to Army Reserve in India.—Corpl Danson, L/Cpl Mildren and Sigmn Leader have now left us to take up employment in this country. We all wish them success in civvy street.

Arrivals.—We welcome Signalmen Howell and Croucher from Waziristan District Signals. Old faces are always invited.

Education.—Congratulations to Signalmen Dillon, Bradbury, Frost, Wafer, I'Anson and Banks on obtaining 2nd class certificates of education. Now what about having a go at the 1st?

Marriages.—L/Corpl Snook S. N. to Miss Helen Winch, of Yately, Hants. L/Corpl Powell to Miss Elizabeth Rose Mawley, of Southwark. All here extend their heartiest congratulations.



"Ye Roller Skate"

(Type of Locomotive used for crossing the Scinde Desert)

Extension of Service.—L/Corpl Snook to complete 12 years with the Colours. Well done, Snooky!

Agonies.—Walt, late of 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot, would like to hear from Sigmn Frost of Waziristan District Signals. Come on, Wally; what about sending a few waves from your station?

What about it, Stevo, late of K Section, 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot. Any chance of any news?—Signalmen Swiller & Co.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

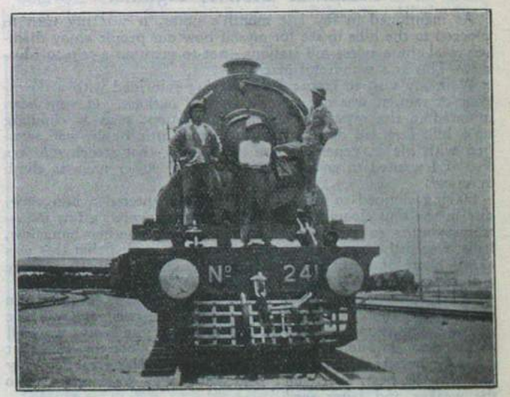
August 15th.

General.—The Supplement in last month's WIRE was greatly appreciated by all, and the complimentary remarks would make the Editor blush! It was even "noticed" by another editor at Bombay who contributes notes for that well-known magazine, "The Sapper." We have often thought of taking a photograph of soldiers in India reading THE WIRE and sending it home to the English papers, but are doubtful if it would gain a prize, as we have no good-looking men!

Manora Leave Camp is still popular for the local lads, and the usual party leaves here every week for sun-bronze treatment.

The main item of news is the inter-Section sports, details of which are included in the Sports Notes with a few interesting snaps.

We have one of the lads on a vocational course with the Railway, and he has sent a photograph of the only kind of roller skate that will cross the Scinde Desert.



A Front View

A very enjoyable evening was spent last week at the sergeants' mess, when the junior n.c.o.s were their guests. A series of billiard matches was played, and afterwards a really merry sing-song took place, and everybody came away happy.

As regards our note on pot-holes in the July issue, the holes are still there, but not the poles (M.C., please take note).

Dances are still as popular as ever, although it is inclined to be a little cold towards one o'clock.

We wish to add our congratulations to the many received by the Corps in Egypt on their splendid achievement in winning the best-all-round unit shield.

Signals Association.—The motto of this Branch is " Deeds, not words," and its policy is to keep working away quietly, without making a fuss about it.

It has been noticed that several Branches have been " puffing themselves out," and we have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to indulge in a little self-glorification to bring bald facts to notice.

In the balance sheet of 1927 issued by the Headquarters of the Association, it will be noticed that A Corps Signals, Karachi, contributed over £84 to the Benevolent Fund. The unit strength for that period was in the region of 257 B.O.R.s. The next best effort was £28/18/9.

We would point out that not one anna of our contribution came from regimental funds. The whole was raised by monthly contributions from every man in the unit and the profit from dances run by the Corps Committee.

While admitting that our contribution was the result of nearly two years' work, we might say that we also raised £50 for the Karachi Ex-Services Branch during the same period, and another sum of over £200 in December last on behalf of the widow of an n.c.o. who was accidentally killed.

We fail to understand why so many units are unmentioned in the list of contributions to the Benevolent Fund, or why another is only represented by its sergeants' mess.

This year we will undertake to contribute more than any other unit to the Benevolent Fund, on the understanding that no contribution is extracted from regimental funds.

Birth.—To Sergt Shardlow and wife, a girl (Sheila Marie) at Karachi. Congratulations to the proud parents!

Hullo!—L/Corpl Farmer (Paddy) of this unit would very much like to hear from L/Corpl Ashford, last heard of on the wastes of Iraq.

Sigmn Skeeter would like to know the whereabouts of Taffy, last heard of at 3rd Divl Signals.

Cyril would also like to tune in to Humbo. (He says, don't forget to save him a kip.)

Alternatives.—Reference Green Ink. Has anybody got any purple? We will send the recipe if required.

Peshawar District Signals.

As mentioned in my last month's notes, it was my turn to proceed to the hills to see for myself how our people enjoy themselves at these select hill stations—not to mention a trip to Murree. This *is* a wonderful place!

Well, my visit to Upper Topa having coincided with a downpour of rain, it was not a very cheerful outlook. Having been initiated in the mysteries of this hill station, such as climbing up a hill, I settled down into a nice snug little bunk, well satisfied with life in general. The main thing that struck me was that if I wanted to go anywhere, I should either have to climb or crawl.

Having climbed to the top of the hill I entered a bungalow, and in the dim gloom of the oil lamps I discovered a few industrious youths swotting up. Scrambling into another bungalow, I discovered the same thing. Thereupon I decided that this was a real home of learning, and that the " Q " sheet dances were a thing of the past.

Lo! Saturday arrived, and then could be seen a steady stream of boot boys nipping down to the durzi's shop with suits of blue patrols. On asking why, I was informed that the sahibs were off to Murree. The following morning this is the conversation that could be heard: " That one in pink, wasn't she great!" " My one was the best," etc., etc. No doubt they were referring to the weaker and fairer sex!

Apart from those week-end trips, Upper Topa is a *very* dull place except for those in the know (on the other side of the hill). I decided that it would be far better if I were with my own fraternity back on the Plains, so off I toddled, and here are a few notes as the result.

Medical.—Our sympathy is extended to Capt J. A. I. Watts in his long sojourn in hospital. We trust that after his rest in Kashmir on leave, he will be his old self again.

The malaria season is taking its usual toll of people for hospital, and it is a common sight to see the combination being turned out to take someone away for a rest. I've had my share, and know it!

Decorations.—We must congratulate F/Sergt Preston and L/Corpl Hadfield on being recommended for the award of the long service and good conduct medal after all these years of soldiering for H.M. the King.

Heard this one?—A certain youth, whilst out riding in Murree one fine summer's day, chanced to fall off his horse. On being apprehended by a Garrison policeman and asked if he had a riding pass, he replied that he was not in possession of one. The policeman thereupon asked him his name, and he replied " Signalman Grippon." (That's a pukka one! Loud and prolonged laughter in the unit office.)

Our sympathy is extended to the signalman on whom a ferocious provost-sergeant descended in wrath, shouting: " Are you left-handed?" The victim is expected to recover!

PESHDISTSIGS.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

General.—News is not so scarce as anyone would think. The fact of the matter is that we want someone to contribute; and should anyone care to, well—well done!

I give below a few notes relative to Subedar-Major and Hon. Lieut. Abdur Rashid, Bahadur, late of this unit, who has now retired to the pension establishment.

To commemorate his departure, the British officers of the unit were at home in the officers' mess to the Indian officers on April 25th last.

Lieut Abdur Rashid, after thirty-one years' service, was one of the best-known figures in the Indian Signal Corps, not only amongst those now serving in India but also amongst the numerous British officers, n.c.o.s and men at home who have, at one time or another, come into contact with him whilst serving in this country.

Lieut.-Col. R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C. (Chief Signal Officer Western Command) made a presentation of a gold watch, suitably inscribed, from himself, the British officers and n.c.o.s of this unit, as a token of their appreciation of the services rendered by Lieut Abdur Rashid. The following is the text of his remarks: —

" Subedar-Major and Hon. Lieut Abdur Rashid, Bahadur, after his long and illustrious service, is about to transfer to the pension establishment and depart from us. He served in the Corps as a good officer, with great loyalty and faithfulness, thereby gaining great fame for it.

" He belongs to a distinguished military family. He enlisted in 1897 in the 75th Carnatic Infantry, and thence transferred to the 33rd Company Sappers and Miners when it was raised as a Signal Company in 1911. Owing to his special merits he was not permitted to proceed on field service, but was ordered to get recruits at the base and train them. He personally recruited five hundred men and trained them as soldiers. Although his not proceeding on field service was his ill-fortune, yet it was good fortune for the Army, in that there was no other man at that time more fitted for this most important work.

" When he eventually did go on field service he showed how able and expert he was. He served in the campaigns of Afghanistan 1919, Iraq 1920, and Waziristan 1922-23. He was mentioned in despatches twice, and was granted a certificate for devotion to duty. He was awarded the O.B.I. with the title of Bahadur, and was promoted Hon. Lieutenant in reward for special services rendered by him.

" I have only come in touch with Lieut Abdur Rashid since last year, but I have noted during that very short period that all the British officers fully trusted him, and all ranks, both British and Indian, respected him very sincerely. We all trust he will be granted a long and leisurely life as a reward for his long and faithful services.

Subedar-Major and Hon. Lieut. Abdur Rashid, Bahadur

" All the British officers and n.c.o.s of the 2nd Indian Divl Signals have requested me to present this watch to you as a token of appreciation of the services rendered by you."

Subedar-Major and Hon. Lieut Abdur Rashid said in reply: — " Honoured sirs, who have assembled here together, before proceeding further I feel it my humble duty to pay you all my best respects, and to tender you my sincerest thanks, from the bottom of my heart, for the honour which you have shown me this day. I thank you all still more for the kind present which you have given me, though for reasons of my own I have a reluctance for such presents. It will serve as a remembrancer to me in my retired life.

" As you are already aware, I have served a period of thirty-one years, and during that time I have received every kindness from the officers under whom I had the honour and pleasure of serving, and I accept the present with much joy, pride and heartfelt thanks.

" Now referring to the kind speech of Lieut.-Col. Chenevix Trench, in which he has so freely eulogised my service in this unit and the like, I have to submit to you all, my honoured sirs, that though I cannot call it an exaggeration, it was only part and parcel of my career, and I do not think I really deserve the praise which my revered commanding officer has so generously bestowed on me. My thanks to him are beyond what words can express.

" Honoured sirs, the day has come for me to bid you all good-bye—a sad and joyous occasion—sad because of the separation from you all and various other comrades-in-arms, and joyous in view of the repose and rest which await me. May our Heavenly Father bless the days to come, and let me go with the assurance that the blessings of you all rest on me this day and in the days to come.

" I fear, honoured sirs, I have been rather long in acknowledging the kindness of you all. Let me therefore close now, and I thank you all once more from the bottom of my heart for the honour which you have shown me this day, and for all the acts of kindness which have ever and always been within my easy reach."

Marriage.—On May 27th, at Karachi, Captain Charles Henry Irwin Akehurst (1/3rd Sikh Pioneers), of this unit, to Margaret Damaris Prentice. Everyone will join with me in wishing them the best of luck.

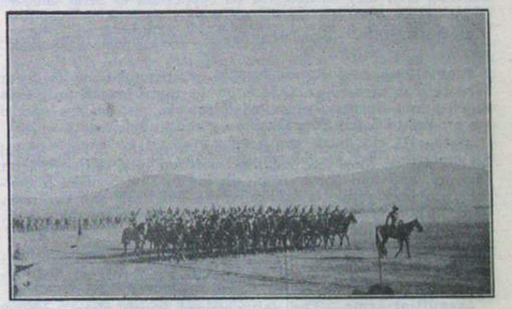
Birth.—On May 12th, to Sergt and Mrs. Peden, a daughter.

Congratulations to June, daughter of Sergt and Mrs. Ellerton-Long, and to Louis, son of Sergt and Mrs. Dilley, of this unit, on winning the first and second prizes respectively in their classes at the Quetta Baby Show.

Hanna Camp

Spring Camps.—Nos. 1 and 2 Companies proceeded to Hanna (about seven miles from Quetta) for spring camp on May 15th and returned on the 30th. A very fine time was experienced. Besides the usual routine of schemes, forms of sport were organised, a khud race receiving a great ovation when made known. Corpl Andrews and L/Corpl France (of Nos. 1 and 2 respectively) were the first home for their Companies, and Signalmen Rama Reddy and Mohd Safi were the first Indians. Hanna lake was open for swimming during the camp period, and needless to say full advantage was taken of it.

Courses.—L/Corpl Couperthwaite left us to swell his brain-box at the Army School of Education, Belgaum. All the local lads are hoping to win a " special " soon.



Mounted Ranks Marching Past, June 4th

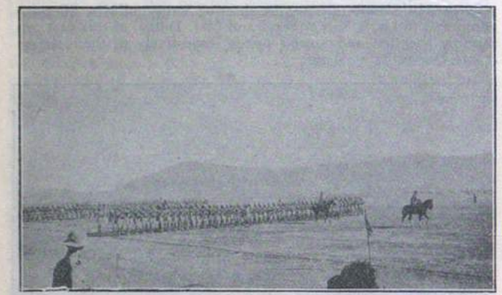
Lecture.—On May 10th the Chief Signal Officer Western Command delivered a very interesting lecture to the officers and n.c.o.s of the unit on " Communications in the Forward Area."

Examinations.—Congratulations go out to Captain E. MacD. Burns, Royal Signals, on passing the British Service officers' Urdu test at Quetta on April 2nd.

Education Certificates.—Congratulations are extended to the following on having obtained the coveted 1st class certificate: Sergts Spindler, Gibbard, Woodcock and Bennett. (What of the notes in the July WIRE now, Jim?)

"Hard luck!" goes out to C.Q.M.S. Birch, Sergts Dilley and Hay, and L/Corpls Hickmott and Brown, for just missing it.

Training.—During June a large number of British and Indian ranks from units in Quetta were attached to us for signal training. It is rumoured that they derived some very useful information regarding signal communications during their period of attachment, and it is hoped that they will return to their units and part with it.



Dismounted Ranks Marching Past, June 4th

Demonstrations.—A demonstration showing a Division in an attack on a two-Brigade front, and the means of communication, was given to the officers of the Staff College by this unit on June 20th. The demonstration proved a huge success, and on its conclusion the unit was highly complimented on the manner in which it was carried out. Furthermore, as so much information regarding communications could be gathered from such a demonstration, it was decided that another should be given to commanders and staffs, commanding officers and signalling officers in the station, and this took place on June 26th with as much success as the former demonstration.

Signals Association.—A meeting on behalf of the Association, to explain its objects and enrol new members, etc., was held during July, and met with much success. As a result of the meeting 90 per cent. of the unit are now members.

As a few members may still be unaware of the objects of the Association, I would mention that any information regarding its benefits, etc., may be obtained on application to Sergt Gibbard of this unit, who was elected secretary.

Re-Musterings.—Signalmen Baylis and Gillings from operators visual to clerks.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Sergt Newstead on becoming C.Q.M.S. on the special roster; to L/Cpls Butcher and Spencer, promoted Corporals, also on the special roster; and to Sigmn Monaghan on getting his first tape.

Arrivals.—Seventeen British ranks from the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore on May 1st, and four more on July 16th. F/Sergt Maguire, wife and family from 4th Indian Divl Signals, Jubbulpore, on May 14th. (What price the old hook and eye now, Mac? Chong!) Corpl Skitt, wife and family from the S.T.C. Jubbulpore, on June 4th.

Departures.—L/Corpl Gardner to A Cavalry Troop, Sialkot, on May 21st. C.Q.M.S. Newstead to A Corps Signals, Karachi, on July 5th. (What about the old cross-country now, Newy?)

Assault-at-Arms.—The unit obtained fourth place, with 28 points, at the District assault-at-arms in Quetta on the 28th, 29th and 31st May.

Queries.—Who was the signalman who took the Fullerphone to the saddler's shop for repairs?

Where is Sigmn Sturgess? Sigmn Booker is enquiring.

Is Honest Dick still reigning at 1st Div? Old Three-Coy. lads are enquiring.

Is Rocky Knight still in Razmak?—Ginger.

A despatch rider, after "coming a cropper" during night operations, was asked "What was the cause of your accident?"

"Sir! I was riding *without any lights* on the *night operations*, and I came to a nullah and came off!"

Sergeant to despatch rider: "Take that mug and go over to the C.Q.M.S. and get a "mug of compression!"

C.Q.M.S.: "Take it to——!"

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarter Section, Razmak.

General.—The main feature of interest this month is the greatest gathering of the clans known since C Divl Signals left Quetta to split themselves into the various Sections necessary for the chain of communication in Waziristan.

It took place at Razmak under the auspices of Captain G. C. Winckley, M.C. The Signal Sections from Bannu and Manzai and the Brigade Section at Razmak were called in, as far as normal routine work would allow, for a Signals week-end from mid-day on Friday, July 27th, until the following Tuesday morning.

The main object was to find teams to represent the unit and to foster competition between the various Sections at sport.

Between Sections the honours were *not* divided, Bannu claiming all the events, as will be seen on reference to our Sports Notes.

A concert, a limber gunners dance, and a treasure hunt were successfully organised, and the various committees appointed

L/Sergt and Mrs. W. Willingale
Married at Poona on July 28th

made the week-end thoroughly enjoyable. The officers attended in full strength, as also did the troops. Gloucester was represented to a very marked degree.

A Charleston competition was held, but only two couples competed. The judges (five in number) expended much energy in awarding first and second prizes. No doubt this was to justify their existence! The "little wonder" of Bulford fame was first, with Sigmn Planner and heir second.

A recitation by "Kiperling" was announced during the dance. Who is this gentleman Kiperling? Is he so famous that bootmakers for horses should be acquainted with him?

Arrivals and Departures.—The R.O. must have given this unit's monthly strength return a fierce look, for I have to record the following:—

Arrivals—L/Corpl Hanna and Sigmn Lewis J. from the 4th Indian Divl Signals, Jubbulpore. Signalmen Sutcliffe and Sullivan from A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Departures—Signalmen Croucher and Howell to the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore. Signalmen Tarrant, Slade and Richards to Karachi.

We trust that all will settle down in their new surroundings, and wish them the best of success.

Appointment.—Sigmn Clewlow: one finger on the jolly old F.M.'s baton.

AREFED.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

July having slipped by very quietly, there is very little to remark as a consequence. As a rule, during the hot weather season it is very rare that anybody or anything moves with any rapidity; hence the lack of news.

But nevertheless somebody *did* eventually awaken towards the latter end of the month, the persons involved being none other than our O.C.A. Committee, who held a meeting and decided that something must be done to break the monotony. One can therefore imagine the expressions of surprise and pleasure on every face on observing the notice posted on the mess room door, printed in large block letters: "WHIST DRIVE TO-NIGHT—(KITAB.)"

I don't know whether it was the last word which drew such a large gathering, but there was a goodly attendance on that particular evening, and according to the reports a very pleasant evening was spent by everybody.

Congratulations to Capt E. Levett (late of D Divl Signals, now at S.T.C. Jubbulpore) on attaining that rank.

Arrival.—Sgt Pope J. from Upper Topa after a well-earned rest.

Births.—To Capt and Mrs. H. Marshall, a daughter, at Murree, on June 30th. To Sergt and Mrs. Pope, a son (another valve to our loud speaker).

Agony.—If Signalmen Arthur Taylor or Pat Govier, last heard of at Aldershot, will kindly communicate with Darkie Guthrie of this unit, they can be assured of a very speedy reply.

Will L/Corpl Jerry Dawson (Red), late of this Div. and now in Blighty, please write as soon as possible to his old crony Sigmn Jim Riley, who is positively pining away for information regarding him. Now come along, Red, my lad; do your duty, and remember it's *evolution* on the line we want.

Overheard.—First sergeant's wife: "My word! look at your husband's hands. They *are* dirty!"

Second sergeant's wife: "Well! don't your husband get dirty hands?"

First wife (disdainfully): "No! my husband works with his brains."

—Er, pass the salt, please!

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

August 22nd.

General.—Ranikhet, our summer resort, has at last come in for a little sunshine after the rains, and by the time this appears in print the weather conditions will probably be ideal—clear dry air, bright sunshine, but not too hot.

Garden Party.—Last month Captain and Mrs. J. W. Bailey very kindly gave a garden party to all the married families.

After tea there was a treasure hunt for the children, who had to find bags of sweets on which their respective names had been written. These had been hidden in various places in the garden, and certain youngsters were unable to find their bags, so the aid of a few adults was enlisted in the search. It was not until one very small child was discovered sitting behind a door with all the missing bags of sweets that the mystery of their disappearance was solved!

The grown-ups played badminton or patronised the bar which had very thoughtfully been provided.

After a very enjoyable afternoon we went home feeling very pleased with life in general, and with Captain and Mrs. Bailey in particular.

Fun and Money.—As the unit sports fund was not showing a very large credit balance, it was decided to hold a whist drive to make some money. The sports committee ventured on a very ambitious programme. Not only was whist played, but the space outside our bungalow was converted into a miniature 'Appy 'Ampstead with various side shows. A large number of people from all the units in Ranikhet came full of the idea of enjoying themselves, and did so to the extent that the sports fund was increased by 120 rupees.

The unit dance band kindly gave their services, which were greatly appreciated by every one. Sigmn Jahme, whose photo is shown, seems to have missed his vocation. He made an excellent clown, and added considerably to the success of the proceedings.

The sports committee deserve hearty congratulations on running such a good show. It is hoped they will continue being energetic!

Work.—In addition to the above pleasant functions, we are all putting in a great deal of hard work at technical training, courses being held for all ranks. If we do not all increase our rating by the end of the course, it will not be the fault of the instructors but of our own lack of grey matter.

The lucky ones here in the cool of the hills feel very sorry for the fellows at Meerut. For about six weeks there has been no rain, in spite of this being the monsoon season. Such conditions make life very trying, and no one who has not experienced the

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"Lor! how them dumplings have riz!"

B.P.1

" delights " of the Plains in the hot weather can imagine how trying it is to both health and temper. However, in spite of all this, the detachment in Meerut received a very good report from the C.S.O. Eastern Command when he inspected them last week.

Sigmn Jahme in his " Entertaining " robes.

Broadcasting.—Some one heard two good jokes the other night when listening-in.

No. 1: A man suffering badly from the effects of drink was forced by his wife to go to the doctor, who informed him he was suffering from alcoholism. Not wishing to tell his wife this, the man entreated the doctor to give him the name of some other disease. The doctor thought hard and said, " Tell your wife you are suffering from syncopation." On telling her this, his wife exclaimed, " What is syncopation? I must look it up in the dictionary." Here she found that syncopation meant " irregular wanderings from bar to bar "!

The other was a limerick:—

There was a young lady of Ryde
Who ate a green apple and died;
But the apple fermented
Inside the lamented,
And made cider inside her inside!

W/T Section.

Wireless Sets.—When I was posted to the Wireless Section of the 3rd Indian Divl Signals in March, I was surprised to find them equipped with C mk. ii wireless sets. I had last seen these at the S.E.E., Woolwich, in December, 1927, and there they were shown as still in the experimental stage.

The mk. ii differs from mk. i in that there is remote control, *i.e.*, your transmitter can be anything up to 200 yards from the receiver, this of course entailing two aerials. The usual transmitter and a frame aerial for the receiver. A one-horse power Stuart Turner engine replaces the Douglas for driving the generator.

During April the L.T. windings of two of the armatures became " dis," and for the last three months we have been relying on the remaining two generators for working a feeder group comprising Ranikhet, Bareilly and Meerut. The last-named is maintained by C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop. There is about four hours' work daily in this group, and charging has to be done out of watch hours owing to the ripple imposed on our note if we charge during transmission.

Training.—The main activities of the Section so far have been to train operators up to a higher rating. In the trade test held in July, L/Corpls Chamberlain and McLean and Signalmen Valentine, Steele and Parker became B.ii's and Signalmen Sackett and Deighton B.iii's.

At the time of writing we are training a squad of line operators to become wireless operators, so that the operator signals sheet will be easy when it comes to taking this new trade.

Recreation.—The Section's interests are not confined to work, however. Sigmn Steele has a four-valve (one H.F., one R with re-action, two L.F.) short-wave set. He had Chelmsford the other day, and it was like a breath from home to hear Big Ben striking. Other stations received, all of which we have not yet identified, are as follows:—

PCJJ	KZED	KZET	HVAJ	PCMM	REEC
HUVS	ZJAI	ZJTI	ZRA	ZHC	JEC
KFK	ZAP	QRX	GWA	GFN	AGW
XGA	AGB	IRB	TFC	AGJ	FFQ
LCD	PDX	PKX	GHS	TFA	RPT
IRJ	QRV	PSE	AGI	XGA	ZRO
KIO	5SW	SG	GA	XP	BK

Great care has lately been taken to effectively earth all our sets. This is because our office was struck by lightning the other day. The incident was described to me as follows: " I was sitting in the office writing, when suddenly I heard a roar and I was hurled backwards off my stool. I hastily picked myself up from the floor and rushed out to go to the Exchange. On my way I tripped over something and fell flat on my face. The obstacle, on inspection, proved to be a ' banana wallah ' who had been struck dead by the lightning. When I reached the Exchange and pushed open the door I found the walls blackened, the test board blown off the side wall, with tangled and broken wires strewn about, and the operator huddled in a corner, foaming at the mouth, with his eyes starting out of his head." Now you know why we take such care to earth our wireless sets!

Gadgets.—We do not get a chance to sink into a ruck, there being lots to occupy our minds. With the help of Sigmn Holdgate we have invented three gadgets for speeding up cypher work. We have been amending War Establishments (India) for a W/T Section. Indeed, we have thought of so many things we should like for the latter that the four mules allowed for a set will be sagging at the knees when loaded up! Some of L/Corpl Chamberlain's ideas for improving reception are worth noting.

1. To increase strength in signals, add an open aerial to the earth stud of the frame aerial.

2. When atmospherics are making signals unreadable, if the hand is placed on the earth terminal of a frame aerial, the X's almost disappear without appreciably altering the strength of the signals.

3. An almost perfect earth can be obtained by digging a trench two feet deep, placing the earth mat inside and covering it over with six inches of earth. When rain comes, you get your trench filled with water.

We have our own broadcasting from Bombay on 357.1 metres, and from Calcutta on 370.4 metres.

Birth.—To Corpl and Mrs. A. E. Lee, a son (Dennis Arthur), at Ranikhet, on July 25th.

The W/T Section

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen Valentine, Parker, Reed, Norvell, Deighton, Steele, L/Cpl Chamberlain, Sigmn Dunn.
Centre—Signalmen Sackett and Holdgate, Corpl Short, 2/Lieut Dryland Sergt Donaghy, Sigmn Dodd, L/Cpl McLean.
Front—Signalmen Yates, McCarthy (with Tarzan), Saunders.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

August 23rd.

This note-writing business isn't such a cushy job as one would think, but it did me good to hear the lads remarking on the re-appearance of notes for this unit, so I will have another shot!

By the way, the paragraph in Editorial Notes for July concerning us and the S.T.C. (India) was presumably read by all Signals in India, so we will leave the party concerned to " play the melody."

Talking of melodies, we have lately missed the pitiful wail of the S.T.C.'s gorgeous pipers. Their correspondent has probably lost all inspiration, because we know he is a brawny Scot.

Officers.—We welcome Major W. M. Miller, M.C., from leave. The M.T. staff are evidently all out for promotion, as the C.O.'s Buick was being groomed on every occasion when we passed the garage during his absence.

2/Lieut J. F. Longfield has returned from hospital. 2/Lieut E. D. Good relinquished his hold of the Scott combination when he saw the former swathed in bandages.

The enclosed photograph shows the grave of the late Sigmn Rowe A. J. of this unit, who died at Jubbulpore on November 3rd, 1927.

Qualifications.—Congratulations to the following: L/Sergt Lawson, A.i. signalling, Poona. Sergt Steed qualified as fitter, signals, A.i. Sigmn Darnell (ex-matelot) o/w B.i. L/Cpls Ling and Collings, Signalmen Button, Milton and Cockerell, o/v C.ii. L/Corpl Hibbitt, Signalmen Cook, Haigh and Rigby, despatch riders, D.ii. L/Sergt Winter and Corpl Page qualified as op. signals B.iii and B.ii respectively.

Arrival.—C.Q.M.S. Barnett from the Kohat District Signals. (Another weighty addition to " Q " Branch!)

Vocational Training.—L/Corpl Shipley to Calcutta on an electrical engineering course. He must have snivelled to some purpose, as forty recent applications for courses have been turned down. Remember the dead-sack ship!

Cook's Tour.—Sigmn Ambridge to the Cookery School, Poona, to learn of different shapes in the rissole line.

Sick List.—There seems to be an epidemic of appendicitis in the unit, three of our noble lads having been successfully operated on. L/Corpl Draper (of big feet fame) hovered near the golden gates for three days, but decided to remain on earth a little longer.

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Heat Waves.—A general excuse of units at home for lack of notes seems to be the heat-wave. If some of the Blighty ornaments were drafted to India, this country would never be represented in THE WIRE at all!

It is Rumoured—That the first boat leaves in September. (Tips.)

That home establishment people should be able to see next year's Derby.

That Packwood is getting home on compassionate grounds. (How can I live without thee?)

That Captain J. E. F. Paton is for the home establishment. (God send you back to me.)

That Tich Rigden is getting spliced. (Keep it dark.)

That Pip has another touch of indigestion.

That Bill Bailey is on a course of sanatogen.

That our uke player is learning music, and can nearly read the top line.

That the E flat sax player transposes at sight.

That Woppem has done a picquet.

That Slim Rogers corresponds with Helen Wills.

That Napoleon had a ceremonial parade before Waterloo.

That the British Museum has made an offer for a certain Indian motor-bike.

That Joe Mayers is joining the G.I.P. (Good old Gippo!)

That Pompey will win the F.A. cup.

JOSABUN.

Stop Press.—Hearty congratulations!

The adjutant's liver has gone at last,
And is only a relic of the past!
Mr. Ed., to find room you oughter:
" To Captain and Mrs. Watkins—a daughter."

Gems of English Verse.

THE UNIT BLACKSMITH.

Just below the unit lines
  The Shoey-Corporal stands;
He ne'er forgets his hosetops,
  And he manicures his hands;
The muscles of his brawny arms
  Are like a lump of duff;
He makes a shoe and then goes home,
  Because he's done enough.

He walks on Sunday to the mess,
  And sits with all the boys;
They stick some Kruschens in his beer,
  Which gives him jumps and joys;
He often hears old Banjo's voice—
  It darn nigh drives him mad,
And so he has another pint,
  Which isn't quite so bad.

If you look in the open door,
  You'll see his anvil bright;
He rubs it up with Bluebell
  And burnisher each night;
And when he's really working,
  You'll hear his bellows roar;
You mustn't touch his anvil,
  Or you'll get thrown out the door.

And when we have a big parade,
  While we are getting browned,
You'll see him muck in with the heads,
  Then show the General round;
You'll see him wander out each night—
  He says it's to the shows;
And though we quite believe him,
  We often wonder where he goes!

Toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing,
  Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begun,
  At the same times sees its close;
But he sees enough of "Star Of's" face
  To earn him a night's repose.

DASH.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

August 15th.

General.—Our absence last month is regretted, but we burst forth this time with a little news.

Our Brigade Commander (Brigadier C. R. Terrot, D.S.O.) inspected the horse lines, stores, etc., and ended up by picking out two of our *mustangs* (Nos 95 and 26). He commended the Troop on the cleanliness of lines and stores, and indeed, our wagons were a good thing to observe!

A competition was held between the Wireless, Visual and D.R. Sections for the cleanest stores, shops and equipment. The prize was won by the Visuals (Corpl Punter, i/c Section) who were well worthy of the distinction. The second were the Wireless, very close behind (L/Sergt Babbage, i/c). The D.R.s (Cpl Nimmo, i/c) ran a very close third. The judges were officers of note, and an excellent impression was created.

A wagon competition was also held, and the gallant Wireless Section won this. Ask the quartermaster for a wagon now, and—"(*****)."

Courses.—Our course party are shortly due to return from the hills (Upper Topa), and they will be welcomed back with their willing "grooming hands." I suppose our speed king at Topa is just longing to get his legs across our new speed buses; but as long as he does not ride on a maidan with a *well* in the centre, it's all right!

Departures.—Signalmen Sutcliffe T. and Sullivan W. to Waziristan District Signals. We wish them the very best of luck in their new home.

Promotions.—L/Corpls Millen A. and Fuller H. promoted Corporal. L/Corpl Hall F. promoted Corporal (Indian special roster). Signalmen Day W. and Fell L. appointed L/Corporal (unpaid). All ranks offer congratulations to all of them.

Signals Association.—We congratulate B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop on having exactly 100 per cent. members of the Signals Association—excellent work on the part of the secretary. We are modest and only possess 85 per cent. members, but will increase when all the Troop congregate again after the summer season. But what about the little Cavalry Troop that resides in Meerut? We are anxious to know what they possess. So please oblige, and also a few notes.

Tennis Club.—The tennis club is now an active force again. The rains have curtailed play for the time being, but prior to that we played the Detention Barracks and the Church of England Club, and were successful by 38—27 and 36—25 respectively. Now what about it, B Troop?

2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.—Will certainly take a trip to S.W. Hotel (So'ton) and see Darky; but what of his *Willy* (old Threeco-ites, please note).

WOG.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

August 12th.

As usual the month has been uneventful. The only things noticeable have been the efforts of King Sol to burst the thermometer and the consequent departure to the hills of some of our hardened plainsmen.

The Supper Club.—Of late it has become the custom, for such as are unable to summon sufficient energy to walk to the café, to gather nightly beneath the trees outside "Ye Olde Coffee Taverne" (founded A.D. 1928½), there to discourse learnedly on a multitude of subjects.

The debate is usually presided over by a veteran of the Mespot campaign, who occasionally enthralls the club with tales of stirring deeds. There are also members of various professions, and should all other subjects fail—even the inevitable tales of the morning ride—there is always the age-old argument concerning the relative merits of various means of communication to fall back on.

This discussion is invariably of so heated a nature that whatever decisive points are put forward are immediately lost in the general uproar, so that an unbiassed onlooker is totally unable to form any opinion whatsoever. It is true that on a recent date the Wizard, finding himself assailed on all sides, made a series of speeches calculated to settle the matter beyond all doubt; but such was the uproar that the only part heard was a Parthian shot directed at the honourable member for the D.R.s, which included some emphatic and no doubt crushing remarks on the joys of being stuck in the mud.

Part II.—We see that Corpl Collins has fulfilled his threat and has "gone an' done it!" The best of good wishes from the Troop to him and his wife. Kipper wants to know why he wasn't consulted.

Wanted.—A well-paid job as Polar explorer or refrigerator attendant. Apply to above address.

ARTOC.

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

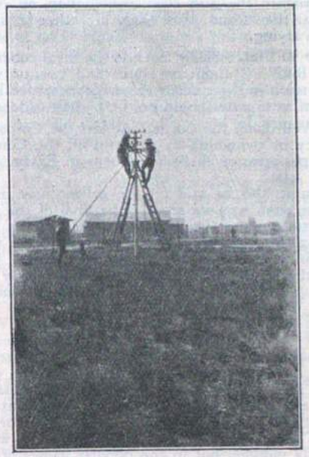
General.—Once again we come to that dread moment when something must be produced for THE WIRE, and we sit down and rack what brains we've got for news. As usual, there isn't anything of grave import to relate concerning the past month, so what can a poor scribe do? It is written (on syrup tins, anyway) that "Out of the strong came forth—this and that, etc."; but when there's no beginning, where's the finish? It's just about as elusive as that boat list.

The Kipping cup finals are drawing near, and the odds are even now between the late "Scotch" holder and a certain n.c.o. —and he *does* sleep near the corner.

King Sol, a brawny wight in these parts, still shines with his wonted vigour, making sports and suchlike out of the running. The maximum temperature in the sun this year was 178 degrees, and about 120 in the shade.

The picture of the two linemen "up the pole" was taken at 10.30 a.m. at a sun temperature of 160 degrees. What about it,

Malta and Egypt? October, however, will soon be here, and with it perhaps a little more social life. We may get some skating later on; who knows?



Those of us who are going to India this season are overjoyed at the prospect of the life of leisure and luxury awaiting us. We do not know whether a certain unit's capacity for not rising before 6.30 ack-emma (sorry, I meant ack-monkey) applies to all India, but if it does it will be a welcome change for us who, for the past six years, have started work at five in the morning.

Under the Ctesiphon Arch.

Back (left to right)—Cpl Golder, Lieut C. D. Hinds, Cpl Harriss, Sgt Bremner, Sigmn Ridgley, Cpl Reeves, Sgt Macdonald.
Sitting—Sergeants Davidson (R.A.S.C.), French and Thomas, Corporals Good, Fisher and Frampton.
Front—Lieut W. D. Horniman.

Shooting Trip.—On August 22nd the sergeants' mess held their annual shoot down the river, and everyone enjoyed himself. We left Hinaidi Wharf at 7.30 hrs. after a few words with the ice, which proved a trifle slippery, and arrived at our first destination at about 9 o'clock. We remained there all day, shooting what sand-grouse we could find, followed by McEwan's and gramophone favourites (selections from "Madame Butterfly") far into the night.

Next morning we went further down the river to another island, where we had better luck. The total bag was 232 sand-grouse. Later on we went a few miles further still, past the ruins of the ancient city of Seleucia, to have a look at Ctesiphon, that enormous brick arch which is all that remains of the Hall of Chosroes the Persian. This has a span of over 83 feet, and was built with no central support whatever. The only other ancient building with as great a span was in Domitian's palace on the Palatine Hill in Rome, but that has fallen, and it had a centre support when it was erected. After tiffin we went back to our original island and thence home.

Query.—Who was the n.c.o. who wished the "dhobi" the best of luck by enclosing a horse-shoe in his washing, and then got it returned, nicely washed, ironed *and* painted? It certainly seems a bit fishy!

Advice.—To those about to proceed to Iraq—Don't! There won't be any Iraq when we leave.

The Boat—Inshore.

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Entertainments.—At long last the I.A.D. at Hinaidi have constructed and completed a cinema. It looks fine in the daytime, but even better at night. They have had about three shows so far, and last Sunday I ventured forth to taste once again the joys of the cinema. I shan't go again—???—'nuff said!

A Baghdad inhabitant helping himself to fresh dates.

Agonies.—Sprigo and Ivy would like to hear from Sigmn Lowe T., No. 2 Company 2nd Divl Signals. Auf wiedersehen!

Slim Summers would like to know if Sigmn Pip Parker (Bermuda) still exists.

HINAIDIAN.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, Sept. 4th.

General.—No. 2 Operator Signals and Fitter Signals courses are nearing completion. It is hoped that the results will justify expectations, and that our number of skilled tradesmen will be greatly increased.

At long last our sports ground has assumed the appearance of the Stadium instead of the Sahara. With the timely aid of the contractor everything has been finished, and it is now ready for our merry band of sportsmen who, we hope, will be inspired to retain that coveted trophy, the best-all-round cup, with such a place on which to train.

Greetings.—The Company extends a hearty welcome to the O.C., Major G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., on his return from a well-earned leave.

Musketry.—The annual course of firing has commenced. It is evident that some people would like to hear how the snapshooting target can be hit. Several persons who managed to hit it three times have submitted articles on the subject, but they have been suppressed (the articles, I mean). Detailed results will be published in due course.

Boat.—To old members of the Corps in Egypt, the word "boat" has a magical sound. To those members of the Company to whom the word applies this year, I take this opportunity of wishing the best of luck in their new stations. To those who are going to civvy street, may they find their rosy dreams of good employment come true.

Education.—Congratulations to the fifteen successful candidates who passed the 2nd class examination on August 14th. Don't stop at the second, lads; there are other certificates to be won for the trying.

A Change in Diet.—Heard outside the mess room: "What's for dinner, Bill?" "Eighteen spuds and twenty-two onions." There is no truth in the rumour that orderly corporals are having a competition as to who should be the highest bidder.

Sport.—Well done, the Corps. At last the Corps has proved its supremacy in swimming by carrying off the Command team championships, open to all British troops in Egypt, held on Friday, August 31st.

A word must also be said on the gallant way in which the Corps cricket team won its way to the final of the Frank Cook cup competition. After being eight wickets down for 37, and then carrying the score to 100, was mainly due to the splendid innings of Stillwell and Oldale. The example set by this pair spurred on the remainder of the team, who quickly made short work of the 12th Lancers' wickets, dismissing them for a total of 58.

Corporals' Mess.

The entertainments committee, flushed with its recent successes during July, have inflicted more bone-stretchers on our band of athletes. A series of games with the sergeants' mess resulted in a win for the latter by six games to four. This was mainly due to the superiority of the sergeants at indoor sports. Tippet, phat, darts, billiards and ping-pong are games in which we do not frequently indulge, but in the popular games of cricket and tennis we more than held our own. After the games an impromptu concert was held, and judging by the noise everybody enjoyed it.

It is rumoured in the best of circles that the mess is holding a dance early next month. Those who were present at the last are looking forward with pleasure to it.

W. N. B.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, Sept. 2nd.

They Telegraff Soldiers!—Crowds assembled daily in the early hours, at the beginning of last month, around the wire fencing of the Signals barracks to witness what was (to them) an unprecedented occurrence. The Signals were doing P.T.! Yes, and we're *still* doing it; but the crowds no longer assemble. Chest measurements have increased and waist dittoes decreased. There was one exception, however; but we've persuaded him to don corsets and thereby keep in the fashion.

Rumour, the Lying Jade.—What wonderful things one hears when the trooping season falleth nigh! One of the most interesting heard lately is that Joe Cotterell, Spud Murphey, Rodda, Stewart, Wheeler junior, Curly Langley, and one or two more "champs" are coming to this Command. That's apart from the one which says that the whole of the Aldershot Signals boxing team is coming—lock, stock and barrel. We wonder if they know of these rumours themselves!

What's this a sign of?—One of H.Q.'s stars feels very lonely on his beat as flying sentry, and wanders about the lines challenging men coming in just after "Lights out" who have already reported at the guard-room. The last occasion was on a full moon-light night, too!

Either he's after some practice in challenging, when feeling enthusiastic, or it's a sign of something else! It's a wonder he doesn't go round the huts challenging the sleepers in their beds! What would happen if they forgot to say "Friend" or "Commy," we don't like to think.

The Smile that Grew.—It started in May, expanded in June, grew larger during July, and assumed huge proportions in August until the last day of that month, when the possessor of the said smile (A/L/Corpl Sowles S. J.) simply bubbling over with superfluous joy, departed for Port Said to meet Mrs and Master Sowles, whom the Officer i/c Records had very considerately allowed to join our "smiler" in his lonesomeness in these great open spaces where men *are* men, etc. The smile wouldn't come off, and at the time of writing it's still there!

Unbelievable, but true.—No. 2312063 Sigmn Clark K. H. has gone into stables to play with the long-nosed friends of man! I've had to give his name and number in full, as I know some of his former ex-rat pals wouldn't believe it, otherwise. The orderly corporal, when calling the roll at night in H.Q. hut, never needs to look to see if Nobbie is in his bed now. He just sniffs the atmosphere, and if the horsy smell is present, well—so is Nobbie!

Moneysh: Moneysh: give it!—The quarter-bloke's indispensable, L/Corpl Brewster R., is now drawing the long overdue akkas for services rendered in the ranks of the great unpaid. (Whilst Tubby sighs deeply with regret!)

A change is as good as a rest (sometimes)—The sixth "change-of-air" party for the Mediterranean shores departed on the 17th of last month. This should have included Sigmn Waite A., who, however, at the last minute changed his mind and decided to spend his fortnight in the fresh cooling breezes of the Citadel heights. It's wonderful what a view you can get up there, and how it makes you eat!

The Fickleness of Man.—Egypt Signals (pre-1926) wish to congratulate Tommy Ball on taking unto himself one of the damsels of Wivenhoe for better or worse; and we all hope it's the former. Now we are waiting to hear if Bill Coton has followed in his footsteps. Can anyone inform us on the matter?

The Longest Sweat on Record!—There are about thirty simple souls in his Section, and they all (or *nearly* all) sweated and toiled. "Tee-hee," said some; "Hee-tee," said others. When the sweating had become almost unbearable, and threatened suicides a fact, it came upon Orders—and now A/L/Corporal Rickard R. E. smiles the broadest. Oh! they *are* a naughty Section now! They don't get up before reveille; they stay out late; they drink, and say naughty words in Arabic; whilst the sergeant's dog hasn't had a bath for a week now. Ungrateful lot!

Another Sweat was just beginning in the same Section, but this time A/L/Corpl Sowles S. J. (he of the smile) had the cause of the sweat sewn on before the getting-up-before-reveille business had started!

To the Roll of Fame shall be added the name of the man who allowed for the wind on the thirty-yards range! Oh, Alfie; how could you? Just completed his six, too!

Please, Barleux!—Whatever you do, *don't* discontinue the thrilling adventures of Ukan Larfe in "Plain Tales." This is by special request from Sigmn Tubby Edwards, an admirer of the methods of the said Ukan. He wants to know if you can put Ukan on the trail of a L/Corporal Harrold, once of the 3rd Div., and get him to write here and tell him (Tubby) as to how it was done?

Now, you Map-reading Experts.—Here's one you don't know! "A spur is a piece of ground that is hollow inside!" (vide one of our second-class candidates).

To Uncle George, at the School of Signals. Reference the last paragraph but two of your unit notes in August. Heartiest congratulations from Mr. and Mrs. Blanco (not to mention Mickie)! I'm requested to say that should you ever bowl Egypt way, there'll always be "one on the ice" waiting.

Living is certainly cheaper, but the cost of posting letters to the U.K. hasn't yet dropped to one millieme a time! No. 14 Suez Houses, kindly note for future guidance!

ART.

No. 2 Section, No. 2 Wireless Company, Baghdad

September 1st.

Despite the high temperature still prevailing, the social side of this Section has greatly improved of late. A new spirit seems to have infected the compound. River and car trips have been arranged, and a concert party from the R.A.F. at Hinaidi have promised to stage a turn for us on our tennis court.

As is usual at this time of the year, the main topic of conversation on the part of all old hands is the boat. It's something to look forward to, anyway, if only for that wonderful run of over six hundred miles by car across the desert viâ Damascus.

Signals Association.—A meeting was held recently, and after the whole scheme had been presented by our O.C., 99 per cent. of the Section became members of the Association. The only defaulter was tackled, and he explained matters by saying that in a short time he would hand over thirty shillings for a life membership. So that before the present month is out, we hope to claim 100 per cent. membership.

King Faisal is setting a good example in the agricultural line to his Arab subjects near here. What was barren desert five months ago is now quite a respectable cotton plantation, and large tracts of the "blue" are being ploughed up ready for a bigger effort next year.

A Section photograph is to be taken during the forthcoming week, and a copy will be forwarded for inclusion in the November edition.

Football.—The football pitch has been cleared of its coating of camel thorn, and quite a number of the lads turn out in the cool of the evening for practice. A friendly game with the Works and Buildings team saw us the victors to the tune of 6—0.

Agonies.—To Corpl Gow, from Jerry: Congrats.
To G. Lovell, 4th Div.: H.F.C. awaits a reply.

BAN.

Aden Signal Section.

Steamer Point, August 29th.

General.—After a careful study of THE WIRE, it seems that no one is thinking about Aden—not even Records, poor chap! Are we destined to stay here for ever and aye? I wish he would let us know; then we could choose a nice soft spot in the sand and calmly await the "grim spectre—Death."

Things are very much the same here: same old routine, same old pastimes. The only alteration I've noticed is in the fellows' faces: from semi-long to long. It livens up a bit when a Navy boat calls, but they don't call often—that's the trouble. A flotilla of destroyers on their way from China to U.K. (lucky blighters!) called in here on August 5th and left the next day; and a soccer team from H.M.S. "Curlew" played the 7th Heavy Battery R.A. and proved the victors after a rattling good game by four goals to nil.

On August 20th the floating dock passed on its way to Singapore, and the attendant tugs came in for coal, but it was not until the 26th that we caught sight of the dock itself. Many rumours were in circulation as to why it had put back—monsoons, methinks!

Casualties: Officers.—We regret to state that Capt M. C. Bennett, I.A., was admitted to hospital on the 19th inst. All ranks wish him a speedy recovery.

Postings.—No. 2317611 Sigmn Gwynn A. has been warned for posting to Malay Signal Section. (The miner's dream of home—eh! Nell, boy?)

In Reply.—3rd Divl Signals, Bulford. Your communication noted, Barleux. Believe me, all eyes will be on troopers calling here, but don't sling Moujik overboard—there are dog-fish around, and he might hurt 'em!

A Corps Signals, Karachi. Congratulations on having seen the marvellous Topliss. Can he, out of his wonderful store of knowledge, make us a ten-valve set, buckshee?

Wonders of the World.—Would you believe it? We have had a shower of rain! Once upon a time—sorry, I mean, on August 26th—a chota broke over Aden, and for quite twenty minutes it rained the usual old cats and dogs (they're still trying to bring round the Section pessimist).

Agony.—When Bob Bristow left Aden, he promised to write to us. I wonder if he will?

No. 2318073 Sigmn Williams T. G. of this Section would be pleased to hear from any old member of No. 86 Squad, or any other friend who knows him.

ACIER.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Wellington Barracks, Sept. 8th.

General.—By the time these notes appear, most of this Section will have completed their tour in this colony and will be looking out for the arrival of their reliefs.

A few words to the future Hong Kong-ites. Before you leave England, don't forget to pack your footer boots and other sports

kit; we are well catered for in the sports line, and we need nifty exponents badly. There are numerous cups to be won, and we shall need help when Signalmen White and Durand leave us.

Promotions.—We " extend the mit " to Corpls Harris A. F. and Butler T.E. on their recent promotion to that rank.

Works.—Old members of this Section will be interested to learn that cable has at last taken a firm footing. The airline routes at Kowloon are now non-existent. Work is progressing on the Hong Kong side. The Macdonnell Road and Scandal Point routes have been cabled, and the time is not far distant when the Lyemun and Belchers routes will also be underground. Hong Kong will indeed be a lineman's paradise. Typhoons may visit us as often as they please without disturbing the peace.

Local Hobbies.—Under the call sign " AC7SW," and using 50-watt anode input, Q.M.S. Roberts on most evenings tickles the ether round about 21 and 42 metres. He has managed to connect with U.S.A., Chile, Australia, etc., and still waits in agony for a short wave from the Rhine. What about it, Sid?

DAISY.

Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, August 29th.

Here We Are Again!—Fearing a severe dig from Edinburgh way, let me hasten to say that this last month or two have been very uneventful. However, we have a little news now.

Divers, Royal Signals.—On Sunday, August 5th, the majority of Headquarters Section turned out to repair the submarine cable at Flatts, which had been badly damaged by a steamboat (some say, " Good old dredger "). About 15 ft. of cable was found to have been twisted and torn.

Hoisting the damaged portion aboard a dinghy—hence the word " divers," and no mean feat, either—repairs were executed in mid-stream. Work was finished at dusk, and the damaged portion brought home as a souvenir.

Should any reader desire information re navigating a boat, write Chicko at the above address. Information will also be supplied in the art of snake-charming cables.

An Appreciation.—Our thanks are due to Mrs. Walker, who provided and served a picnic dinner and tea during our exertions at Flatts. She also stayed to the bitter end, and served yet more tea by the light of the wagon lamp.

Reliefs.—None. 'Nuff said!

To Edinburgh.—Reference the above: Poetry was not the *only* way in which we broke out!

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corpls Piper and Barry on their promotion to that rank; also to Sigmn Walsh, who has gone one step up the ladder.

Garden Party.—On July 27th the C.R.E. (who is also Officer i/c Signals) invited the married families of the R.E.s and Signals to a garden party. Lively interest was taken in the games, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the gathering.

Outing, R.E. and Royal Signals.—On Thursday, August 23rd, the R.E. and Royal Signals had their annual outing. Leaving Prospect about 9.45 a.m., complete with the St. George's contingent (not forgetting the band), Warwick Camp was reached about 11 o'clock. An enjoyable day was spent, which included swimming, sports and a cricket match. We arrived home pleasantly tired at 6.30 p.m. Our thanks are due to C.-of-W. S.M. Yielding and his helpers for a pleasant day.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

Malta Signal Section.

My Future Career.—I wish to thank the many readers who have written to me in response to my appeal for advice on the subject of my future career.

I readily forgive them for omitting to stamp the envelope and enclose a postal order. The oversight was no doubt due to their eagerness in responding to my appeal. I thank them all for their unstinted advice, although I am unable to follow everyone's hints.

From the bunch I have selected what I consider is the best advice a soldier can follow, and it gives me the utmost pleasure to pass it on.

" To prepare oneself for the hereafter (civvy street), have an interview with your pay-sergeant as soon as possible. Impress upon him that you want so much of your pay stopped each week —the more the better. Then see the hon. secretary of your Savings Association (he may be the pay-sergeant; if so, well and good). Have your name registered, and then watch how soon your savings will grow.

" The next step will be to see your unit representative and join the Signals Association, either as a monthly subscriber or a life member. Your name is then registered, and you receive a monthly copy of THE WIRE, which in itself is worth any amount of trouble to get.

" Now you are well armed, and when the time is drawing near for you to enter civvy street, let your representative know. He will inform the Association that you are due for discharge, and the kind of job you would like, or if you are willing to take *any* kind of work. Then, with your saving certificates ready to turn into cash, and the Association behind you, your prospects wil be fairly good."

I would like to stress these two points: Make sure of your savings. Don't rely *too* much on the Association, but try and find a job for yourself.

The Section Roll.—To assist readers outside the Section in an endeavour to trace a sometime chum who, through the exigencies of the Service, has been lost sight of, a nominal roll of the Section is appended, showing their trade or the work they are at present performing; and it is hoped that, by this means, those promised letters (now long overdue) will be shortly forthcoming.

Our Foreman-of-Signal's name is Mutter:
When he's on " Works," there's quite a flutter.
The section sergeant's name is White:
On musketry he's quite all right.
The office supt., Osborne by name,
Over the operators does reign.

Corporal Bevis, a lineman bold,
At climbing poles his own can hold.
The next in rank, so reads my plan,
Is Lance-Jack Walters, a Taffy man;
And Lance-Jack Keywood, the last of this lot,
Spends all his time in the instrument shop.

Of signalmen we have a few,
And to mention them is, of course, their due.
There's Burrows, Johnson, Cabbett and Green,
With fire-pot and climbers can often be seen.
Baker and Hough, both rated D.R.,
Deliver despatches both near and far.
The next is Davey, our counter clerk:
Deciphering signatures is his work.
Signalman Dunn is the H.Q. lineman,
And when there are " faults," he's sure to find 'em.
Signalman Vise, our draughtsman and clerk,
Has his home address at Tufnell Park.
Then out at Calafrana there's Signalman Stretch,
On detachment, alone—the giddy young wretch.
As a Section, you see, we're a merry young lot:
Like Colman's, we're " mustard," well seasoned—what! what!

General.—By the time these notes appear, we shall have welcomed back from leave our O.C. (Capt G. R. Halliday), L/Corpl Walters and Sigmn Chapman. We hope that the change has done them good. It appears that our O.C. has been combining business with pleasure during his stay in the U.K., the results of which we hope soon to see in an improved telephone system.

Congratulations are extended to Mrs. G. R. Halliday, the wife of our O.C., upon winning the ladies' plunging event at the annual aquatic sports of the United Services Ladies' Bathing Club, held at Tigne on August 11th. Mrs. Halliday also formed one of the team of four who were runners-up in the plank race.

R.E.-Royal Signals Aquatic Sports.—Under ideal weather conditions these sports were held at the Hay Wharf on Saturday, September 1st. The large audience was presented with a full programme of exciting events. Lady Best, wife of the Lieut.-Governor of Malta, honoured the meeting with her presence and afterwards kindly distributed the prizes.

Congratulations are extended to Sigmn Vyse H. on winning the high diving event for the third year in succession, and also to Sigmn Green on making a plucky attempt to keep the flag flying in the greasy pole event.

In the evening a select dance was held at the Princess Theatre, the band of H.M.S. " Courageous " supplying delightful music.

Summer Cruise.—On Thursday next, September 7th, we bid " au revoir " to Sigmn Burrows E. (more familiarly known as Nutty), who is going to reduce the rations of the Navy for two blissful months. He is one of the fortunate members of the Junior Service who have been granted permission to accompany the Fleet on its summer cruise, and we wish him bon voyage on his travels on H.M.S. " Queen Elizabeth."

MIMATE.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

The Select Few.—Last month's notes gave an account of the married pads' outing, with a photograph. The bachelors of the Section want *their* photograph inserted to show the difference 'twixt single and double harness. Anyone looking at the photograph, and being about to marry, might be excused if they took Punch's advice. Anyhow, there is nothing to laugh at in being married, apparently. Take another look at that photograph, Sigmn Burton.

However, before entertaining the idea of a photograph the bachelors had to choose a likely spot for a picnic, and suitable food. Sandy Bay, Algeciras, provided the former, and Ind Coope's the latter. Only one casualty occurred in the embarking and disembarking from the motor-boat to a dinghy on a rough sea. Some declare that Ind Coope's pushed him in; others, that he was trying to get his name excluded from attending those swimming parades. Anyhow, that, I hope, did not alter his opinion of the enjoyable day.

Photos? Oh, yes! I forgot! Goodness knows what happened to them. Perhaps they will creep into the next issue providing the water did not get into the camera. We would like to know if Sigmn Prater believes in the old adage, " All handsome men are slightly (?) sunburnt.

Reliefs.—!!! * - - ? !! - - - ! ???? .

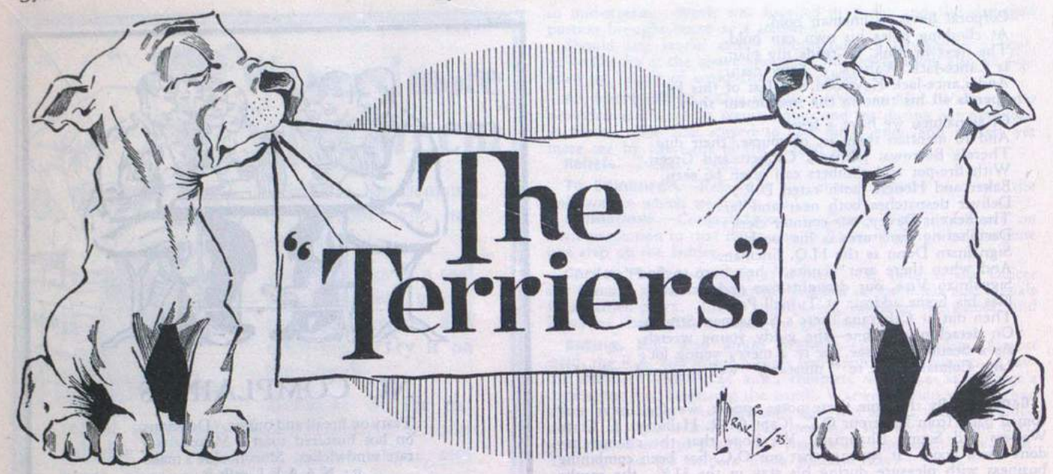
Drafts (deciphering of above para.)—When the blazes are you coming? We are longing to show you round the Rock! When you are packing your kit-bags, do not forget to include your old and (we hope) trusted football boots, swimming costumes, and any cricket gear you may have. We sorely need you if you take part in any of these sports.

Congratulations to Sigmn and Mrs. Gresham (A Corps) on the arrival of a daughter.

Old Acquaintances.—Old members of the Section will be surprised to hear that the leader of the Rock apes, Jacko by name, has been captured and is now installed in the London Zoo. He will be remembered very well by all who have worked on the Upper Rock. For some five years or more he was assistant lineman and fire-pot boy to Joe Gresham, the latter having taken him over from Bob Steele. Cook's tourists visited the Rock particularly to see Joe and Jacko working on the routes; at least, that's what we were always given to understand.

Sport.—We are now finishing off the cricket season and looking forward to football. At the time of writing we find Signalmen Cook F. and Smith G. in strenuous training for the forthcoming season. Cook is greatly improving with his deft touches and smart head-work, no doubt getting more settled as regards playing conditions. Last season he did not sparkle much owing to his being used to turf pitches such as at Stamford Bridge and White Hart Lane; and the pitches here being principally of gravel, he failed to reproduce his international standard. Smith will improve, no doubt, as he is being instructed in ball control by Cook. The weather conditions at present are all against Smith, as the Levant makes his feet stick to the ground, thereby reducing his speed. Normally we understand he has the speed of a greyhound.

CALPE.



26th and 27th Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

Regency Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

We've just come back from Zummerzet! The powers-that-be decided, after our last camp in bracing Thanet, that we needed a change of air, and for our annual training this year sent us to Watchet, a little village a few miles from Minehead—very pretty, but oh! so slow! It seemed very tame to us after two years at Margate, but our confrères the Gunners had been there for *four* consecutive years, so we couldn't grumble too much (or, at least, we shouldn't).

The two Companies were together this year (a welcome innovation, this) and we managed to have a jolly good time, the competitive spirit being very much in evidence. There was keen rivalry between Sections and Companies in drill, sports and airline construction competitions, the honours being fairly even; and an inter-Company cricket match was a very enjoyable feature. We felt rather "cocky," and fixed up a match with Williton Cricket Club, but the less said about that, the better! Still, we did our best, and no man can say more!

The weather might have been kinder. We had one or two real wet days, but we took advantage of this to the extent of arranging a very enjoyable concert in the N.A.A.F.I., with the assistance of our friends the Gunner concert party and the permanent staff of the camp.

We are asked to state that the sergeants' mess had an exciting adventure with a 'edgehog! It appears that this gentleman entered their mess with a view to spending a pleasant evening in basking in the sunshine of their smiles and enjoying their scintillating witticisms. Unfortunately, not realising the gravity of the situation, he failed to stand to attention when addressed by the President, and was therefore torn limb from limb by an affronted congregation. This lack of experience is deplorable.

The Social Side.—We intend to establish a library at headquarters shortly, and give hereunder a list of some of the recent publications that we hope (?) to have available:—

"My long experience—with a blue and white armlet," by The Prussian Guardee.
"Speed!" by Broadside Dicky Fisher.
"We Gunners," by Staff-Sergt Wood, R.A.
"Pots, and how to win 'em," by Mr. Boggis.
"Jumpers, lost and found," by No. 4 of No. 2.
"Dixies at the high port," by Sprouts Froud.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester, Sept. 15th.

"Jimmee" is my name, and from now on I shall report the events in this unit, because I see all and hear all. Though very much is *quite* unprintable!

To begin with, the unit team from No. 3 Company finished eighth in the Divisional shooting at Altcar. The team consisted of 2/Lieut C. B. Delaney, C.S.M. Gowing, L/Corpls Redfern and Baxter, Signalmen Brown T. E., Wattleworth and Graves. Now, this was very good, but better is to come. C.S.M. Gowing secured third prize in the Bury challenge cup open competition.

At Altcar we were only behind the infantry, who do not (like us) have to read, mark, learn and painfully digest electricity, magnetism, procedure, wireless, telephony, riding and Morse. In fact, compared with us the infantry have nothing to do but shoot!

While we are on this subject, it is well to mention that the Unit Rifle Club will be opened early in October. All ranks automatically become members. Practice will be held on Fridays. As Fridays are band practice nights, it would seem that the firing is to be done to music. This may improve the firing!

The week-end camp of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies on August 25th was quite successful, even if somewhat wet. There is no doubt that it is a disadvantage to erect a camp next to an orchard in the autumn.

Now, the owner of the orchard treasured the apples in it, but so also did the troops. And it is sad to relate, but I fear the troops won, in spite of the fact that the fruit was unripe. One Company commander lost almost a whole night's sleep in working a miniature searchlight tattoo with an electric flash-lamp on the trees. An odd shout thrown in considerably added to the effect.

Even with these events overnight, considerable work was done next day. As the morning was very bright, cable was laid as far as possible in quite good style; but (and this is where the catch came) as soon as we started to reel-in, a stray cloud decided to burst just above us. To those who have missed a joy of this kind, we would say "It is far better to read about it than to be in it."

It was while laying cable in the morning that a new number on the waggon asked for some adhesive tape to "insult" the cable. From this you will see that our cable is very sensitive and must be dealt with accordingly.

It is with the deepest regret that the unit has just learned of the death of Major-General C. B. Hamilton Moore, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., our Divisional Commander.

JIMMEE.

No. 3 Company, 2nd Corps Signals, S.R.

Drill Hall, Burlington Street, Manchester.

In the February number of THE WIRE there is a letter from Mea Culpa, asking "What's in a name?" when the soft music of it is "Cleobury Mortimer." So now I am tempted to ask "What's in a number?" Nothing soft and nothing musical—

but something hard and metallic! We will take comfort in that, and not grumble too much that henceforth we are to be known as No. 2 Company 1st Corps Signals.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

We are exceedingly pleased to know that 2/Lieut E. G. B. Moss has been granted a commission in the Regular Army and has been posted to the Tank Corps. He has worked hard for success, and his colleagues in the "Wessex" offer him their heartiest congratulations. His loss will be severely felt by the unit, but we mustn't begrudge the Army what it has gained!

There is just now a bit of a lull in Territorial work, until we kick off for the winter season—the period of dinners, dances and concerts, which help so much to keep us together and to promote that good feeling and comradeship which is so vital to the Territorial Army.

I have been severely castigated for an oversight in last month's notes, in that I omitted to mention who got third place in the competition for the Odell cup. Well, it was good old No. 3—and "hats off to 'em!" and to their Company commander for the splendid fight they made.

Rumour hath it that their limbered G.S. has since been carefully wrapped up and will be kept in a secret place at Plymouth till next annual training!

I apologise most profoundly to the O.C. of No. 3 Company, because the waggon certainly deserved a "mention."

OLD SPARK.

Plymouth Sections.

"Old Spark" still appears to have some "juice" left after that last camp.

We closed down on our return from camp until the 11th Sept., so there is really very little to write about, although we have enlisted several recruits. We are growing not only in strength but in size, as a certain one named Arthur has to discard his vest, etc., to get his tunic to button up!

Over 50 per cent. attendance at our re-opening augurs well for the coming year. Our opening drill was followed by community singing; and Jack served out "chalk" which I hear came from the "White Horse," Weymouth.

Evidently the limber competition has bucked things up, as a certain No. 1 non-com. named Bill has already written to the "Bogie Man" for some white jumpers (in case you do not know, the law says that all painters must wear them). Like a sport the B.M. sent them—at a price!

We wish both Nos. 1 and 2 Companies every success until next camp; then—enough said.

LEATHERNECK.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby, Sept. 15th.

Owing to the unit scribe not having returned from that delectable spot Gandale, our notes for last month were too late for the fateful 16th.

Thanks to our parents the S.T.C., this year's camp will go down in the unit's history as one of the most successful we have yet had.

Although miles from anywhere, the S.T.C. took good care that our stay should not be monotonous. Everyone from the Brigadier to the youngest recruit demonstrated that his one aim was to make us happy and at home.

Besides various visits to the different messes, in which we were always made at home, and scrounging visits when we wanted to borrow anything (which were always successful), numerous entertainments were provided for our benefit.

The officers were present in force on the occasion of the S.T.C. guest night. Despite many efforts, rumour hath it that our great temperance advocate could not be tempted to lose his claim to the six months R.A.T.A. medal to which he will become entitled very shortly.

The w.o.s and sergeants entertained the Terrier w.o.s and sergeants in Newbigging Hall. This was a huge success, everyone enjoying himself to the utmost.

The best, of course, is always kept until last. This was the gymkhana, tea and smoking concert reported by "Don" in his September notes. Yes, Don, you were quite correct; and that day will live in the memory of every member of the 46th. The entertainment could not be surpassed, and to everyone of the S.T.C. who was responsible we doff our hats.

The last day at camp was given over to ceremonial parade. The unit was warmly congratulated by the inspecting officer on the smart turn-out and steadiness on parade. Methinks that the wrinkles learned from our friends of the Regulars, and the example shown by them, were a great assistance in the turn-out!

Our best wishes for their future happiness are extended to 2/Lieut and Mrs. Richardson. The officers of the unit formed the guard of honour at the wedding, which was solemnised at Ilkeston on September 12th, the happy pair passing under an archway of drawn swords.

This marriage "disease" seems to be contagious amongst the officers, another one being about to fall a victim very shortly—but more about that later on. We are anxiously waiting for yet another to drop into the net.

MEREBIMUR.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

Now that the noise and tumult of annual camp have subsided, there has been tranquillity for a space. The P.S. have indulged in a spot of leave. All T.A. personnel, with one accord, are asking "When, oh! when, do we get our thirty bob?"—and the P.S. answer in their very best office voice, "You are referred to para. 2 line 34, of a speech delivered by Mr. Asquith in the year of grace 1914."

Congratulations to all officers who recently proceeded to Auld Reekie to undergo that terrible ordeal of being examined in (a.i) and (c.i), and to see if their mackintoshes were of the approved Army pattern and would withstand a drop of "Scotch mist."

I am informed that several macks did not keep out the mist, so a visit was made to an hostel, there to endeavour with the aid of "Scotch" (without the "mist") to waterproof the inner lining. This at first did not succeed; but on the result of the examination being declared, and finding that all had been successful, a further effort was made—this time with undoubted success!

All ranks are now looking forward to the commencement of the social season. Whist has made its appearance, and dancing, shooting, etc., will soon be in full swing.

YEA.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff, September 15th.

Our scribe returned too late from camp to contribute notes for the September WIRE; and now there is so much to say that it is difficult to know where to begin.

First place, perhaps, should be given to our annual training and the mechanisation experiment. Both were a great success. The fifteen days at Hereford were some of the best we have had, and amply made up for the wet and miserable time that some of our older members experienced as T.F. members in 1912. The weather was kind, the camp site dry, and the general spirit throughout the camp was excellent.

We arrived on time at Hereford on July 29th, and marched into camp, led by the band, and found a well-laid-out site with all tents complete and ready for us. It seemed quite strange to see only one small breast-line in place of the old horse lines with over a hundred horses. But what a blessing mechanical transport proved, even though the vehicles provided were veterans and ought in many cases to have been pensioned off long ago. We found we got away earlier, could work faster, and (blessing of blessings!) that the time from G.B. to the first beer in camp was infinitely shorter than with horse transport.

In the first week we carried out a day's scheme for our Divisional Commander. On Sunday we had our church parade at Hereford Cathedral, by the courtesy of the Dean and Chapter. It was a special military service, and the band played all the hymns. After a parade we marched back to camp, and it was very flattering to hear that the good people of Hereford considered us the smartest Territorials they had ever had there.

On August Monday the G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, Lt.-General Sir Cecil Romer, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., inspected us. He spent a whole morning in watching mechanised Cable Detachments at work and visiting signal offices engaged on a traffic

scheme. He expressed himself as very pleased indeed with all he had seen.

On Tuesday, August 7th, we left camp on a three-day signal scheme, carried on continuously day and night until Thursday mid-day, by which time our most forward H.Q. were nearly in Malvern. The scheme proved the efficiency of M/T. We had numerous visitors in the way of inspecting officers. Col. E. V. Turner, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and Major J. G. Deedes, M.B.E. (from the War Office), accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel L. H. L. Spaight, D.S.O. (C.S.O. Western Command) were with us for the best part of two days, whilst Col. W. T. Dodd, D.S.O. (D.C.S.O. Western Command) spent a few hours longer with us.

We have not yet heard what their criticisms were, but they all seemed pleased with things. Perhaps they said more to the powers-that-be, but to our humble selves they were pleasant and helpful.

On Friday, August 10th, we held our annual sports. They were well attended and the interest was keen, particularly in the novel race provided for M.C. despatch riders.

On Sunday, August 12th, we returned, leaving to our rear party the miserable job of dismantling the canvas that had covered four hundred of us for a very happy fifteen days. It would be unfair not to say how much the people of Hereford and the neighbourhood helped by their kindness and hospitality. Also a word for the police, with whom we were the very best of friends.

Since camp we have been busy clearing up, as usual. The adjutant sits with wet towels round his head, writing voluminous reports on the training; Company commanders have fingers worn to the bone in counting the surplus and unaccountable cash balances; whilst quarter-blokes are still tearing their hair over discrepancy vouchers. No rose without its thorn!

On September 8th our n.c.o.s held their annual outing, of which more next month. Briefly, though the beer was bad, the day was excellent.

We welcome 2/Lieut F. R. Hill on his appointment. A long and pleasant tour with us, sir!

THE LEEK.

55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

38 Mason Street, Liverpool.

We regret the non-appearance of notes in last month's WIRE. Excuse nil; at least, not a reasonable one. Anyway, let's get to work to make up for lost time.

To commence with, camp. We departed from Edge Hill Station on the night of August 4th en route to Holyhead, the land of the "Five Sisters."

On arrival at our camp site we were somewhat handicapped, as our mutual friends the Artillery had not completed their vacation. This resulted in one or two hours being spent in leisure, but to cut a long story short, by dinner time we were settled, and polishing up was in full swing.

Our first week was chiefly devoted to Section schemes. Three unit schemes followed, which resulted in a unit scheme taking place on the 16/17th August, which included night operations. Judging by the traffic returns, everything worked satisfactorily.

I must not forget to mention that A Section were the proud possessors of the famous C sets during our first week at camp (anyone mentioning a 30-watt was severely chastised), which no doubt accounted for a considerable amount of traffic.

On August 15th our annual sports were held, and although not quite up to last year's (chiefly due to our camp being situated a mile or so further north from our previous site), nevertheless an enjoyable day was spent. We were visited during the day by King Atta and his Soul Boy (née C.S.M. Smith and Sergt Isherwood). Keenness was evinced by Companies in the endeavour to secure the trophy which is competed for annually, No. 2 (Horwich) Company being successful.

Everyone must agree that the camp period is becoming more popular every year. Remarks are passed by more than one, "Roll on, next camp."

We appreciated the valuable assistance given by Corpl Bishop R., of the 2nd Divl Signals, during our annual camp. No doubt, Bish, we shall see some forthcoming jockeys at our next year's camp.

The Wee Seven, Permanent Staff.

Once again No. 3 (W.L.) Company 1st Corps Signals (Supplementary Reserve) secured the Altcar challenge cup for musketry, this being the third year in succession. The competition did not prove so keen this year, owing to Nos. 2 and 3 Companies not being able to enter a team. Nevertheless No. 1 Company, with a team including one or two young boys, put up a very good fight. We trust that next year Nos. 2 and 3 will be able to muster a team and make the competition more interesting.

We have just learned that R.S.M. Evans has been granted a further extension of twelve months. Good luck, sir! the ladder has still a number of rungs to be climbed. FIVE-FIVE.

Industry is the parent of Success.

* * * *

You can't get full pails from half-filled cows.

* * * *

Life is a reckoning we cannot make twice over.

* * * *

He that does what he can does what he ought.

* * * *

Help yourself, and your friends will help you.

* * * *

Long skirts may become fashionable again very soon.

* * * *

In every enterprise, consider where you would come out.

* * * *

Constantly choose rather to want less than to have more.

* * * *

It is more kindly to laugh at human life than to grin at it.

* * * *

Let us learn upon earth those things that can call us to heaven.

* * * *

More than all things, avoid fault-finding and a habit of criticism.

* * * *

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small (Bible).

* * * *

"Experience is the best teacher"—only the school fees are heavy!

* * * *

There is a long and wearisome step between admiration and imitation.

* * * *

Defeat is nothing but education—nothing but the first step to something better.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

S.T.C. Cricket Fixtures.

S.T.C. v. Bradford Casuals.—Played at Catterick on August 18th, and resulted in a draw.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

Lieut L. C. Boyd c Nicholls b Sparling	16
Corpl Ryan c Wilson b Sparling	6
Lieut J. E. S. Walford b Sparling	9
Major F. G. Drayson c Nicholls b Small	23
Sigmn Bridges c Mollett b Sparling	0
Sigmn Wall b Small	24
Lieut H. L. Lewis c Sparling b Mollett	21
Sigmn Lundie c and b Small	41
Sergt Dempsey c Nicholls b Sparling	5
Sigmn Duncan run out	15
Lieut A. B. Ruck not out	4
Extras	19
Total	183

BRADFORD CASUALS.

E. H. Wilson b Walford	0
A. H. Cockcroft c Ruck b Boyd	38
B. A. Walkerdine b Walford	21
H. Sparling c Boyd b Drayson	39
L. Illingworth run out	3
E. Craven c and b Walford	3
H. E. Birkbeck c Ryan b Walford	17
G. E. Naylor b Walford	15
J. Nicholls c Wall b Walford	0
L. Mollett not out	10
F. C. Small not out	2
Extras	16
Total (for 9 wickets)	164

Bowling—Walford, six wickets for 62; Boyd, one for 11; Drayson, one for 36.

S.T.C. v. Durham County Pilgrims.—Played at Catterick Camp on August 23rd and 24th, the visitors leading on the first innings by 154 runs. Rain stopped play on the second day.

DURHAM COUNTY PILGRIMS.

J. A. Adamson st Ryan b Drayson	18
C. F. Casper b Drayson	30
C. L. Adamson c Boyd b Walford	8
W. H. R. Alderson c Knox b Walford	15
D. C. A. Townsend lbw b Bridges	10
R. W. Smeddle b Walford	144
C. A. Aarvold b Boyd	1
E. W. Walford c Boyd b Walford	0
B. Aarvold b Drayson	12
R. C. Griffin st Ryan b Drayson	1
W. J. Nimmo not out	3
Extras	12
Total	254

Bowling—Walford, four wickets for 85; Drayson, four for 95.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Lieut L. C. Boyd b Smeddle	10	c Alderson b S'dle	12
Corpl Ryan c Griffin b J. Adamson	0	b Smeddle	0
Lieut J. E. S. Walford c Townsend b Smeddle	38	not out	16
Lieut G. S. Knox c Alderson b J. Adamson	18	b Nimmo	1
Capt G. P. Pavey b Smeddle	0	b Nimmo	4
Major F. G. Drayson lbw b J. Adamson	1		
Sigmn Lundie c and b J. Ad'son	6		
Sigmn Bridges b Smeddle	0		
Sigmn Duncan b J. Adamson	6		
Lt J. E. S. Sanders lbw b Nimmo	12		
Lieut A. B. Ruck not out	0		
Extras	9		
Total	100	Total (for 4 wkts)	33

S.T.C. v. Durham County Pilgrims.—Played at Castle Eden on August 28th, and resulted in a draw, though the home team had three wickets in hand when time was called with the scores exactly level.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE.

Lieut L. C. Boyd c J. Adamson b D. Townsend	118
Corpl Ryan c C. Adamson b Smith	7
Lieut J. E. S. Walford c Youngman b D. Townsend	39
Sergt Carpenter c C. L. Townsend b Smith	16
Lieut G. S. Knox c Youngman b Smith	8
Capt G. P. Pavey b Youngman	44
Sigmn Wall b Elliott	2
Sigmn Bridges run out	10
Capt J. H. Brown b J. A. Adamson	0
Lieut A. B. Ruck c Aarvold b D. Townsend	27
Major F. G. Drayson not out	12
Extras	29
Total	312

DURHAM COUNTY PILGRIMS.

J. A. Adamson c Knox b Walford	33
F. R. Smith c Ruck b Walford	57
C. L. Adamson c Drayson b Boyd	40
H. E. Bailey st Ryan b Carpenter	19
D. Townsend b Bridges	53
F. A. Youngman not out	82
C. Casper b Bridges	6
C. D. Aarvold st Ryan b Walford	5
Extras	17
Total (for 7 wickets)	312

Inter-Company Cricket.

The Company League was concluded early in September, each Company having met the others twice. In spite of the typical Catterick conditions which attended a number of the games, a very keen interest was maintained throughout the season. The final positions are given below:—

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
School	10	8	2	16
D Company	10	7	3	14
E Company	10	5	5	10
F Company	10	5	5	10
Dismounted Wing	10	4	6	8
Mounted Wing	10	1	9	2

The conditions of the League ensure a definite result in each match, as each side has to complete an innings.

Inter-Company Hockey.

Having learned a lesson from the almost unplayable state to which the grounds were reduced early last season, the committee wisely decided to complete the Company fixtures while the weather remained comparatively dry. As a result the Company League has been so arranged as to complete the fixtures by the end of September, leaving the winter for soccer and rugger, which games (it has been found during past seasons) can be played almost equally enthusiastically on land or water.

The matches completed to date seem to indicate that whoever beats F Company will have an excellent prospect of coming out at the top of the table, though some of the teams have yet to find their best form.

Mackworth Cup.

Points to date for this trophy are as follows:—

	Cricket	Athletics	Total
F Company	7	12	19
E Company	7	10	17
D Company	10	6	16
School	12	4	16
Mounted Wing	2	8	10
Dismounted Wing	4	2	6

Boxing Notes.

Recruits Boxing Championships.—With a total of 78 entries, the winners of the welter, light, feather and bantam-weights respectively were Signalmen Blyth, Cunningham, Milligan and Hutchinson. The runners-up were Signalmen Humby, Haughey, Page and Nichol. Good loser's prizes were won by Signalmen Rice, Cruickshanks, Adamson and Robertson. Both finalists in the welters knocked out their two previous opponents, the final also resulting in a knock-out. Is this a record?

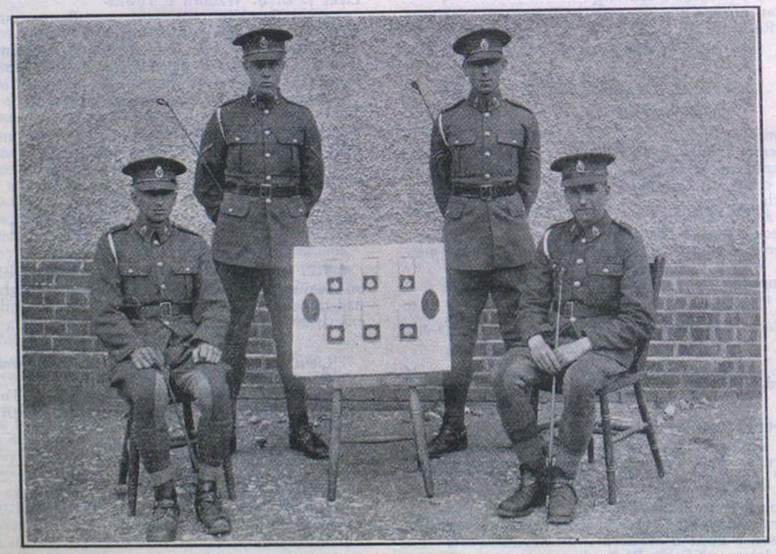
Will all enthusiasts note that a new boxing ring has been erected in the Dismounted Wing, which is capable of holding a thousand spectators. Matches are to be arranged with other Companies and units in the Garrison, results of which will be published in due course.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Cricket.—We have played two matches this month, losing both. Against E Company we made 110 to their 112. In this match the highest scorers were Capt Collin (30) and Capt Pavey (22). Our next match was against F Company. Sergt Carpenter proved too much for our batsmen, dismissing eight for 32 runs. Lieut Knox made a good stand for us, scoring 24 runs. D Co. 62; F. 64 for four wickets.

No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company, Blackdown.

This year we again took advantage of the invitation of the 1st A.A. Searchlight Battalion R.E. to run our sports at their meeting. We had our own prizes for the placed competitors of Signals; and if we were fortunate to win the event, the Sappers awarded *their* prizes as well.



Four Successful Athletes

(Left to right) Sigmn Fawcett, L/Cpl Purdy, Cpl Norman, Sigmn Cousens (No. 1 A.A. Signal Company)

We were successful with three firsts and a second in four events. Sigmn Fawcett won the long jump and was second in the high jump, and Sigmn Cousens won the mile and three miles. The latter event provided a most spectacular finish. Cousens, who was lying second a hundred yards from the finish, put on a fine spurt and won easily.

These sports were followed on May 24th and 25th by the 1st Air Defence Brigade sports, in which practically all events were competed for by battery and company teams. As our strength is less than half that of a battery or a Sapper company, we were very pleased to finish fourth out of the eight entrants. We won one event only, the high jump. Sigmn Fawcett and L/Corporal Purdy composed the team and "lepped" higher than they had ever done in practice. Corpl Norman did the second-best long jump and was exceedingly unlucky in not taking first place.

The weather during the Sapper meeting was vile! It rained every day. For the Brigade sports we had two perfect days, which provided a fitting end to our athletic sports before moving to camp.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

ANNUAL SPORTS.

Our annual athletic meeting was held on the Beacon Hill ground on August 15th. The following are the results:—

100 yards flat—1 Sigmn Huson, 2 Sigmn Camm, 3 Sigmn Thomson.
220 yards flat—1 Sigmn Huson, 2 Sigmn Thomson, 3 Signalman Marples.
440 yards flat—1 Sigmn Camm, 2 L/Corpl Lynton, 3 Signalman Marples.
880 yards flat—1 Corpl Iveson, 2 L/Corpl Lynton, 3 Signalman Marples.
One mile—1 *L/Sergt Cotterell, 2 Corpl Iveson, 3 L/Cpl Lynton, 4 Dvr Hawthorne.
Three miles—1 *L/Sergt Cotterell, 2 Sigmn Greatorex, 3 Corpl Iveson, 4 L/Corpl Lynton.
120 yds. hurdles—1 Sigmn Lucas, 2 Sigmn Ruffle, 3 L/Cpl Peake.
Inter-Company 400 yards relay—No. 2 Coy. (Sigmn Thomson, L/Corpl Peake, L/Corpl Jackson, Sigmn Reid F.) Time, 45 secs
Inter-Company mile relay—No. 2 Coy. (L/Corpl Peake, L/Sergt Cotterell, Sigmn Thomson, Dvr Johnson)
High jump—1 Sigmn Semmence (5ft. 3in.), 2 Sigmn Marples and L/Corporal Frawley. Marples and Frawley tied, and received prizes of equal value.
Long jump—1 Sigmn Huson (18ft. 10in.), 2 Corpl Luck, 3 Sigmn Thomson.
Throwing the hammer—1 L/Corpl Franklin (83ft. 10in.), 2 C.S.M Hailes, 3 Dvr Smith G.
Putting the shot—1 L/Corpl Franklin (30ft. 10in.), 2 Corpl Luck, 3 Sigmn Thomson.
Open mile—1 L/Sergt Cotterell (4min. 45-3/5 sec.), 2 Mr. Cunliffe, 3 Mr. Short.
Inter-Section relay—A Section (Signalmen Huson, Elphick, Camm and Reeves)
Inter-Section tug-of-war (catch weights)—H Section (Major Hobkirk, C.S.M. Hailes, C.Q.M.S. Sweeting, Sergt Freemantle, Cpl Slater, Signalmen Fry, Potter and Lambird)
Veterans' race—1 Capt Hill, 2 R.S.M. Adams, 3 Major Allan.
Threading the needle—L/Corpl and Mrs. Simm.
Boys' race—1 Jack Stainer, 2 George Piercy.
Girls' race—1 Barbara Kerrich, 2 Elizabeth Hobkirk.
Band race—1 Sigmn Dilley, 2 L/Corpl Robertson.

* L/Sergt "Joe" Cotterell won the mile and three miles, but generously waived his claim in each case.

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Earle, the wife of Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., Chief Signal Officer Southern Command. There was a very large attendance, and with blue skies and brilliant sunshine this ensured a completely successful meeting. The band of the Royal Corps of Signals played throughout the afternoon.

MOUNTED SPORTS.

The mounted sports were held on the Beacon Hill ground on August 17th. The following are the results:—

Pillow fight—1 Sigmn Thomson, 2 Sigmn Cooper.
Driving competition—1 Dvr Hilton, 2 Dvr Rice, 3 Dvr Johnson.
Jumping competition—1 Dvr Smith G., 2 Cpl Mansfield, 3 Sigmn Smart C.
Alarm stakes—1 Drivers Spooner and Johnson, 2 Drivers Crockford and Norcup.
Wrestling on horse-back (teams of six)—1 No. 2 Coy., 2 No. 3.
Tug-of-war—1 No. 1 Company, 2 No. 3.
V.C. race—1 Corpl Norcup and Sigmn Barton, 2 Sigmn Potter and Dvr Kelly.
Ball and basket race—1 No. 2 Company (Lieut Booth, Corpl Norcup, Sergt Gregory, Sigmn Barton); 2 No. 1 Coy. (Capt Lockley Turner, C.S.M. Kneebone, L/Corpl Franklin, Dvr Cross)

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Allan, the wife of our commanding officer.

Rhine Signal Company, Wiesbaden.

Cricket.—At the close of play we hold the strongest position in the League: top (reversed), or wooden spoonists. We now put away the cricket gear and welcome the winter sports, with football our greatest hope. Results:—

v. E Company R.A.S.C., lost by 43 runs (Caple 25).
v. M.P., lost by 24 runs (Minns 52, Funnell 25).
v. R.A.M.C., lost by 26 runs (Funnell 51).

Shooting.—The R.S.C.M.R.C. is going great guns. Weekly sweepstakes are being held, and keen interest shown. Winners on August 31st: 1 Sigmn Harbury, 2 L/Corpl Taylor, 3 Sigmn Funnell. Winners on September 7th: 1 Lieut N. G. Newell, 2 C.Q.M.S. Montgomery, 3 Sergt Minns.

Darts.—Winners of "cricket" match (for pints): Signalman Funnell and Sigmn Burtenshaw, still undefeated.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Tennis.—The U.T. League tournament commenced on 15th August with a record entry of ten teams. Each team consisted of two singles and two doubles pairs. The tournament was open to any officer, w.o., n.c.o. or man of H.M. Forces in or around Karachi. The winning team holds the U.T. challenge cup for twelve months, whilst the winner of the most singles events received a special prize.

As a team we are none too strong, but we hope to do better with practice. The results were as follows:—

Signals beat the Sherwood Foresters Sergeants' Mess by 3—1.
Signals lost to Staff and Dept. Club by 0—4. In this tie Capt Ashton (Army, Scinde, and Karachi lawn champion, 1928) beat Sergt Shardlow in a very good hard-hitting game.
Signals lost to E.R.S. "A" R.A.F. (holders) by 1—3.
Signals lost to H.Q. and S. by 1—3.
Signals beat R.A. Manora by 3—1.
Signals beat W/T R.A.F. by 4—0.
Signals beat E.R.S. R.A.F. by 3—1.
Signals lost to R.A.F. Sergeants' Mess by 1—3.

FINAL RESULTS.

Signals played 36 matches, winning just half of them. Singles—The first player won 8 and lost 1; the second won 4 and lost 5. Doubles—The first pair won 1 and lost 8; the second won 5 and lost 4.

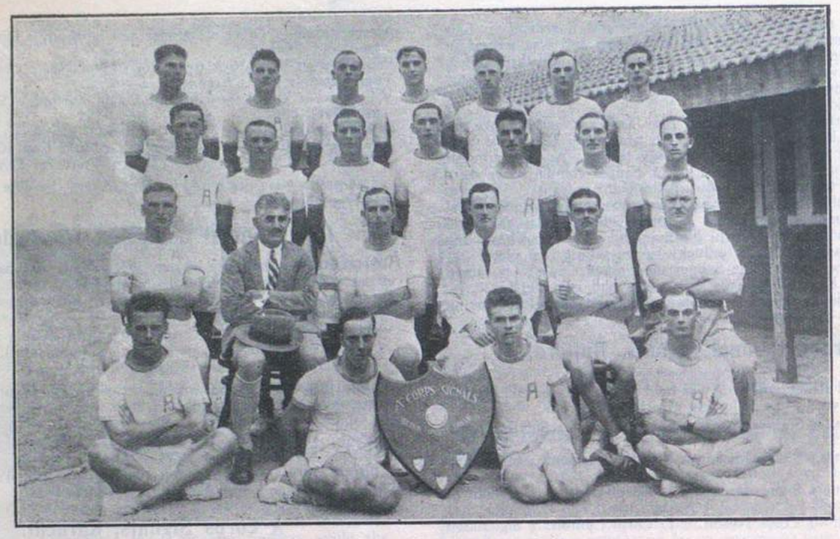
Our team was as follows:—Singles, Sergt Shardlow and L/Cpl Baker. Doubles, Sergeants Holloway Mills and Watterton, and L/Corpl Wallace and Sigmn Funnell.

As four singles players finished up with a loss of only one match each (our first string would have won outright, as Captain Ashton only turned out once), a semi-final and a final had to be played, with the following results:—

Sergt Witts, R.A.F., beat L.A.C. Cave, 6—1, 6—2.
Sergt Shardlow beat R.S.M. Thomas, S. & D. Club, 6—1, 8—6.
Final: Sergt Shardlow beat Sergt Witts, 6—1, 3—6, 6—2.

PRESENTATION OF THE PRIZES.—An "at home" was held for the occasion and the singles final. The Brigade Commander, Colonel Hart, kindly consented to be present. By six o'clock the courts were packed, there being over a hundred people present, who enjoyed an excellent tea provided by Mr. and Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Elmes (Signals).

After two exhibition doubles games between the new winners (the S. & D. Club) and picked pairs of the R.A.F., the singles final took place, Sergt Shardlow beating Sergt Witts as shown above.



The Linemen, winners of the Unit Shield, 1928

In the first set Sergt Shardlow was much too strong and played an all-court game; but in the second set Sergt Witts went all out, volleying and smashing everything that came his way to draw level. In the final set, Shardlow, by keeping a good length and pace and volleying well to the side lines, ran out comfortably.

The prizes were then presented by Col. Hart, who congratulated the Staff and Dept. Club on winning the League championship, and Sergt Shardlow on winning the singles. He drew forth a round of applause when he expressed his appreciation of the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Elmes.

We finished fourth in the League, and live in hopes of winning it next year.

Inter-Section Sports.—These were a purely local affair, and the aim of it all was to encourage talent and find future Joes. Seven teams competed:—Operators A; Operators B; H.Q. and D.R.s.; Linemen; Nos. 1 and 3 Pack W/T Sections; Nos. 1 and 2 L/M Sections; and No. 3 Light Motor and Medium Artillery Section. The prize was a very handsome shield, in the centre of which was a clock (no excuse for getting up late now, M.G.!)

The enthusiasm of the whole period was very notable, and some turned out—well, we never knew they *could* run! There were too many happenings to note the whole, but a few outstanding cases were the tug-of-war, the cross-country run and the field events. The shield will be competed for annually (it reminds one of Crowborough and the "banner" days). A description of the cross-country race is included.

Inter-Section Three Mile Cross-Country Race.—Seven o'clock on the 30th July found the élite of the unit gathered in their various sections to await the signal for the much-discussed inter-Section cross-country run—one of the chief events of the series of hotly-contested "Section athletics" which have been disturbing the camp for the last few weeks.

The race started at a remarkable pace, the whole field of seventy runners crossing the first three hundred yards of the flat maidan in a remarkably short space of time. The bottle neck formed by the somewhat narrow bridge, however, caused a noticeable check in the speed of the runners, and the field began to spread out considerably. The loose sand upon the other side of the bridge caused very heavy running, and the pace became still more moderate.

The runners who had been unable to hold the starting pace now made up lost time, since this portion of the course called more for stamina than speed. Immediately the firmer ground was reached the pace again became faster, only to slow down shortly afterwards as a wide tract of slippery sand was traversed. At the turning point the pace lengthened out again, and many carried on with an easy swinging stride. The field was now strung out considerably, the first three ending in the following order: Sergt Shardlow, L/Corpl McKenzie H., and Signalman Reeves. Sergt Shardlow won by at least 300 yards.

Cricket.—The unit has a fairly good team this year, and up to the present they have performed very well. Out of seventeen matches played they have won fourteen, drawing one and losing the other two. The following is a summary of results:—

Beat River United by 171—63 (Watterton 46, Gordon 33, Wrenn 20)
Beat 13th Heavy Battery R.A. by 144—51 (McKenzie five wickets for 17, Gordon four for 16)
Beat River United by 206—30 (Wrenn 84, Ward 34, McGregor 25; McKenzie seven wickets for 14)
Beat R.A., Manora, by 111—71.
Beat Young Nasurpuri C.C. by 107—59.
Beat A Coy. 2nd Battn Sherwood Foresters by 163 for six—59.
Beat Karachi Port Trust by 151—125.
Beat A Company Sherwood Foresters by 184—25.

Mrs. Wall presenting the Shield to Sergt Taylor, captain of the winning team

A CORPS SIGNALS (KARACHI) INTER-SECTION SPORTS.

Lining up for the Cross-Country Race

Sergt Shardlow, Winner of the Cross-Country Race

Lining up for the Mile Race

The M/C Section, winners of the Tug-of-War

Tug-of-War—Headquarters v. B Section

Tug-of-War—A Section v. Packs

Beat R.A.F. Depot " A " by 128—75 (Watterton 44, Abbott 21 not out, McGregor 19, Chimes 17; McGregor three wickets for 14, McKenzie four for 34)
Beat M.T. and W.I.R.S., R.A.F., by 151—121 (Watterton 46, Gordon 23, Chimes 21; Gordon three wickets for 12, Badley two for 16, McKenzie four for 35)
Beat Padhshi Union by 116—89 (Chimes 25; Newman three wickets for 7, McKenzie four for 24, Gordon two for 32)
Beat B Company Sherwood Foresters by 120—98 (Newman three wickets for 4, McGregor three for 31)
Beat A Company Sherwood Foresters by 141—36 and 93 (Gibbons 50; Abbott three wickets for 3, Newman 4 for 11, Evans two for 13, Chimes three for 10, Cates two for 11)
Beat C Company Sherwood Foresters by 118—81 (Chimes 44; McKenzie six wickets for 22, Newman three for 25)
Drew with Karachi Port Trust at 98 for seven wickets in reply to their 114 (McGregor 40, Watterton 20, Chimes 18; McKenzie five wickets for 22)
Lost to E.R.S., R.A.F., by 66—121 (Gordon three wickets for 17, Newman three for 21)
Lost to 2nd Battn. Sherwood Foresters by 140—143 for two wickets (Abbott 32, Watterton 31)

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarter Section, Razmak.

The following are the results of the Signals week-end sports referred to in unit notes:—

Football.—Manzai and Bannu Sections beat Razmak Brigade and H.Q. Sections by 6—1.

Basket Ball.—Razmak Brigade beat H.Q. by 3—0; Bannu beat Manzai by 7—0. Final: Bannu beat Razmak Bde. by 2—0.

Hockey.—Bannu beat Razmak by 4—1. Combined Signals drew with the Cameronians (S.R.), 4—4.

Tennis.—Bannu were awarded the honours.

On Monday, July 30th, the cup was presented by Captain Winckley (the officiating commandant) to Bannu Signals for their outstanding performance.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

Swimming.—I stated in last month's notes that our swimmers unfortunately arrived too late to compete in one particular event at the swimming gala held recently at Rawalpindi; but although they were a little pushed on that occasion they were quite undismayed, and on their next visit turned up very punctually. Furthermore, they proved almost irresistible and were successful in carrying off three first prizes and three seconds in face of heavy opposition, for each event was open to all civilians and military in Rawalpindi District.

The team who represented us and gave an excellent performance with such very satisfactory results comprised: Corpl Hunt, L/Corpl Peuleve, Signalmen French, Bourner and Westley.

60 yards (free style)—1, Corpl Hunt; 2, Sigmn Bourner.
Fancy diving—1, L/Corpl Peuleve; 2, Sigmn French.
Trick diving—1, Sigmn French.
Diving for rings—2, Sigmn Westley.

Everybody remarked on the excellent display given by our lads, and after the prizes were presented it was indeed a very triumphant party who returned to the barracks.

Hockey.—We beat the R.A.M.C. by 1—0, but lost to C Coy. Royal Sussex Regiment by 0—1.

Football.—We lost to C Company Royal Sussex Regt. by 0—2, and Combined Signals lost to the same team by 3—4.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

Sports.—Individuals are training strenuously for every event in the forthcoming Depot sports. We hope good results will be the reward of all concerned, for they have done everything in their power to become perfectly fit. The field and cross-country teams have been taken in hand by the renowned Steve—himself no mean performer on the track or cross-country.

Rugger has been started, and after one unit trial game our team has played two matches with good teams from the 2nd Battn. Gloucester Regiment. In the first there was no score, whilst in the second we lost by three points only—a very good result, considering that we are only learners.

Lectures and blackboard demonstrations of positions and play have been given by Capt J. W. Bailey (our officiating C.O.) and 2/Lieut L. W. J. Dryland, both members of the team.

Basket Ball.—The second knock-out tournament commenced after a few practice games for the sun-burnt lads from the Plains. Ten teams entered, and the lucky ones to reach the final were led by 2/Lieut Dryland and Sergt Hebberd respectively. The latter's team eventually won by 5—3, the game being witnessed by the ladies and the officers. Lieut R. H. Copeland is to be congratulated on the manner in which he ran the tournament.

The Ladies at Basket Ball

Basket ball appears to be very popular in Ranikhet, the fever having spread to the fair sex. A match between two ladies' teams was arranged. Mrs. Bury (wife of our adjutant) captained one side, in white, and Mrs. Hebberd the other, in blue. The outstanding players from the start were Mrs. Bury and Miss Davies (Army schoolmistress). A good number of men from the unit watched the play, giving vocal encouragement in the approved style. The Whites led in the first half, but during the second half the Blues seemed to understand the game better and scored four times, thus winning by 4—2.

The ladies are quite keen on the game, and a number of matches have been arranged with the ladies of the 1st Battalion The Buffs.

Soccer.—In all ten games have taken place, of which we won four, drew three and lost three. We lost the League match with H.Q. Wing 1st Battn. The Buffs by 1—2.

Hockey.—We have not been so fortunate at this, having lost all four games played.

Cricket.—After a long spell of inactivity, this pastime has again commenced. Two teams of the unit turned out, one captained by Sergt Richardson and the other by Lieut Copeland, the latter winning by one wicket and 36 runs. We greatly miss the help of Capt H. S. Lewis-Barclay, who was a great asset to our team.

The Royal Berkshire Regiment, whose team we beat last year in the final, have challenged us again this year.

At present we have with us some youngsters who, with practice, will make very good cricketers—Signalmen Gale, Trevanna, Bailey G., Wells and Singleton.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals Rugby Team, 1927-28

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

Rugby.—In the second round of the Harwood-Little cup we played against the S.T.C. (I.) on July 28th. Our team was:—Back, Sigmn Nix; three-quarters, Signalmen Milton, Moody, Neale and Waterworth; halves, Mr. Good and Sigmn Francis; forwards, Sergts Steed and Cooper, Corpl Sykes, Signalmen Grocutt, Burn, Harvey, Lauder and James.

It was an exciting and level game from start to finish. Playing against the wind, we managed to keep our opponents out and occasionally raided their line. Half-time arrived without any scoring.

In the second half we had by far the most of the game, and several times three-quarter movements looked like resulting in tries, but we lacked finish and never got across. When time was called the score was still 0—0.

Early in the first half of the extra time Mr. Mountford, the S.T.C. scrum-half, broke away with the ball at his feet and scored a good but rather lucky try. It was unconverted.

In the second half we had bad luck in that our centre three-quarters (Moody and Neale) met in a head-on collision when tackling one of the opposing team, as a result of which both were taken to hospital. With only seven forwards and three three-quarters the team played really well and pressed the S.T.C. for the rest of the game, but were not able to score. We thus lost by three points to nil.

The forwards are to be congratulated on the stout performance they put up against a much heavier pack. Of the backs, Waterworth's kicking was always good, and but for one bad mistake Nix was quite sound. It was a very good show. Mr. Good played like a hero; we can always rely on him wherever sport is concerned.

Football.—Several friendly games have been played with a view to selecting a unit team, but the outstanding match of the month was undoubtedly that between the sergeants and corporals of the unit. Nearly the whole of the unit gave vocal encouragement, whilst the ladies made an unexpected though very welcome appearance as interested spectators. The unit band gave selections at the right moments. The sergeants won by 5—1 through Talling (2), Hinchley (2) and Bennett, but the game was not so one-sided as the result would imply. Sergt Talling obligingly put through his own goal for the corporals' solitary point.

Cricket.—Owing to the weak efforts put up by the monsoon, it has been possible to play several matches. The best match so far was a single innings game between the signal officers of the station and the unit sergeants, the result being as follows:—

UNIT SERGEANTS.

Marriott c Hitchcock b Paton	34
Wise c Miller b Hitchcock	0
Cooper c Herdon b Good	82
Hinchley lbw b Paton	23
Baldock c and b Good	12
Lemon c Jemadar Sahib b Paton	2
Harper not out	2
Extras	14
Total for 6 wickets (declared)	169

SIGNAL OFFICERS OF THE STATION.

2/Lieut Good run out	49
Capt Tomkins run out	21
2/Lieut Hyde b Wise	1
Capt Herdon lbw b Cummings	4
Capt Paton c Cooper b Wise	0
Capt Watkins b Marriott	29
Major Miller b Harper	0
2/Lient Moberly c Marshall b Cummings	7
Capt Butcher b Marriott	2
Major Hitchcock not out	1
Jemadar Sahib run out	3
Extras	13
Total	130

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

Cricket has now drawn to a close, and we finished the season by playing the Casuals—our first opponents this year. After a good game we retired in the negative. (Can that be done, by the way?)

Hockey.—We have played two matches so far, winning against B Depot Squadron by 6—0 and losing to No. 70 (B) Squadron by 3—4.

Football.—This has begun in earnest—hasn't it, Ernest?—and everywhere one can see the new boots flashing. We began on Sunday, August 26th, by beating our neighbours the M.T. Pool by 2—0, and we also managed to beat the Station Headquarters team by 2—1 in a later game.

Next month there will be more about football and hockey.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Billiards.—The R.E.-Royal Signals team have entered the final of the Soldiers' Club six-a-side challenge cup, having disposed of the R.A.S.C. in the second round, A Company K.O.S.B. in the third, and the 31st (H) Battery in the semi-final. In the final we meet the R.A.O.C. We had a bye in the first round.

Amateur Individual Cup.—At present we have two players, Sergt Maynard (R.E.) and Sigmn White, left in the individual championship. Sigmn White has disposed of Sappers Rogers and Earl of the R.E.s and Pte O'Bryant, R.A.O.C.

Sergt Maynard had a bye in the first round. In the second he beat a private of the Queen's Royal Regiment, and in the third Sergt M'Klinchy, K.O.S.B.

Later.—Unfortunately Maynard and White met in the next round. However, the match was well contested, White (250) beating Maynard (170) and thus qualifying for the semi-final.

Hong Kong Volunteer Challenge Cup.—In the first round, R.E.-Royal Signals beat H.Q. Wing K.O.S.B.

Tennis.—We have not been doing very well in the leagues this season. In the Garrison League we have played five games and lost three. In the Civilian League we hold the position of second from bottom!

Aden Signal Section.

Soccer.—My prophecies of last month have all gone astray, but they'll do for next year *if* we are still here. Instead of "going far" in the cup ties, our team seems to have been stricken with stage fright or some other obscure disease, for we met C Company "B" team S.W.B. in the first round and (oh, Eliza!) we went home with a score of 7—2 against us. So far we have the *honour* of being the only team in the competition with as many as that! Kneller scored our two goals.

Still, as I said, we have next year to look forward to—m'yes! I suppose one should not make excuses, but here goes! Of late the team have been somewhat off colour, and last-minute exchanges in the team altered things a good deal, but even then the score belies the play.

We are now "on our own" again, so that the scores appearing from month to month will have to be treated leniently, as we are only beginners. But "Nil Desperandum" is our motto. Atta Boy!

The other games have resulted thus: R.E. Signals beat B Coy. S.W.B. by 3—0, and lost by 1—2 and 2—4; also lost to H.Q. R.A. by 2—4.

Hockey.—Only two games have been played, each resulting in a draw—v. H.Q. R.A. (3—3) and v. Khor W/T Station (1—1).

The Corps in Egypt.

Cricket.—The Corps team has done extraordinarily well in cricket during the past month. After having gone out in the first round of the Command competition, no one expected the team to do as well as it has done in the Frank Cook cup competition, open to all civilian and military teams in Egypt. The team reached the final of this competition, having won both the third round and semi-final games when early collapses in their batting might have led to defeat on each occasion.

In the third round, played on the Willcocks Recreation Ground, Gezira, on August 16th, the Royal Signals defeated the 1st Light Brigade R.A. by 131 runs. The sides had met three times previously during the season, the Light Brigade winning each time; but when it came to a competitive game, they crumpled up in the most unaccountable fashion.

The Brigade won the toss, and (probably thinking the wicket might be difficult) put the Signals in to bat, with disastrous results. The first two wickets put on 78 runs and the last added 35, the total reaching 185, made in three hours and a quarter by careful but not bright cricket. Lovett was top scorer with 45, but Oldale's innings was of most value to his side. Going in seventh, with the board registering 117, he carried out his bat for 26.

The Royal Artillery had a sorry time at the wicket. Broad and Walker opened to the bowling of Smith and Backhouse. Broad was caught by Dickerson off Smith after notching a couple of runs; Hannibal was bowled by Smith without scoring; and Whitworth, after making a boundary, was brilliantly stumped by Oldale—three wickets for eight runs. The rest of the innings was a procession. Walker (like his name-sake) kept his end up, and if he did not "go strongly" he at least went steadily, for it took him an hour and a quarter to get his fourteen runs, being ninth man out. At this period of the game three maiden overs were sent down for three wickets—seven, eight and nine. Smith and Backhouse bowled unchanged. They kept a good length, and runs were almost impossible to get. When the batsmen *did* hit the ball, the fielding was so good and the returns so quick that they were afraid to leave the crease.

Royal Signals.

Sigmn Lovett c Evans b Yardley	45
Sergt Honnor lbw b Whitworth	3
Sigmn Stone c Orchard b Evans	29
Sigmn Poole b Yardley	13
Sigmn Dickerson c Orchard b Yardley	6
L/Corpl Panter c Yardley b Walker	5
Sigmn Strike c Hannibal b Yardley	3
Sigmn Oldale not out	26
L/Corpl Smith c and b Whitworth	13
Dvr Stillwell b Howell	5
Sigmn Backhouse c and b Brown	20
Extras	17
Total	185

1st Light Brigade R.A.

Gnr Broad c Dickerson b Smith	2
Gnr Walker b Backhouse	14
Gnr Hannibal b Smith	0
Lieut Whitworth st Oldale b Smith	4
Gnr Howell c Poole b Backhouse	4
L/Bomb Evans c Honnor b Smith	10
L/Bomb Brown c Dickerson b Smith	0
Lieut DuBoulay b Backhouse	9
Gnr Yardley c Poole b Backhouse	0
L/Bomb Orchard b Backhouse	7
L/Bomb Summers not out	2
Extras	2
Total	54

Bowling—Smith, five wickets for 27; Backhouse five for 25.

The semi-final game was very exciting, the Corps team being apparently in a hopeless position after the tea interval on the first day. After making 77 in the first innings, and dismissing the 12th Royal Lancers for 97, the Signals collapsed badly and at the tea interval had made 37 runs for eight wickets! However, Sigmn Oldale and Dvr Stillwell stemmed the tide and managed to put on 59 between them, the innings closing for 100 the following morning.

This left the Lancers requiring only 81 runs for victory—which seemed a very easy task to everyone. However, L/Corpl Smith was of another opinion, and bowling in deadly form he took six wickets for 28, Sigmn Backhouse taking three for 24, the Lancers being all out for 58—and the Corps won by 22 runs! L/Cpl Smith took twelve wickets for 72 runs throughout the match.

Runners-up for Fourth Successive Season.

For the past four years the Royal Corps of Signals have reached the final stage of the Frank Cook cup competition, but on each occasion their rivals have been too good for them. Yesterday (September 6th) they were heavily defeated by the 2nd Brigade R.H.A., and what should have been a two-day match was concluded in one, with the Signals losing by an innings and 33 runs.

The first four wickets of the R.H.A. fell for 110 runs, but after the dismissal of Rogers and Rustell only Cook and Ash worried the scorers, Smith bowling the last man at 177. Rogers hit seven boundaries, and Rustell played bright cricket for his 54, made in forty minutes. He smote Smith for a hefty 6, and hit eight 4's.

Smith bore the brunt of the bowling, and in his twenty overs were the only four maidens of the innings. The ground fielding of the Signals reached its usual standard, but a high price was exacted for the "lives" given to Rogers and Weir, both of whom should have been dismissed before the board showed a dozen runs.

The Signals early batsmen were non-plussed with the lob bowling of Rogers, who had a point and mid-off, and the rest of the field on the leg. His second ball dismissed Lovett, who gave an easy chance to Nightingale at short leg, and the Signals opened their score with a wide. Poole was soon caught at cover, two wickets being down for 3 runs. By careful cricket Honnor and Stone carried the score to 21, but the advent of Cook proved fatal to Honnor, and at 36 Stone played on to the same bowler for a very patient 18, the last eight of which were singles. Strike was held in the slips off the second ball he received, and Nightingale bowled Dickerson at the same total—38 for six. Oldale made a hit to leg, ran one, and then lost his wicket in attempting a second. The next ball bowled Stillwell; Smith was run out at 54; and after Panter had hit two fine boundaries he was easily stumped by Weir. The innings closed at 62, and Signals—115 runs in arrear—were obliged to follow on.

With 116 runs required to avoid an innings defeat, the Signals never flattered, and in half-an-hour were in a hopeless position. Oldale changed his batting order, and Poole scored eight from the first over of lobs sent down by Rogers. Cornelius then began a wonderful spell, bowling Panter with his first ball. Stone hit the next for two, survived an lbw. appeal from the third, and lost his off stump with the fourth delivery. Bowling left arm round the wicket and swinging in slightly from the off, Cornelius dismissed Poole in his second over, and after three maidens Dickerson met the same fate. At this stage Cornelius' analysis read: 4 overs, 3 maidens, 2 runs, 3 wickets.

After thirty-five minutes' batting the board showed 20, nine of which were extras. Honnor and Lovett made an attempt to stop the rot, but when Nightingale and Cook came on to bowl the disasters continued, and six wickets were down for 42. Three boundaries by Strike brightened matters, and the ninth pair put on 25 runs, but a good catch by Martin finished the innings for 82.

2nd Brigade R.H.A.

Col. Rogers c Poole b Backhouse	52
Gnr Weir b Smith	19
Dvr Brotherton c Stillwell b Smith	2
Gnr Duffill b Smith	1
Bdr Martin b Panter	4
Gnr Rustell c Stillwell b Smith	54
L/Bdr Cook b Backhouse	20
L/Bdr Nightingale c Poole b Strike	4
Gnr Ash b Backhouse	12
L/Bdr Hiscock not out	2
Gnr Cornelius b Smith	0
Extras	7
Total	177

Royal Corps of Signals.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.
Sig Lovett c Nightingale b Rogers	0	b Nightingale	7
Sig Poole c Brotherton b Cornelius	2	b Cornelius	9
Sergt Honnor b Cook	6	c Hiscock b Cook	13
Sigmn Stone b Cook	18	b Cornelius	2
Sigmn Dickerson b Nightingale	5	b Cornelius	1
Sigmn Strike c Nightingale b Cook	2	c Duffill b Cook	12
L/Corpl Panter st Weir b Cook	15	b Cornelius	0
Sigmn Oldale run out	1	c and b Cook	0
Dvr Stillwell b Cook	0	b Cook	15
L/Corpl Smith run out	8	not out	11
Sigmn Backhouse not out	0	c Martin b Cook	0
Extras	5	Extras	12
Total	62	Total	82

Swimming.—The past month has seen some really splendid performances put up by the Signals swimmers, who have carried all before them and are now champions of Egypt once more!

In the Relay Swimming League, run throughout the season, we again headed the final table without losing a contest, and the cup remains with us for another twelve months.

The Command team and relay championships lasted over a period of five days, and at the end the Corps had won with 40 points, well ahead of the 1st Light Brigade R.A., who were followed by the Tank Corps. Special mention must be made of the really wonderful performances put up by Signalmen

Winners of Egypt Command Team Swimming Championship, 1928, and "A" Relay League.

Standing (left to right)—L/Cpl Gibbs F. A., Sigmn Grose W., Cpl Corbett W. E., Sigmn Andrews E. S. L., Sgt Donaghy M. B., Sigmn Johnson M. *Sitting*—Sigmn King H. S., Dvr Cheale A. R., Sigmn Bloomfield A., Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., 2/Lieut J. B. Adams, Sigmn Taylor J. Cpl Sunderland H., Signalmen Harding A. and Sparkes A.W.

Sparkes and Taylor, as in several cases when the Corps were almost out of the running they pulled us up to the front to win in excellent times.

On the top of their great efforts in the races, the Corps had to contest the final of the Egypt Command water polo championship the same afternoon, but the players were greatly tired, and lost a very close game by the odd goal in three, after extra time, to the 12th Lancers.

The Corps won the 300 yards relay (four at 75 yards), the team being Taylor, Sparkes, Harding and King; the plunging, with Major Tillard (over 58 feet, the longest individual plunge on the final day) and Corpl Corbett; and the 540 yards relay (three at 180 yards) with Taylor, Sparkes and King. The Corps were second in the team diving (with King and Bloomfield, the latter having previously won the Command individual championship) and third in the seven-men relay race.

Through winning the swimming championships we now receive 20 points towards this year's competition for the best all-round sporting unit in Egypt trophy, of which we are the holders.

COMMAND TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS.

A large number of military spectators were present at the Heliopolis Baths on August 31st to see the finals of the above championships. The meeting was a great success. The band of the 12th Lancers played during the afternoon. At the conclusion Miss F. D. Logan presented the cups and medals to the winners.

The arrangements were good, thanks to the excellent committee: Major J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E. (R.Signals), Lieut R. Uniacke (Royal Tank Corps); Lieut F. B. Pinchard (1st Light Bde., R.A.), Lieut T. G. Hardy (Royal Dragoons), Corpl Shaw W. R. (Royal Tank Corps), R.S.M. O'Grady W. D. P. A. (1st Light Brigade, R.A.), and Mr. D. Healy.

"A" LEAGUE.

Swimming—1 Royal Corps of Signals; 2 1st Light Brigade R.A.
Water polo—1 Royal Army Service Corps; 2, 1st Light Bde. R.A.

"B" LEAGUE.

Swimming—1 3rd A.C. Company Royal Tank Corps; 2 Royal Engineers.
Water polo—1 3rd A.C. Company Royal Tank Corps; 2 Royal Engineers.
Winners of the Aggregate cup—1st Light Brigade R.A.
300 yards relay (four at 75 yards)—1 Royal Corps of Signals; 2 Light Brigade R.A.; 3 R.H.A.; 4 Durham L.I. Time 3min. 21 4/5 sec.
Variety race—1 3rd Armoured Car Company; 2 Norfolk Regt.; 3 12th Lancers; 4 Royal Corps of Signals. Time 1min. 46sec.
Plunging—1 Royal Signals (113ft. 4in.); 2 Royals; 3 R.A.S.C.; 4 Light Brigade; 5 12th Lancers; 6 R.H.A.
540 yards relay (three at 180 yards)—1 Royal Corps of Signals; 2 R.H.A.; 3 Durham L.I.; 4 R.A.S.C. Time 7min. 55sec.
Unit relay—1 1st Light Brigade R.A.; 2 3rd Armoured Car Coy.; 3 Royal Signals; 4 Norfolk Regt. Time 6min. 9 sec.
Diving—1 15/19th Hussars; 2 Royal Signals; 3 12th Lancers; 4 Royal Dragoons.
Half mile—1 Royal Tank Corps; 2 1st Light Brigade R.A.; 3 Durham L.I. Time 31min. 35sec.

WATER POLO FINAL.

The final of the water polo was played between the 12th Lancers and the Royal Corps of Signals. The game was very interesting from start to finish, and resulted in a win for the Lancers by two goals to one after extra time. McGlusky opened the score for the Lancers, while Taylor equalised. Gower scored the winning point for the Lancers in the first three minutes of extra time.

The teams were: 12th Lancers—Knight; Shot and Bettridge; Wallace; Gower, Cowie and McGlusky. Signals—Grose; Johnson and Gibbs; Taylor; Sparks, King and Sutherland. Referee: Lieut Uniacke (R.T.C.)

Points won by each unit in the competition were as follows:—Royal Corps of Signals 40, 1st Light Brigade R.A. 35, 3rd A.C. Company R.T.C. 27, 12th Royal Lancers 23, Royal Dragoons 18, R.A.S.C. and 2nd Brigade R.H.A. (each) 11, Norfolks 10, Durham L.I. 8, 15/19th Hussars 6, Royal Scots and Royal Engineers (each) 3, Somerset L.I. 2, Green Howards 0.

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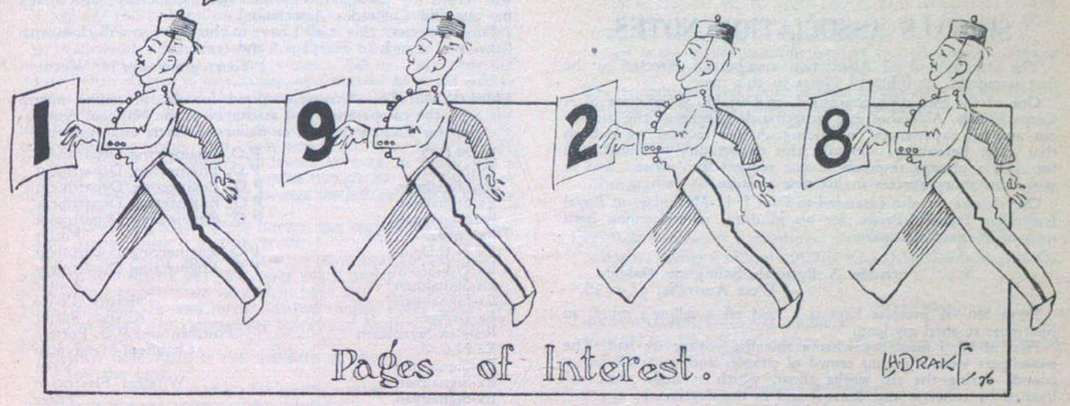

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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Telephone: Victoria 2081
Telegrams: "Sigasn Churton London."

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VOL. IX.—No. 105 NOVEMBER, 1928 PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editorial Notes.

Emigration.—Two ex-Signalmen—one from A Corps Signals, and the other returned for discharge from D Divl Signals, Rawalpindi, India—were recently introduced, through the good offices of a member of our Committee, to two West Australians (one, a farmer) on a visit to England. So impressed were they by the likelihood of these two ex-Signalmen making excellent settlers, that these Australians agreed to 'nominate' them for emigration, thereby guaranteeing them employment for twelve months from the date of landing in Australia. The men were granted immediate passages through the assistance of Australia House, London. An officer of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals and a senior official of the West Australian Immigration Office also kindly undertook to welcome the men on their arrival in Perth. Should these men fulfil the hopes of their nominators, no doubt other nominations will be forthcoming from similar sources.

An article describing the conditions awaiting new settlers in West Australia appeared in THE WIRE for December, 1927. This article has been seen by a number of West Australians, who confirmed the accuracy of the description given. A copy of the article will be sent to any member of the Association contemplating settling in Western Australia, on application to the General Secretary of the Association, who will also give any further information or advice desired.

Men about to be discharged who wish to be considered should consult their Commanding Officer, whose recommendation should accompany their application to the General Secretary for registration as candidates for nomination and assisted passages. The number available must necessarily be limited for some time, and it is essential that names of only really suitable men are sent in.

The General Secretary will also, on application, give information as to settling in Canada.

All ranks of Royal Signals serving in India are advised to anticipate the new 'Indian Signal Corps' Calendar for 1929, as published by Messrs. Hiorns and Miller, of Fore Street, Devonport. This publication is a delightful production tastefully printed on art paper, and illustrates all units of Royal Signals in India both at work and at play. A brief history of each unit, together with particulars of its administrative staff, is chronicled for general information, and the Calendar is a decided ornament to any office or private residence. It is strongly commended to our readers. Copies can be obtained on application to The Commandant, Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore; 3/- (post free).

❀ ❀ ❀

Will readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1928 kindly submit their orders for same without delay, as only a limited number of copies are available. Price 8/- (post free).

❀ ❀ ❀

We are asked to apologise for the absence in this issue of unit notes from E Company, S.T.C., and also from No. 3 Company 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot. Notes from the latter were received, but they arrived too late for inclusion.

❀ ❀ ❀

The following Corps Rugby fixtures have been arranged:—
October 25th—Corps Trial Match at Aldershot.
November 19th—versus R.E. at Chatham.
November 21st—versus R.M.A. at Woolwich.

❀ ❀ ❀

In response to numerous enquiries, it is notified for general information that arrangements are being made to obtain Corps Band engagements and fixtures for 1929. These will be published in THE WIRE at the earliest opportunity.

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order.
EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The attention of all Association members is directed to the first paragraph of Editorial Notes in this issue.

One of the two men concerned, ex-Dvr H. Wood (late of A Corps Signals, Aldershot) has written a description of the passage out and his experiences on landing. At his request we publish that letter hereunder, and take this opportunity to thank him for such a prompt response to our request for 'news,' and to wish him every success in his new venture.

Our thanks are also extended to Capt J. L. McKinlay, of Royal Australian Signals, Perth, for his kindness in welcoming both men to Western Australia.

c/o Mr. A. Byworth, Sunnyside, Gabbin,
West Australia, 9/10/28.

DEAR SIR—A promise kept is a load off a fellow's mind, so here goes to shed my load.

First of all, I must say what a splendid voyage we had. The passengers were a decent crowd of people, and we made many friends during the six weeks afloat, which at night were enlivened by concerts and dances, and in the daytime by sports—when, of course, the rolling of the ship permitted.

At long last we sighted the lighthouse off Fremantle, and our cheers equalled those of a Company receiving a special grant of a month's leave.

At ten o'clock at night we dropped anchor, and the emigration officials came on board to go through certain formalities. Another night in bed, and we awoke to find the doctor and all his minions on board waiting to receive (or reject) us. The 'all clear' flag was hoisted, however, and we slowly steamed to the quay-side, where we made fast, and the gangway was put across.

Almost at once I caught sight of the old familiar blue-and-white armband, and in two minutes I was speaking to Capt McKinlay, who got us through the Customs without any inspection.

We were then loaded into a car and taken to the hostel where we were to stay. Immediately afterwards we were marched down the street to a restaurant and a good dinner—and may I say here that Capt McKinlay certainly has the knack of making a fellow feel at ease and at home.

After dinner we went to Perth, where Capt McKinlay had to leave us, as his Company were on a week-end camp, but not before he had extracted a promise from us to see him next day.

On Monday I went to the Emigration Office and saw a Mr. Scott (Mr. Pullen being on leave). I was given a job, to which I travelled on Tuesday, arriving here on Wednesday. After reporting to the storekeeper, I wandered around until he was ready for me, and then climbed aboard a truck containing all the stores, etc.

We went along a track which they playfully call 'the road,' and swinging into what I thought was an impassable wall of brush, we started upon the roughest ride I ever experienced, the track itself being little more than two ruts or wheel tracks.

After thirty miles of this we came to Red Dam, where I was told that 'this is where you skid.' I promptly 'skidded,' and found the population of the near-by farms (eight) gathered there.

I am fortunate in being employed by a Londoner named Byworth. There are just the two of us, and at present we are 'clearing.'

I never thought I should survive the first three days, but once the stiffness goes one feels a new man. Swinging a 4½-lb. felling axe and getting set at one end of an 8 ft. cross-cut saw certainly does have the effect of opening a fellow's shoulders, and fetching up blisters as big as half-crowns on hands which are now, I rejoice to say, as hard as bullets.

In this locality, which contains almost a hundred square miles, the population, including women and children, is forty-seven.

One Sunday night in each month we meet at one of the houses and have a Church service, followed by a sing-song—as in this house there is an organ (wonder of wonders!) and a farmer, once a commercial traveller, who can play it.

It is certainly a great country, and if any of Royal Signals who are nearing the end of their service contemplate turning their thoughts towards emigration, Australia—with all its opportunities—is the place to make for. Here, a man gets paid for learning, and where else can you expect that?

I am to be paid by cheque, and when that time comes along I will return my passage-money and also include my subscription for our Old Comrades Association.

For the present this is all I have to chronicle, so will close with 'the best of luck to everyone,' and remain,

Yours gratefully, H. WOOD.

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:—

Ex-N.C.O.	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-N.C.O.	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-Driver	Porter
Ex-N.C.O.	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-N.C.O.	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-Signalman	Waiter
Ex-Signalman	Palestine Police
Ex-Driver	Kitchen Porter
Four ex-Signalmen	Postmen and P.O. Porters
Ex-N.C.O.	Chauffeur-Handyman
Ex-Signalman	Valet
Ex-Signalman	Wireless Electrician
*Ex-Signalman	Fitter
*Ex-Signalman	Motor Driver and Traveller
*Ex-Signalman	Railway Chef

* Placed by Colchester Branch.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.
1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
Mr. W. Moffatt.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-N.C.O., London. In temporary difficulties. Two guineas allocated as a grant from Association funds.
2—Serving Signalman, Royal Signals. In domestic difficulties. £3/12/6 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
3—Wife and family of serving Signalman. In domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
4—Ex-Signalman, Chatham. In domestic difficulties. £8 advanced as a loan from Association funds.
5—N.C.O. R.Signals, Aldershot. In domestic difficulties. £3 advanced as a loan from Association funds.
6—Ex-Driver R.Signals, Sussex. In financial difficulties. Action pending.
7—Ex-Signalman R.Signals. In financial difficulties. Employment found, and £3 advanced from Association funds.

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

Warm Clothing.—With the approach of winter there are many appeals for warm clothing; and the Editor would gratefully acknowledge and pass on to the Association Benevolent Fund any contributions of such. The following letter speaks for itself:—

To the Editor.—SIR. This is a kind of letter to THE WIRE which one thinks about twice before writing. However, I make no apology, although you must pardon the nom-de-plume. Suffice it to say that I am over 40 years of age, and have completed 21 years' service (over 18 years abroad); I have a pension of £1/6/10 and regular employment at less than £3 a week; I am married, with three small children, and we have to keep up some sort of an appearance.

For instance, I must dress at about £5 a week, and it is that kind of thing which makes me frantic! Why can't we be just as honest and open in civil life as we are in the Army? All I can say is, 'I dunno!'

Insurance and other subs. must be paid, and we have a little left (about seven pounds) in the bank. We do it; and make no mistake, we are happy, but it's a pinch (wives know this better than we do). This year we've had illness, and we only just managed to keep our heads above water.

I feel the cold! Why do I mention the cold? Well, you see, my work (I beg your pardon! In my line we don't work: we 'go to business.' Terrible, isn't it?) So my 'business' takes me out, in alternate weeks, before 5 a.m.; and oh! my poor old Anglo-Indian chums, it goes to the very marrow of an old soldier at that time of morning. In winter, I prefer the Indian frontier.

As I say, I feel the cold, and I want a warm overcoat, as the one I have has served three such winters. I cannot buy one without robbing my family, and 'easy terms' are very hard indeed! Perhaps one of our officers at home, or even in India, has a motoring coat or something similar which he is thinking of dumping; and perhaps I could manage ten bob or so to our Benevolent Fund in exchange for it!

There's the big idea! Quite honest, but such is life (civil) that I only dare advance it in THE WIRE.

We are not really poor. We are not downhearted. We are developing grit—that's all! We count every penny; we can never have a glass of beer; we very often have just 'makhan roti' for breakfast; and we send in the football coupon every week. We are not in debt. The children are bonny and healthy and happy; so are we two.

Anyway, here again is the sequence of ideas:—

I feel the cold.
I want a warm overcoat, for health's sake.
I *can't* run to a new one this winter.
I *can* afford a small sub. to our Benevolent Fund.
Someone in the Corps is going to cast such a coat (a dealer would give him five bob, and sell it to me for a pound).

By the way, I am five feet ten inches in height.

Again, by the way, may I congratulate 'Saalo' who wrote 'Over the Top in Civil Life.' He's a hero and a very fine penman. Good luck to him!

I am, yours sincerely, JOHN BLUNT.

[The Editor would be glad to acknowledge any response to this appeal.]

Corps News—Officers.

MOVES—

Capt J. R. Patten from 3rd Divl Signals to Catterick.
Capt A. E. Barton from Rhine Signals to 44th Divl Sigs. (T.A.)
Capt C. R. H. Firth from 44th Divl Signals (T.A.) to Eastern Command Signal Company.
Capt E. J. Murphy from Aldershot Command Signal Company to A Corps Signals, Aldershot.
Capt H. G. Henderson from Egypt to Catterick.
Capt H. E. M. Swan from 4th Divl Signals to No. 2 F.A. Signal Section, Edinburgh.
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham from A Corps Sigs. to War Office.
Capt E. H. C. Harris from Cambridge University to Catterick.
Capt P. M. H. Lemon from Aldershot to Cambridge University
Lieut W. Scott from Cambridge University to Catterick.
Lieut E. F. Maltby from Tidworth to Cambridge University.
Lieut F. T. Pope from Aldershot to Catterick.
Lieut H. A. C. Stallon from Aldershot to Cav. Div. Signals, Tidworth.
Lieut H. Gough from Colchester to Shanghai.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 18/9/28.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt E. G. W. Pearse to be Adjutant, 1/3/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut C. B. Delaney to have precedence as from 20/2/27.

War Office, 25/9/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

51st (H) Divl Signals—Lieut J. W. Levack to be Capt. 8/8/28.
Lieut A. H. Reid to be Captain, 10/8/28.
2/Lieut J. A. Lewis resigns his commission, 23/6/28.

War Office, 28/9/28.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned Lieuts to be Captains, 28/9/28, with regimental seniority 26/10/22:—
S. J. Fielder, W. A. Scott, M.B.E. (and remains seconded),
P. M. H. Lemon, R. C. Woodbridge, J. B. Hickman, M.C.,
L. C. Boyd (and remains seconded),
such seniority not to count for pay and allowances, increase of pay or retired pay.

The undermentioned Captains from Indian Army to be Capts., 29/9/28, retaining their present seniority:—
G. S. Hurst and W. O. Bowen.

ESTABLISHMENTS—

Lt L. C. Boyd, R.Signals, Instr. School of Signals, relinquishes his grading (Cl. GG) on promotion to Captain, 28/9/28.

Indian Office, 5/10/28.

The undermentioned appointment has been made in India:—
Assist. to Signal Officer-in-Chief (G.S.O.2), G.S.Bch. A.H.Q., Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., R.Signals, 31/7/28.

War Office, 12/10/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—Capt A. E. Barton, R.Signals, to be Adjutant, 1/10/28.

NOTICES.

Railway Concessions for the Army.

War Office, September 26th, 1928.

The Railway Companies of Great Britain and the Irish Free State have agreed to a number of new concessions for Regular Army personnel in connection with journeys on leave or furlough. These concessions are as follows:—

(*a*) The waiving of the wearing of uniform as a condition of the grant of cheap tickets.
(*b*) An extension of the existing concession to apply to journeys to all stations in the Irish Free State.
(*c*) An extension from two to three months of the period of availability of the return portion of cheap tickets issued to personnel stationed at home.
(*d*) The grant of more than one cheap ticket to officers in respect of any one complete period of leave.
(*e*) The extension of the concession for serving Regular officers to their families.
(*f*) The extension of the concession for soldiers and barrack wardens and their families to paid pensioner recruiters and their families.

The annual dinner of the Royal Corps of Signals Dinner Club will be held at the Royal Adelaide Gallery Restaurant (Gatti's), King William Street, Strand, on Tuesday, June 4th, 1929, at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Further particulars as to price of tickets, etc., will be announced later.

Bannu.

Bannu, which is situate in the Punjab near the borders of Waziristan, is at the present day a cantonment of flourishing aspect, and bids fair to become in a few more years an Aldershot of Waziristan.

It is well laid out and accommodates for the most part military personnel, though a few civilians form part of its population.

Almost in the centre of this cantonment stands Fort Edwardes, which in its early days was known as 'Dulipgarh,' in honour of the little Maharajah Dulip Singh, whose sovereignty it was intended to establish. This was about the year 1847.

It was soon after the close of the first Sikh war that the Council of Regency, appointed to administer the Punjab during the Maharajah's minority, drew the attention of their adviser (Sir Henry Lawrence) to the outstanding revenue due from the Bannuchis who inhabited the Bannu Valley, and as a result of this enquiries were made.

After these enquiries, the Resident despatched a strong Sikh force under a British officer named Sir Herbert Edwardes, who was then a subaltern. This expedition was not barren of results. A thorough reconnaissance had been accomplished, obedience and discipline had been enforced on an unruly soldiery, and a suspicious people had been taught to place confidence in the authority and good faith of the Englishman.

This force returned from its activities at the end of the cold weather, 1846-47, retracing their steps across the Indus back to Lahore after a stay of some six weeks in the Bannu Valley.

In the beginning of the cold weather of the following year, Lieut Edwardes again crossed the Indus and was joined at Wazir-Tal by a column from Peshawar under Lieut Taylor. The two officers pitched their camp at Jhandu Khel, where acknowledged submission was tendered by the Bannuchi maliks or headmen.

Lieut Edwardes' next step was to commence the building of a broad highway through the Bannu Valley to the open Marwat country beyond, and to select a site for a 'Crown' Fort which would command the heads of as many routes or canals as possible; and having chosen the site on which Fort Edwardes now stands, the building was commenced. On December 18th, 1847, the foundation was laid with due native ceremonies, in which the soil was turned up, oil poured in, sweetmeats distributed, and a royal salute fired. The fort was then named 'Dulipgarh.' At that time it consisted of two parts, an outer and an inner fort, whose walls were ten feet high and six feet thick.

Bannu Fort.
[Photo by Sigmn Eddings L. A.]

The peasants up to this time had been incredulous that any serious occupation of their domain was intended, but as the walls grew disillusion came, and their old methods of dealing with undesirable residents were again put into use. The waylaying of stragglers and the shooting of sentries in the dark were resorted to, and Edwardes himself twice narrowly escaped the knife of a would-be assassin.

However, these tactics did not deter the activities of the force in occupation or make any difference to their determination; and shortly after the walls were finished, an order was sent forth that the walls of some four hundred strongholds which the peasants had built, defended, and repaired with their own hands for some twenty-five years, should be pulled down. The walls were demolished by their own hands, and in doing this the peasants forged the first link in the chain of loyalty to the Maharajah Dulip Singh.

Sir Herbert Edwardes, who had still to visit the Marwats, decided in the spring of 1848 to leave Lieut Taylor in charge of Dulipgarh and pay his promised visit to them.

Lieut Taylor, left in charge, worked day and night to make the yoke of subjection as light as possible for these new subjects of the young Maharaj, who were in constant attendance upon him.

Then came the general uprising of the Sikh soldiery, and Lieut Taylor, after placing Fateh Khan in charge of Dulipgarh, hurried to Multan. Messrs. Van Agnew and Van Anderson were murdered at Multan, and Diwan Mulraj raised the standard of rebellion. The Punjab was ablaze, and when news of the uprising reached Dulipgarh, the Sikh garrison laid siege to the inner fort, in which Fateh Khan and his adherents were established. After holding their own for ten days and finding further resistance useless, Fateh Khan opened the gates and was cut to pieces at the head of his men; and the Sikhs, who had sacked the fort, marched on to Jhelum to join their brethren.

Mohammed Azim Khan (the son of Dost Mohammed Khan, the Amir of Kabul) now marched down with a force and occupied Dulipgarh. This force was not of sufficient strength to coerce the natives into submission, and all it did was to increase the already existing anarchy.

During this time Lakki Fort, built by Fateh Khan in the Marwat country, was in the hands of a rebel Sikh garrison, and it was not until some few months later that Lieut Taylor returned and retook the fort after a siege which lasted some few weeks. He then pushed on to Dulipgarh to re-establish the Maharaj, and on arriving there the fort was yielded to him by Mohammed Azim Khan, who did not enjoy the prospect of a fight. The Bannu Valley was now re-occupied by the Bannuchis, who welcomed Lieut Taylor (by that time a major) as their deliverer.

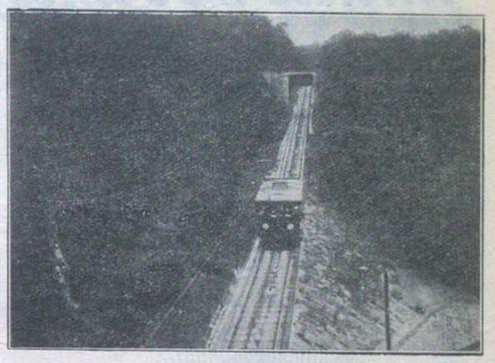
In 1855 the inner fort was demolished and alterations were made by Captain FitzGerald; and for some years the work of building various parts has been carried on, with the result that now a big fort exists. This can be readily gleaned from the accompanying photograph, taken recently, though it embraces only a very small part of the wall.

The cantonments boast of quite a number of things which go to break the monotony. Quite near to the lines occupied by the Signal Section stands a picture palace, whilst a little further away are sports grounds of both kinds, *i.e.*, grass and hard earthen pitches. A fairly good golf course is in use every night; also the race course, which does duty as a riding track. A polo ground is situated quite near, too, and this comes in useful for all Brigade sports events such as races, long jumps, pole jumps, hurdles, etc. As the main garrison is composed of Indian troops, hockey is greatly in evidence, and so the Section stationed in Bannu are to be seen at some kind of sport every night.

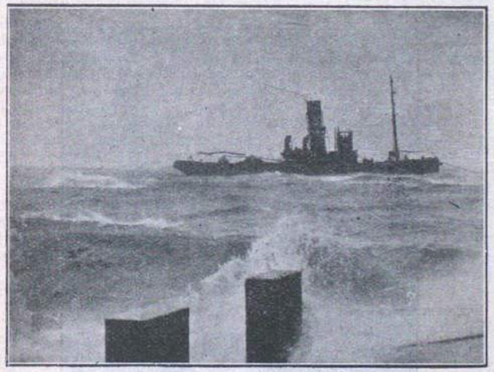
ARFED.

HONG KONG IN CALM AND STORM.

A Moonlight Scene



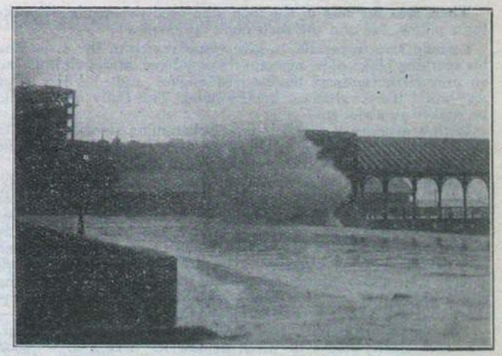
The Peak Tramway



The Harbour during a Typhoon, 1927

A Chinese Wedding Procession

The Praya Central



The Praya during a Typhoon, 1927

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Plain Tales.

The Simple Life.—That is to say, sleeping under the stars, eating standing up, washing and shaving at infrequent intervals, and generally reverting to type. (Howls of protest.)

If I failed to tell you a little about the Divisional and Command exercises, there would be some abuse from the people who have furnished me with alleged humorous episodes. If I could take over about half THE WIRE I might cram in most of them, but I'm afraid you would not be tickled to death. I think the humour of manœuvres is better presented by an artist. Our friend Drake would have found ample material for a busy week had he been with us during the late 'war.'

There was the case of the man who used the men's slab cake for a pillow. He and the cook don't speak now!

I would love to be able to give you a sketch of the major and his sparking plugs. The manœuvres may have interested him, but an unusual noise from his beloved engine, and—'Where's my tool-box?' If ever that car breaks down, *The Daily Mail* should be spoken to about it.

With a generosity which is rapidly becoming second nature to me, I refrain from giving details concerning a sergeant-major who went to sleep with his feet in a box of margarine.

Running an officers' field mess is great fun (vide someone who didn't have to run one). To get the best results you should have about twenty officers, each with a mania for wanting his valise from the front of the lorry after it has been loaded ready to move off. Then you need a small staff of men, highly trained in everything except cooking and waiting. The staff starts work at 4.30 a.m. and continues until 4 a.m. provided there is nothing else to do. Now, *our* mess was a great success in spite of everything and was the talk of Divisional H.Q.

The mess president arranged the menu for a six-course dinner. The cook nearly had a fit when he saw it. 'I've a d—— good mind to give 'em ham and pickles!' he said—but that six-course dinner was produced and was a sensation. The cook's name is Sigmn Prior. All right, Prior! don't blush; buy two copies of this month's WIRE.

But for a marked aversion to hurting the feelings of others, I would tell you about the lance-corporal i/c cook-house who, observing his name in orders to move off with the travelling kitchen, at once set about acquiring copies of the order to send to his parents and fiancée. 'Any fame is fame,' as G.B.S. might have said had he thought of it before me.

However, I labelled this bunk 'The Simple Life,' but that is all I've got to say about it. Blow it! Give me my bed, M.S., one, even if it does sag in the middle.

Just a few more words. Army manœuvres always cater (so to speak) for warfare in the front line. May I suggest some manœuvres based on the conditions under which men 'fought' at Le Havre, Calais, Boulogne, etc.; oh yes! and Abbeville. I expect to hear more about this.

* * * *

Sundry Communications.—To all those people who made rude remarks about my unorthodox soft cap on manœuvres: * * — — * * — — (Can't publish that, Barleux.—Ed.)

To the officer with the Andrews liver salts: I have kept my promise, you see. Not a word about salts.

To the Mechanised Force: Now blow!

To the wives who went away for the period: You had better come back quickly. Your husband was—(Come, come, Barleux! that's the second time.—Ed) (All right! keep your apple tart.—B.)

* * * *

Maresfield Park.—Here you see the entrance to Maresfield Park as it is to-day. The photograph published in the September

WIRE made me realise that the main gate, as we old-timers knew it, is a thing of the past. The above photograph was furnished by Mrs. Hards, of Ringles Cross, Uckfield.

* * * *

Higher Education.—

'Man in society is like a flow'r
Blown in its native bed: 'tis there alone
His faculties, expanded in full bloom,
Shine out; there only reach their proper use.'

Who wrote this? Carve your answer on a block of stone and keep it in waistcoat pocket.

A garden roller has a diameter of several inches and a length of so many feet. How many yards of canvas would be required to make 'A' a dinner jacket? I have spoken about 'A' before,

and I really think he should be given more consideration. As for 'B,' the miserable wretch, he should be ostracised. What's that, dad? Ha! this is where we shine. Bend your ears a bit, chaps.

The Ostracism has nothing to do with the Jews. It was a law introduced into Athens by Clisthenes, and that's going back some, believe me. It was designed to banish for ten years those citizens whose talents led them to wish for pre-eminence over their countrymen. The custom was to write their names on oyster shells. The Petalism was something similar, but the names were written on olives leaves. Serve 'em right, too!

That, I think, will be quite enough of that for this month.

* * * *

A Point.—A man is granted leave and proceeds from Ludgershall to Birmingham. From Birmingham he goes to Brighton, viâ London, and finally returns to Ludgershall. He has to pay full fare because he doesn't take a *return* ticket at all. I have nothing to add at present. THE WIRE isn't big enough!

* * * *

Another Point.—If all the material recently used on roads, paths and fences in Bulford Camp could be placed in a heap and sold to the highest bidder, the money could be usefully employed in installing baths in the married quarters.

* * * *

£20,000.—I have no doubt that in the fulness of time (whatever that may mean) I shall win this sum. Then shall one of my dreams be made true. For to America I shall go, where I shall buy me an American hat and some horn-rimmed spectacles. Then back to England, where I shall be besieged by scores of reporters. I shall arrange that, of course. I shall tell them how I have long wanted to come to England. After that my remarks may differ slightly from those of *other great visitors*. I shall say 'I think your English girls are a lot of small time janes. Your London police are dithery. The bigness of London gives me the willies. Your newspapers are full of gas. Your hotels ought to be rubbed out and drawn again. Go and boil yourselves.'

Furthermore, I would buy a Rolls Royce and drive up to the unit orderly room, ring the fire bell, and—but that is a story for your private ear.

* * * *

Afterthought.—With further reference to the possibility of my acquiring £20,000 with a minimum of labour. Having made my annual inspection of Great Brook Street Barracks, Birmingham, I have definitely decided to set aside a sum of money for the purpose of building christian dwellings for the married folk on the staff there. Between you and me, I go all hot and bothered when I reflect on my generous nature.

* * * *

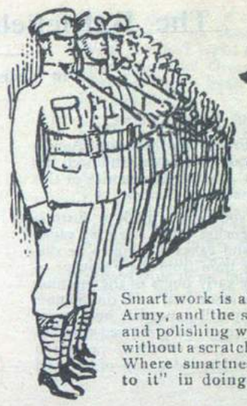
A Cat and Dog Affair.—When I was in Sussex the other day, I saw a gentleman in a most undignified position. He was on his hands and knees in the mud, poking a stick up a drain pipe in an effort to dislodge a cat, presumably in order that his dog could worry it. If I am wrong, I apologise.

There is scarecely any need for further comment, but a little thing like that doesn't stop me. I say that anyone who aims to set a dog on to a cat is a long way from being a sportsman. The cat will often put up a plucky fight and may do the dog serious injury, so it is also a very foolish business. Nevertheless, it isn't playing the game.

In this particular case, I understand that the dog is an arrant coward and has to be thrashed into any sort of a fight; so it is perhaps fortunate for it that puss remained in the drain-pipe!

That's me, and me barrer's outside.

BARLEUX.



JUMP TO IT!

Smart work is always appreciated in the British Army, and the smart work of SPRY in cleaning and polishing wood, metal, floors and glassware, without a scratch will surely earn commendation. Where smartness is the rule, SPRY "Jumps to it" in doing the job for which it is made.

Just try it.

Spry

The Instant Cleanser and Polisher
MADE BY
WILKIE & SOAMES, LTD GREENWICH, LONDON, S.E.10

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

Appointed C.Q.M.-Sergeant—

2311644 Adcock J. 20/6/28

To be Sergeant—

1856975 Saul J. 14/2/26
2308866 Lawrie J. 20/6/28
2309675 Higham B. 13/8/28
2306754 Lewis W. 13/8/28

Appointed Lance-Sergeant—

1856975 Saul J. 20/7/23
2310539 Bloodworth H. 20/6/28
2306948 McWilliams H. 12/8/28
2309327 Lewis S. 13/8/28
2314290 Beeton J. 14/8/28

To be Corporal—

1856975 Saul J. 6/4/22
*2303777 Fraser J. 4/12/27
2315254 Else S. 3/5/28
2314482 Morley L. 1/6/28
7144949 Hill H. 1/6/28
7335360 Fuller H. 8/6/28
*3953538 Hall F. 12/6/28
2313957 Curtis B. 17/6/28
2315566 Barry T. 20/7/28
2309780 Keast P. 20/7/28
2306926 Sandall A. 20/7/28
2309757 Ball T. 29/7/28
3948816 Underwood W. 8/8/28
2310983 Lawson R. 9/8/28
5428286 Williams A. 10/8/28
2201306 Brooke H. 12/8/28
2307321 O'Flannagan M. 13/8/28
2314624 Hodges R. 16/8/28
2315802 Chesters W. 16/8/28

DISCHARGES

2306739 Sergt Nicks W. 30/8/28
2311578 Sergt Bareham G. 8/9/28

** Denotes Special Roster (India)*

2307956 L/Sgt Newman G. 11/8/23
2307927 L/Sergt Cleary H. 13/8/28
2314290 L/Sergt Beeton J. 29/8/28
2312090 Corpl Gulliver C. 15/9/28

TRANSFERS TO ARMY RESERVE

*2314009 L/SgtCartwright C. 12/7/28
2312738 Corpl Murphy A. 30/7/28
*3435772 Corpl Danson R. 31/7/28
24453 Corpl Lloyd E. 6/8/28
6000468 Corpl Tapley P. 7/8/28
2315256 Corpl Roberts E. 7/8/28
2315277 Corpl Chignall F. 8/8/28
2315289 Corpl Rockall G. 9/8/28
2308408 Sergt Simpson L. 12/8/28
2315281 Corpl Peerless L. 15/8/28
2315309 Corpl Knott L. 15/8/28
23083 Corpl Critchley E. 22/9/28
2314280 Corpl Fox R. 9/10/28
2315014 Corpl Manning J. 9/10/28

The Battlefields Re-visited.

Ten Years After.

Memories that Stand the Test of Time.

The British Legion pilgrimage to France and Flanders (August 4th to 9th) is over. We are once again in Blighty, and each has taken up his common task, but what a heap of memories of this visit, ten years after, must surely remain.

Memories! The very word thrills you as you think of Victoria Station in war days: long trestled benches, with steaming canisters of tea and piles of sandwiches and cakes waiting to be dispensed to the occupants of that leave train from the Front, or to refresh those who were arriving in the early hours of the morning to start the journey to those infernoes associated with the Somme or the Salient. You who knew it then will remember how sweet was the sound of an Englishwoman's voice—you realised then, as perhaps never before, that our own countrywomen possess a charm denied to others, as you were handed a cup of tea and invited to take more and more sandwiches.

Old Comrades meet at Vimy.
[Note the cable on right-hand side]

But Victoria Station as we set out on this pilgrimage to visit the resting-place of someone dear to us, or revisit old familiar spots full of happy or poignant memory, was a vastly different place, and a very busy one, with its thousands of pilgrims being marshalled into their own special trains en route to Dover or Folkestone.

We crossed to Calais or Boulogne, and those who travelled to the first-named town had an hour or so to spare, which was spent in wandering round the old town, attracted by the old haunts, or becoming acquainted with a port through which passed many millions of the Empire Forces.

Amiens Re-visited.

Continuing our journey we had a most enthusiastic reception all along the line, and on arrival at Amiens we were greeted by a flag-bedecked town and French military bands. The conductor of the band at the station certainly made it clear that he knew our National Anthem, for he kept his band repeating it over and over again.

Greetings by civil and military dignitaries being completed, we were escorted to very fine billets where we were cared for most excellently with 'eats' and made most comfortable for 'sleeps.' On the evening of our arrival a soirée had been arranged by the Société des Anciennes Combattants d'Amiens, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

To those who knew Amiens in the old days it will be interesting to learn that it remains unchanged, except that 'vin blanc' or 'biere' is cheaper now than when we used to buy it while at 'rest.' The same old cobbles line the roads and footpaths; the same old droskies pull you around the town. The damage by shrapnel and shell fire when the Boche was at its gates in 1918 is almost obliterated; a few splintered walls can still be seen.

Villers Brettoneux, Corbie and Marcelcave have lost the signs of the ravages of war, and are now quiet little French towns where one can find the coffee-bowls still steaming on those special French stoves 'chez Madame.'

An Old Comrade.

It was in Amiens, on the day we arrived, that one saw a sight reminiscent of the old days: a motor-car bearing the sign of the 61st Division. This car did most wonderful work in the days that succeeded by conveying disabled pilgrims to spots they especially desired to visit. Imagine the delight of the writer in discovering the owner to be none other than an old pal, known as 'mad Jack' years ago when he was a despatch rider with the 61st Signals (Major R. C. Nixon will remember him, as he was the O.C. of the 61st at the time). To see him again after ten years, in the streets of Amiens, was more than thrilling!

Our first pilgrimage was to Vimy Ridge, and we made the journey from Amiens in one-and-a-half hours, passing through Aubigny, Corbie, Mericourt, Albert, Achiet-le-Grand, Arras and Ballieul on the way. In the old days it would have been a 'Cook's tour,' twenty-four hours or more in our de luxe carriages—40 hommes and 8 chevaux—and 'you can have hot water from the engine for five francs, if you are lucky!' Did we curse at being bilked? Not a bit! Arriving at Vimy, those who desired could go by omnibus to Vimy Ridge or walk the distance, whichever was preferred.

Vimy Ridge Memorial.

On the Ridge the Canadian Government has arranged for certain trench sectors to be re-constructed exactly as they were found at the Armistice, and to newcomers this gives an excellent idea of the systems employed in consolidating a position.

Great attention has been paid to detail; and they have not omitted to record what the Signal Service did, as cable can be found pegged into the sides of the trenches and laid into the shelters which served as Company H.Q.s. The tunnels used for mining stand as originally constructed, and these can be traversed, except those galleries leading to the craters. The craters themselves have not been filled in, and barbed wire can still be found encircling them. All the debris of war is to be found lying around the scattered dwellings: dud shells, grenades in their hundreds, 'Jerry' water-bottles side by side with our own, Mills bombs, machine guns and rifles are all there.

The Canadian Memorial now in course of construction, it is said, will be the finest in existence on the battle-fields. This may be so, but one has the feeling that the memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette (Souchez)—a lighthouse standing in the midst of cornfields, which with its flashes signifies that it is watching over the fallen and guiding their souls to Heaven—will be regarded by the sentimental as inspired. Whatever may be the general opinion, however, it must be admitted that the memorial is the outcome of a beautiful thought.

Lens and the Slag Heaps.

As one now gazes down without fear or trepidation over the vast plain, it is so easy to comprehend the immense importance of this height. We see before us the rebuilt city of Lens and, beyond the slag heaps of Hulluch, Loos and La Bassee—grim reminders of terrible days. Behind us Arras can be seen, the scaffolding surrounding the new cathedral being plainly visible; and beneath us the sleepy village of Roclincourt. All is peace!

The smoke curling up from the cottage chimneys carries one back to similar little cottages in our own country. But this country is somehow different; there is something difficult of comprehension. A brooding spirit hovers over the Ridge, seeming to speak and make you feel conscious of tragedy. The peace which prevails is such that it reminds the onlooker of the eve of a crisis—the night before the bombardment, when one was afraid to talk lest the silence should be broken. It requires no imagination! The closing of one's eyes is sufficient to bring the vision of Vimy Ridge, 1917, and those gallant sons of England who stormed it.

Not far from the Canadian Memorial is an obelisk to the memory of a gallant Moroccan Division of the French Army which was practically annihilated in the first attack upon Vimy in 1915.

As you gaze on the scene you see, here and there, bent figures searching the ground or engaged in demolition. They are carrying out 'first aid' to bring those devastated areas again under cultivation, and are searching for old metal and unexploded shells, destroying dug-outs, or endeavouring to unearth what was once a household.

We parted regretfully from Vimy, and one's final memory of the place was a refreshing cup of tea at the railway station, the while a party of those who had been 'through it' came swinging by in fours to the strains of 'Take me back to dear old Blighty' and other war-time songs.

Many of us are more familiar with the Somme area than with other parts of Flanders, except perhaps Ypres. Our second pilgrimage took us to the scene of that 'deluge' imprinted on our minds as July 1st, 1916.

Communication Trenches at Vimy.
[Reconstructed by Canadians]

Names that have made English History.

The mention of Beaumont Hamel, Auchonvillers, Mesnil, Aveluy, Ovillers, Thiepval, Miraumont, Pozieres, a host of other village names, and the river Ancre will bring memories of awful days and nights, sweating and bleeding men and horses, the continuous roar of our guns, the screech and explosion of shells, the whistling of bullets, the rat-ta-ta-ta-ta of 'Emma Gees,' and a terror which beggars description.

It is here, on the heights overlooking 'Y' Ravine, that the Newfoundland Government has erected a granite monument, surmounted by a giant caribou, to the memory of her gallant sons who fell. It has bought this area, sanctified by their blood, as a permanent memorial to the sacrifice made for the Mother Country, and named it Newfoundland Park.

As one enters the park, the pilgrim is reminded that he is treading on sacred ground, for John Oxenham has dedicated this poem to the memory of those who have 'gone over' (the words are inscribed on a marble tablet at the entrance):—

Tread softly here, go reverently and slow.
Yea, let your soul go down reverently upon its knees
And, with bowed head and heart abased, strive hard
To grasp the future gain in this sad loss.

For not one foot of this dank sod, but drank
Its surfeit of the blood of gallant men
Who, for their faith, their hope of life and liberty,
Here made the Great Sacrifice,
Here gave their lives, and gave right willingly,
For *you* and *me*.

From this vast atter pile the souls of men
Sped up to God in countless multitudes.
On this grim cratered ridge they gave their all
And, giving, won
The peace of Heaven and Immortality.
Our hearts go out to them in boundless gratitude,
Yours, then God's, for His vast charity
All sees, all knows, all comprehends—sans bounds.
He has repaid their sacrifice. And we?
God help us if we fail to pay our debt
In fullest full and all unstintingly!

Here, also, the pilgrim will find the country ragged and torn by shell-fire, for it has been left exactly as found after the great advance in October, 1918. The trench shelters, fire steps, our own barbed wire and that of the Boche remain undisturbed; and the front lines demolished in places by shells, forward saps, listening posts, communication trenches and broken duck-boards are to be seen. In the enemy lines machine guns, now rusted, are found chained and cemented to the walls of the pillar-boxes.

Towards Auchonvillers one can see the huge crater formed by the mine fired by us on July 1st, which was occupied by the Boche until our second mine, fired on November 13th, 1916, placed it in our hands. It is said that this crater is one of, if not *the* biggest, on the Western front.

The 51st (Highland) Divisional Memorial—a magnificent structure in memory of those gallant Highlanders who made the supreme sacrifice at this spot—rises majestically within the park. The memorial is one of the finest of its kind: a most imposing figure of a Highlander in full marching order (except that he wears a balmoral instead of a steel helmet) gazing out over the wastes into what was then 'no man's land.'

It is hereabouts, also, that thirty-five officers and men of a Scottish regiment are buried together in one grave, but each has a headstone. It was on one of these headstones that I saw this: 'To the memory of an unknown soldier of the Black Watch—known unto God.' There is something consoling and beautiful

in the thought that, after all, we *shall* know those who lie in myriad unknown graves—that the 'unknown dead of the trenches, the kings who wear never a crown,' shall all be known to us at the last Great Re-union.

It is fitting that one should state here that our cemeteries 'out there' have a beauty which is entirely their own, and they are most marvellously cared for. Where 'our glorious dead' lie, you will find that the grass is of the greenness one associates with an English meadow—it is so supremely different from that to be seen

Fire Step in the Canadian Front Line, Vimy Ridge.

in the surrounding country. The reason is unexplainable, but one has an inner feeling that those resting-places are essentially ours, that each is a spot 'which is for ever England,' and so long as England lives so shall they remain. Looking down upon those rows of graves, each with an English rose blooming red in this month of August, to the hardest heart there cannot fail to come that catch in the throat which is on the borderland of tears.

To return to our pilgrimage to the Somme. In the park can be seen the 29th Divisional Memorial—the famous Red Triangle Division which covered itself with glory in Gallipoli, and again became famous for its gallantry in France after the evacuation of the peninsula.

We look down into the valley and see Beaucourt-sur-Ancre, rebuilt, but with one or two Nisson huts housing Poles who have been allowed to come in by the French to assist in clearing up. Dug-outs are still to be found in 'Y' Ravine, and in the valley of the Ancre the blasted tree-stumps stand torn and spiked as we left them, others lying just where they fell and offering a means of fording the shallow river.

German Front Line, Vimy.

We retrace our steps and commence to climb the long road up to Thiepval Ridge, passing the wood bearing its name on our right. We see that it has been re-forested, and shrubs six feet high now grow where once all was desolation. Did you notice the warning, 'Please be careful—fir trees are planted here, and you may not see them'?

Schwaben Redoubt, on the summit of the Ridge, has now disappeared from the landscape, but on its site stands a wonderful tower—a replice of Helen's Tower in County Down, of which Tennyson wrote:—

'Helen's Tower—here I stand,
Dominant over sea and land.'

The tower dominating the height commemorates the brilliant attack made by the 36th (Ulster) Division—the Red Hand—who reached their objective in the first onslaught, but at terrible cost.

The approach to the tower is through an avenue of trees, young as yet, each one of which has been planted by an Ulsterman who had served with the Division or by someone associated with it. It was here that I saw the name of Sergt Gamble, who with another sergeant had planted a tree to the memory of the officers and men of the Field and Signal Service, R.E., who had fallen whilst serving with the 36th.

Thiepval Village, or all that is left of it, can only be found by searching the undergrowth for its ruins. A solitary sign, 'Thiepval,' indicates the site. It would appear that this is one of the few villages which it is not intended to rebuild; St. Pierre Divon may be another.

Reaching Thiepval, one must needs pass on to Mouquet Farm ('Mucky' Farm)—another stronghold the possession of which was strongly contested, and which proved a sanctuary both for ourselves and the enemy in those tragic days. Of the three entrances to the cellars only one now remains visible; the other two (which I believe were blown in) are hidden beneath the tall weeds which grow in profusion. A modern farm is being constructed to take the place of the old one, but it is a little to the west of the former habitation.

Standing here brings back to mind the pock-marked landscape; the myriad shell-holes; the duck-boards flung down at night to save the torment of continually falling waist-deep into foul mud; and the inevitable struggle which followed before you could pull yourself clear, covered in filthy foul-smelling slime, from the water so often crimson. When duck-boards were no longer possible, you saw the white tape lying on the ground to guide you on—but oh! how endless seemed the journey!

Pouring with rain it always seemed to be, and you struggled through the night as one of a ration party, only halting when a Véry light went up (lest that machine gun should open fire) and moving on again when its glare went down. Cursing, swearing, you pushed on—mindful of those who needed 'grub' and water, even if the bread be sopping wet and the water petrol-flavoured—although each step you took might have been your last. Over the waste you heard the cry of 'Stretcher bearers!'—a gallant band they were—you heard it in spite of the incessant thunder of our guns emplaced on the Aveluy-La Boisselle road and the screech of the Jerry shells as they lobbed over. You wondered why that fellow in front of you became tired and sagged at the knees so suddenly, as if determined to rest, until you realised with a feeling of horror what had happened.

Then, again, the vision comes to one of that endeavour to repair the cut field cable. Starting at the terminal you let the cable run through your hand, in the pitch-black darkness, as the only hope of finding where it was broken; and then the discovery—how sick you felt at the sight!—yet you had the satisfaction of knowing that, in spite of all, the battalion was 'through' to brigade at last!

Oh, it is easy to stand here now without fear and say 'Don't you remember?' with a feeling of thankfulness at having come through it all; and a silent prayer goes up from your heart for those who could show no greater love than to lay down their lives for their friends. Gazing towards Tulloch Corner, I wonder how many have waited there for the guide who never came—he had gone on the long journey from whence there is no return.

'This is Ovillers Church'—you remember that pile of bricks which was so labelled. It brought a smile to my lips when I passed that way: I wonder if it did to those who also took that road? Ovillers to-day is well under way, like the rest, and will soon be a well-built and model French village.

Albert, as we passed through it, was thriving, and the church tower is being reconstructed. The Virgin and Babe will surmount the tower again, it is understood. How superstitious it seemed, then, to hear one's fellows say 'When the hanging Virgin falls, the war will end'; and yet how strange, seeing that a few months after it *was* brought down by gunfire, the Armistice was declared.

Ruins of Cloth Hall, Ypres.

The last day of the pilgrimage was destined to be spent at Ypres, where the whole of the pilgrims who had been scattered over the battle areas were to congregate for a final ceremony at the Menin Gate.

We bade farewell to Amiens at seven o'clock in the morning on August 8th, promising the inhabitants to return again some day. We reached the historic city of 'Wipers,' 'Eep,' 'E-pray'—call it what you will—by 10.30 a.m., having glimpsed Lens, Noeux-les-Mines, Bethune, Choques, Lillers, Berguette (our detraining station when first out), Steenbecque, Nieppe Forest (memories of a sousing with gas here!), Hazebrouck, Caestre, Abeele, Pop, and Vlam (where we spotted the Goldfish Chateau, looking first-rate and surrounded by an exquisite garden, with the pond in the middle glistening in the morning sun).

On arriving we heard the strains of 'Here we are, here we are, here we are again,' sung by a party which had already detrained; lusty voices they were, which had perhaps sung that old song on the dusty roads of France and Belgium, but never in Wipers Town before. You remember how your desire was to get through the town as quickly as possible, with your hand very free to whip out that gas-bag directly the sickening smell of gas came to your nostrils. Visiting Ypres recalls Frankau's poem, extracts of which will serve as a reminder of the city of those days:—

Belgian Chasseurs passing a remnant of Cloth Hall, Ypres.

THE CITY OF FEAR.

'This was a city once—women lived here.'
. . . . . .
'Now the shell dives.'
. . . . . .
'Fear walks naked at noonday clear.'
. . . . . .
'Remains the hollow corpse of a city,
Slashed and gutted of war.'
. . . . . .
'Gladly we died, but in death is no peace for us
Here, in this City of Fear.'

To-day, however, it is no longer a city of fear, but one which is thriving through the sacrifice made to cheat the enemy of his desire. Shops, estaminets, and hotels are numerous and cater well for the visitor, but at enhanced prices, and taxi-cabs roll around in hundreds. The Cloth Hall reminds us of the fury which has passed, but even that ruin appeared to be doctored as 'a sight.' The ramparts have not been reconstructed, but have been patched up, so that the damage done can easily be picked out. In the square before the station—most tastefully set out as a garden—a derelict tank rests as a show-piece.

British Cemetery, Delville Wood.
[Note the Divisional sign on the motor-car]

Menin Gate, Ypres.
[*Note the patched-up rampart*]

The ceremony at the Menin Gate was one which can never be forgotten by those who were privileged to be present. The singing of 'O valiant hearts' could not have been more impressive; the Archbishop of York's address, and the playing of the French, Belgian and our own National Anthems, stirred every one of the 60,000 assembled there; and the two-minutes silence which followed, as we remembered those who had passed to the Great Beyond, was only disturbed by the subdued sobbing of those who were suffering.

There was one brave soul in that congregation whom I shall never forget: a wife and mother who had given her husband and three sons in the Great Cause. She was wearing their medals, and she had come to the Menin Gate in the hope of finding a son's name there engraved. Her eyes were red with weeping; she was perhaps thinking of those graves of her husband and the other two sons which she had seen during her visit to the battlefields. Who shall deny that she was a brave woman? He had died, perhaps at Passchendale, perhaps on the Menin road, or at Wieltje—his resting-place is unknown; but his memory is everlasting, for his name was found on that wonderful monument erected by the Empire to her sons who had passed that way of suffering and have no known grave.

High over the congregated pilgrims rang the stirring notes of 'Last Post' and 'Reveille,' sounded by boy buglers of our own Brigade of Guards, and the ceremony was over!—a fitting and moving end to the most wonderful pilgrimage that has ever left our shores.

The Silent Messengers.

The Daily Express records an incident of the ceremony:—'In the glorious warmth of the sun I saw a small fluttering flight of pure white butterflies come up from the moat. They circled round the Archbishop in his robes and purple cap, fluttered over the heads of the blind, hovered for a few moments above the special parties of the invalid and infirm, and then made their way lightly and lingeringly down the Menin road, almost caressing the long ranks of pilgrims, flying low and fitfully as butterflies will. I watched this graceful group fly, and saw them return right back to the Menin Gate. Here they soared higher and higher until they vanished skyward like spirits in the sun of heaven.'

I have wondered whether this was not an 'outward and visible sign' that our fallen comrades of the Great War were there in spirit with us. How gloriously the sun shone that day!—I remember it pouring down through one of the openings in the arch of the Menin Gate, seeming to tell those gathered there that all is well with *them*.

The Prince of Wales, who had taken part in the ceremony at the Menin Gate, now moved to a dais erected near the Cloth Hall, and from there he took the salute of the pilgrims. Each section was preceded by banners of the different branches of the Legion, and one special party of banner-carriers had the privilege of displaying banners on which were imprinted the Divisional and Corps signs so familiar to us in the old days. It was thrilling to recognise those with which we were particularly acquainted, such as the Ram's Head, the Ace of Spades, the Domino, the Five-pointed Star, the Rose, and others too numerous to mention. We stayed several hours in the town after the march-past.

Travelling through the countryside, it is apparent that France and Belgium have ensured that every piece of land possible in the north-west shall be placed again under cultivation. The green meadowland of our own countryside is missing, but you find splendid crops of golden corn being garnered in in the sunshine.

St. Dunstan's.

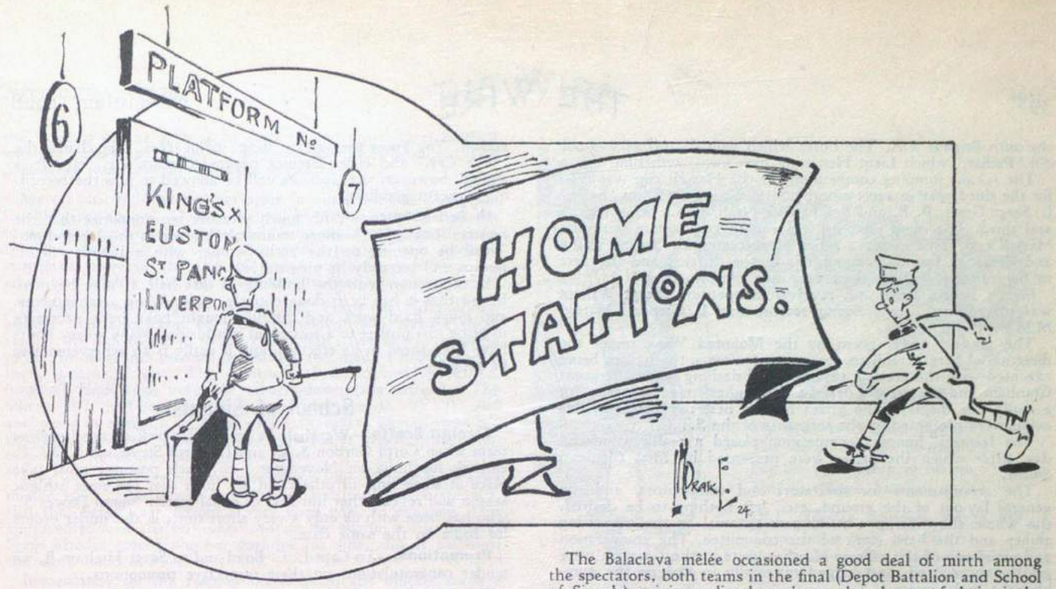
And sunshine brings to my mind those stout hearts who were blinded in the war. On one or two occasions I came across a party of St. Dunstan's men. They seemed to be very happy and to have found an inner happiness and joy in their blindness, although the agony they must have undergone is impossible of realisation by us. They went along two-by-two, with a Legionnaire between them, singing the old songs: 'Who were you with last night?' 'Katie, beautiful Katie,' 'Sergeant Brown, Sergeant Brown, keep an eye on Johnnie for me,' and heaps of others as well known. Their splendid example should make us who are more fortunate resolve to do our utmost to make this country of ours 'a fit place for heroes to live in'; and we can *all* do our little bit towards that end if we will but try!

In concluding one's impressions gathered during the pilgrimage, it would be most unthankful to refrain from praising the excellence of the British Legion and British Empire Service League organisation, which could transport, feed, billet and arrange excursions so admirably as was done for the 11,000; and from the many I saw, no word of complaint was forthcoming. Those responsible are to be congratulated on their splendid effort, which has been crowned with success. They even arranged for us to be supplied with a newspaper, 'The Pilgrim' (the copy I hold, I treasure) on the first day out.

In one's commendation, too, must be included those French and Belgian Old Comrades Associations which so admirably co-operated to make the venture successful.

Finally, let me say that I have returned from what we knew as the Western Front with a heart very full, very understanding, and with a resolve to do everything possible to make the sacrifice of those who never came back worth while.

A Pilgrim.



Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

S.T.C. Gymkhana.—The annual gymkhana was held on Sept. 19th under ideal conditions. The ground selected was much more suitable for the purpose than that available in previous years, and the weather (for the first time since the Centre has been at Catterick) was bright and sunny.

The first event of the day was musical chairs. Here the drivers shone, the result being: 1 Dvr Bushell A. E., 2 Dvr Hill, 3 Dvr Leggott.

The second item, wrestling on horseback, was a walk-over for the Mounted Wing, the School of Signals team failing to turn out.

The officers' chargers and the best turn-out (single horsemen) were next judged. The competition in these classes was very keen, the rosettes eventually going to Lieut C. L. Morgan, Royal Signals, and Lieut W. E. G. Hemming, R.A., in the former, and to Driver Hopwood, R.Signals, Bombardier Rawlson, R.A., and Dvr Johnson, R.Signals, in the latter. All competitors are to be congratulated on their excellent turn-outs. The judges experienced considerable difficulty in allocating the prizes.

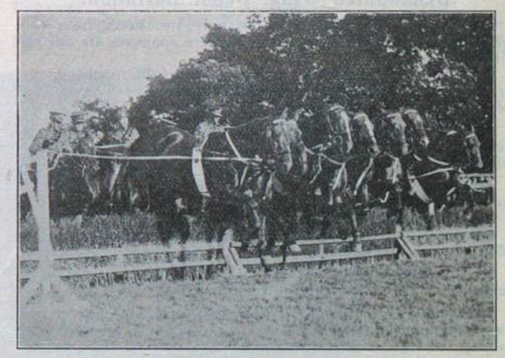
Sergt Green in the N.C.O.s Jumping Competition.
[*Copyright Photo by* The Northern Echo]

The Balaclava mêlée occasioned a good deal of mirth among the spectators, both teams in the final (Depot Battalion and School of Signals) striving valiantly to lower the plumes of their rivals. After an epic struggle the Depot Battalion team, ably led by Farrier-Sergt-Major F. S. G. Churchill, were declared the victors.

In the next event, the best turn-out (pairs), the competition was extremely keen, and the placed teams are to be congratulated on the very fine and highly polished turn-outs they displayed. The results were: 1 45th Field Battery R.A., 2 No. 4 H.T. Company R.A.S.C., 3 67th Field Battery R.A.

The competition for the challenge cup presented by Brig.-Gen. W. P. E. Newbigging, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (open to subaltern officers) was won by Lieut A. J. Keddie, R.Signals, with 2/Lieut P. B. G. Gambier, R.Signals, a close second.

In the tug-of-war on horseback, the Mounted Wing were successful against E Company, Training Battalion, after a good pull.



The Finale of the Tandem Driving Display.
[*Copyright Photo by* The Northern Echo]

A tandem driving display proved of great interest to the spectators, the movements being performed with perfect precision and unity. This display has been much in demand at local shows, and has always proved an attraction.

The handy hunter competition, open to officers of the Garrison, was decided over a well-laid-out course. The entries were numerous,and competition was very keen. 2/Lieut P. B. G. Gambier, R.Signals, and Lieut W. E. G. Hemming, R.A., tied for first place with a loss of only four points, Lieut W. Faithfull, R.A., being third. Lieut Hemming will be remembered as the old equitation officer of the Corps; he is now serving at Catterick with

the 20th Brigade R.A. The horse which won the prizes was our old 'Pedlar,' which Lieut Hemming took away with him.

The n.c.o.s jumping competition for the Hassell cup was won for the third year in succession by Sergt Young C. E. on 'Baby,' L/Sergt Green P. E. and Bombardier Nash, R.A., being second and third. The open jumping was run in conjunction with the Hassell cup. This closes a series of successes for Sergts Young and Green in leaping competitions in the district, and they are to be congratulated on their very fine performances.

In the sword, lance and revolver competition, Sergt Wilmot was placed first, Sergt Young second, and L/Corporal Hardy, M.M.P., third.

The musical drive, given by the Mounted Wing under the direction of Sergt Cranham, was a great success, the figures being executed with the greatest precision and dashing speed. Sergeant Cranham and his drivers deserve the highest possible praise for a really fine display. The prizes for the best two teams in this event were presented by the sergeants of the S.T.C.

The farmers' jumping competition closed a really wonderful day, after which the prizes were presented by Mrs. Clementi Smith.

The arrangements for spectators and competitors, and the general lay-out of the ground, etc., left nothing to be desired, the whole show being a striking testimonial to the organising ability and the hard work of the committee. The co-operation and assistance of the officers of other units in the Garrison were greatly appreciated, and helped materially in making the gymkhana a real success.

Arrivals and Departures.—Dvr Loughrey A. from 3rd Divl Signals. Dvr Osland W. from No. 1 A.F.A. Signal Section.

Dvr Best E. C. to A Corps Signals. Dvr Higbee A. E. to No. 1 A.F.A. Signal Section. Sigmn Coaten to 2nd Divl Signals. Dvr Hickmott to 3rd Divl Signals.

Discharges.—Dvr Powell W. has been discharged after 22 years' service. (We all wish him every success and a cushy time in civil life.) Sigmn Sparks P. F. to the Army Reserve.

Promotion.—L/Corpl Williams A. to be Corpl w.e.f. 10/8/28.

Marriage.—F/Corpl Heath to Agnes Ellen Tappin on September 19th. (Indian papers, please copy.)

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—Many moons have passed since notes from this Wing appeared in these pages, and sincere apologies are due for their absence.

This year has been a record one regarding the number of recruits arriving at the Depot, and consequently hard work—and plenty of it—has been the order of the day.

Take your Partners.—A recent headline reads 'Dancing lessons for soldiers.' I presume the new dance will be called 'squadrilles.'

Arrivals.—Eighty-nine recruits arrived during September. A hearty welcome is extended to them all.

Corpl Davies C. M. from the Army School of Education, after a successful course there. He now awaits transfer to the A.E.C. Malta Section, please note.

By the way.—There has been an accident in Scotland. Two taxis came into collision, and *forty-one* occupants were injured.

Education.—Congratulations to the 254 candidates who, during September, took the first step in their educational career by obtaining their 3rd class certificates. There are only the 2nd and 1st to get now, before the special, so—good luck!

Gems from the Examination Room.—'The *corpse* badge is the figure of Venus suspended by a garter.' (Honi soit qui mal y pense.)

'Mercury. . . on his head he wore an *asbestos or felt hat.*' (I/c fire picquet, I presume.)

'Mercury. . . on his feet are gold winged *scandals.*' (Scandalous!)

'Mercury wore a small piece of *gold lace* round his loins.' (The gay dog!)

Promotion.—Congratulations to Corpl Hodges R. E. on attaining that rank.

Kiss me, Sergeant!—A daily newspaper informs us that recruiting depots are to be made more inviting for the would-be recruit. You know the sort of thing: palm trees, easy chairs, the 'War Cry,' and other Service papers to read, etc., etc. It is denied, however, that recruits will be allowed to kiss the recruiting sergeant goodbye.

In Self-Defence.—With much pleasure we announce that the recruits' boxing hall—more commonly known as the 'blood pit'—will be opening on the 29th October with a bumper night. Bumps will certainly be plentiful!

In connection with the building of this hall, it may be mentioned that it has been done entirely under Wing arrangements, and much hard work and careful thought have been necessary to bring this project to a successful conclusion. Many weary hours have been spent in its erection, and it really is an achievement to be proud of.

G. R. S.

School of Signals.

Foreign Drafts.—We shall be losing the pick of our hurdling team when Corpl Gordon S. E. and L/Corpl Stevenson L. W. F. embark for India on November 13th. Such postings must take place at some time or other, but we hope that the next athletic season will reveal other hurdlers of equal merit. Sigmn Dawes S., who has been with us only a very short time, is also under orders for India on the same date.

Promotions.—To Capt L. C. Boyd and to Sergt Higham B. we tender congratulations on their respective promotions.

Printer's Pie.—Through a printer's error the publishers owe an apology to Sgt Walker W. S., whose regiment is the *Cameron* Highlanders, and not as described in last month's issue of this Magazine. Therefore, Sergt Walker, on behalf of the publishers, we apologise. Now, please tell us where to find the miniature range.

Birth.—At Scotton on September 7th, to the wife of Signalman Barnett W. R. A., a daughter (Jean Sarah Annie).

Sergeants' Mess.

Sporting Rivalry.—We are in the midst of a series of games against the officers of the School staff. The matches have been good, and a fair amount of amusement has been provided both during and after the games. Book-worms, wireless fans, pen-pushers and others of a retiring nature have given up their sedentary hobbies in favour of racquet wielding, hockey-stick slinging and peep-sight shooting. Although success has not attended the sergeants' mess teams up to the present, just watch our notes in subsequent issues.

MATCH NO. 1.—The first was a tennis match played beneath a warm sun but tempered by the refreshing breezes that waft over this moorland county.

Of the ten sets played, the best was that of Major Drayson and Capt Boyd against Q.M.S. (F-of-S) King and Sergt Sextone (R.A., regimental courses). Hard hitting and accurate placing of balls were the feature of the set. In fact, there was not a dull moment for the spectators.

Capt Boyd's double-swerve service was almost impossible to return; but after losing the first two games, the sergeants' mess pair managed to bring the score to deuce. Then followed a very hard fight for the next two points. There was a sustained rally of forehand and backhand volleys for five or ten minutes. It was the best tennis we had witnessed this season.

Backwards and forwards the ball went until presently, when our pair almost made the deciding shot, a spinning forehand smash from Capt Boyd sent the ball whizzing past Q.M.S. King, just beyond his reach. In attempting to return the ball the Q.M.S. slipped, and so the score stood at two—love and 'van—in' to the officers' favour. By this time the mess pair had settled down to a real hard fight; but the accurate placing of Major Drayson and Capt Boyd were too much for them, and the set ended at six—love for the officers. Nevertheless, as the applause showed, we put up a very hard tussle.

A short break was called for tea; then further games were played. After these additional games, the match was closed with a comic tennis-punch-football match.

Imagine ten players standing on each side of the net in soccer formation, and one player 'serving' the football from the base line by punching it with his fist over the net into the receiving court. Thus we stood. First one side would serve—or attempt to do so—and the server would run up as quickly as possible to the forward line as soon as he realised that punching a football was not so easy as it looked, and *certainly* more painful! The final score was: Officers, 8 sets; sergeants, 2.

MATCH NO. 2.—The weather again favoured us, and a very enjoyable game ensued. Quite a number of players from both teams turned up a quarter of an hour early, and expressed great surprise that the match did not commence until 2.30 p.m. It is strongly suspected, however, that the real reason was a desire to learn the effect of a hockey stick and a ball coming into violent contact.

In due course the game commenced. From the bully-off the officers' centre-forward, by some Maskelyne and Devant trick, caused the ball to move to his centre-half; but in the resulting mêlée the sergeants secured possession and made a bold dash for their opponents' goal. The stoutness of the defence prevailed, however, and some very fast up-and-down play ensued. The officers' left half-back diligently kept his 'eye on th' ba'' and succeeded in bringing off some useful clearances (divots were not replaced, however). Shortly after this Major Drayson made an excellent solo effort and bagged a goal.

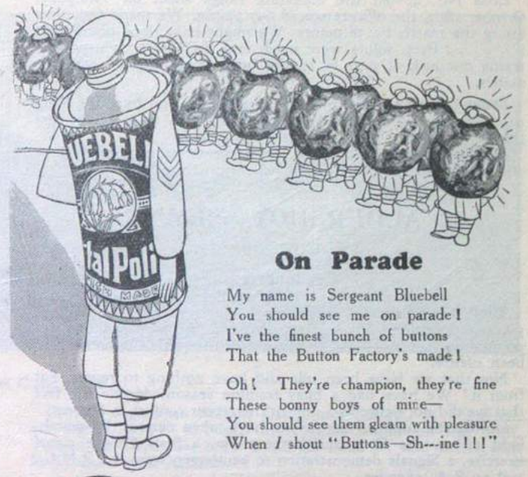
Play was then very fast and even for a time, though both sides missed good opportunities; and it was not until late in the first half that Sergt Ryan scored a very good goal, to equalise. This appeared to raise the sergeants' morale, for within a few minutes Sergt Rhodes scored another goal for his side, and at half-time the score stood at 2—1.

Immediately on the resumption of play, the officers made a determined attack, and Capt Boyd found the net. Major Drayson was unlucky in not adding a further one for the officers very shortly afterwards (I think somebody spoke just as he was getting the line!)

Sergt Rhodes (having recovered his breath) decided it was time to change the venue, and, assisted by Sergt Ryan, he took the ball and deposited it in the officers' goal. (At least, it wasn't quite so easy as that; but as nobody else in the sergeants' team had anything to say in the matter, that was the general effect.)

Mr. Malpass scored from a mêlée in front of the sergeants' goal, and later Capt Boyd put the officers ahead. This proved to be the deciding goal, and the game finished with the officers victorious by four goals to three.

Individual eulogy is invidious, but in passing we must congratulate those members of both sides who did so well in this their maiden effort. The stars are too well known in Corps hockey for comment to be necessary.



On Parade

My name is Sergeant Bluebell
You should see me on parade!
I've the finest bunch of buttons
That the Button Factory's made!

Oh! They're champion, they're fine
These bonny boys of mine—
You should see them gleam with pleasure
When *I* shout "Buttons—Sh---ine!!!"

BLUEBELL

brings brightness and brings it quickly

RECKITT & SONS, LTD., (BLUEBELL POLISH CO., FULHAM, S.W.)

It was a bright thought on the part of the umpires to provide themselves with two whistles each. (One, above audible frequency, for use during the game; and the other, of audible frequency, for half-time and 'no side'?)

The accompanying photograph shows the teams and the mess trainer.

Standing (left to right)—Sergt Walker, Sergt Ryan, Captain Thompson, Lieut Scott, Lieut Younie, Major Drayson, Captain Boyd, Captain Curtis, Captain Hall, Lieut Malpass, Lieut Hatfield, C.S.M. Norton
Front row—C.Q.M.S. Hayter, C.Q.M.S. Strange, Q.M.S. King, Sergt Rhodes, C.Q.M.S. Payne, C.Q.M.S. Bruce, Sergt Sadler, Sergt Hayward, C.Q.M.S Flynn

Loss No. 3.—At the miniature range shoot on Thursday, October 18th, the officers scored 697 points. We made 659, thus losing the match by 38 points. We might have done better, but (?). . . . . Peep sights were used, and there were whispers of trying our luck at peep-bo in the hope of winning at least one match.

Cross-Country.—The massed cross-country run fixed for Monday, October 15th, promises to be amusing in view of the fact that all under the age of 45 are turning out!

A Corps Signals, Aldershot, have memories of similar runs, and no doubt Tiny of Karachi will sympathise.

PETER.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

A Corps Signals.

Headquarters.

Mons Barracks, October 15th.

Silence is Golden!—Soofoo, our late correspondent, seized the *golden* opportunity of a vocational course at Hounslow, but appointed no successor—and the result for the past few months has been *silence*.

Not that we have been idle and have nothing to report. Far from it! We have had a busy training season, despite the fact that we did not figure as a unit in the recent conflict in Sussex.

During the summer months we have taken part in the search-light tattoo, the Command horse show, a Staff College signal exercise, a Signals demonstration to gentlemen from the R.M.C., and an R.A. exercise.

Two Light W/T Sections have been and are still with the Cavalry Divl Signals at Tidworth. No. 1 M/T Construction Section, after an absence of three months, still remains in the manœuvre area, where the work of dismantling lines proceeds apace. Other sections, cable and wireless, were attached to Divl Signals during manœuvres, which left us with a bare minimum to carry on the good work of regimental duties here.

Visions.—With the fall of the leaf comes a vision of furlough, but for many, another vision accompanies it—one of topees and khaki drill. Two small drafts have already embarked, one for North China and the other for Shanghai, while six others are in course of preparation. With regard to Indian drafts there remains a great silence, but nevertheless a great sweat.

Promotions.—Under this heading we have to record advancement in rank both high and low, and tender congratulations to all concerned. Capt W. V. G. Fuge, M.B.E., to be Major. Lieut P. M. H. Lemon to be Captain. Corpl McWilliams to be Lance-Sergeant. L/Corpls Matthews, Brooke and Lawson to be Corpls. Sigmn Slater to be L/Corpl. Trumpeter Kirk posted to the ranks as Signalman.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following to the home of the 'élite,' as Nab so aptly describes us: 2/Lieuts T. J. McOran Campbell, J. J. Scarlett and D. L. Hyde, from the S.T.C., viâ the R.A.S.C. Training College; and Capt E. J. Murphy, from the Command Signal Company, who has been posted to us as our adjutant-to-be.

C.Q.M.S. Smith has joined us from the 2nd Divl Signals, and Sigmn Gay from the Training Battalion increases our clerical staff.

There are many others, too numerous to mention, who will doubtless be mentioned in Company notes.

Departures.—After a long sojourn with us as adjutant, Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., has left to take up an appointment at the War Office. 2/Lieut D. L. Hyde has embarked for India en route for B Corps Signals. Capt W. F. Sugrue and 2/Lieut McOran Campbell are on leave pending embarkation to Aden and India respectively. Capt P. M. H. Lemon has proceeded to Cambridge for a two-years course. Sergt (Daisy) Dormer and Sigmn Steele have left for civilian life on discharge to pension. Our best wishes go with them all.

H.

No. 1 Company.

Mons Barracks.

Owing to Soofoo (L/Corpl Hole J.) going on a vocational course, our notes for the past two months have been 'dis.' It is hoped, however, that they will be a monthly fixture in future.

Since the last notes appeared, the Company have been on manœuvres and have covered themselves with—glory, amongst other things. Laying lines by candle-light—having no sleep or food (Friary) for a week. Oh! it is very interesting to hear the war veterans spin yarns to the base wallahs.

Our Construction Section are still 'lido-ing' at Bolney. They move to Petworth (where a few new excuses will have to be invented) about the end of October. There is a big waiting list for the M.T. Section for next year's manœuvres (if any), providing different ground is covered.

We are in the throes of musketry training, and a visit to the different squads is very enlightening. This is a specimen (and true):—Instructor: What is the first rule of aiming? Dvr Mix: Clear all the dirt off the sights, sir.

Quite a number of new arrivals have joined us from the Depot and Training Battalions. We trust they will keep up the family name of A Corps Signals.

All sports will be dealt with next month, as at present everything is in the chrysalis stage. No. 1 have not been reading 'Britannia.'

I am sure the Company are very pleased that our O.C. has been promoted to Major, and trust he will still stay with us.

We nearly lost a very old friend in Lieut W. S. Wasey, who was posted to India. I think B Section must have sent an s.o.s. to the War Office, asking them to let him stay here for 'keeps.' The horses are eating better now the danger is passed!

Births.—Congratulations to the following: To Sigmn (Joe) Gresham A., a daughter, on August 2nd. To Sigmn Goldberg, a daughter, on August 29th. To Sigmn Abbott F., a son, on Sept. 24th.

Marriages.—Several are in the offing, but the persons concerned are waiting to see what they are going to get for a Christmas present before committing themselves.

Civil Life (nearly).—C.S.M. Caulfield has permission to soldier on for a further period of four years.

Promotion.—L/Corpl Brooke H. has been made a corporal, but he has not grown any bigger.

Transfers to Army Reserve.—Their name is legion. L/Corpl Bob Steele, 21 years (though he does remember the Knights of St. John landing at Malta). Scruff Tydeman. Our pigmy Driver Butler (he would be an asset to a new football club as a mascot).

Agony.—Will Sigmn Turner H. E., Hong Kong Signal Section, write to the cake-maker. Don't break the plates, Harry!

No. 3 Company.

Mons Barracks.

Apologies to all for the absence of notes from this Company during the last few months.

Arrivals have been numerous since June, and here are as many as I can trace: 2/Lieut J. J. Scarlett, Signalmen Alexander, Botting, Brown, Hetherington, Hudson, Murphy, Page, Sinclair, Tolfts, Watmore, Warner and Wilson from the S.T.C., Catterick. C.Q.M.S. Smith O. C. from No. 2 Company 2nd Divl Signals. A hearty welcome is extended to them all. May they help us out with the draft-toll problems.

Departures.—More of these than arrivals, for a change. To the Army Reserve: Signalmen Barker A. (Hoxie), Biddleston, Bowering, Boyce F., Bird, Carter H. W., Chatten, Cook H. (now with the A.A.), Carey, Clark L. W., Hill H. G., Holland J., Markham S., Marsh F., Morley H., Prentice G. A., Rice R. S., Rice J. E., Stone E., Smith F. S., Terrington L., Tomlinson L., Wood H. S., Wheeler L. G., and Gadd J. We wish them the best in civilian life. Most of them have helped A Corps and the Company to keep up a good name for smartness and efficiency.

To the Terriers (26th and 27th A.A. Signal Company): Sergt Taylor W. M. In this n.c.o. we lose an excellent drill and musketry instructor and an enthusiastic sportsman. Best luck, Tich.

Appointments and Promotions.—U/L/Corporals Edwards, McCarthy, Strangwick Brothers, and Slater H. F. to be L/Cpls on the Corps roster. L/Cpls Blakeman L. and Mathews A. E. to be Corporals. Corpls Bridge W. and McWilliams H. to be L/Sergts. L/Sergt Weaving A. to be Sergeant. C.Q.M.S. Brown P. to be C.S.M. (W.O. class ii.).

Certificates of Education.—Congratulations to the following on attaining their present standard of educational proficiency:—C.S.M. Brown P., 1st class certificate; Signalmen Clark W. W., Leonard W., and Williams H., 2nd class.

Cravenhurst Camp, 1928.

Marriages.—Sigmn Skidmore E. G., to Edna Violet Guanlett on April 4th. L/Sergt Bridge W., to Phyllis Rosina Waldren on June 23rd. Going to emulate Darby and Joan, Bill?

Births.—To Sigmn Brett T. R., a daughter (Jean Margaret), on June 4th. To Sigmn Styles F., a daughter, on June 23rd. To Cpl Jessop T., a son (Neville Henry), on June 24th.

L.S. and G.C. Medal.—To C.Q.M.S. Devereux A., with the gratuity. Well done, Quarter! you have sure earned it.

Attachments.—Nos. 1 and 2 Light W/T Sections to Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth, to help in the Southern Command function. From reports received, they have done and are doing it well, too!

C.S.M. Robertson A. to No. 13 Section R.A.O.C. for a vocational course. Snakey move, eh?

G.P.O. Course.—Sigmn Watmore C. S. to the G.P.O., Birmingham, for a rest cure.

Annual Weapon Training is now in full swing, and the early morning air is filled with 'Second muscle exercise, squad one,' etc., with a prolonged pause on 'three!'; or else 'With dummies, load,' followed by flops on ground sheets supposed to be graceful demonstrations of 'on the hands, down.' The course is to be fired on October 29th, and then the Company proceed upon

Furlough.—Ah! what a magical sound to one's ears! After that, we can look forward to

Individual Training and Christmas!—This heading suggests bags of buzzer, hauling of derricks, etc., but passes the time between week-ends. The wireless operators are getting scarce here, being superseded by operators, signal. The latter will need a lot of my sub-title if they are to be efficient enough for 1929 manœuvres.

C.S.O.'s Inspection.—The C.S.O. Aldershot Command is inspecting this Company's lines and stores on October 19th. The barrack-rooms will be left as usual—they always being so clean: but the W/T stores *will* need touching up because of the yeoman service (!) they did during the recent manœuvres! Anyway, honours should be ours.

Aha! Foreign Drafts.—For the notification of pals, etc., already abroad, here is a rough estimate of n.c.o.s and men for the troopers this season.

INDIA.—L/Sergt Brooke G. L., Signalmen Amos, Andrews, Boughton E., Baird, Brett T. R., Budge, Corpl Blakeman L., Signalmen Brown, Cutler, Cale, Cheetham, Corpl Diggins, Signalmen Dolan, Dawson, L/Corporal Edwards W. B., Sigmn Ellison A., Sergt Edmunds D., Signalmen Fletcher J., Guy, Gordon, Hardie, Homer, Humphry, Huitson, Jones-Thomas, Kay, Kyle, Kennion, Knox, Little, Lavis, Corporal Lunniss, Signalmen Millichip, Mc Clarron, McDonald, L/Sergt McWilliams H., L/Corpl Nicklen, Signalmen Prebble, Parkinson, Sergt Prebble, Corpl Russell S. E. (caught you, Sid, eh?), Signalmen Ryder, Steer, Smith A. C., Stout A., Thomas L., and Murray A. (ex-L Company, Jubb.).

CHINA.—Signalmen Bolton, Castle and Earl A. to Shanghai, and Sigmn Todd N. to North China Signal Section, on Sept. 18th. To sail on December 6th: L/Corpls Sims N. and Strangwick R. J., and Sigmn Arnison.

PALESTINE.—To embark on November 13th: Corpls Gresham H. and Jessop T., Signalmen Angell, Bell T. S., Harvey W. L., Lester and Millhouse.

That is the lot, as far as I can make out. May we take the opportunity here of wishing them good-bye and good luck from this Company.

Query.—Who was the person who wanted a hand-cart to fetch an electron?

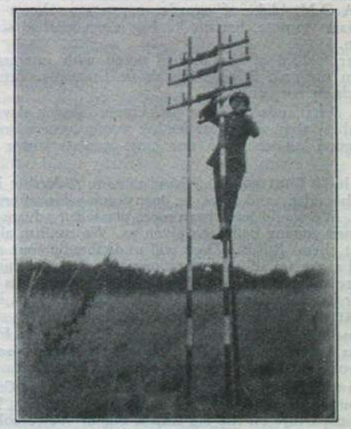
LULU.

Construction Section.

Cravenhurst, October 10th.

After a silence of one year we appear again! Now that Soofoo has gone we have lost our foil, and no longer can we have pitched battles (through the medium of THE WIRE) over the merits of mounted v. dismounted, holidays in I.O.W., tours in Oxford, and now in sunny Sussex.

Most of our old friends have gone, and we have left only four of the stalwarts of the section of 1924, to wit, Corpl Russell and Signalmen Maxwell, Kite and Leach. The others are not forgotten, and we still hear from many. We want to hear from still more; so take heed and let's know where you are!



Airline: 'H' Poles (Part IV.?)

Our job this year was, as usual, on standing camp lines, and during the manœuvres proper as neutral Signals. The area was very big and covered about sixty by thirty miles. The trunk lines between divisions were forty miles long, and the longest speech line—3rd Infantry Brigade to 5th Infantry Brigade—sixty miles.

As our section was down to about thirty men, the fortnight's help given by the S.R. Construction Company was greatly appreciated. Between us we managed to get approximately 500 miles of wire and 4000 poles spread around Sussex. Our own section commenced work on July 19th and had all completed (including the installation of exchanges) by August 31st. In all, the system had over 150 subscribers. A central exchange was established at Command H.Q., and two pairs of exchanges at divisions.

During the inter-Divisional manœuvres the section, with the addition of D.R.s and two mobile W/T sets, became neutral Signals and supplied the needs of the umpires by 'phone, W/T and D.R. service. This was an all-day and all-night service for three days.

Our camp this year was first at Petworth Park in the 2nd Division area, and later at Bolney, near Haywards Heath, where we remained throughout the 'battles.' Our final move to billets in Midhurst will be greatly appreciated, as camp so late as October 15th begins to get 'parky.'

By the time THE WIRE is published we hope to be back once more, after dismantling and disposing of our formidable amount of stores ; and so on to furlough and training once more.

Next season, however, the section passes into other hands—as yet unknown—and starts afresh. Beware, ye new section! the ghosts of the departed will haunt you.

M. T.

1st Divisional Signals.

Not very much in the September WIRE, and nothing in October! Friends of Firstdivsigs will be thinking we are very slack, but one wishes to correct the impression conveyed by Josabun that heat-waves and ornaments are responsible. No, nothing like that ; but just sheer bad luck and work. We have had a most wonderful summer—the first for many years—but nothing in the way of a heat wave ; and as for ornaments, well, if you want to find old Indian friends, come to Aldershot—which will disprove the idea that there are ornaments here.

It was a very worthy correspondent who provided our Editor with 'Advice to new arrivals in India,' published as an editorial in last month's WIRE. To all Firstdivsigs who are going out this trooper, and to those who will follow, we commend the warning.

You well and truly made us smile, L.H.D., with your cartoon: 'tis the best yet. But was it intentional that Jimmy should be shown as making a bee-line after the lonely soldier? It looks as if he were doing it in even time, too! We were all very pleased, also, to see your handiwork in the 'Aldershot Command Sports News.' A Q.M. bloke of ours is very upset—almost a hospital case, in fact—to note that the kit bag is not marked according to regulation.

Another feature of our Journal noted with interest was the item from the 12th Brigade Signals in Tasmania. Truly we are world-wide in our activities.

Jinny's old friends of Rhine and Upper Silesian days are very sorry to think they will never see her woolly form again. She was a very good runner-up in our cross-country jaunts with her master.

Music hath Charms.—Our band came to Aldershot in August, quite unheralded, and gave us many enjoyable afternoons and evenings. We would have been more pleased if advance information of their coming had been given us. We confirm all that you say about them, R.F.B. They will undoubtedly tour again next year, and as we are all intensely interested in our instrumentalists, and desire to give them 100 per cent. support, it is suggested that their itinerary for 1929 might with advantage be inserted in THE WIRE. Can it be done, Mr. Editor?

To those Three Co. lads of 2nd Indian Divl Signals, H—on—est Dick asks me to say that he stills reigns, but his sobriquet is now H—on—earth Dick, or words to that effect.

This is to tell No. 3 Company Egypt Signals that Curly is not coming out this trooping season, and that rumour is a lying jade. Our first departure on the big ship is Sigmn Westbrook, on 15th November. He is followed by C.Q.M.S. Pearce (sorry to see you go, Reg.) on December 6th for Shanghai ; and on the same ship will be C.Q.M.S. Scrivens, Signalmen Wyatt J., Herbert J., Rennie H., Johnstone G., Jones C., Reminster R., Gautier G., Collyer E., Walker G., Powley P., Jones H., Anthony F., Johnson W. Saunders T., and Hornsey W., for Egypt, and Corpl O'Flanagan, Signalmen Snow, Smith and Lewis for Sarafand. May you all be happy in your new stations, and spare a thought sometimes for your old Division.

Aden, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Malta, Gibraltar, all present in the October WIRE! You can bet the Editor is pleased to see you there. At any rate, *we* are glad of your tidings. It has been whispered that the other D.P. stations have notes in hand for the Christmas number. May it be true!

A Thought from the Homeland.—That reminds this correspondent to wish all Signals who will not get the December Journal until after *the* day, 'A very happy Christmas' from Firstdivsigs.

L/Corpls Moore and Wheeler have rejoined from a P.T. course at which they qualified as 1st class instructors. L/Corpl Reily—in spite of an interrupted course—gained a 2nd class instructor's certificate at the School of Education. Sigmn Golding qualified in the culinary art. Sergt Batchelor and Sigmn Day are now acquainting themselves with G.P.O. tactics. So that we are keeping our end up in providing specialists for the Corps.

Congratulations to Capt Pope and Corpl O'Flanagan on their promotion. It is regretted that they are to leave us so soon after the event.

We have been compensated for the loss of Corpls Gulliver and Rockall, Signalmen Taylor, Dodson, Puchini, Simpson, Trivett, Denning, Holder, Littler, Embleton, Aisher and Thomas, who no longer wear khaki, by the arrival of Signalmen Timms W., Collyer E., Fowler J., Marler W., Perry C., Thomas L., Waller R., Chapman A., Bryce A., Hughes E., Ford W., Murphy J., and Norris W., from the T.B., Mansfield from the D.B., and Collier from Sierra Leone.

Signals Association.—Incidentally, we hear that Signalman Thomas has been found a job o' work by the Association. A word to the wise will not be amiss at this point. If any Firstdivsigites are not members, they are advised to '*do it now*' and get a membership card right away from Sergt Smart. Tackle him at any time ; he does not mind a bit.

It has given us great satisfaction that the Army Sport Control Board has realised our difficulties as a unit for sport purposes, our establishment bearing no comparison with an infantry battalion when numbers from which to draw players are considered. Their decision has been to group us, with the result that 1st and 2nd Divl Signals form 'A' Group, and A Corps Signals, Command Signal Company, D Cavalry Troop and Tank Signal Section comprise 'B' Group—so our chances in the various competitions are considerably enhanced.

On Trek.—It was on a Sunday morning in August that our advance party moved out in motor transport, under Lieut Wynn, to the manœuvre area. Newick Park was the destination, sixty miles away in a wonderful southern county—'Sussex by the sea,' as it is so often termed. By evening they were in touch with us by wireless, which proved a valuable asset in the succeeding days.

The main body followed, towards the end of the month, in three parties—horsed, baggage, and personnel. The horsed party, under Capt Spencer, staged at Painshill and Tedfold, the whole concentrating at Newick on September 1st.

We arrived to find a camp which did credit to those responsible for its erection, and it took very little time to settle down under canvas. The site was an ideal one on the estate of the Home Secretary, whose mansion was seen in most gorgeous surroundings with its water lily pond, fish preserve, bathing pool and park land. The bathing pool was made available to the troops, and in the specially delightful weather this was much appreciated.

From the moment of arrival to the conclusion of operations, it is undoubtedly true that everyone had a most strenuous time. Commencing on Monday, September 3rd, the only lulls between the 'battles' were Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. During these respites, after overhauling was completed, we managed to play two football matches and a cricket match, and visited Lewes with a boxing team.

Whatever else may be said of the 1928 manœuvres, one fact remains undisputed: that there was no complaint to record against the Clerk of the Weather, who had been most unfeeling in all the other manœuvres since the war. It seemed uncanny to return to camp after the day's outing without being drenched

Owing to our low strength we were forced to call upon the infantry for cypher personnel and despatch riders. They acquitted themselves splendidly in their new task, and emerged from the ordeal with flying colours. Certain it is that they were enlightened as to the trials 'Sigs' have to undergo. With us also were a Cable Section from A Corps Signals and two Wireless Sections—the same reason necessitating their attachment.

It is fitting that one should include here the compliment paid to *all* ranks by our commanding officer on return to barracks, when he congratulated them on the splendid work they had done and mentioned that the G.O.C. was full of admiration for the Signals of the 1st Division.

In our movements in the area of operations it was apparent that Signals were very popular, for wherever we bivouacked or opened up, there we received every consideration from the inhabitants. It was the outcome, one believes, of the good name earned by the Corps when at Maresfield—only a few miles away from the camp—that ensured this kindness.

Two incidents are worth mentioning to show the hospitality offered a complete stranger to the locality. The first, the insistence of a dear old lady that the 'sojer' *must* come in and have a some tea, 'no matter what the Generals said!' The other, that of a good old lady who *felt sure* a wash and shave with hot water (at 11 o'clock at night) and a haversack-full of fruit would be appreciated. Needless to say, it was! From all sides one heard the same story: the people of Sussex are tip-top.

Those only who reign in high places can know the result of battles, but the writer needs must relate events of some importance which, it is felt, deprived the enemy of valuable information and gave the 'victory' to us.

I trust the war correspondents headed their despatches something like this:—

SIGNALS TAKE PRISONERS—ENEMY SCOUTS SURPRISED.

The story is that three cavalry scouts thought they had an easy thing when they came spying on the H.Q. camp, which was almost deserted. Just at the precise moment when they felt they had all the information they required, and were proceeding to make a dash for it, along rolled a Signal Office relief. Naturally, Signals did the right thing, with the result that three downcast troopers were our prisoners and awaited the ordeal of interrogation by our 'Intelligence.'

Another story tells how our C.O. captured an enemy cavalry scout and sent him back to H.Q. under escort of the orderly room sergeant. Wasn't that fellow cocky! he strutted into camp with his prisoner like a peacock gracing the environs of a chateau.

From 17th to 20th September a decisive battle raged over those lovely Sussex downs to the borders of Surrey, and through picturesque Sussex villages the infantry marched or were carried in char-a-bancs, tanks rumbled along, and heavy tractors disturbed the peace of the night as they rushed the guns into action. A cable wagon coursed through at the gallop to keep up with the advancing mechanically-driven hosts.

On the morning of the 20th a halt was called, and by the evening of that day the majority were back in Aldershot—some glad, some sorry, but all looking very fit from the spell in the open air.

Our period at camp was shared by Major Naylor of the S.T.C., and Lieut Billingham and Sergt Maher of the T.A., and we trust they enjoyed their stay. It may be of interest to many to know that in spite of Artillery and Infantry Brigade Signal Sections being away with their brigades, a Divisional H.Q. camp is a very big one—the personnel being in the region of 400, nearly half of that number being attachments.

These notes are lengthy, but that compensates (one hopes) for the lack of 'copy' from us for the past two months. In concluding them, I lay down my pen hoping that my successor will continue to keep you interested in our news.

Tail Piece.—Therms are microbes which enter gas meters and set up rapid consumption!

Will one of the 'Lest we forgets' write to L/Corpl Bastin?

YA.

Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, Oct. 14th.

"End of a perfect . . . . "—Manœuvres now being over, we are able to take stock of the work performed since this unit's formation. One cannot help reviewing with satisfaction the successful signal service provided for the Armoured Force in the face of many unprecedented obstacles.

Out for a rise!—Individual training has now started, and every man is trying to qualify for those extra coppers per day that mark the difference between classification and the award of a higher rating. One or two n.c.o.s have departed to attend courses ; the despatch riders and l.c. drivers proceed daily to ordnance workshops ; and wireless operators can be heard buzzing in the lecture-rooms like busy bees.

Signals Radio Society.—This Society has been formed to foster and encourage the study of wireless. Although at present limited to members of this unit, we have no doubt it will soon extend further afield. An ambitious programme providing for a series of lectures, debates, the construction of a broadcast receiving set, and the erection of a short-wave transmitter and receiver, has already been embarked upon. The value of such a movement in a Signal unit, where wireless is one of the chief means of communication, cannot be over-estimated.

Sergeants' Mess on Tour—Great was the rejoicing when some of us were stationed in the drill hall at Taunton, Somerset, whilst on manœuvres.

During those hectic days, the sergeants' mess was as nearly mobile as the beverage consumed therein! At first its official site would be at the 'Lamb' ; from there it would proceed, viâ 'Parade Hotel,' to the 'Fleur de Lys' ; and, after taking an inventory of one or two other houses of good will and bad beer, it would return, by way of the 'Grapes,' back to the 'Lamb.'

The return to the drill hall was often quite spectacular. Hops certainly produce hops ; for the ballet dance performed in tights specially provided by R.A.O.C., Pimlico (pants, woollen, long) was, like the performers, full of *spirit*.

While ambrosial nectar may stimulate 'flights of fancy,' we would point out the disadvantages of taking-off from the drill hall balcony for a flit round the rafters. At the same time we would congratulate Tim on his ability as a linguist.

Pack up your Caley's

in your old kit-bag

Caley's

MARCHING CHOCOLATE

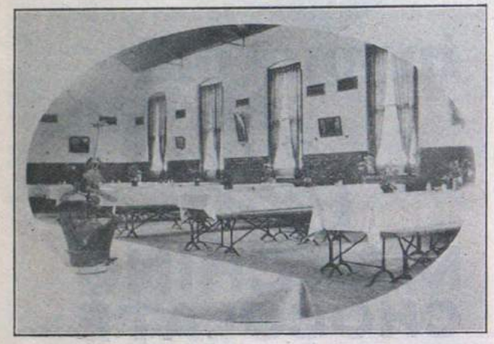
MILK OR PLAIN

A. J. CALEY & SON LTD. NORWICH

Every dog. . . his day.—One of the old members of the 12th Divl Signals (C.S.M. O'Connor) together with several late members both of the Rhine Signal Company and of F Company, Training Battalion, lament the death of Major F. R. Cobb's 'poor old Jinny.'

Sport.—Being able to consider sport for the first time since our formation, we found ourselves without the vestige of a sports fund. This was soon remedied, things being put on a firm financial basis by every officer, n.c.o. and man contributing one day's pay. Although everything is as yet in its infancy, we hope ere long to be taking our full quota of space in the Sports columns of this Journal.

To Egypt.—Home stations follow with interest your continued successes in the realm of sport.



Our Restaurant and our Head Waiter, 'Tishy.'
[Sorry! 'Tishy' has just slipped round the corner for a 'quick one.']

Buttercups and Daisies.—We have to thank Sigmn Frarey for the photograph of the mess-room included with these notes. This was taken during an ordinary working day, and the mess was not poshed up for the occasion. Anent the floral decorations on the tables: we will always remember the dismay of one of our old sweats on being detailed one morning on check parade to 'go and pick flowers.'

Local Celebrities: No. 3.—We crept into the carpenter's shop to interview Mr. George Monk, who (besides being our noted hewer and carver of wood) has just won the conker championship of the unit.

Mr. Dyke, his partner, met us. 'You can't see him now,' he said, pointing to the sleeping form of the noted craftsman: 'he's too busy.'

'Busy!' we exclaimed; 'why he's driving the pigs home.'

'The pigs have arrived already,' said Mr. Monk, sitting up suddenly and subjecting us to a meaning glance.

'Use your head,' he said later, when he warmed up to his subject. 'In my job you've got to use your head. If you don't happen to have any nails, just think a bit and try screws. Should you run short of glue, then try and make do with stamp paper. Just use your head a bit! Supposing, for instance, I ran short of wood, what would I do?'

'Use your head,' said Mr. Dyke, making a hasty exit. We followed him!

Departures.—We wish every success to Lieut E. F. Maltby and Captain Lemon, who have gone to Cambridge for a course in advanced wireless. Our best wishes also follow Corpl Gresham, posted abroad viâ A Corps, and Sigmn Sargent W. J. (one of our bright young people), who is posted to Egypt.

Promotions.—We have been very neglectful with these; let us herewith make amends. Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Adcock on securing the crown, to L/Sergeant Hoy on securing the third stripe, to Corporals Walby, Lawson and Basted on securing the second, and to L/Corpls Vine and Shaddick on securing the first.

In a few words.—We wonder whether the clerk who has been searching the Ordnance vocabulary has found those *sky-hooks* yet.

We remark on the acumen of Jock, who sent a postcard home during his manœuvre season saying 'No need to write letters; read all about me in *The Daily Telegraph*.'

Note for the workshops: If winter comes, trouble is not far behind.

When the Western Force came east, did the Eastern Force go *west*?

NABAD.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Tidworth.

General.—The manœuvre season being closed, we are again back to the normal—P.O.L. faces, sleepless nights and swollen eyes being things of the past.

We take off our hats to Mr. Barometer for his good conduct throughout the manœuvres. Those who suffer from 'screws' will undoubtedly remember the rheumatic weather which prevailed during the manœuvres of 1927.

It will perhaps be interesting to old comrades of the Troop to know that we enjoyed a glorious moonlight night at Sutton Veney this year.

The following is a copy of a letter received from Brigadier A. E. W. Harman, C.B., D.S.O., commanding the brigade during the Southern Command exercise.

'I am writing to thank you and your Troop for your exceptionally good work during our last three strenuous days. Will you please convey to your men my appreciation and grateful thanks.

'Yours sincerely, A. E. W. HARMAN.'

Dear Don.—We have not been hiding, but have been in full demand for schemes.

The much-discussed epitaph is still waiting to be claimed by you. It would look very ornamental in the sergeants' mess.

We note with much amazement that our cricket challenge was disregarded. Was it because of our excellence at this game?

We regret to announce that most of our old footer players have left us, and more will be leaving us shortly. Our excellent goalkeeper and sportsman, Sigmn Edwards, will be sailing for India this trooper. Nevertheless, we hope to be able to find a team for this season.

Dick often wonders if Jimmy, of Don Troop, has returned his mandolin to Phillips.

BLACKBIRD.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, October 15th.

General.—'WAR DECLARED!' I remember quite well when that poster was displayed outside the newsagents' shops in 1914.

The November Flapper.
'This is the type that 'lands you.'

When I was 'well away' in my humble bed on the night of 17th/18th September, I was awakened by the noise of the Royal Air Force hard at work. Jumping up I gingerly put my face outside the bedroom window, allowing my nasal organ to tilt at an angle of 95 degrees. There, in the air (which was rather sharp and chilly) I saw red, green, and white lights flying about like birds. The noise of the giant bombers was quite enough, so I withdrew my face. After forming a figure of eight I went under a short course of death, leaving the bombers to do their duty in the moonlight.

On recovery next morning, I crept around to the office. On arrival I discovered that I had to proceed to the Post Office just down the street, and I went all of a dither. I thought it was malaria, but nay! it was a machine gun pointing in my direction, so I made haste and returned before the given time.

Salisbury has been well armed with troops who were stationed in various parts of the city on 18th, 19th and 20th September. This caused great excitement and a considerable amount of curiosity amongst the small boys as well as the feminine gender. Salisbury was picked as a very important place for the manœuvres, and believe me they could not have done better. I noticed in the local paper that the Mayor of Salisbury had been assassinated by the enemy, but I am very pleased to announce the the 'Lady' Mayor recovered from her assassination, enjoyed a peaceful night, and is eating well.

Whilst going to Larkhill on duty during these manœuvres, I discovered that a bridge had a notice on it: 'This bridge has been destroyed.' Still, I went over it twice in a Wilts and Dorset bus. It was rather bumpy, and I don't think it mattered much whether the bridge had been destroyed or not: I am sure the old bus would have gone over it just the same if they had converted it into a water jump.

Returning from the Manœuvres.—Signalman who remained in barracks: Hello, Ginger! what did you gain by the stunt? Second signalman: Only a big liver!

Quetta Divisional Signals, please note.—Hello there! For months we have looked for news from Quetta, and at last it has arrived in THE WIRE. Oh! what joy to those in the old city of Salisbury who have waited so long to hear that Quetta is still in the land of the living. *Please continue to write!*

Modern Misses.—The hour was late, and a mother had been waiting since midnight for her daughter's return. At last the night's stilly silence was broken by the sound of a car. The mother held her breath. A slight pause—a scuffle at the gate—hurried footsteps on the stairs—the door suddenly opened, and her beautiful young daughter ran breathlessly into the room.

'How late you are, Gladys,' exclaimed her mother in cold tones.

'Sorry, old dear,' answered the girl in an unconcerned fashion; 'after the show we decided to stop for a feed at the Night Hawk Rest!'

'Feeding at this time of night! Whatever is coming over young girls? In my young days I should not think of eating anything!'

The girl before her didn't wait to hear more. 'I know all about it, old darling,' she chirped; 'but I have to change for the dance. Freddie is waiting in his car to take me to the Hot Pot gala.'

As she spoke, she ran towards the bedroom. Suddenly she paused. 'Well, what do you say? are you coming along, dear?'

'I've been waiting this last hour,' said her mother, coolly lighting another cigarette.

Overheard.—Mr. A: How do you do, Mrs. B.? You must come along for a ride in my motor car one evening.
Mrs. B.: Yes! I should love to. Is Mrs. A. coming?
Mr. A.: No! she won't be coming—that will be a secret between us!
Mrs. B.: I'm afraid I can't keep a secret, Mr. A. Good afternoon!

COIR.

4th Divisional Signals.

Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

General.—The concentration being over, experiences are being retold in mess and canteen. Incidents which at the time seemed alarming are now viewed in their true perspective, and matters of seemingly great import provide cause for merriment.

Taste the
REAL TOMATOES
in this
NEW BRITISH KETCHUP

What relish it gives to everything you eat with it. This new British Ketchup is so flavoursome—the savour of luscious ripe Tomatoes with the "tang" and zest of fragrant spices—you'll get really enthusiastic about it, want it at every meal.

Get a bottle to-day.

Garton's
TOMATO KETCHUP
Made by the makers of H.P. Sauce.
Ask for it at your Canteen—see the name on the label.

The result of the concentration was a source of satisfaction to the unit, especially in view of the fact that we were very much under strength.

The move of Divisional Headquarters to Kelvedon will be remembered by all concerned, as it was during this period that Towser was born. But of Towser, more anon.

It did seem at first that our D.R.s (who, during training, had received all proper instructions regarding Divisional staff) were a little awed at the presence in their midst of two V.C. colonels, one of whom was the Channel swimmer, Col Freyberg, V.C. Anyway, Grandpre Whatsisname of Kelvedon was no doubt bucked when he saw the host of illustrious personages putting up at the Hotel Grand, Kelvedon City.

Our casualties, other than that reported in last month's notes, were nil, but the after-effects will probably be felt for months to come. One location clerk is still a wreck through trying to locate a regiment of cavalry operating on a Divisional front with a roving commission. The D.R. to whom the message was entrusted has taken to 'Reudels,' as they bring out the roots.

Apropos the subject of D.R.s, one speed-merchant was unlucky enough to break down, and putting in to a local garage he was politely informed that no spares for that particular make of machine had been stocked for the past five years. No doubt, when the proprietor saw the machine, he expected the rider to be furnished with mutton chops and elastic sides.

Before I go any further, I must tell you about dear Towser. Towser, contrary to expectations, is neither a dog nor a balloon section. He began as an I.Bde, but during operations he grew bigger and bigger until he became a nightmare. Weary men mumbled the word in their sleep. 'Towser! Towser! has anyone seen my Towser?'—so the cry went on, day after day, until at last Towser snapped at the Red Hat (like this boy). From that day Towser seems to have quietened down, and now he is but a memory of 1928. As the classic says, 'For all his foolish pranks, he was worshipped in the ranks,' and there will be plenty of volunteers to renew his licence when the next concentration comes along.

A last word on the concentration! When the unit moved out, the cynic said that an army of carpenters, wheelers, and sanitary men were going to attack ink ink jug, ink ink ded, no zed. The cynic got his answer quite early, for when the unlucky cherub up aloft dropped his message in a tree, too high to climb, along trotted one of the army complete with spares (to wit, a carpenter's outfit) ready to do the necessary. I doubt whether the incident will be mentioned when 'Lessons learned' arrive.

Dido's Farewell.—A farewell to C.S.M. Harris, in the form of a smoker and dance, was given by the w.o.s and sergeants' mess on the eve of his departure to civil life, on completion of 21 years service. A pleasing feature of the evening was the presence of a large number of his civilian friends, who helped to make the event the success it was.

By those who have soldiered with him at Colchester and Shanghai, he will always be remembered as a very courteous gentleman, ever ready to help others; and the wish of all is that he will be as successful and esteemed in civil life as he has been in the Service.

This Nouveau Riche Business.—This month's fairy tale. There was once a man who took a month and pushed his own four-wheeler to Cornwall. He went so fast that as he was winding-up to return, his people said, 'Well, we hope you have enjoyed your day with us.'

Ca' Canny.—There is a man who refuses to bid over a shilling at the monthly auction of periodicals. He is reputed to be a friend of the Scottie who went to Woolworth's to meet Mr. Drage.

Correspondence.—Blanco, India: Jane wants to know when the 7th Harmonic is likely to wander to Aldershot.

Puzzled: Possibly the officer seen wearing a stetson with his uniform had just returned from the Lido.

WELLER.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

General.—Nothing much has happened in the Company during the past month. Owing to the large number of personnel provisionally warned for service overseas, no one quite knows where he stands. A few want to know the rate of exchange, and ask questions such as 'Are there any banks in India?'

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Baker, a daughter (Annie) on September 15th. More akkas!

Arrivals.—Fifteen other ranks have joined from the Depot. To all of them we extend a hearty welcome. We hope their stay in the Company will be a happy one.

Musketry.—Casuals have fired their annual course, and are now desirous of entering for the King's prize next year.

Experiences Wanted.—G.R. Blackdown: F.S. Belfast.—We have a few long-faced animals here. Will part exchange for 350.cc. 1927 Excelsior. They stand a good chance for the Derby (if trained). No wire or string attached.

Education.—Congratulations to Signalman Curtis on obtaining the 2nd class certificate of education.

Agony.—If Sergt Reade, late of Catterick, will kindly communicate with Sergt Beverley of this unit, he will be assured of a speedy reply.

F. E. S.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, October 15th.

General.—

The shades of night were falling fast,
As through a Rhineland village passed
A youth, who from a limber cried
'Where's the hay box?'
Halt! and the column shifted.

Manœuvres are over, and tales of untold hardships are being retold. All sections have returned to the fold, and poky drill has taken place for the fortunate ones. The burning question of the day is leave—what date? 'Sorry you're a provisional.'

Arrivals.—Signalmen Brewer C. T. and Doidge from the 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford. May their stay be a pleasant one.

Departures.—The best wishes of the Company go with the following: Capt A. E. Barton, R.Signals, to 44th (H.C.) T.A. Signalmen Blakemore, Bryan, Moorhouse and Lupton to the A.R. Two other ranks to Sarafand; twelve more to India; and twelve others for the Far East. Sergt Gordon J. for Chester. Signalman Warren F. E. to Catterick.

Congratulations are offered to Sergt Lewis W. F. on attaining that rank; to L/Corpl Hart and Signalmen Braham and Clarke on passing additional trade rates; to Signalmen Blakemore, Braham, Knight, McManus, Scott G. F., Stewart C. A., Westmore, and Dvr Boniface P., on obtaining 2nd class certificates.

Social.—The annual games tournament between the sergeants' mess and the junior n.c.o.s and men proved a great success. The latter won by a narrow margin: 38 points to 34.

The monthly whist drive and dance in the sergeants' mess created a record. I wonder if the winner of the gentlemen's prize used a carbon to get 162!

Ticklers.—O.O.: What steps would you take in the case of a fire breaking out in the petrol dump? N.c.o. i/c fire picquet: Long ones, sir.

Sergeant: Keep your mouth closed, McPherson! McP.: Someone said there was a nip in the air, sergeant.

I hear you have sent your set back, Jock; no good, I suppose. Jock: Fine set, but couldna read by the lamps.

Agony.—J.G., D.P., P.M., and J.W., of this unit, send their greetings to C.S.M. Revell and Sergt Cooper, and hope the piano at the Queen's is still in order.

Troubles.—

If troubled with a draft return,
And spelling is a failure,
Sierra Leone is much too hard—
Bermuda 'll have to do yer.

If having trouble on the set,
And X's cause hysterics,
Erect another set or two
And share the atmospherics.

Birth.—To L/Corporal and Mrs. W. D. Taylor, a son (John Edgar), on October 7th. Posted to No. 3 Section for lines.

Short Waves.—Station A.Y.B. is working most nights from about 1800 to 0000 G.M.T. on 43 and 21.5 metres, input 10 to 50 watts. Endeavouring to get in touch with Egypt, Sarafand, Pindi and Hong Kong. Furthest distance so far: Santiago (Chile), 7500 miles, on 21 metres, input 12 watts. Please let us know calls and times of working (G.M.T.)

GROCK.

Ode to the Hay Box.

If out on schemes,
Or dreaming dreams,
Or sending Z's or T's,
Don't forget this little thing,
Carried by a piece of string
Or fastened to the centre ring—
The hay box.

Bully beef and biscuits, too,
For some, no doubt, will always do,
But give me something warm or hot—
Something ready on the spot;
Old boots, laces, rags or socks,
Cooking throughout the biffs and knocks—
The hay box.

Hints to those who do not know
Where this little thing to stow,
Ask me when I'm on the rocks;
Ask me when you're peckish, too,
Waiting for the regiment's stew;
I'll let you have a niff or two—
The hay box.

Surround some nails with bitzer wood,
Or try a tin where Black Cat stood;
Then put some grass out in the sun,
Which will be hay when it is done;
Pack tightly in, and leave a hole,
And if they think you're up the pole—
Indent for Dixie.

GROCK.

Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

September 12th.

General.—News, so far as the general side is concerned, will, I am afraid, be short and sweet this month. I can guarantee the former, but will leave readers to verify the latter.

The O.C.A. Branch Committee met last week, when our president, Lieut-Colonel J. L. Tomlin, handed over his duties to Major P. A. Hitchcock. The meeting provided some interesting discussions, and we have every hope of seeing the Branch on a sound business basis in the near future.

Quite a number of people have been complaining about not receiving their WIRE these days. The matter has been thoroughly investigated, and the majority of complainants informed that Corps Magazines are not supplied gratis, but that one is expected to pay for them. Many subscriptions have been received in consequence, and we are all hoping to receive our copies again in due course.

Sergeants' Mess.—The football match with the 4th Indian Divl Signals was a great success, and resulted in a win for us by three goals to two. It was a hard and sporting game, with plenty of enthusiasm. I didn't notice the ground rocking and swaying like a barge in the Bay, but some seemed to suffer badly from mal der mer. I wonder why?

Our present entertainment committee have been giving us a good time lately, and the shows have been excellent. A trip in lorries to outside functions is certainly a brain-wave on somebody's part; it helps to make us a little more known in the farthest corners of Jubbulpore. We shall certainly be known in a very far corner if we 'go over the top' while coming down from the Ridge one of these nights! But I think we are fairly safe, as R.Q.M.S. Earwaker has given up night driving.

Training.—The S course starts on the 17th of this month, and accordlng to the names already on paper, there will be keen competition for the top place.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

September 12th.

General.—The unit was inspected by General Sir Charles Harington, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., D.C.L., on the 3rd inst. Every type of Signal work was in progress at the time, and judging by appearances everything was a success.

Many of the old lads at home will be greeting some of the old lads of this unit within the next few months. Some are for A.R. and some just for the change of scenery, but n.c.o.s at home had better beware! A little book has just been issued in this unit, entitled 'Q. and A.,' and it tells one everything. The author is unknown, but we are certain that it is not Ethel M. Wallace.

Congratulations.—We all offer our heartiest congratulations to the following on attaining their present rank: Corpl Curtis and U/L/Corpls Turner, Hockley, Huish, Bridgeman, Button, Goodfellow and Gordon—not forgetting Worsley F. of hook fame.

Arrival.—Sigmn Gill from B Corps Signals, Pindi. May his stay in the unit be long and pleasant.

Wave-Lengths.—L/Corpl Baker D. of this unit would very much like to hear from Sigmn Parkinson.

Birth.—The unit offers its congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Crouch on the arrival of a daughter.

Peshawar District Signals.

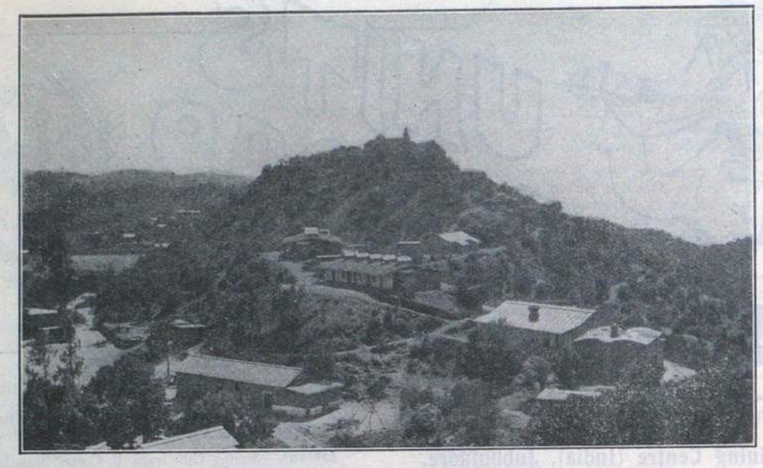
September 10th.

General.—During the last month there have been many happenings worthy of note, and I'm now going to describe them for the benefit of all who aspire to soldier on India's sunny plains.

Early in the year we were informed that the unit would have to furnish a Signal Section for the Chitral relief in September. Speculation was rife as to the lucky ones taking part in the relief, but it was not until July that a section was detailed, Lieut J. W. Kenny taking command.

This section consisted of one sergeant, two lance-corporals, eight signalmen (British ranks), one havildar, one naik, two lance-naiks, and sixteen signalmen and signalmen drivers (Indian ranks). Last, but not least, is the ration-corporal, Corporal Hotchkiss. Owing to his Scottish descent I am of opinion that he must have volunteered for the job! Anyway, he looks after the feeding arrangements of the section.

The British Ranks Bungalow.
[Photo by Sigmn Ingledew]



A General View of Cherat, the Hill Station for Peshawar.
[Photo by L/Corpl Beard]

After a month or so of training in short route marches, this section entrained at Peshawar for Dargai, there to commence their long march to Chitral. Those who were on the march in '26 will vividly remember the blizzards, snow-storms, floods, etc. Well, at 4 a.m. on September 9th the section commenced their march. The W/T have not yet reported the progress of the column, or if they have met with any of the small mishaps previously mentioned, but in our next month's issue it will be possible to relate the movements of the section.

On September 4th the party which had been located at Upper Topa for the whole of the hot weather returned to Peshawar, and it must be admitted that they were bursting with knowledge. According to them they had a most wonderful time, but were not sorry in a way to be back on the Plains. The absence of a decent bath and sunshine was the main drawback to a nice stay in the hills. But they must remember that prickly heat is not a nice complaint to be pestered with, and they must thank their lucky stars that they were out of the heat.

The results of the courses have not yet been officially published, but six of our n.c.o.s and men earned congratulatory reports from the Administrative Commandant, Upper Topa.

Manœuvres.—About the time these notes are published this unit will be in the neighbourhood of Lahore and Jhelum, taking part in the Lahore Divisional manœuvres; but more of that anon. (I'll tell you all about it.)

Promotions.—We must congratulate the undermentioned on their promotion or appointment, and trust that we shall hear more of these sudden rises. Corpls Pack W. and Varley F. appointed Lance/Sergeants. U/L/Corpls Taylor G. W., McPherson D. C., Hill A. W., Clarke E., Varley H. A., Smith W. A., and Simpson C. W. appointed L/Corporals (paid).

Arrivals.—We offer our congratulations to L/Corpl and Mrs. H. A. Varley on the birth of a son at the British Family Hospital, Khanspur, Murree Hills, on July 5th.

Notice.—The gramophone sound-box has not yet been found. (For the information of all in the U.K. who do not see unit daily orders.)

PESHDIST.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarters Section, Razmak.

General.—Work proceeds as usual, and except for the training for the next column, which is shortly to be undertaken, there is nothing worthy of mention in our notes for this month.

We hope shortly to be again established in our old quarters in Dera Ismail Khan, where it is anticipated that some really good functions will be held in aid of the Association. From scraps of conversation overheard, I gather that this event cannot come too soon for some people.

Whether it is the idea of seeing snow again or being one stage nearer the boat, I cannot say, but all are looking forward to the move as being one for the better.

Sport.—No separate report can be made on this subject, as our players amalgamate with the Brigade Section for games whilst we are quartered in Razmak.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

September 6th.

General.—Now that individual training is completed many can rest from their labours, content with their knowledge plus higher ratings.

The Operating and Infantry Brigade Sections have left us for Upper Topa, on their first stage of section training. We wish them every success, and sincerely hope they will attain the standard of last season.

The raw material from England and the old hands are being welded into an efficient Company, and Sections are beginning to pull together in preparation for the Bara manœuvres in December. Yes: you can send your drafts along as soon as you like. There is plenty of room for them.

We congratulate our swimmers on winning prizes at the recent swimming galas, especially the team who won the relay race at Rawalpindi Baths on August 30th.

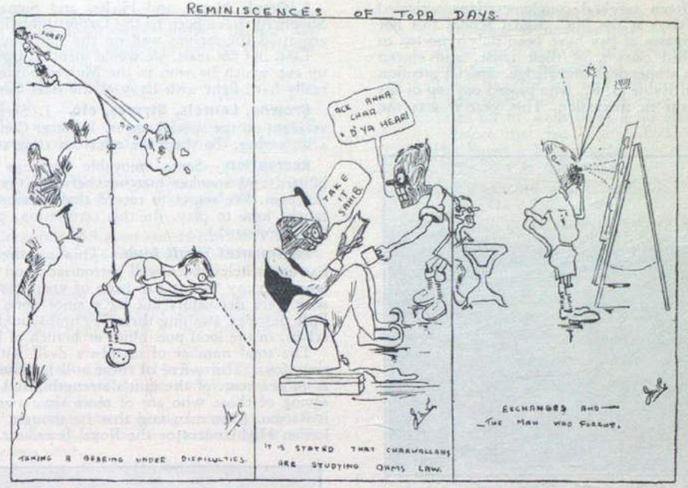
Palms recently placed outside the offices have certainly made the place brighter.

Prickly heat, in most cases, has disappeared owing to the rains.

Arrivals.—We welcome the commanding officer, Major L. H. Morse, M.C., from the Senior Officers' School, Belgaum. L/Sergt Stanley from a fitter's course at Jubbulpore. L/Sergt Francis from hospital after a very serious illness (enteric).

Overheard en route to Topa.—
First Signalman: These route marches are awful!
Second Signalman: Why, Aubrey?
First Signalman: They ruin my feet for dancing.

Upper Topa B.i Course.—Special Paper. *Question:* Why is it that *at home* P.O. operators are more efficient in hand-writing than the average operator in the Army? *Answer:* The Italians are well known for their sculpture, artistic designs and operas, which accounts for their neat writing *in Rome*.



What connection with Rome is Constant, eh? Mac from West Meath wonders why everyone is asking him about Rome and the Italians!

Agony.—N. Moore: What about it?—Dobcross.

Will Dvr Sharpe J. drop a line to Sigmn Sharpe (Scales)?

Signalmen Ellis and Fairweather request pen pals from No. 1 A.A. Section, Blackdown.

Sigmn O'Donnel would like to hear from L/Corpl Walker. Mac would like to hear from J. Saul. How is Jackie?

A. E. L.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

September 18th.

General.—There has been a fair amount of activity in the unit since our last notes were sent in. An O.C.A. dance, which attracted members of all units in the station, was held on August 27th. Among the several novelties were a spot waltz and a balloon dance for which prizes were given. The fox-trot and waltz competitions were very popular.

Another dance, held on September 14th, was well attended, all units (including officers) being represented.

Both dances proved highly successful, both socially and financially. Thanks are due to the committee and voluntary helpers for their work, and also to the members of our popular unit band, who gave their services on both occasions.

All ranks in Ranikhet have been working very hard in preparing themselves for the forthcoming trade test. We all hope to keep up the high standard of success which has been obtained in previous tests.

Congratulations to L/Corpl Yeoman on attaining the long-looked for appointment of paid rank, and also to Signalmen Freeman C., Hammond C., Hughes F., and Goode E., who have been appointed U/L/Corporals, thus placing their feet upon the first rung of the ladder of promotion. Good luck!

Congratulations, too, to Signalmen Pelling F. W. and Leach R. W., who were awarded the 2nd class certificate of education at an examination held here in June.

We have heard that R.S.M. Anderson, from Catterick, is coming out as Lieut.-Quartermaster to this unit. We are mutually lucky: he on the unit he is coming to, and we on the quartermaster we are getting.

Capt F. H. Bury (our adjutant) is being posted to the 3rd Divl Signals at Bulford, and we wish him all the best of luck. Our loss—their gain.

Kohat District Signals.

Notes for THE WIRE were unavoidably held over last month, because the notes of the hill-parrots (in B sharp) lured me away. I had to 'B' natural and go!

Major R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., has returned from the Northern Command Signal School (where he has been acting as Administrative Commandant) and has resumed command of the unit.

Losses and Gains.—Our adjutant, Lieut R. W. Morgan, Royal Signals, has left us, after a five years' stay, to command A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop at Sialkot. We shall miss his weight, his urge, and his 'Have it back, Signals!' on the rugby field; Kohat will lose an excellent polo player; and even yet, lips smack as one thinks of blue bull steaks or aromatic roast peacock for a supper in camp. Certainly our loss will be the Cavalry Troop's gain.

We welcome Lieut C. Childs, R.Signals (from Peshawar District Signals) in his stead, and trust that the effects of a summer in hospital and the shortcomings of Kohat as a station will be counteracted by a long and happy tour with 'old F.'

C.S.M. Edwards G. F., after a very flitting visit, has gone back to school—the Signal School at Poona, I mean. We wish him luck, of course, but everyone seems to think that he has *had* it! Meanwhile, our inventory shows: C.S.M.s, nil.

A general view of 'Dhoda Cableland.'

Veni, Vidi, Vici.—Fifteen cerebral conglomerations wriggled successfully on the test days at the N.C. Signal School this hot weather, and fifteen increases of pay have been duly reported to the pay-bob. Four reached class i. of their trade, and eleven class ii. We bow to such stupendous knowledge. Special mention should be made of Sigmn Irvine G. R., who passed out top of his squad for the second year in succession. This year it was the class i. squad.

One way of laying cable.

[This is *not* on the sands at Brighton]

The party returned to the unit in early September, but they were too frisky for the old soldiers in Kohat, so we sent them to Parachinar right away. We knew they would enjoy that 117 miles *à pied*.

Talking of heat, we remember one Friday when the thermometer bubbled up to 107 not out. That's not bad for September, is it?

We hope the spirit of victory will be infused into the detachment at Parachinar, the majority of whom will be suffering from Test Board tremble in a short time.

The spirit of old F Divl Signals was not lost when we changed our name. It still moves in and among us, bringing glory in its train, both to the Corps and ourselves. Voila!

Sergt Stevens S. A. and Corpl Theobald P. brought back a 'distinguished' and a good 'pass' respectively from a small arms training course with the East Surrey Regiment.

'On the rocks' at Dhoda, near Mount Everest.

Sergt Greenall J. E. returned from the Brain Incubator (School of Education), with *two* 'distinguished' honours to his name. (We're not *all* green, says 'e!)

Corpl Scott H. J. from the Physical Training School at Kasauli, can now turn meat into muscle and muscle into iron. 'Exercise—begin!'

L/Corpls Neeve and Hicks, and Signalmen Woodstock and Shepherd, have been to the Depot, Jubbulpore, where they have acquitted themselves well on the new courses.

Last, but not least, we would mention Corpl Theobald's runner-up cup which he won in the Murree boxing tournament, after a really hard fight with Levy of the East Surrey Regiment.

Crowns, Laurels, Stripes, etc.—L/Sergt Greenall J. E. to be sergeant on the special roster. L/Sergt Conway C., as above, but a bit earlier. To them we offer our congratulations.

Recreation.—Some enjoyable evenings have been spent in billiard and snooker matches between the sergeants' mess and the men. We regret to record that in most cases the men were taught *how* to play. (In this connection, please 'ave a decco at the scoreboard.)

Regimental Thrift Club.—This is entirely a new affair, which has nevertheless been well patronised; and we are not presuming when we say that it has been of great material benefit to those who were depositors but have since gone home, to find a nice little nest-egg awaiting them, with absolutely no trouble to themselves, in the local post office or branch of Messrs. Lloyds' Bank.

The total number of members dealt with since July, 1926, is sixty-four. Thirty-five of these still have accounts running. This is 35 per cent. of the unit's strength; and of these, the average saving of those who are of more than twelve months' standing is Rs.500. (One man said that he thought of transferring to the Jordan Highlanders or the Royal Jewsiliers.)

A spell in a flooded field.

Serves them right.—Sergt Small I. H. has decided to go 'the whole hog'—until 1940. (Deary me!) Sigmn Morrison H. A. was snatched from the jaws of death to finish his dozen.

WOG.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

September 27th.

Oh, to be in England now that it gets dark at tea-time! The monsoon has left dear old Jubb. in the usual green condition which gives drafts from Blighty a wrong impression of the sweltering 'Jewel of the East.' We are having a chota heat-wave, but it's only a paltry 100 in the shade, so we won't make a song about it.

Anxious Moments.—Since Sigmn Clifford and family left us for the U.K., a greater interest is being taken in unit orders. Signalmen Rooker and Milton have been allotted passages on the 'City of Marseilles,' sailing on or about November 5th. (Three men on two boats! Some going!) The remaining forty are ordering Christmas cards, whilst the home establishment wallahs still manage to write cheerful letters home.

Die-Hard.—R.S.M. May is permitted to carry on for a further period of twelve months over his pontoon. (So would I!)

Promotions.—Congratulations to Sergt-Instr. Marriot, A.E.C., promoted W.O. Instructor. L/Corpl Fraser to corporal on that 'doubtful quality,' the special roster. (It's about time, Buck!)

Back from Paradise.—Sergeant Lyons has rejoined us from Blighty leave. He has evidently enjoyed himself, because we understand he is making strenuous efforts to get on the home establishment. (Wise Admi!)

A New Cousin.—To Corpl and Mrs. Cousens, a son. Fareham papers, please copy. (Be I.)

Another Capture.—We welcome Sergeant Overington from C Cavalry Troop, Meerut. (Sit down and cut yourself a piece of cake!)

Escaped.—Sigmn Cowell to Waziristan District Signals, and Sigmn Packwood to the First Div., Pindi. (How did you wangle it, Packy?)

Mustard Club.—L/Corporals McLaven and Hibbitt and Sigmn Haigh 're-mustard' to fitters A.iii. (This enables them to mend punctures, I presume!)

Corporals' Mess.—Our homely little functions still continue periodically, and we are attempting a really posh affair on our hard courts next month. Slim Rogers has let his belt out again now that he is off the tack.

Answers to Correspondents.—Gladys: He has evidently been caught for a buckshee year. He is still single, as far as we know.

Joe: Try Ovaltine and a hard bed.

Gippo: I should find out when he is going home. His letters prove that he is in a quandary. If you are persistent, he may accept the G.I.P.'s generous offer.

Pumpkin: Do not lose heart. Read 'Personal Magnetism and the Way to Success,' by Edith Dash, the actress.

Frousy: Don't touch it.

Take note of the following:—

Never show temper.
Never betray envy or jealousy.
Indulge in no sarcasms.
Keep unpleasant opinions to yourself.
Make no remarks about others, in their absence, which you would not make in their presence.
Never make a joke that hurts anyone present or absent.
Never dodge a creditor.
Don't be a bore.
Ride your hobby in the back yard.
Permit other people to have views.
Put a heart into your handshake.
Be as courteous to low as to high.
Never rub a man the wrong way.
Never contradict an irritated person.
Never laugh at weakness.
Never pass judgment upon another without first mentally putting yourself in his place.
Don't try to 'down' a man who knows more about a subject than you do.

JOSABUN.

Gems of English Verse.

EXPECTATION.

Now, once there was a signalman,
  Amusing to relate,
Who surely thought the time had come
  When he should have a 'tape.'
He knew his 'sheets' still held a record of
  His murky past,
But crimes are just like holidays:
  They come, but never last.

One day, as he was thinking
  Over what he'd like to be,
And what else they would pinch him for,
  To get him more C.B.,
A sergeant walked into the room,
  Remarked 'The day was fine,'
And told our friend that 'The O.C.
  Would speak to him at nine.'

Our hero jumped right off his bed,
  Would not believe 'twas true;
His 'tape!' now what else could it be?—
  'Twas not the 'mat,' he knew.
Ye gods! he'd make the troops sit up
  And show them all what's what;
He'd give them all a taster
  Of what he'd often got.

At half-past eight he had a wash,
  Put on his newest suit,
Then smeared his hair with perfumed oil—
  My word! he did look cute.
Then off he went to take his stand
  Before the 'big White Chief'—
His knees a little wobbly,
  His face as red as beef.

We wondered what it really was
  The O.C. had to say,
And one young chap, a brilliant youth,
  Brought in the light of day.
Our puttee tapes we used to wind
  About 'teen' inches wide;
The order now was 'ack' inch buss,
  Or else a trip inside.

The O.C. had a lot to say—
  It seemed to us like hours;
And though we did not know at first,
  The secret now is ours.
We watched our friend as he came in;
  His face was just like 'Mutty';
The O.C.'s interview *was* 'tapes.'
  But those that go on puttees.

—DASH.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

September 17th.

General.—Preparations are now in hand for the Northern Command manœuvres which are due shortly, and plenty of punching-up is being done to get the Troop up to tip-top standard. Of course, it's common knowledge that we shall come out at the finish with a good name! The horses are steadily getting hardened up for the auspicious occasion, and 'Charles' can be seen performing daily, leading the string.

The Troop now has its full strength of British ranks. The extra grooming hands were warmly welcomed back from Upper Topa, and they are now once more settled down to their respective tasks. At long last we are having a new bungalow built, and many anxious troopers are waiting patiently to see if it is fitted out with all the modern equipment.

The trooping season is eagerly awaited by certain individuals, to see if any of their pals who have been on the inventory board for ages are being nabbed this year to come out to this sunny clime; while others are waiting to see their names in orders (passages, sea). We will be sorry to lose them, as our family is a very happy one.

Courses.—The Topa course folk have returned, after spending five months in hard swotting. The results were very satisfactory, as all passed. (Q.: Note, headgear, topees, G.S. Have you sizes 7 to 9? They will sure need them.)

Appointments.—L/Corpls Manning S. and Kennedy J. to that rank. We wish them the very best of luck, as they are due for U.K. this coming trooping season.

Departures.—Lieut F. P. L. Gray to Saugor for a Roughs course (Best of luck, sir; but mind the *deck*.) Corpl Millen to Waziristan District Signals, permanently posted. (Best luck, Steve; mind your kit up there!)

Arrivals.—Part 1: Lieut R. W. Morgan from Kohat District Signals. All ranks wish him a happy stay with the Troop.

Part 2: To the wife of Corpl Redworth F., a bonny boy.

Part 3: To 'Sally,' wife of 'Busty,' six little pups. (B Troop, please note: all *long* dogs.)

Old Comrades Association.—If any old member of the Troop who is interested in the recent formation of the Old Comrades Association will write to the secretary, A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, full particulars will be forwarded. One of the main objects is a re-union in the future, when we are all '*playing at home*' once more.

Signals Association.—There is nothing to report except that we have added three new members to our list of subscribers. We will soon be level, B Troop.

WOG.

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

September 13th.

General.—In spite of a somewhat depleted staff, we are somehow managing to carry on the combined jobs of training remounts, technical training and musketry, with about one-third of our British and Indian personnel away on leave, courses, etc.: also the inevitable 'employed' (not allowed for on our establishment). This is proving no light task, and it is a case of 'All hands on deck.'

We are gradually being sorted out into various sections, and now that all the remounts have been allotted, preparations are being made for camp and manœuvres, which take place some three or four days' march from Meerut and last approximately six weeks. All ranks are looking forward to this as a welcome change from the daily routine of barracks.

New buildings continue to spring up all around us, and by the end of the year we hope to be fully equipped with stores, workshops, offices and married quarters. I believe this is the first Signal unit in India that has had a complete new barracks built.

Our anti-malaria squad are doing their best to reduce the incidence of that dreaded fever by daily spraying with oil all likely mosquito-breeding places in the vicinity of the barracks. Up to the present we have not noticed a scarcity of the pest in question; but this is perhaps due to the fact that for every small stagnant pool in the unit area sprayed by our diligent malaria squad, there are a dozen such pools in native villages close by that, not coming under cantonment jurisdiction, are left alone.

Postings.—L/Corpl Dawes, Signalmen Watson and King to Peshawar District Signals. Farrier-Sgt Williams and Sigmn Cobb to United Kingdom for discharge and Reserve respectively. Sergt Overington to the 4th Indian Divl Signals, Jubbulpore. We wish them luck in their new spheres.

Congratulations to L/Sergt Richardson and Corpl Hill on attaining those ranks, and Sigmn Ferguson on passing as o/v C.ii.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Cairo, Oct. 1st.

According to the law of ratios, the fall of temperature should automatically increase news of topical interest. Evidently we have a 'short' on our ratio somewhere; no matter how much I rack my brain for copy, I only succeed in making my temperature rise. Picture in your mind a fellow with an ice-cooled towel round his head, paper in mountains round him, and ink everywhere except on the paper. After doing that, take away the first man you thought of, and the answer's in the infirmary. Putting all jokes on one side (one moment, while I move) I will endeavour to report 'the truth and everything but the truth.'

Courses.—No 2 operator signals course has terminated in the most gratifying manner for all concerned. Although the course was a stiff 'un, a good percentage qualified for their operator signals. Sigmn Homer classified as fitter electrician, and Signalmen Dale, Holt and Game re-classified on the same course. It is also pleasing to note that a number of drivers have classified as linemen during the training season. At present these are demonstrating their skill by laying the line of communications for the Egypt Command rifle meeting to be held this month.

Sergt Jennison proceeded to the School of Signals on September 30th for a W/T course.

Promotions, etc.—Congratulations to L/Sergeant Corbett and Corpls Powell and Dunn on their step in rank.

Moves.—Two new members arrived from the U.K. on Sept. 30th: Signalmen Whitworth and Taylor. May their stay be long and happy in the land of the Pharaohs.

L/Sergt Corbett, Signalmen Cornelius, Davies C., King F. F., and Marsh J. R., have said goodbye to this Company for ever, departing on September 30th for home and civvy life. All ranks join in wishing them the best of luck in their new occupations.

Scene: Polygon at 6.30 a.m. An officer in full flight, followed by about twenty angry men, each armed with a rifle and twenty rounds. No, it was not a mutiny! It was only the morning exercise for the Command rifle meeting competitors. If anybody who has not been in this country can imagine what running over loose sand is like, let them sigh for this hardy band of warriors. Personally, the only shooting competitions I am going in for from now on will be at clay pipes and packets of cigarettes. It is more healthy.

To India.—Will G.F.V. write to B.J.B.?

Corporals' Mess.

Entertainments.—Owing to the enormous success of the previous dance, another of its kind took place on Saturday, September 8th, and although not patronised by so many people, the whole evening was enjoyable. Once again we must render thanks to Stagger and his band of helpers for the admirable way in which all the work was carried out.

On Wednesday, September 12th, the corporals' mess of the 1st Light Brigade were entertained to a games tournament. We again showed our superiority at outdoor sports and were the victors at tennis and football. Perhaps the tea which was given before the football had a restraining influence on the 'lights,' as they hardly copied the example set by their comrades at Balaclava. At table tennis, billiards and darts, we were forced to knuckle under, and the final result was a draw of four games all. After the games an impromptu concert was held, in which the visiting team excelled themselves. I am sure that all members thoroughly enjoyed the evening and are looking forward to the next series.

A new committee has been formed, the old one retiring on its laurels. Shaker is endeavouring to establish himself on the entertainments by holding a 'rummy' tournament. We are living in hopes of a game of fag cards and marbles, but we shall leave that to the committee.

Our one-time mess secretary has now been promoted to the senior mess. I have heard from a reliable source that all the sergeants will be rear-admirals shortly. Good luck, Blanco.

W. N. B.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, October 5th.

Egypt keeps you young!—Here's a proof of it. In H.Q. Section we possess an old soldier who has been up for nearly six years. On a recent parade an officer asked him why he had not shaved, and was politely informed that he only shaved *once* in ten days. (The fluff did not begin showing until the ninth day.) Moral: Don't use 'Veet'—come to Egypt!

Was it a Wangle?—Signalman Cooper A. C. (more famous as Buck) left here on June 10th for another three months' leave in the U.K. When his leave was nearly up, we received the news that he had gone into hospital to have his appendix removed. For this he received additional leave until November 15th. Just fancy: two months' buckshee leave for merely having one's appendix removed! Why, we've some heroes here who would willingly have half their 'tummies' cut out for that! Still, joking apart, we all trust that Buck has got over it alright, and do *so* hope it hasn't affected his chirping propensities.

How we catch 'em.—L/Corpl Beach C. W., having had three months' leave in Blighty, returned to the fold on a Saturday night—just in time for church duty on Sunday, orderly corporal on Monday, guard on Tuesday, stable feeds on Wednesday, and Nile mud on Thursday, not forgetting sports ground fatigues on Friday and kit inspection on Saturday. It's certainly given him an appetite for his meals, or else he had been half starved at home. 'Best grub for three months' he told us one rissole-and-onions morning. My! he can't half woof! He even gave Joly Oe a good run on the grub stakes, and that wants some doing.

"Now for a decent feed!"—These are said to be the first words spoken by late Corpl White A. F. when he received the news that he had been appointed a lance-sergeant, and moved into the mess. His promotion has set the rising generation of Hut 10 off again, and the 'getting up before reveille' business is becoming an everyday occurrence once more, whilst the sergeant's dog gets bathed about *six* times a day now!

A Batch of Awards.—2nd's to L/Sergt Williams, Signalmen Chambers, Sawyers, Legge and Mains, and Dvr Mayhew. (Dvrs Chantry and Edwards forgot their twice-times-two table when sitting, and therefore failed in mathematics.) A shaving brush and a razor for Daphne. A bunch of flowers to stick in Pople's garden. A wreath of roses for Weatherington. A bowl of cream and the necessary cat for H.Q.'s bronco buster, now posted to K Section. A book on 'Stripes and how to win them,' for the use of the rising generation.

Celebrities Arrive.—Corporal Cotton A. W. rejoined us from U.K. on the 29th, bringing with him a member of the gugnuncs in Sigmn Joy (Wilfred), the latter anxious to find out if it really *is* true that one serves five years out here and then does a buckshee one for luck. A former member of our fraternity in Sigmn Snowie Whitworth, who left us three years ago, also came along for a further sojourn, though this time (to our regret) he goes to No. 1 Company. It was the same old Snowie, though more handsome now he has the false teeth in at last!

Celebrities Depart.—Signalmen Prior F. G. (Geeb) and Upton C. W. left us for ever and a day on the 30th of last month. The former came to us weighing a mere eight stone; he left us three years afterwards, fully thirteen stone. And they say the Army doesn't feed you! (That bit ought to fetch in a few recruits; there's bags of room among the rising generation.)

To Palestine Signals; also Rhine Signals, Aldershot Signals, and many other units besides Signals. Signalman Shepherd G. M., known far and wide as Joly Oe, has left us. We believe Catterick kept him ten weeks, the Rhine nine weeks, and Palestine six weeks, but we had him for *four months!* Don't you sympathise with us? I won't say that we were all in tears when he left us, as I'm no relation to Ananias. I believe Paddy, Ginger and Yorkie were seen in the wet canteen the night that he went, whilst Sailor was peeping furtively around the corner in case Joe hadn't really gone—he was taking no risks.

Some people are never satisfied!—As if this place isn't warm enough! L/Sergt Thomas and Sigmn Backhouse applied for posting to India, and they leave us on October 20th. Whoever gets the latter will find in him a useful track and cross-country runner, especially if there's a fair damsel about. Remember the shadows of the Chatby Stadium at Alexandria, twelve months ago, Bill? Naughty boy!

Sidelights on History.—The following effort by one of our candidates at the last examination for seconds is rather startling: 'The Black Hole of Calcutta was a nasty place, where a lot of soldiers were put so that they could neither drink nor wash. In the night they all died, so that in the morning they could hardly stand up. The British Government told the Indian ruler that if he was going to make a habit of that sort of thing, he would have to pay a tax!'

This Month's Joke.—Signalman Pople's garden. The Eskimos are stated to be nomadic: so is Pople's garden—one day in the front, another at the back; sometimes on the roof, at others in his locker. It's a wonder the Troop don't object!

September 21st, 1927.—If Sigmn Richards A. R. should notice this date, he's bound to remember something that occurred thereon. If he doesn't, he'll get full details from one of the rising generation in Sigmn Linacre W. H. of this unit. Phew! 'way back in '27! Takes your breath away, doesn't it, Chal?

This is "Pukka."—Very junior sub. (entering Company office): Excuse me, sergeant, but can you tell me the length a man is allowed to grow his side-whiskers?

Orderly room sergeant: Afraid I don't know, sir; have you looked in K.R.'s?

Very junior sub.: Yes, but I can find nothing in there of the length allowed.

Orderly room sergeant: Well, will a copy of *Allowance* Regs. be of any use, sir?

Very junior sub.: Ah! the very thing; I never thought of that. Thanks very much, sergeant.

The *very* junior sub picks up the Allowance Regs., and as far as we can ascertain he's *still* looking for the length allowed for side-whiskers!

ART.

No. 2 Section, No. 2 Wireless Company, Baghdad

Right Bank, September 30th.

The arrival of cooler weather (we only average 106 degrees in the shade nowadays) has seen a marked increase in sports, and several games of hockey and football have taken place. The results are shown in the Sports section.

THE WIRES arrived to-day, and there was the usual rush of non-subscribers to get their grappling irons on them. What about *buying* one for a change, some of you fellows?

A photo of this Section is enclosed, and I think all will agree that for 'good-lookers' we want some beating. Stop blushing, Snowy!

For Old Hand's information: Marie is still in the Arabian Nights cabaret, but . . . . .

Advance Iraq.—The bund is being tarred at the rate of one yard per day.

Arrival.—L/Corpl Philpott from Sarafand.

Departures.—Corpl Davies, Signalmen Aitken, Florey and Macnab (our Aggie) to Sarafand for U.K. Sergt Wright decided that Iraq wasn't warm enough for him, and left for India. (Mac Ewans and Co. have been notified.) Our best wishes to them all.

Needless to say, there are quite a number here sweating on the boat list; and gee! won't the air be blue if it hasn't arrived by Christmas!

No. 2 Wireless Section, Baghdad West, Iraq.

Three chicken were eaten at one meal by a member of the n.c.o.s mess. If there is anyone who can beat that, send his name along to Mac: he will go one better.

Agony.—To Sergt Tom Tolley, Aldershot Command Signal Company: Congratulations on getting the third one again!

BAN.

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

October 6th.

If Winter Comes.—It will come, I'm sure: it *must* come sometime before next spring. And to herald the approach of the season of mud, gumboots, and Perfection stoves, the sun rises over the aerodrome at six a.m. instead of over the ranges at five; the thermometer has gone down as far as 95 (to date); and the voice of the hawk is heard in the land as it wheels in its hundreds about the cantonment.

Everyone who has read that interesting book of Mr. Wells' about fellows arriving with a bump from Mars and sticking up an ack set aerial with a Lucas lamp on top, in the middle of Horsell Common, will know what a tripod is. Not that any invasion from that much-discussed oblate spheroid has occurred (they'd probably find Iraq almost as warm as their own vast deserts). We've merely started musketry, and each day may be seen shining morning faces, eagerly probing the intricacies of the short Lee-Enfield and the insect life of Iraq on their 'tummies' in the sand. We had no thirds last year, and we're not having any this.

Signals leaving by aeroplane for Mosul.

Ou est le bateau de ma tante? Vraiment c'est dans le laiterie du cocher de ma grand'mere; mais j'ai une porte-plume superbe.

What I mean is that the boat list has appeared, producing a wealth of material for physiognomists (from the two words 'phiz'—a face, and 'gnomio'—I study, which may be Greek or Latin, or yet again it may be neither: I incline to the latter belief). The two chief types are the 'facia longa' of those who aren't going home, and the 'facia lunaris ridens' of those who are. And apropos this subject, a tip: Those who want to come to Iraq (if any)—can't!

Joy Ride.—The chief event of this month has been the journey to and from Mosul of a party of linemen for the purpose (strange though it may seem) of building a line. I understand that a perfectly lovely trip was made there by air! Only two air pockets, causing the machine to drop flat for a few hundred feet and bring up again with a bump when more air appeared, thus neutralising the force of gravity for those within. But more of that elsewhere. This, by the way, is the first time out here that movements have been made by air. Truly a mechanised army of the latest type!

Effusion.— Julius Sprockett
Lost his docket,
Didn't know where to find it;
He went to his mother,
Who gave him another,
And the Office of Origin signed it.

Apology.—Sorry for the above; it's the sun again!

Statement.—Jack Cowley is *still* in Iraq.

Congratulations.—To North China for saying it. To the Tidworth 'rodayo' specialists in the Southern Command Tattoo for their wizard show.

Making-off a stay on rough ground.

Agony.—To J. B. Ives, last heard of at Catterick: What about a letter?—Mathews, Iraq.

For Information.—Troops lately in Iraq and now in India will soon have an opportunity of again meeting Ginger Harriss.

After reading the Aldershot Command Signal Company's notes, some of us have decided to buy a copy of 'To China and back in six days,' by Sigmn Heaps. Varley (of this unit) wonders how some people manage to become fixtures in such places; and also, when Heaps has finished his book, what about a letter?

To A.A. Signal Company.—Now then, Blackdown, what about those notes? We have a few ex-Blackdownites here, so hustle around.

HINAIDIAN.

Joy Ride (continued).—Further to our note re the trip to Mosul of a party of linemen from this unit. It was indeed a perfect joy ride—no! After their arrival in Mosul, owing to the lack of accommodation, the first few nights were spent on the floor, and the 'grub stakes' were wonderful. I don't think! But those were only a few of the items sent to try them.

The idea of the journey was to construct a line from the Aerodrome to a control tower out on the bombing ranges, to facilitate the arrangements between aircraft bombing and those waiting to take their turn.

A part of the line, however, had to be buried under a ploughed field. The ground being so hard, it took seven days to complete this. The pole route stretched for about three miles over some of the hardest country in Iraq and over some of the most difficult

Part of a route on a hillside.

course imaginable. (One of the photos shows the height, in places, at which the route had to be constructed.) Throughout the route, immediately underneath the surface soil was a layer of hard rock similar to marble; in fact, the whole course was covered with huge lumps of this substance.

The route began from the landing ground (about six poles) to a ploughed field (another photo shows part of a trench under construction). From the far side of this field the route turned to the left and ran along the side of a hill, crossing ravines and what not at intervals. After a mile of this it again turned, this time to the right, and for another mile ran over ground covered with rock and small hillocks here and there. At the end of this second mile was a control tower, and then continuing to the left for the last mile over a valley and a 'wadi,' we at last reached the observation post of the ranges.

We left Mosul by convoy for Ba-Aiji: a very interesting journey, and quite an experience to travel across the ridges of hills and the open desert, running down steep banks of dried-up rivers and over some very interesting land.

Trench for buried cable across a ploughed field.

The work was very strenuous, and on the whole most of us were pleased to return to our native land, Hinaidi. The operations actually took ten days to complete, and on the Monday after our return to Hinaidi a letter was received by the O.C., which I reproduce to show all ex-Iraqians that those here now are still doing their bit to keep up the good name of our Corps.

Reference 6.DO/30. Royal Air Force Station, Mosul.

Dear Hinds—On completion of the work you have done for us, I should like to thank you for making everything so easy and leaving us such a very valuable adjunct to the range equipment. The telephone service was invaluable during the classification exercises, enabling us to speed them up considerably.

From our point of view the work done by your detachment was carried out most efficiently and expeditiously, and the behaviour of your men has been model.

I hope they have not found their stay at Mosul too strenuous or unpleasant.

Yours sincerely (Signed) HILTON KEITH.

Heard at Mosul.—Scene: Wet bar canteen. Corpl R.A.F.: Are there any Buffs among your lot? Sigmn W.: No! we're all Signals.

HINAIDIAN.

Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

August 26th.

A 'good joss' is reigning in China at the moment, and the country is more or less peaceful. Apart from the Wireless Section, which is certainly doing its bit, there is little to comment upon.

The vast size of China—with the great distances between garrisons—has given the W/T Section a wonderful opportunity to excel, and right well has it done so. A chain of short-wave stations is in existence from Hong Kong to Pekin; and from Shanghai, communication is also maintained between Ismailia and New Zealand. The W/T Section of this unit is operating four out of seven stations, and also assisting Hong Kong and Tientsin.

In July, a battalion of infantry was sent to the Tongshan mining area, about sixty miles N.W. of Tientsin, and the W/T Detachment attached to it successfully established communication with Shanghai within twenty-four hours of their arrival. Bravo, Tommy! you must have been trying!

A few weeks ago, 42,454 groups were dealt with in one week, and the G.O.C. congratulated the unit on this achievement.

The fate of those who came out with the S.D.F. is still undecided, but there appears to be very little likelihood of their getting home this trooping season. The comments of the married men could only be printed on asbestos paper!

A tennis tournament between the officers and other ranks has just been brought to a successful conclusion. The officers won by a narrow margin. A few more worms might have been advantageously employed on behalf of the other ranks!

Our water polo team is proving itself no mean adversary, and invariably puts up a good show.

Answers to Weller.—Nick cannot answer: he is too full for words! Ask him what happened at St. George's.

Dick sends many thanks. He has taken over the early morning coolie.

Monty has relieved the orderly ghost, and certainly looks it!

The late orderly ghost has recovered his health and strength, and is looking forward to next Boxing Night.

Extract from Part II. Orders: 'Sergeant ——, complete with railings, proceeded to Wei Hai Wei on 10th August.'

We are saying goodbye to Ewo Terrace. Wah! come to Tifeng Road: enchanting scenery, and just far enough out to be alluring. Hear the Signals Peppy Five!

Does the 'fine old English gentleman' still have his dinner in a glass? We suggest he returns the parasol in exchange for a chit signed by 'Uvadit.'

THE GRIFFIN.

Aden Signal Section.

Steamer Point.

General.—Here we are again! Now, don't faint just because we have sent in notes for three months running! I hope we will always be punctual, and gradually you will get over the shock until the time comes when, if we *do* miss sending them in, you will not think of blaming us but the mail boat.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and his brother the Duke of Gloucester paid Aden a visit, incognito, on Thursday, September 20th: and as the Prince of Wales is Colonel-in-Chief of the 2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers here, he presented the inter-Company soccer cup to the winning team, A Company. He and the Duke arrived just before the end of the match, looking fit and well, and after the cup presentation they were accorded a warm welcome by the spectators, mostly troops. They left early next morning on the s.s. 'Malda' for Mombassa. They are to hunt big game in Kenya, and are spending Christmas in Capetown.

'Oh, to be in England now that spring is here!' This seems to be the cry of the lads, and believe me! they don't care *what* season it is, so long as they can get away. The excitement reigning in the S.W.B.'s barracks has awakened not a little interest in ours. About three hundred of them leave on the 25th, per H.M.T. 'Nevassa,' to join the 1st Battalion in Egypt, and the rest go to Blighty 'sometime this trooper.'

Hospital.—I am happy to state that our O.C., Captain M. C. Bennett, has been discharged from hospital. All ranks wish him the best of health in future.

Is it true that Joe is at Bulford now? We can hardly believe it, and we repeat Barleux's tip: Watch Joe!

Amendment.—2311441 Sergt Finney W. will *not* now be required for India. 2306785 L/Sergt Murray H. R. is warned for service in India.

Congratulations.—To the Editor on keeping up the exceptional quality that we are getting for our 'saxpence.' 'Over the Top' in the September issue was the real goods.

Also to the Cavalry Divl Signals for the most entertaining account of their part in the Tattoo. We hope they have become a fixture in Tattoo programmes.

Agony.—Will Sigmn Arrend, last heard of at 3rd Indian Divl Signals, Ranikhet, communicate with Sigmn Steele of this unit? Pull up your socks, Bill! remember Brighton. ACIER.

Malaya Signal Section.

Pulau Brani, August 31st.

I have observed that most unit correspondents, after failing to send in notes, start off by giving an apology; that of course puts the poor fellows in the wrong straight away. It's not *my* way of doing things! To start with, I am not a unit correspondent any more than the next man. Secondly, typing is a fag; and thirdly, the typewriter doesn't work properly (that's a brainy move in case I make mistakes).

Fourthly, my own opinion on the matter is that unit notes should be put on a proper businesslike basis, and an appropriate Army Form got out—something like this:—

Army Form B.OXO.

UNIT NOTES.

To be rendered to Editors of Regimental Magazines, Managers of Lloyd, Cox & Co., and Westminster Bank, not later than the 23rd of each month.

(This form should *not* be used for correspondence intended to reach the waste paper contractor).

Question.	*Answer*
Do you love your R.S.M.?	
If you don't, suggest a method of dealing with him.	
State briefly the chief characteristics of your C.S.M.	
Has your unit played any games this month?	
What social functions have occurred?	
What have the unit married men done with their C.R.A.?	
Give a brief outline of a suitable death for:—	
(*a*) A Section Sergeant	
(*b*) N.C.O. i/c Barrack Room	
(*c*) Company Pay-bloke	
(*d*) Any other nuisance	
etc., etc.	

These forms could be collected by the Editor, who would then be able to write up notes for any old unit. I'm sure he'd like it. I think I shall improve on this in time!

Singapore.—I suppose that most of you who haven't been here, and some of those who were here in the good old days, think of a tour in Singapore as one long round of sunshine, cool drinks, Chinese boys to wait on you, bags of money, and no work. Therefore I'll have to enlighten you! It is true we get some sunshine, but it is equally true we get as much rain as sun—and the rain is just as wet as Blighty rain.

As for the work, well! I'll just mention one little item. Most likely you have read about the Singapore new defences. If not, try to imagine turning the New Forest into an Aldershot: that will give you some idea of the conditions. And then try to imagine erecting airline routes while the clearing is going on. Now call to mind that the establishment of this unit has during the past few years been reduced to an absolute minimum, i.e., nineteen all ranks. Of these, six are on jobs they cannot leave; take away an officer, a foreman-of-signals, two sergeants, three wireless ops., an electrician and one instrument maker, and you have the available working party for construction.

But what we lack in strength we make up in brains, so one fine morning everyone was told he was a lineman, and that fixed it! After all, any fool can dig a stay-hole or carry a 30ft. iron pole in 98 degrees in the shade.

He-Men.—The Section have asked for a mah jong set—it's not so rough as darts.

Savings Association.—A unit association is now in existence, and to make matters worse the blame is all laid on me; but I have my own ideas on the subject.

I simply remarked that I thought savings certificates were a good idea. Now tell me, how could some fearfully energetic person in London know that I said that? or again, how could he know just how many men we had in the Section? At any rate, before I quite realised what happened, I find I am the honorary secretary to the unit savings association, and that I signed some beastly paper to that effect; and every mail since has flooded the office with pamphlets, handbills, posters, cash-books, registers, and the Lord knows what!

Thank goodness, I know how to take a matter seriously. All the married families now get their meat, sugar and tea wrapped up in pretty coloured pieces of paper that give the dear ladies the latest information on how the old man can retire at the end of his pontoon with a bigger bank balance than a G.O.C.—or a Company quarterbloke even.

Although I have put up a notice that I am willing to devote one hour per week to any youth who wants advice on something I know nothing about, the Section, having a certain amount of grey matter (you wouldn't think so from the photo in the O.C.'s office!) have carefully avoided a delicate subject, and our membership has grown from nothing to nil—most promising!

Trade Testing.—An awkward matter. How on earth people are expected to be tested in various items on the Q sheet, when hardly any stores, instruments, etc., are available, beats me and others. Nevertheless, we have made a desperate attempt and have done our best.

Promotions and Appointments.—Since the appearance of our last notes, the following have made progress towards the capture of the elusive baton: Corpl Brundell A. appointed Lance-Sergeant. L/Corpl Brewster P. promoted Corpl. Sigmn Welsby B. appointed L/Corporal (paid). Sigmn McDowell G. appointed U/L/Corporal.

A. J. K.

To the Details for Singapore.

You whom chance will hither lead,
Clad in equipment and russet weed
(Minus greatcoat banderole),
Engrave these facts upon your soul.

Here you'll stay three years or worse
(With 'dhobies' itch to scratch and curse)
To work and play—there's bags of the first,
And drink 'Wm. Youngers' to quench your thirst.

A steamer occasionally pulls up our cable—
To relay one, of course, I assume you are able;
If you aren't, then proficient you soon will be,
Whether lineman or clerk or draughtsman C.iii.

Musicians, we need 'em to play in the band—
No doubt, when you hear it, amazed you'll stand;
But if you're a musician, then I must beseech
That you do all your practising down on the beach.

Your pay, instead of in £:s:d,
You'll receive in the good old $ and C.:
Dollars and cents by these signs are meant—
Quite genuine stuff: can be saved or spent.

If you want to save, you'd best invest 'em
In our National Savings at 4 per centum;
The particulars of these can soon be seen
If you make application to Sergeant Keane.

Hope not for sunshine every hour—
There's heaps of rain throughout the year;
And don't wear your helmet at set of sun—
You can't get a 'tap' from the rays of the moon.

Of sport there is plenty—a game every day
In each kind of sport we expect you to play;
But bathe in the pagar, railed off from the sea,
Lest a shark to your name should add 'R.I.P.'

When natives can't savvy your attempts at Malay,
Speak to them in English—they'll know what you say.
With bugs and mosquitoes the island teems,
To bite and disturb you in your dreams.

Some scores of bright butterflies you will see—
In time you will chase them, wherever they be;
Then folks will remark: 'Alas! deary me!
He's in the first stage of insanity.'

Old sweats unto you will some vivid tales tell
Of forty-foot pythons, huge lizards as well,
And monkeys that fly from tree unto tree,
And creatures they've seen (when out on the spree).

But at these delusions from scoffing refrain;
Many years in the sun turn people insane;
No doubt, very shortly, the same you will be—
Perhaps just as mad or madder than me.

THE SCRIBE.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester, Oct. 14th.

Once again the report of progress must be made. This time, however, it must be made in an atmosphere of silence and profound learning; because, as I look round and see lecture after lecture taking place, it is not for me to disturb these meditations. During this period of individual training, when lectures on electricity, instruction in procedure, practice in Morse, and even lectures on lecturing, are all being absorbed (and we hope digested), the turbulent spirit must refrain from his playful pranks. One hears that the quartermaster is getting short of wet towels; but we hope this isn't true, or the strain may prove too much.

Of course, it would be folly to think that all work and no play would produce an efficient unit. It is therefore with pleasure that one records the success of the whist drive and dance recently held by No. 1 Company. With much hard work on the part of Sergt Watts, and a really good backing-up by the rest of the Company, a very entertaining evening was spent. May the next one (on November 3rd) be an even greater success!

Now comes the very pleasant privilege of congratulating Capts R. Lazenby and W. S. Ashley upon their successful negotiation of the officers' promotion examination at Chester. The whole unit wish them both the very best of luck. May they go from strength to strength as a reward of their unceasing efforts!

When lectures end, relaxation is now often found on the rifle range. Ah, how good to vent your feelings on a target! The rifle club practices opened with considerable vigour, and there is every indication that enthusiasm is growing. Thanks to the efforts of Sergts Watts and Whittington, the lighting of the range is being considerably improved. Challenges have been received from the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry and from the 8th Lancs. Fusiliers, and dates for the matches will be shortly arranged.

A rifle match between the officers' and sergeants' messes was fired at Holcombe Brook range on Sunday, September 30th. The weather was glorious, with a tricky cross-wind—arranged, presumably, by the range warden for the protection of his bulls. After the first practice the officers entertained the sergeants to lunch—and a very good lunch it was! However, this did not prevent the sergeants from winning the match by 14 points. The scores were:—

Lieut Delaney	23	C.S.M. Taylor	16
Capt Sketch	28	C.S.M. Kingman	36
Lieut Halsall	31	C.S.M. Gowing	37
Capt Hamilton	28	C.S.M. Wakefield	28
Colonel Newton	49	Sergt Whittington	23
Lieut Fulton	29	Sergt Constable	30
Lieut Lea	12	R.S.M. Grist	44
Capt Lazenby	32	Sergt Watts	32
	232		246

As is right and proper, the highest score was made by the C.O. and the second highest by the R.S.M. Everyone enjoyed the match so much that it was decided to make it an annual event, with occasional bouts on the miniature range as well.

JIMMEE.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6

Yes, I know that the usual (?) notes were conspicuous by their absence last month—but what is the use of excuses?

Training.—Having quite recovered from the rigours of camp, and having safely stowed away all the equipment relating thereto, it is not surprising to see a first class winter programme in orders. There is no doubt that this time of the year is best for training both in theory and practice, so if unit members avail themselves of the opportunity they should become first class tradesmen. There is not, I am pleased to say, a lack of enthusiasm; and this will, no doubt, help to make the work of the instructors interesting and worth while.

Capt Firth, our adjutant, is leaving us very shortly, as his period of service with the T.A. has elapsed. All members will hear this with regret, as he has by his work for the unit made himself respected by and endeared to all ranks. I propose to write more on this matter next month.

We are pleased to welcome Capt Barton, who is taking over the reins of adjutant, and we extend to him our best wishes for a pleasant stay.

Sergeants' Mess.—I am afraid that, since camp, mess affairs have been very dormant. The question of social events is now in the air, so I look forward to reporting some brilliant events. There is an important one in the offing, but more of that later.

L/Sergt Sealey spent a very pleasant week while attached to the 4th Divl Signals at Colchester, to whom we extend our thanks for taking care of him. We only hope and trust that he showed his careful bringing up.

S.O.S.—Fancy my nearly forgetting that we won the Justices shield once more! It is coming to be regarded as part of H.Q. furniture, and will shortly appear in the assessment. If possible, a photo of the team will be published.

THE SCRIBE.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

Annual Training, Marske-by-the-Sea.

It is said by golfers that while a low handicap is difficult to secure, it is equally difficult to retain. This, we felt, was the true analogy of our position when we assembled for our annual training on August 12th, as we believe—in fact we know—that we

gained a good reputation with the powers-that-be last year as a result of our attachment to the 4th Division at Shorncliffe, and we were very anxious that that reputation should be maintained.

We were glad to welcome to our midst our new No. 3 Company, which had been formed in Darlington during the year. They turned up about seventy strong, and the old hands of the unit thought they acquitted themselves well; and we feel sure it will be their aim to do everything they can to assist the unit in the retention of a low handicap.

The site of the camp was on level ground close to the sea at Marske, on the Yorkshire coast, which had been occupied by various units of the 50th Division during the summer. The Companies assembled here during Sunday morning, arriving direct by rail or by road from their respective areas—No. 1 Company from Gateshead, under Major G. H. Walton; No. 2 Company from Middlesbrough, under Capt T. T. J. Sheffield; No. 3 Company from Darlington; the 206th Medium Artillery Brigade Signal Section from Sunderland, under Capt J. F. Chalmers-Park.

We had no Regular officers attached for our annual training this year, but we were glad to bring with us two new officers of the unit, 2/Lieut R. N. Percival with No. 1 Company, and 2/Lt J. B. Footner with No. 3.

The *piece de resistance* of our training this year was to be a Divisional exercise (with the complete T.A. Divisional staff in the field) during the second week, and the training of the unit during the first week was concentrated on this objective.

During the first week the Companies were engaged in sectional training and Company schemes, with the exception of Friday, when the unit exercise was held.

On Sunday morning the unit attended church parade at Marske parish church. In the afternoon the unit sports were held, when a large number of visitors were entertained to tea; and it was generally thought that the day was a great success.

On Monday night we were subjected to a most unpleasant experience in the visitation of a flood. Rain commenced about six o'clock, and continued until about two o'clock on Tuesday morning, and was of such torrential character that the majority of the camp was then several inches deep in water, and all the men and their belongings completely soaked (2.05 inches of rain fell between 6 p.m. and 5.30 a.m.)

Emergency arrangements were made by transferring the men into the dining tents, R.A.M.C. tents, Headquarters orderly room, etc., which were on slightly higher ground, but even then they were not immune from the results of the downpour. An endeavour to keep all ranks warm was made at midnight by giving them rations of tea, and again at five o'clock on the following morning. Early on Tuesday morning arrangements were made for drying the men's clothes at the fire of the parish hall in Marske Village, and the wet clothing and blankets were transferred there by lorries.

The unit was due for inspection at 10.30 that morning by Lieut.-Gen. Sir D. Cameron-Shute, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-Chief Northern Command, and as the rain had stopped the C.O. decided that the unit, in spite of all the difficulties occasioned by the flood, must turn out as if nothing had happened.

General Shute walked on to the unit parade ground punctually at the time arranged and found the unit paraded, complete with transport, as if nothing *had* happened. He was accompanied by the Divisonal Officer, Major-Gen. H. W. Newcombe, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and his staff.

After the inspection General Newcombe and his staff, together with Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Aston, M.C. (C.S.O. Northern Command), Bt.-Colonel D. Hay, M.C., T.D. (A/C.S.O. Northern Command), Lieut.-Col. H. Bowes (secretary of the Durham County T.A.A.), and Lieut.-Col. Caffin (secretary of the North Riding T.A.A.), stayed for lunch in the officers' mess.

At 2 p.m. the unit again paraded, ready to march out of camp for the Divisional exercise which was timed to commence at six o'clock, and was to continue until the following day. This exercise was conducted in person by Major-General Newcombe (commanding the 50th Northumbrian Division), who had Capt A. E. Stokes Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., as his G.S.O., and Col. O. C. Niven, D.S.O. (C.R.A. 50th Northumberland Division) as C.R.A.

The 150th Infantry Brigade was commanded by Colonel H. O. Delano-Osborne, C.M.G.; the 151st Brigade by Col. G. H. Stobart, C.B.E., D.S.O.; the 73rd Field Brigade R.A. by Major N. Douglass, T.D., R.A.; and the 74th Field Brigade by Lt.-Col. E. C. Angus, M.C., T.D., R.A.

The Royal Air Force were co-operating in the scheme with four aeroplanes, and these were under the command of Squadron-Leader R. L. Stevenson, O.B.E., R.A.F.

The unit marched out to Commondale, a village about twelve miles from camp, in the heart of the Cleveland hills, where it bivouacked for the night, and Divisional headquarters was established there at 6 p.m., with its various formations located in or round the village.

The men, owing to the wet, were accommodated for the night in the brickyard in the centre of the village, and many succeeded, at the risk of asphyxiation, in drying their wet clothes by sleeping in the brick ovens.

News was received about 11 p.m. that the Division was to advance the next day, that an advanced Divisional headquarters was to be opened about 3½ miles from Commondale, and that an attack was to take place at 6 a.m. with two infantry brigades and two artillery brigades covering the Divisional front.

Space will not permit a further description of this interesting exercise, which continued until 4 p.m. It must suffice to state that we all enjoyed it very much, and hope a similar exercise can be arranged for us at camp next year.

A. Q. A.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

The Green, Stratford, E.15.

The unit held a regimental dance at the Town Hall, Stratford, on October 2nd. This was a success, like the previous ones, and gives credit to the committee. During the interval, prizes won at annual camp were presented by Colonel A. S. Angwin, D.S.O. (Deputy Chief Signal Officer) to the members concerned. The commanding officer, Colonel E. A. Edwards, presented a cup for the best section, and this was won by G Section, the officer in charge being Lieut Wardle. Many hope that Mr. Wardle will pull it off again next year.

For some time past the unit has been discussing the problem of running a football team. At the moment we have only a complete set of new kit, and so we will have to wait and see what talent we can field. Many seem very hopeful regarding matches and victory.

The G.O.C. 54th Division, General Sir T. G. Mathieson, K.C.B., C.M.G., inspected the headquarters, and No. 3 Company at Southend, on October 13th. After high pressure of wind during the last week, we are hoping for a favourable report.

YED.

55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals

and No. 3 (W.L.) Company, 1st Corps Signals (S.R.)

Liverpool, October 14th.

Introduction.—We apologise for appearing in two issues in succession, but for some reason or other we have decided to again burst forth into print.

Our permanent staff spend so much time in doing other things that matter—such as coaxing an Austin Seven moustache into one of the Roll Royce variety (experiment in the hands or fingers of Sergt Radford), or C.S.M. (Smugger) Smith's efforts to collect two or three tanners for one WIRE—that the compilation of notes is a matter of great difficulty.

Ham and Eggs (?)—We have been in the news (sensation!) Admittedly, it only happened to be quite a suburban paper and not *The News of the World*; but still, we had a column to ourselves, and it was headed 'Police Court News.'

List! I will a tale unfold. A few weeks ago Capt B—— and five happy and care-free subalterns from the same Company spent a period of training in the vicinity of Holyhead.

Holyhead is a quiet city that is only just waking to the fact that the Boer war is over, and that there are some people who don't go to bed with the birds. In other words, the 'pubs' shut at 9.30 p.m. Now, about this hour one evening, our heroes were to be seen seated in the well-known hostelry of that town, 'Ye Valley Hotel,' surrounded by sundry unconsumed tankards of 'the bowl that cheers,' when Ukan Larfe appeared from behind one of the handles of the beer engine, disguised as a sergeant of the local constabulary.

'Gentlemen,' he said, 'it is now the hour of nine-thirty pip emma, and I observe that you have six half-pint glasses before you, each exactly half filled with what my nasal organ informs me is beer. Therefore it is my painful duty to inform you that you must appear in due course before the local caliph, who will no doubt, in view of your extreme youth, sentence you to be shot at dawn every morning for the next six weeks.'

Scene 2 (Police Court): Six woe-begone officers in dry dock on one side of the court, and the other actors placed indiscriminately about the rest of the building.

Caliph: What have you to say?

Captain B: We were having a meal.

Caliph: What kind of food was served?

Captain B (nearly saying beer): Six plates of ham and eggs.

The caliph then enquired how long it took to consume the meal and clear away the remains.

Captain B: Seven or eight minutes.

In view of the evidence the caliph discharged the offenders, thinking that persons who could consume ham, eggs and beer at that time of the evening, following dinner in the mess, must have been punished enough by indigestion. (Note: The local sleuth is trying to get a transfer to the Prescot Police.)

Absent Without Leave.—Shortly after the arrival of our new adjutant, Capt Rooker, some months ago (we're not blaming him!) several square yards of the drill-shed developed a retiring disposition and endeavoured to retreat into the Edge Hill tunnel that runs hereabout; and as a consequence more than one member of the sergeants' mess, on seeing it for the first time on their way home after a convivial evening, decided to sign the pledge. Since then the wreckers have arrived, but instead of filling up the holes they have calmly dug more and *deeper* ones, and now they have literally taken the ground from under our feet, leaving the bottom step leading from the messes dangling in mid air. Now, this is a bit *too* steep (about six feet, to be precise), so until further orders our motto is to be 'Watch your step.'

Our New Title.—We took part in the recent ceremonial parade of presenting new colours to the 2nd Battalion The King's Regiment. We were *jazzing* along (please note the term) in column of route, sandwiched between two bands—one leading the Guns at 110 paces a minute and the other the Rifles at 140. The Company was a mixed one, comprising Terriers, Supplementary Reserves, and a number of boys from the Telegraph School at Liverpool, with about five files of sergeants at the rear.

An onlooker who happened to get just a glance at the latter, and a still briefer glance at our shoulder titles, was heard to remark to his chum: 'Look, Bill! there's the mob to be in—Royal Corps of Sergeants—every one of 'em sergeants!' It was a good parade, all the same; even if No. 1 Company quarter-bloque (who was the G.O.C.'s orderly) did get permanently hump-backed by carrying five hundred-weight of medals!

Arrivals.—One new book-case in the junior n.c.o.s and men's mess. This will hereafter be called the library, and will contain some twenty thousand and odd books (more or less). It will be open for the issue of books on February 29th, in each fifth leap year. Still, it looks very well in the corner of the room, and some of the bindings are quite clean.

Promotions.—One day the P.S. were checking over our stock of Army Forms, and they found that we were getting a bit low. This gave them the inkling to check over the names of the men in the Company, and after deducting a certain number—men absent without leave, or men expecting to be absent without leave—and then adding a number of lately-joined recruits who shortly expect to go harvesting in Canada, they decided that a few promotions were necessary.

After putting all the names in a hat, and allowing for a mist over the butts, the following promotions were found to be clean and correct. Three corporals to be sergeants, several lance-corporals to be corporals, and a number of signalmen to be lance-corporals.

This was quite a good morning's work, so they left over the actual names until the next day. Either the names were overlooked, or someone mislaid the slip of paper upon which they were written; but the fact remains that we haven't time to give the names in full. All who are interested can look out for all the clean chevrons and jot the names down for themselves.

Agony Column.—Sergeant Tom Fagan wishes to know if the members of A Corps mess are going to add a *swinette* to their collection of musical instruments in readiness for our next visit.

Sergt Farrington wishes to know 'When will the harvest be?' (see picture of Sergt Radford in last issue).

Recruiting for the Regular Army.—Extract from Divisional Orders: 'The G.O.C. 55th (West Lancs.) Division is pleased to record the following extract from congratulatory messages received from H.Q. Western Command, with which he desires to associate himself:—The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief is pleased to note the good work in recruiting of Sergt.-Instructor Noonan W., 55th Divl Signals.'

In Conclusion.—The new recruit approached the sergeant in charge of the riding school. 'Excuse me, sergeant,' he said politely, 'I think, maybe, they've made a mistake. I wanted to be in a dismounted section.'

'What's the matter with the hosses?' demanded the Rough.

'Nothing, as far as I know,' answered the youngster. 'The trouble is with me. I don't know anything about horses, and I've never been on top of one in my life; so I wanted to ask you to break me in on some quiet animal.'

'Come with me,' said the non-com., with a steely glint in his eye as he led the way to the stables and pointed out a sway-back wall-eyed animal. 'There's your mount,' he announced. 'You say you ain't ever ridden a hoss before. Well, this 'ere hoss ain't ever been ridden, so you two amateurs can start together.'

LEWIS GUNN.

"We need more Super-Kreem"

THIS is the demand of everyone who has ever tried it.

Super-Kreem is a real national sweet, good, pure, wholesome and satisfying. Try it on the march.

Because of its excellent ingredients Super-Kreem is a most valuable food, sustaining against fatigue, and most creamy and delicious in flavour.

SHARP'S SUPER-KREEM TOFFEE

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Corps, S.T.C. and Company Cricket, 1928.

Corps Matches.—The results of the matches played this year were as follows:—

Won—v. R.M.A. and R.E.
Drawn—v. R.A.S.C.
Lost—v. R.T.C. and R.A.O.C.

A fairly satisfactory result! There was a larger number of players to select from this season, and all units appear to have a goodly number of young cricketers coming on, so the future augurs well.

Colonel Rawson made a welcome re-appearance, and as captain of the Corps team next year he should have a good side. The chief failure this year appeared to be our inability to make runs; the bowling was reasonably good and varied, and the fielding much improved. Corpl Ryan as wicket-keeper has been the find this season, as well as being a good batsman. Several of the younger officers and other ranks are bordering on Corps standard, and with experience should do well.

S.T.C. Cricket.—This year Catterick has produced excellent weather for us, only three matches being scratched or spoiled by rain. The wickets have been difficult in most cases since July—essentially bowlers' wickets. The matches have resulted in our winning seven, drawing five, and losing four.

Battalion cricket has much improved all round, the Depot Battalion going through the season and losing only one match—and that the last one: to the R.A.F. by three runs. Both Battalions have been strong and well up to regimental standard.

Company Cricket.—The system of each Company playing every other one twice, and having three wickets on Scotton ground, have made a general improvement all round in the standard. In previous years in Catterick, 100 runs have generally been good enough for a side to win; but this year there have been more scores of over 150 than under, with several well over 200, and one notable one (by the School) of 327, scored between 4.45 and 7.30 o'clock. A pleasing feature in Company cricket has been the improvement shown by the Dismounted Wing, which chiefly consists of recruits.

Several promising players have been discovered in Company cricket this season, amongst whom are Signalmen Wall, Lundie, Bridges, Wiltshire, Duncan and Mace—to mention only a few.

The result of the League left the School winners of the shield by a very narrow margin, the result being in doubt up to the last match, when D Company unexpectedly lost to F.

Hockey Notes.

S.T.C.—The S.T.C. hockey season opened with our first match against the Leeds Corinthians, one of, if not *the* strongest, in Yorkshire. The match was played on Scotton ground on September 22nd. The ground was in first class condition.

From the bully-off our opponents pressed and in a very few minutes scored, after some excellent combination. Even play followed, but the opposing halves and forwards, combining excellently, again scored twice more in rapid succession. Signals at last got going and kept up a steady pressure, and with a little quicker passing might have scored twice. Half-time found the score 3—0 against us. The whole game up to this period had been very fast, clean and good, with our opponents obviously too good for us.

The second half opened with a heavy attack by Signals, and after some excellent combination Major Drayson scored for us. We maintained the pressure, but failed to score, the opposing goal-keeper frequently saving very well. Leeds soon returned to the attack and scored twice more, leaving us losers of a very fine game by 1—5.

Our opponents were quicker on the ball, and the passing of their halves to their forwards was a good object lesson in quick accurate first-time passing.

The chief weakness of our team was the passing of our halves, who were slow and dribbled too much. There was a tendency to stop the ball with the feet before passing, which is unnecessary with the present good condition of the ground. The defence work was good, but there were occasions when our backs cleared to the centre instead of to a wing. The forwards were not together, and should have scored at least three more goals.

The team should do well this year. There is plenty of talent, but speed, accuracy and quick stick-work are still lacking. These will come with practice!

TEAM.—Goal, Dvr Mackinnon; backs, Sergt Carpenter and Corpl Ryan; half backs, 2/Lieut Gardiner, Corpl Foley and 2/Lt Beeton; forwards, Capt Dent, Lieut Boyd, Major Drayson, Lieut Hatfield, 2/Lieut Ruck.

Depot Battalion.—The Depot Battalion opened their hockey season on October 6th with a match against the 4th Battalion Royal Tank Corps at Scotton ground.

Signals won the toss and started off at a good pace, keeping up a hot pressure on our opponents' goal. After some good combination, a centre from the right wing enabled us to score within five minutes of the start. From the bully-off more good combination enabled us to run straight through the enemy's defence, and Captain Boyd scored with a good shot.

Even play followed, during which our defence had plenty of work to do but (clearing quickly and well) were able to keep our opponents out. Another attack by Signals left Lieut Hatfield to put in a shot which hit the goalkeeper, but following up well he scored off the rebound.

Our opponents now had more of the game, and after some quick passing a splendid shot scored. Following this we scored once more—a rather soft goal; and 4—1 in our favour at half-time was a fair representation of the play.

In the second half we scored three more goals, and had as many shots which missed, leaving us winners of a fast clean game by 7—2.

In the defence, Sergt Walker made many excellent saves. Corpl Ryan and 2/Lieut Sladen were safe at back. 2/Lieut Gardiner was outstanding at right half, playing an excellent game, particularly in the attack; L/Corporal Davis gave a much improved display at left-half; while 2/Lieut Morris at centre-half opened up the game well, his one fault being a tendency to continually feed the left, when on many occasions the right wing were unmarked. Sigmn Duncan and L/Corpl Podger, on the wings, were excellent and centred well at the right moment.

Our shooting might have been better, a number of good openings being missed. If this standard of play is maintained, we should do quite well in the Army cup. The goals for us were scored by Lieut Hatfield, Capt Boyd (2), and Major Drayson (4).

TEAM.—Goal, Sergt Walker; backs, Corpl Ryan and 2/Lieut Sladen; half-backs, 2/Lieut Gardiner, 2/Lieut Morris, and L/Cpl Davis; forwards, Sigmn Duncan, Capt Boyd, Major Drayson, Lt. Hatfield, L/Corpl Podger.

Rugby Notes.

School of Signals.—The first rugger match of the season was played on Wednesday, October 11th, in ideal conditions. Our opponents were the Mounted Wing, who defeated us in both First and Second XV. matches.

The First XV. game was very vigorously contested and proved exciting until the end. The Mounted Wing had a very good outside line, but we were superior in the scrum. Our own three's were inexperienced but played well together, and should be in excellent form before long. The half-backs did yeoman work and never tired, and our full back was as energetic as ever. The forwards played a good game, with plenty of vigour; the loose work and the backing-up were good, but the packing of the scrum still leaves much to be desired.

There was no score at half-time, but shortly after the re-commencement of play the Mounted Wing scored but failed to convert. A fine piece of forward play, skilful handling of the ball by the halves, and excellent backing up by the threes carried the ball over the line for us, but a very fine kick by Sigmn Lawton just failed by a fraction to give us the lead. The Mounted Wing scored twice more, the last try being secured just before time.

It was unfortunate that the Army educational authorities should have decided to hold a special and 1st class certificate examination on the day of our first match, for it left our second team with only fourteen men. However, they put up a very fine game, the defence being strong with a staunch final line of resistance in the full back, who saved many a try by his energetic efforts. The offensive was not successful, chiefly due to the fact that, owing to lack of training, there was a certain amount of ignorance as to what to do with the ball when possession of it had been obtained. In this game the Mounted Wing obtained six points; the School, failing to get over the line, finished without any.

Aldershot Signals.

Rugby.—At this time of the year the two chief topics most in evidence are drafts and winter sports. Unfortunately, there is no doubt that the former has a great damping effect on the latter, inasmuch that quite one-third of our personnel are away on furlough pending a big boat and a large helmet.

Under these circumstances the representatives of the various games have some difficulty in foraging for talent, and only time can tell what class of teams we shall be able to turn out.

In my notes of last season I wrote about the wonderful chances we had of making a name in the Army rugger world. That was my first impression of the team, but towards the end of the season it was but a shadow of its former self, and the final blow came when we went down to the 3rd Divl Signals at Bulford.

The difficulties under which Capt Mathew and his band of enthusiasts had to work were of course tremendous, and great credit is due to them for the way in which they managed to keep going.

This year, however, now that we are stationed in one barracks, the season has commenced with gusto. The Corps at Aldershot are, for the purposes of rugby, divided into two groups: 'A' and 'B.' 'A' comprises the 1st and 2nd Divl Signals, and 'B' includes A Corps Signals and smaller units such as D Troop Cavalry Divl Signals, the Command Signal Company, and the Anti-Aircraft Signal Company at Blackdown.

These two groups are entirely separate sports units, and will be entered for the Army cup, Command cup, etc., as such. For matches against well-known civilian teams, it is suggested that the teams be pooled and play under the heading of Royal Signals, Aldershot; but more about that later.

The Hitchen Cup.—When Lieut.-Colonel Hitchen was commanding the 2nd Divl Signals, he presented a cup to be played for by Companies of that unit under the league system. The officers of the 2nd Divs. have, however, now put up the cup for competition between all Companies of 'A' and 'B' Groups under the knock-out system. Enthusiasm is running high, and keenness is so great that I have heard of one or two teams practising by moonlight.

Three games have already taken place, and in one—No. 3 Coy. A Corps Signals v. No. 3 Company 2nd Divl Signals—after extra time a replay had to be arranged. The latter team, after a strenuous tussle, came out winners by eight points to nil. Congratulations to both teams on the way they played the game! Lieut. Milner was a tower of strength in the A Corps team, and it says much for his prowess that Capt Mathew was repeatedly detailing anything from three to six men to 'look after Milner!'

Other matches in this cup series were not quite such tough propositions, the results being as follows:—No. 1 Company 2nd Divl Signals 28, No. 3 Company 1st Divl Signals nil. No. 2 Company 2nd Divl Signals 29, No. 2 Company 1st Divl Signals nil.

In view of the Army cup and the hope of finding new talent, all matches in the competition have to be completed by the end of October, so I hope to publish the results in my next notes.

I have been repeatedly asked to give in series the lectures given at Maresfield a few years ago, for the benefit of the dozens of newcomers who have been roped in for the Hitchen competition and whose keenness knows no bounds. I find, however, that time does not permit of my doing this; but Mr. W. J. A. Davis, the well-known international half-back, has just written a most instructive book dealing with rugby football, and the hints, opinions, advice and information contained therein, coming from such a source, will prove of the greatest value to ruggerites in general. A few of the points taken from the book are given below.

CAPTAINCY.—The best position from which to captain a side is outside the scrum, and in particular from the stand-off half or centre three-quarter position. The esprit de corps and morale of the XV. must be kept at a high level, and it is the captain's duty to see that this is done. A captain's aim should therefore be to cultivate the right sentiment and spirit towards the game, and to spread the stimulus of his own desire to do creditably and to win, and if not, to lose cheerfully, among his team.

FORWARD PLAY.—The foundations of good rugby football are laid in the scrum. There is more push in the direction the scrum wants and ought to go with the 3—2—3 than the 3—3—2 formation, although there is one less shoulder to push with. Pack low. Legs should be bent at the knees, back horizontal, and the push from the ground given by the sides of the feet. A wheel should be done quickly or it will be rarely successful.

WHAT A FORWARD SHOULD AVOID.—When dribbling near your opponents' goal line, always avoid the temptation to pick up and score a try. The first instinct of a forward who receives the ball from a line-out is to drop it and commence to dribble. Catching the ball and passing back is one continuous motion. The art of catching a ball in the line-out with one hand and getting it to the shoulder, using the other to hand off an opponent, is another device which should be tried. The halves should work in unison with the forwards in a line-out. Clumsiness in a loose scrum is fatal; good footwork is important, and accuracy and neatness essential.

HALF-BACK PLAY.—The pass should be delivered breast high, and always in front of the receiver. Speed off the mark is a desirable characteristic for a first-class outside half. A stand-off half should be able to give a good pass with both hands and with equal facility in either direction. The stand-off half should be responsible for his opposite number in defence.

THREE-QUARTER PLAY.—A centre three-quarter should run straight (and not across the field)—more so than any other player. This point cannot be over-emphasised; otherwise it means that the wing on either side of the centre is liable to be crowded off the field and driven into touch, being unable to operate for lack of adequate space in which to beat the opposing defence.

In order to be a success in the three-quarter position a wing must have speed, although this is not the only essential quality.

Besides speed, all the other essentials of a footballer should be developed, such as the power to swerve and side step, hand off, field and kick a ball.

Wing three-quarters, like all other players, should use both feet for kicking. One is wanted, after doubling inwards, to kick to touch: the other for the kick across—one of the most valuable methods of attack which a wing three-quarter can employ when hemmed in and unable to get round his opposing number.

Later News: Army Cup.—News has just come to hand that 'A' Group are drawn against the Border Regiment, and 'B' Group against the K.O.S.B. Matches to be played by Nov. 10th.

No. 3 Company, A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

Rugby.—On October 10th we met No. 3 Company 2nd Divl Signals in the first round of the Colonel Hitchen rugby cup. After excellent work by 2/Lieut A. S. Milner, Signalmen Baird, Simpson and Kent, the match ended in a draw of 3 points each.

In the replay next day, however, we lost another exciting game by 8 points. The best of luck to our victors in their further progress in the trophy!

The above-named officer and 2/Lieut Scarlett, and the men also mentioned, were easily the pick of the team. I am rather afraid the troopers will play havoc with our team as a whole.

Hockey.—During the Group games, some enterprising talent has been unearthed, which, added to the old hands, should comprise a good Company team. Here, again, the foreign drafts take a toll of the best players.

Soccer.—Nothing exciting has happened in this line—all the men and time have been monopolised for rugby; but probably, in the next issue, some news will be forthcoming.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

We regret that we have not been able to do much in the way of sport. Our results to date are as follows:—

Football.—We beat Enford Village by 9—3, drew with the R.A.M.C. at 2—2, and lost to Shipton Bellinger by 3—7.

Rhine Signal Company.

Football.—The team played its first league match against the R.A.O.C., and opened the season by winning by 3—2. In a friendly v. the R.A.O.C., we won by 3—2.

Rugby.—Training and practice have commenced with enthusiasm for the 'B' knock-out competition. Sigmn Harbury has been elected captain, and Sergt Minns vice-captain. Our losses through drafts, etc., include L/Sergt Low and L/Corpl Knight (our old skipper), who have been with us for three and four seasons respectively. Signalmen Hughes and L/Corpl Wilcock.

In our first encounter against the M.P. we won by 14 points to nil.

Miniature Rifle Club.—In the inter-Section League, No. 3 beat No. 1 by 132—115; No. 2 beat No. 6 by 104—82; and No. 4 beat No. 5 by 104—nil.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Mussourie Boxing Championships (All India)

S.T.C. (India) v. 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders.

Sigmn Poole v. Pte Dixon.—Poole opened well against a taller and stronger boxer. After several hard exchanges Dixon landed a right hook to the point, knocking Poole out. A plucky fight against a very clever opponent.

Sigmn Hughes v. Pte Lindsey.—Both men were clever and fast. Hughes used his left to great advantage and followed up well. With a right hook he dropped his man for a short count in the first round. In the second there was much in-fighting, both men fighting well. In the third Lindsey appeared the stronger and was much more aggressive. He was awarded the verdict by a narrow margin. This was one of the best fights of the evening.

Sigmn Phipson v. Pte Hill.—Phipson started very well indeed, but was up against one of the finest light-weights in the whole tournament. Hill kept attacking, and used both hands to great effect. Eventually the inevitable happened and Hill got a good hard shot to the mark, knocking Phipson out in the first round.

Sigmn Crowley v. Pte Gorman.—In the first round both men were rather wary, and there was much in-fighting. Crowley did his best to make an open fight of it, but was unluckily caught on the jaw by Gorman's head, loosening all his teeth, and in consequence was dazed for the rest of the fight. Both men were cautioned for leaning. Gorman was the stronger man and forced the pace in the last round, but Crowley (who had recovered a little) landed several nice blows with his left. Gorman won on points. He won the individual championship last year.

Corpl Ellison v. Pte McKenzie.—Ellison surprised everybody by his clever boxing. His straight lefts continually found their mark, and at the end of the first round he was leading easily on points. In the second round he again fought well, and was still leading on points when McKenzie got what appeared to be a lucky shot to the mark. Ellison tried hard to regain his feet, but was counted out. This was an excellent fight.

Corpl Parker v. Pte Walters.—Parker opened in winning style, and from the word 'go' he overwhelmed his opponent. Within ten seconds he had floored his man for a count of seven, and when he got to his feet he put him down again almost immediately—and this time he stayed there.

Corpl Bigg v. Pte McKenzie.—Bigg found himself up against a taller man with a longer reach, but in spite of this he fought well, landing nearly every time with his left. In the second round Bigg kept to out-fighting and scored freely with both hands. Towards the end of this round he floored his man, but the gong saved him. In the third round McKenzie picked up well and fought as if he were determined to win, but Bigg fought well also and gained the decision by a narrow margin. This was an excellent fight and well worth watching.

Sigmn Smith v. L/Corpl Hayfield.—Smith was up against a rather taller opponent and had considerable difficulty in reaching his man, but he attacked hard throughout the first round and was up on points. In the second round he again did all the attacking and gradually wore his opponent down. In the third round Hayfield appeared the fitter man and scored fairly freely with both hands, reducing the lead Smith had held. Both men were exhausted at the end of the round. Hayfield was given the decision on points. At the end of the fight the referee congratulated both men on an excellent display of clean hard fighting.

Individual Competitions.

First Series.

Middle-Weight.—Corpl Parker v. L/Bdr Ward. This fight started off at a quick pace. Parker attacked frequently, attempting to pull off his usual knock-out, but he was floored during the first round by a strong blow from Ward, which weakened him for the remainder of the fight. Ward was a bit wild and was inclined to swing, whereas Parker kept using his left. Parker was leading on points after the first two rounds, but in the last round Ward decreased this; and opinion was equally divided as to the result till the fight was awarded to Ward. Both men fought well and made good use of their strength. Parker was perhaps the more skilful of the two, but was unable to penetrate the very strong defence of Ward.

Feather-Weight.—L/Corpl Brunton v. L/Cpl Devlin. When this fight started Devlin appeared to be much the stronger of the two, and in the first round he scored freely with body blows, and a good blow to the jaw floored Brunton. The latter soon got up, but was a bit shaken for the rest of the round. In the second and third rounds, however, Brunton, who was very fit, forced the fighting. The pace was too hot for Devlin, who rapidly tired, and Brunton—using a straight left and following up with his right—won comfortably on points.

Second Series.

L/Corpl Brunton v. Pte Porter.—This proved an excellent fight. Porter was the taller, and having the advantage in reach he did most of the attacking in the first round. Brunton was again floored, but was not seriously affected. He recovered after the interval, and in the second and third rounds he forced the fighting and did most of the attacking, to win comfortably on points. The referee congratulated both men on a clean hard-hitting fight.

Third Series.

L/Corpl Brunton v. Pte Hill.—In this fight Brunton was up against a man who recently boxed for the Army at home as a light-weight. In the first round Brunton was on the defensive in an endeavour to prevent Hill from landing one of his left hooks to the mark, with which he had won all his previous fights both in the team and the individual competitions. Brunton scored a few good blows with a straight left, but at the end of the first round Hill was leading by a very large margin. In the second round he attacked vigorously and drove Brunton around the ring. The judges and referees considered that Brunton was likely to be seriously injured if the fight continued, and consequently it was stopped. This saved Brunton from unnecessary punishment. He put up a stout resistance against a very strong and experienced boxer, and to date he is the only man who has survived more than the first round with Hill.

Rugby.—In the semi-final of the Eduljee cup, the S.T.C. (India) lost to the Leicester Regiment by 13 points, failing to make any response to their opponents' score.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Tennis.—The Sind lawn tennis championship was held on the Karachi Gymkhana courts for the nineteenth year. This tournament drew players from all over Northern India, and there was a record entry for the gentlemen's singles of over sixty, including four ex-champions and the holder (who successfully defended his title against Captain Ashton in the final).

Our only representative was Sergt Shardlow N., who entered for the singles. He is to be congratulated on getting through three rounds; but he was finally knocked out in a very close match. The local paper paid him the tribute of having a 'cyclonic' service and of playing a great game.

We are now having some inter-Corps practices—round by round handicap tournaments—so with a little luck and a lot of practice we *may* find a home for the military cup in the Corps!

Hockey.—The hockey season has started again with a change all round, but plenty of new talent, and we hope to enter two teams in all the forthcoming tournaments. The only matches played to date resulted:—v. Port Trust, lost by 0—1; and second team v. 2/3rd Punjabi Regiment, lost by 1—2.

Peshawar District Signals.

To disprove the rumour that we have been idling away our time during the summer, a few notes of our sporting activities are appended.

Cricket.—Peshawar District Hot Weather League.

Beat Peshawar District H.Q. by 120 runs.
Beat Royal Artillery by 41 runs.
Beat 6th A.C. Company R.T.C. by 116 runs.
Drew with 20th Squadron R.A.F.
Lost to 2nd Battn. K.O.Y.L.I. by seven wickets.
Lost to Medicals (Peshawar) by 3 runs.
Lost to Royal Engineers by 94 runs.
One more game has to be played in this tournament.

Hockey Team, Landi Kotal Brigade Section.
[Photo by Sigmn Ingledew]

Hockey.—Peshawar District Hot Weather Tournament.

Beat Medium Battery R.A. by 2—0.
Beat 2nd Battn. K.O.Y.L.I. by 3—1.
Beat Medicals by 2—0.
Beat District H.Q. by 3—0.
Beat 15th Medium Battery R.A. by 2—1.
Beat Medicals by 1—0.
Beat District H.Q. by 2—1.
Drew with 6th A.C. Company R.T.C. at 1—1.
Drew with Officers' Gymkhana at 0—0.
Drew with 6th A.C. Company R.T.C. at 1—1.
Drew with 2nd Battn. K.O.Y.L.I. at 0—0
Lost to 100th Field Battery R.A. by 0—3.
Lost to Officers' Gymkhana by 0—3.
Lost to 100th Field Battery R.A. by 0—1.

Waziristan District Signals.

Razmak Brigade Signal Section.

Hockey seems to be the game which is most prominent, although an occasional game of football is played, while tennis is indulged in by way of a change.

The final of the Sulakhan Singh cup, in which we played against the 20th Medium Battery of the R.A., resulted in a victory for us by 2—0.

A further tournament is in progress, in which we are at present in the semi-finals. This is for the Brigade hockey cup, and we have hopes! More than this I cannot say (or I may get a reputation for being a prophet).

Tennis.—A tournament against the 1st Armoured Car Company Royal Tank Corps resulted in a win for us by five games; so it seems at present that we are destined to come out somewhere near the top in whatever class of sport we enter.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Ranikhet.

Sports and Athletics.—The unit finished fourth in the Ranikhet soccer league, after some very exciting games.

At hockey we have *at last* won a match against our old rivals, the 4th (Q.O.) Hussars, by the odd goal in seven. Our team evidently went on to the field with the determination to win! They played a sound game, outclassing their opponents completely.

We were badly disappointed at the result of the inter-unit cross-country championship. The distance, approximately five miles, came as a surprise to our team. Some time before the race it was announced that the medical authorities would not allow it to be run over a greater distance than three miles, on account of the thin atmosphere at this altitude—6000 feet. This should be a lesson to our men when practising for future events. Several remarks—in purport: 'Old Joe should be out here'—were heard. What about it, Joe?

At the Alma Barracks sports meeting, the unit team walked away with the mile relay race. Our team consisted of Signalmen Denyer (440 yards), Neale (880 yards), Steele and Dunn (each 220 yards). Denyer ran splendidly, but his performance was surpassed by that of Neale, who covered his half-mile in wonderful style. The manner in which the baton was handed over each time showed that the team must have practised this continually, and that each runner thoroughly understood his share in the run.

Basket Ball.—The ladies of the unit are now playing this game regularly. Several practice games have taken place, and also some matches against ladies from other units. Against the ladies of the Buffs, our team has won two matches out of three. We were beaten by the Dorsets, whose team consists largely of girls who are still at school or have not long left. It is a pity we have no girls of similar age in the unit to help our team!

Boxing.—Five men entered for the novices competition, and all put up a very good show. Sigmn Gale was unlucky and lost his first fight; but in the light-weights Sigmn Leach—following up former successes—knocked out his opponent in the semi-final and eventually secured the verdict in the final.

Signalmen Spencer and Trevanna met in the feathers, the latter winning on points and going on to win the final.

Sigmn Smith won the final of the welters in splendid style, knocking out his man in the first round.

The unit thus won three events out of the four on the card—which everyone agreed was a very good show.

No. 2 Wireless Section, Baghdad West.

Hockey.—So far, hockey has proved itself as popular as last season. Friendly matches have resulted in two victories against R.A.F. teams without conceding a goal, and one drawn match against the Works and Buildings. Much is to be expected of our team unless homeward bound drafts interfere.

Football results are as follows:—
Beat Iraq Railways by 5—0.
Drew with A.H.Q., Baghdad, at 2—2.
Lost to Armoured Car Wing by 0—2.

The Corps in Egypt.

Boxing.—Our coming middle-weight champion, L/Corporal Andrews, is still going great guns. Recently, in a special contest at the Heliopolis Baths, he won very easily on points. In the big tournament organised by the R.H.A. he beat a good class opponent on points, having his man on the ropes during the last round and winning very easily. He has just been selected to represent the Combined Services in Egypt at the middle-weight against the Navy man. Good luck!

Sergt Wheeler lost a very close contest on points against an old rival in Pte Butler (Somerset L.I.) at the R.H.A. tournament. Wheeler was handicapped by a badly-cut eye and was blinded for the last three rounds.

Corpl George fought at the light-weight limit, but being far from fit he was knocked out in the second round after a fine display of pluck.

Cross-Country Running.—This sport, at which Signals are famous, is just commencing, and in a few days time a novices race is being held over a three-mile desert course. This event has attracted a good entry of approximately thirty. We shall need some new men this season, as more than half those who comprised the winning team last year will be gone by the time the Command championships come along in December. Still, we have had our name inscribed on the cup more often than any other unit since it was first presented; and it's going on again in the near future! And I'm not a poor prophet, either—am I, Tom?

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Boxing.—It is gratifying to note that three men of the Corps in Egypt were selected to take part in an 'all champions' tournament held at Abbassia on September 14th. (Corpl George and L/Corpl Andrews are members of this Company.) With a few others to help these three, the Corps should not find it difficult to gain some points in the Command boxing championships.

Tennis.—Corpl Wales and Sigmn Cottingham fought their way to the semi-final of the Ezbekieh championships, and then lost a hard match by 4—6, 11—9, 4—6.

Hockey.—Now we are in possession of a hockey ground of our own, quite a number of friendly matches are being played, the most notable being against No. 3 Company, in which we were winners by four goals to none.

Shooting.—It has been decided that we should enter teams for the Command rifle meeting which is being held shortly. With a fairly strong team, we hope to be able to give a good account of ourselves in the next number.

Football.—A number of Section matches have been played in the hope of finding new talent for the Company team, in preparation for the small units competition starting on October 1st. The side will show scarcely any change from the one which won the championship last year, and it is hoped that all will do their best to retain this trophy.

Aden Signal Section.

Soccer.—Here are the results for September, and they are not too bad. We are hoping the reliefs will bring a few assets, as we shall be losing our best players in a month or so (at least, that is what they say); and to keep up our end with the garrison we have plenty of room for improvement, believe me!

Beat H.Q. British Forces, Aden, 4—2 (Kneller 3, Hawkes)
Drew with 9th Heavy Battery R.A. at 1—1 (Steele)
Drew with 7th Heavy Battery R.A. at 1—1 (Gee)
Lost to No. 5 Platoon S.W.B. by 1—2 (Steele)
Lost to H.Q. British Forces, Aden, by 1—3 (Bartley)

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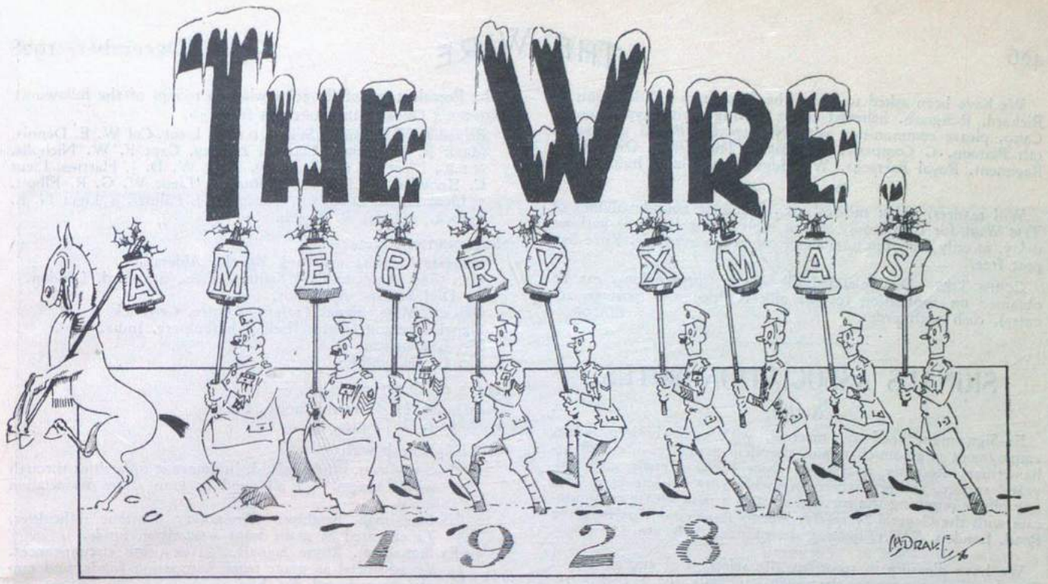

The Corps Magazine of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Official Organ of the Signals Association.

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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.
Telephone: Victoria 2081
Telegrams: "Sigasn Churton London."

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VOL. IX.—No. 106 DECEMBER, 1928 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, 1929, and combine to place not only THE WIRE, but the Signals Association generally, as the first and foremost of its kind in operation. A little help is worth a lot of advice!

❀ ❀ ❀

Signals Memorial Window, Bulford.—There appeared in THE WIRE for June, under the 3rd Divl Signals unit notes, an account of the efforts made by the present members of that unit to raise, locally, sufficient funds to erect a memorial in the recently-completed Garrison Church to the late officers, n.c.o.s and men of the 3rd Divl Signals who gave their lives in the Great War.

The sum of £75 was realised at the bazaar, a very creditable effort, but unfortunately not nearly sufficient to pay for the stained glass window memorial now on view. The Corps committee authorised the insertion of this notice in the Corps Magazine with a view to obtaining subscriptions from officers, n.c.o.s and men who served with the 3rd Divl Signals during the Great War and since. Any subscription will be gratefully received and will be duly acknowledged in THE WIRE. Subscriptions should be sent to the O.C. 3rd Divl Signals, Marne Lines, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

The above announcement was also published in our August issue of the Corps Journal. Only one contribution has been received to date, and that from an outside Service. This may possibly be due to the fact that the original notice was overlooked owing to its inconspicuous position, and we therefore repeat the appeal in the hope that it may now attract wider attention. In order that the original plan may still be put into operation, and that a fit and worthy memorial may be erected, it is proposed to keep the fund open for a further period and so give all ranks an opportunity to respond—failing which it will be necessary to deal with the matter in the best possible way and with the limited funds available.

We have been asked to insert the following: 'Will Sigmn R. Rickard, R.Signals, believed to be serving with Egypt Signals, Cairo, please communicate with No. 3707664 Pte G. Andrews, 9th Platoon, C Company, 2nd Battn. The King's Own Royal Regiment, Royal Barracks, Westridge, Rawalpindi, India.'

❀ ❀ ❀

Will readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1928 kindly submit their orders for same without delay, as only a limited number of copies are available. Price 8s., post free.

CORPS TIES.—Double-ended silk ties in Corps colours can be obtained on application to this office. Price 2/6 (postage 2d. extra), cash with order. EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Notice.

Ex-Signalman, aged 26, married, with two children, seeks employment as groom-chauffeur, chauffeur-gardener, or chauffeur-handyman. Recently discharged from Royal Signals after six years' service, and strongly recommended by his late O.C. Will any officer requiring the services of such a man please communicate with the General Secretary, Signals Association, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, quoting the number SAB/359.

We have pleasure in recording the selection of another Royal Signals wireless operator-electrician candidate for a highly remunerative post in Venezuela. Ex-Lance-Corporal J. B. Russell, late of A Corps Signals, Aldershot, having been nominated by this office, has successfully passed the standard of qualification required, and is due to sail on Dec. 15th. We wish him every success in his new sphere of operations, and trust that he will favour us with an account of his experiences at some not far distant date. Bon voyage!

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:—

Ex-Signalman	Motor Driver
Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Department
Ex-N.C.O.	Motor Mechanic
Ex-Signalman	Checker-Porter
Ex-N.C.O.	Wireless Operator-Electrician (abroad)
Ex-Signalman	Farm Worker (Australia)
Ex-N.C.O.	Chauffeur-Valet
Ex-N.C.O.	Clerk
Ex-N.C.O.	Mess Waiter
*Ex-Signalman	Carpenter
*Ex-Signalman	Painter
*Ex-Signalman	Baker's Assistant
†Ex-N.C.O.	Clerk
†Ex-Signalman	Kitchen-Man

* Placed by Colchester Branch. † Placed by Aldershot Branch

This brings our total of Employments found for the twelve months ending November 30th, 1928, up to 174.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

Referring to our paragraph under this heading in the November issue entitled 'Warm Clothing,' together with an appeal from 'John Blunt,' the following acknowledgment is published by special request:—

To the Editor.—SIR. The following smart bit of 'passing' should, I think, be placed on record.

Thursday, November 1st. Received my subscriber's copy of our 'live WIRE' and saw my letter in print.

Saturday, November 3rd. A letter from the General Secretary by first post.

Monday, November 5th. Received by first post a very fine overcoat from Colonel ——, a perfect fit and the very thing I wanted, but frankly never hoped to possess. It came as a complete and pleasant surprise to myself and family, and I am very grateful indeed. The coat is now serving full time on early duty.

I remain, yours sincerely, JOHN BLUNT.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., Lieut.-Col W. E. Dennis, Major R. E. Barker, Capt B. Hussey, Capt F. W. Nicholls, M.B.E., Lieut M. S. Wheatley, Lieut W. D. J. Harries, Lieut C. Knowles, 2/Lieut A. B. Ruck, 2/Lieut W. G. R. Elliott, 2/Lieut H. M. Longdon, 2/Lieut P. J. Palmer, 2/Lieut N. E. Pocock, 2/Lieut R. Webb.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

Sergeants' Mess, 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.
54th (East Anglian) Divl Signals, T.A., Stratford, London.
1st Divl Signals, Aldershot.
Officers' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore, India.
Mr. J. Hamilton.
Mr. C. McLoughlin.

GIFTS OF CLOTHING from:—

Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O.
Major J. G. Deedes, M.B.E.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, Huddersfield. In domestic difficulties through wife's illness. £2 allocated as grant from Association funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, Brighton. Temporary domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as grant from Association funds.
3—Ex-Signalman, Rhine Signals. In destitute circumstances. £5 advanced as grant from Association funds, and employment found for him.
4—Ex-Signalman, Birmingham. Recently discharged from hospital after long and dangerous illness. £5 advanced as grant from Association funds. (Case still in hand.)
5—Signalman, Aldershot. In temporary difficulties. £2 advanced from Association funds.
6—Ex-Signalman, East Grinstead. In domestic difficulties through continued unemployment. £3 advanced from Association funds. Situation now secured.
7—Ex-Signalman, Stockport, with wife and family, in domestic difficulties. £5 advanced from Association funds.
8—N.C.O. R.Signals, in temporary difficulties. £2 advanced from Association funds.
9—Ex-Driver, Leith, N.B. In difficulties through continued unemployment. £4 advanced from Association funds. (Case recommended by Edinburgh Branch.)
10—Ex-N.C.O. R.E. Signal Service. Temporarily incapacitated through illness and unable to continue at work. Wife and family in needy circumstances. £5 allocated from Association funds.
11—Ex-Signalman, London. In temporary difficulties. £1/10/0 advanced from Association funds.

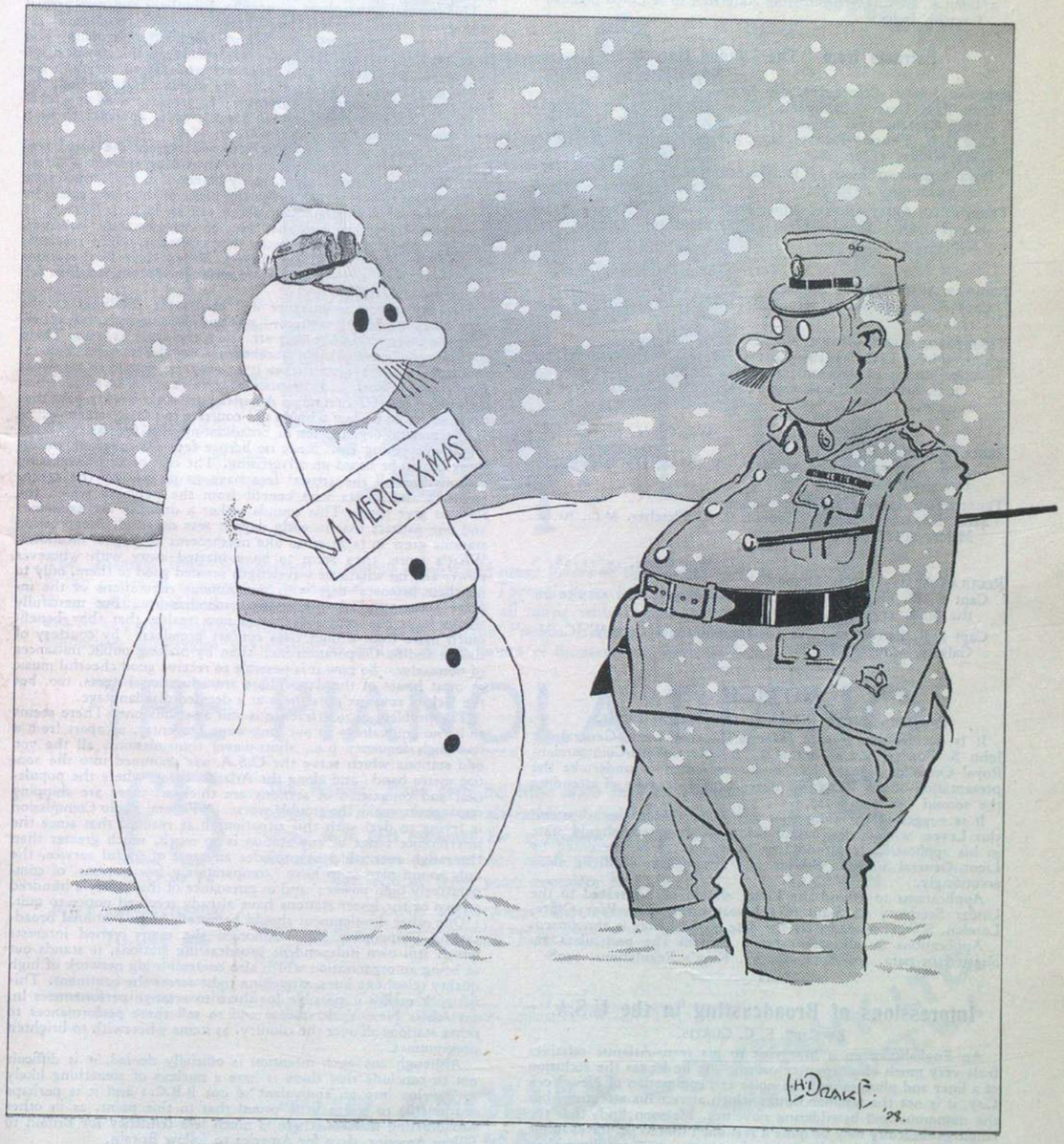
(Signed) A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association
Benevolent Fund.

Corps News—Officers.

MOVES—

Lieut.-Col. C. J. S. LeCornu from India to C.S.O. Western Command, Chester.
Major R. E. Barker, from S.T.C. to 2nd Divl Signals, Quetta.
Capt. F. S. Thompson, from S.T.C. to No. 2 W/T Company, Palestine.
Capt. R. R. A. Darling, from S.T.C. to 4th Divl Signals, Colchester.
Capt. J. B. Hickman, from Palestine to S.T.C.
Capt. C. R. H. Firth, from London to 4th Divl Signals, Colchester.
Capt. T. B. Gravely, from War Office to Aldershot Command Signal Company.
Capt. C. A. Oliver, from Tidworth to 47th Divl Signals, T.A., London.
Lieut. L. D. Goddard from Edinburgh to 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford.
Lieut. W. Scott, from S.T.C. to School of Signals,
Lieut. C. Knowles, from S.T.C. to Egypt,

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON!



Lieut. C. A. H. Chadwick, from Bulford to Egypt.
2/Lieut. T. J. McOran Campbell, from Aldershot to 3rd Divl Signals, Meerut, India.
2/Lieut. L. D. M. Patterson, from Aldershot to 3rd Divl Signals, Meerut, India.
2/Lieut R. C. C. Harrison, from Aldershot to A Corps Signals, Karachi, India.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 23/10/28.

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF—
Capt T. B. Gravely, R.Signals, relinquishes his appointment of Staff Captain, War Office, 11/10/28.
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., R.Signals, to be Staff Capt., War Office, 11/10/28.
Royal Signals—2/Lieut H. D. Mountford to be Lieut. 8/10/28, with seniority 8/10/27.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
50th (N.) Divl Signals—Lieut J. W. Middleton, M.C., to be Captain, 5/10/28.

War Office, 26/10/28.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Capt A. E. Barton is seconded for service with the T.A., 1/10/28.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—Capt C. R. H. Firth vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 1/10/28.
J. E. Bridgman (Cadet Capt. Middlesex Cadet Battn.) to be 2/Lieut. 11/9/28.

War Office, 30/10/28.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Capt E. J. Murphy to be Adjutant, 11/10/28, vice Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Captain P. C. Fletcher, M.C., to be Major, 11/10/28.

War Office, 13/11/28.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham, M.C., is seconded for service on the Staff, 11/10/28.

Capt J. R. Patten, M.C., to be Adjutant, vice Capt W. C. V. Galway, M.C., 21/10/28.

NOTICE.

PRESENTATION OF R.SIGNALS OFFICERS AT LEVEES.

It is notified for general information that Lieut.-General Sir John S. Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant Royal Corps of Signals, has kindly consented to undertake the presentation of any R.Signals officer who is desirous of attending the *second* Levee in 1929.

It is suggested therefore that any officer proposing to attend this Levee, who is desirous of being so presented, should state in his application to attend that he wishes to be presented by Lieut.-General Sir John Fowler, and arrangements will be made accordingly.

Applications to attend the Levee should be addressed to the Under Secretary of State (C.2 Investitures), The War Office, London, S.W.1, immediately the date of the Levee is announced.

Applications in all cases should contain the particulars requested in para. 10, Appendix VI. King's Regulations, 1928.

Impressions of Broadcasting in the U.S.A.

BY CAPT. F. C. CURTIS.

An Englishman on a first visit to his trans-Atlantic relatives feels very much of a 'country cousin.' As he leaves the seclusion of a liner and plunges into the noise and commotion of New York City, it is not the familiar things which attract his attention, but the numerous and bewildering novelties. He soon finds that the language difficulty may be quite a real one; that WJZ, for example is WJ 'Zee'; and that there are other snares more insidious than a mere difference of pronounciation. Familiar words are apt to have quite new shades of meaning. 'High frequency' does not mean the same thing as radio frequency: it is an expression reserved for what we should call 'short waves'; and there may be nothing secret or abbreviated about a 'code' message, for 'code' is simply our moribund old friend Morse.

This general atmosphere of novelty stimulates the new arrival to enquire about broadcasting. There is certainly no lack of interest in it. Newspapers are full of 'Radio Supplements' and large hotels advertise 'Radio in every room.' In the conversation on trains and ferry-boats, condensers and circuit diagrams are almost as popular a topic as stocks and shares; and although the total number of listeners is impossible to estimate with any accuracy, it is certainly large enough for the radio audience to be a vital factor in the Presidential election.

In the design of broadcasting sets one notices the usual tendency for 'quality' to receive an ever-increasing amount of attention. But there are still many, many listeners in that crude state of development where they judge the merit of their sets solely by the number of distant stations which can be logged. Fairness to those who are addicted to this form of vice demands, however, that one should record the special temptations to which residents of the Atlantic seaboard are subject. When their local stations close down for the night, there are other programmes still in full swing further west.

The skyscraper architecture and apartment dwellings of the large cities favour self-contained sets with loose aerials, but otherwise the more expensive sets are much the same as ours. There is, however, a remarkable absence of crystal receivers. The instalment buying system makes it so easy for people to get what they cannot afford, and the price of a valve set is so small when considered as a fraction of an American artisan's weekly pay, that there seems to be few who do not contrive to pay it somehow.

The general organisation of broadcasting is at first as bewildering as everything else. Since no licence fees are collected, everything has to be based on advertising. The cost of all transmitting stations and all the artists' fees have to be met by the manufacturers and others who benefit from the publicity which the stations give them. This sounds rather a dreadful arrangement; and one gathers that in early days it was dreadful. Broadcasting stations grew in large cities like mushrooms in August meadows. What's more, they seem to have blasted away with whatever power and on whatever wavelength seemed good to them, only to fill their listeners' ears with monotonous reiterations of the infinite superiority of this or that merchandise. But mercifully things have changed. Advertisers now realise that they benefit much more from a high class concert broadcast 'by courtesy of the So-and-So Corporation Inc.' than by making public nuisances of themselves. So now it is possible to receive good cheerful music at most hours of the day. There are educational items, too, but the lack of revenue puts them at a decided disadanvtage.

The problem of interference is still a serious one. There seems to be no equivalents to our long-wave Daventry, so apart from a few high fequency (i.e., short-wave) transmissions, all the 700 odd stations which serve the U.S.A. are crammed into the 200-600 metre band; and along the Atlantic coast, where the population and congestion of stations are thickest, there are shipping messages to make the trouble worse. A Federal Radio Commission is trying to deal with this situation. It is realised that since the interference range of any station is so much, much greater than the range over which it provides any sort of useful service, the only sound plan is to have 'comparatively few stations, of comparatively high power;' and in pursuance of this policy a hundred or two of the lesser stations have already received notice to quit.

One other development should be noted, 'The National Broadcasting Corporation Inc.' Amongst the many varied interests which still own independent broadcasting stations, it stands out as being an organisation which also controls a big network of high quality telephone lines, stretching right across the continent. This network makes it possible for them to arrange performances in, say, their New York studios and to sell these performances to other stations all over the country, as items wherewith to brighten programmes.

Although any such intention is officially denied, it is difficult not to conclude that there is here a nucleus of something likely to develop into an equivalent of our B.B.C.; and it is perhaps pardonable to feel a little proud that in this point, as in other broadcasting matters, there is much less tendency for Britain to follow America, than for America to follow Britain.

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Plain Tales.

A Merry Christmas!—Why folks, it seems but a paltry twelve months since I, with much labour, constructed the usual paragraph of seasonable wishes for 1927. Well, here it is again, and there's my wish. May you have the time of your lives. (Or should it be times?)

Now I must thank the WIRE readers once more for their kind support. So far as I know, no one has asked the Editor to withdraw 'Plain Tales.' I am therefore emboldened to continue with my absurd advice, comments and stories when I arrive in India, though they may possibly appear under a different title.

So there you are, ladies and gentlemen. You know what you have got to put up with. Meanwhile, a merry Christmas to you, and bags of 'em!

Now what have we to say this month?

* * * *

Recapitulation.—Having called in at the nearest pub for a very long drink to wash the taste of Great Brook Street barracks away, I took a train between the thumb and forefinger of my right hand and went to Uckfield. I found all these people there, firmly established as full blown civilians. They are all old Signals and were eager to hear all the latest news. What I didn't know, I invented. Mr. Horgan, Mr. Joe Bowker, Bill Nicks, Ted Darlow, Jackson, Crossley, Bill Foster, Henson, Bob Bray, Everett, Mr. Jarvis, Sam Locke, Ted Wilkes, and shades of old D Company—Capt. F. Seymour. A few miles away is another gentleman beloved of old Maresfield boys. To my great regret I didn't see him. Names are not always necessary between we lads of those not very far off days. I paid a flying visit to Maresfield, and went into Tester's. You remember? Weren't they pleased. I *nearly* had a cup of tea for nothing. Old habits die hard, wasn't it—I mean, don't they?

* * * *

Christmas Tone Poem.—

'Twas Christmas Day in the workhouse,
And Christmas Day outside,
In hotel, club and public bar,
Why, all was Christmastide.
Up sprang the workhouse master,
He gurgled once or twice,
Then sat down heavily because
His eye was full of rice.
'Who threw that Christmas pudding?'
His voice was cruel and hard;
The inmates laughed, then pursed their lips,
And 'tore him off a yard.'
Then suddenly a shot rang out,
Gee whiz! but that man could play,
The Captain went down with his ship that night,
And came up on Boxing Day.

* * * *

Eve's Corner.—Dear ladies, listen to me. That is, if you *can* leave Mrs. Cludwidge's new coat alone. What if she *did* get it in the market?

There is a lot of newspaper gas about women growing their hair again. Don't you believe it. What looks better than a beautifully shingled and waved head of hair? Certainly not a heap of shavings, screwed up at the back, or on top, and fastened with an imitation tortoiseshell comb. What about the expense, you say. Yes, there is always that. Consider carefully whether you wouldn't rather pay 1/6 for haircut per fortnight, and 1/6 for wave about every three weeks, then be bothered with your so-called crown of glory, which sticks out under your very conspicuous hat and makes you look like a last year's model.

Now to be strictly fair, I will say there *are* ladies who can wear their hair long, and extremely nice they look too, bless 'em; but taking them by and large, you must admit it is a bit pre-war. Let me hasten to add that I had no particular Eve in mind when I started this subject. (Safety first). I was nearly torn up and fed to the birds last year.

Perhaps you may think that *beer* should have no place in a ladies paragraph. That is just where you are wrong. Beer costs 6d. per pint and dear at that. The point, however, is that three pints equal one haircut, wave, rod, pole or perch. That being so, I can only add—verb sap, nulli secundus, nil carbonundums, multum in doings, san fairy ann, and other large cities, if only to show what a dashed good linguist I am.

Pycnostachys.—

Sing a song of gardening, with flowers by the score,
Cheiranthus dimorphotheca, and roses round the door.
Geraniums on the rockery, fried spuds and water cress,
Butterflies feet and love in a mist, the devil take the rest.
Lettuce up the crazy path, rhubarb and rhododendron,
Blackberry pie and pheasant's eye. The same to you with knobs on.

This is not exactly my first attempt at classical poetry, but I am not spiteful, so you can get away with only three convulsions.

During the past year we have seen how the common and well known varieties of flowers and vegetables should be handled. We must now pass on to something more advanced. I hope to show you how to grow the fascinating eschscholtzia, known in less enlightened circles as Californian poppy. The trouble is that I don't know how it is produced yet, but I shall get to know. My advice this month is clear your garden right out. You can then follow my instructions from the beginning, and good luck to you. —you'll need it!

* * * *

A Musical Leg Pull.—A very hearty laugh has been enjoyed by musicians and oboe players all over the country at the delightfully naive statements made by certain daily newspapers anent Fred Elizalde and his Savoy music. They were to the effect that Elizalde's band would contain three pianos, *one tuned half a tone lower than the others.*

One paper ingenuously added 'This gives an effective nuance for "bles" music and certain waltz tune arrangements.' Oh boy, let me laugh! The reporter whose leg was so successfully pulled must be steering clear of the Savoy at present. However, we can forgive these lay papers, for in spite of the noise they make with their headlines, they know very little of some of the things about which they attempt to write.

And now I tender my apologies to 'Busker' in the November 'Melody Maker,' to whom I am indebted for the foregoing information. It was too good to miss. If you see it in the daily press it is *not* always so. Don't back it for a cert.

* * * *

Without Comment.—Extract from a popular foxtrot song:—

'It sounds like heaven to hear a baby cry,
Just like a melody from out of the sky.'

BARLEUX.

The Corps Sports Diary for 1929.

Many requests have from time to time been made to this office for the publication of a Royal Signals Sports Diary.

In our October issue we notified our readers that the Army Sports Central Board at the War Office, which had already produced the 'Services Sports Diary' with such marked success, had now undertaken the production of a diary distinctive to Royal Signals. The result of their efforts has resulted in a publication which deserves the highest commendation to all who have taken part in its compilation, and also to the N.A.A.F.I., who have been responsible for the printing and production.

The special Corps features include our badge in gold on the cover, the Corps ribbon as a bookmarker, a complete record of the Corps' participation in all sporting events with details of trophies won both collectively and individually. Photographic illustrations of those Royal Signals sportsmen who have so ably assisted to place the Corps in the position it now occupies as one of the finest sporting arms of the Service are interspersed throughout its pages, and other information of interest, with ample space for general memoranda complete the publication. The whole is finally 'set off' with an excellent frontispiece portrait of His Majesty the King.

It is understood that generally speaking, an excellent response has already been forthcoming from Signal units, but it is evident that there are still many members of the Corps who have not yet ordered a copy. As everyone needs a diary of some sort, we have no hesitation in very strongly recommending this production to our readers. Orders should be sent at once either to this office or to The Secretary Army Sports Central Board, War Office, London, S.W.1; cash with order. Prices: bound in leather, 2/6; bound in cloth, 1/6; postage 2½d. extra. Only a limited number of copies are available, and orders will be dealt with in strict rotation.

The shock of his life!

Orderly Sergeant—

Private Smith, you'll be late on parade—allow me to shine your buttons with my 'Bluebell'

BLUEBELL

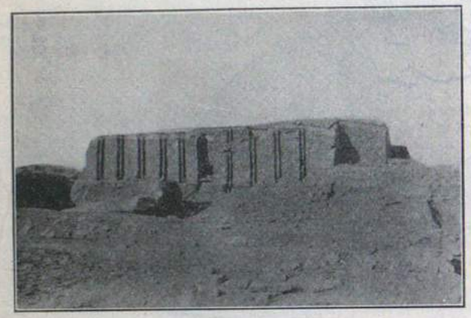
brings brightness and brings it quickly

RECKITT AND SONS, LTD. (BLUEBELL POLISH CO., FULHAM, LONDON, S.W.)

Talks on Iraq: No. 1.

This series of articles, or rather talks, has been commenced with the idea of interesting not only those who have been to Iraq and may like to keep in touch with the places they once knew, but also those who have never been there but have heard that such a place exists.

The main construction of these talks depends mainly upon the Service outlook on Iraq: that is, as Iraq appears to a soldier—therefore the greater portion of the civil life of the larger towns such as Baghdad will not be mentioned, as so little is known where a soldier is concerned.

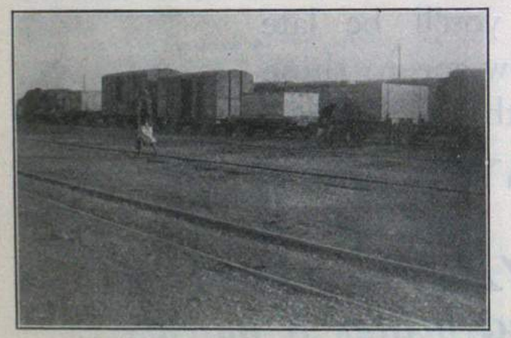


An Archway unearthed at Ur.

Believed to be the oldest in the world (many thousand years B.C.)

Before beginning with the general life, I think it advisable to give a brief outline of Iraq and its climate. It is situated in the Middle East, between Syria on the west, Arabia on the south-west, and Persia on the east, a very small part of the north-eastern corner touching Armenia. Its length is about 770 miles, and its breadth about 380, its total area being only 200,000 square miles. The general surface area is a depression and consists mostly of plains, the only really big hills being all in the north. One of the important points of Iraq is that it forms a corridor between the Eastern Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, and is therefore an important connecting link between Europe and Asia.

Iraq is a British mandated area, and since the Great War of 1914-1918 there have always been troops posted there. Gradually these have been removed until now only a very small military force remains, with a few squadrons of the Royal Air Force and the Iraq Aircraft Depot at Hinaidi. The Air headquarters and the Command offices are, however, at Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, some seven miles north of Hinaidi.



Railway Trucks at Baghdad West Railway Station.

[Passenger line in the foreground]

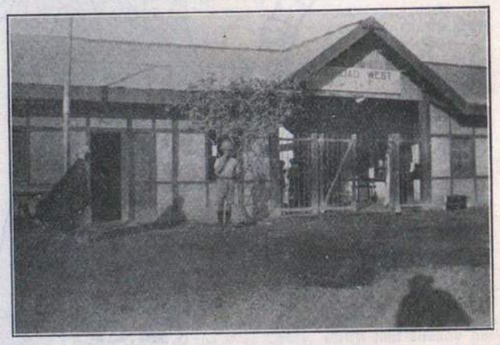
The climate is on the dry side, the humidity being very low, rain only coming during a few months in the winter, but even then those months are rather dry. In some years the rivers Tigris and Euphrates overflow their banks, no doubt owing to the melting of snow up in the hills of the north, and this causes floods in certain areas, but the period is only critical for a short time.

There are various means of access to Iraq, but the two main ones are from the north by overland route from Beyrout, and from the south from the Persian Gulf, through the Shatt-el-Arab, and thence by rail from Basrah to Baghdad. This latter route is the most usual for conveying troops and Service kit.

Now that a brief outline has been given, I think that the stage is set for an explanation of one's entry into Iraq and the subsequent happenings to a soldier once there.

Assuming that readers are sufficiently well acquainted with their geography books to know the route taken by a troopship from Southampton to the Persian Gulf, we will start by entering the Shatt-el-Arab. This is a large waterway from the Persian Gulf to Basrah, the most important port of southern Iraq. Basrah lies some five miles up the Shatt-el-Arab, and the steamers put into the Margil Wharf.

Here the railway line runs on the route from Basrah to Baghdad: it is a metre-gauge route and runs direct. The type of engine used is very old, and on the occasion on which I travelled from Basrah to Baghdad, the troops were accommodated in cattle trucks similar to those seen immediately behind the running figure in the accompanying photo. There is, however, a kind of wooden coach for second and first class travel, but even these are very crudely constructed, having in most cases only a wooden double-sided bench running through the centre of the coach.



Baghdad West Railway Station, showing Booking Office just inside

[In front, Corpl Fisher N., late of Belfast]

The first important stop is Ur Junction. This is the place where the excavations are now taking place, of which more will be said in a later 'talk.' The station comprises one or two tin sheds, some water tanks, and a few small sidings. There are practically no platforms to the stations in Iraq, as may be seen from the photograph of Baghdad West.

From the Junction the next stop is Hillah. Here are several large barracks of local troops, and not far away lies the ancient biblical town of Babylon. At certain times of the year trips to Babylon are organised, and the visitor is greatly interested by the many wonders spoken of in the Bible and also by the hanging gardens. More, however, of Babylon later on.

On leaving Hillah the train makes a continuous run to Baghdad. It usually arrives in the early hours of the morning, just as dawn is breaking. The distance from Basrah to Baghdad is easily remembered: as many miles as there are days in a year.

From Baghdad West railway station very little can be seen of Baghdad proper, and what is to be seen is not very imposing. The station itself is not large, there being about twenty sidings. The passenger trains run into a platform-less station, but generally the goods and Service trains run into one of the sidings where there is a platform. This facilitates the unloading of kit, etc. A large compound is provided for the purpose of sorting one's kit and finding one's bearings preparatory to making the next move.

Near to the station are a few houses, but these are plain, unimposing, and the usual flat-topped buildings one sees in the East. On the other side of the road is a large garage belonging to a big Overland Company.

Excavations at 'Ur of the Chaldees.'

Left back: Tombs. Right back: Residential quarters of the Nobility. Front: Outbuildings of the Temple, quarters, kitchens, etc.

About a mile further on, and just visible, is the supposed tomb of the Zitt Zobeydah mentioned by No. W/T Company in their August notes. She is actually interred in a small tomb in Kadhimein, a holy city of Iraq a few miles north of Baghdad. Palm and date trees are there in abundance.

Next month, I hope to explain in detail the impressions conveyed to one's mind on first entering Baghdad.

HINAIDIAN.

[Owing to pressure on space, two of the illustrations sent with this Article are shown on page 446, and another is held over for future use.—ED.]

Superstitious Customs of Old China.

The national customs of a foreign country invariably form an interesting study, and the following account of one or two customs prevailing in 'Old China' may be of interest to our readers.

Superstition plays a large part in the life of the average Chinese man; and especially is this so in connection with the more important events in his life, such as his birth, marriage and death. The ceremonies performed on these occasions have a very real meaning to those taking part in them: evil spirits have to be driven away, and the favour of the good ones secured.

It is understandable that in a vast country like China, slightly different customs should prevail in its widely separated districts. This article is mainly a description of the ceremonies observed at birth, marriage and death in the north-western province of Szechuan, but somewhat similar customs are observed throughout the whole of China.

The day before a birth is expected, the grandmother pays a visit to the expectant mother, bringing with her a present of eggs and vegetables.

On the day of birth there is a gathering in the house of the whole family; more eggs are brought as presents, and all evil spirits are driven away by banging drums and firing crackers. If a boy is born, he is called 'Great Joy'; if a girl, she is called 'Little Joy' (girls being of minor account to the Chinese).

The third day after the child is born, the father visits those relatives who were unable to be present at the birth, taking with him a supply of eggs for distribution. (This proceeding was probably instituted as a means of disposing of any bad eggs left at the house!)

The worst of misfortune would descend upon an infant if it were washed before the expiration of four days. The child, therefore, goes unwashed for this period; and one is sometimes inclined to believe that the washing is postponed for many years!

It is very unlucky to allow the first growth of hair to remain upon the head, and a barber is called in to shave off the down. The razor used for this purpose must not be used again, so the barber selects his oldest implement, which he destroys immediately after shaving the child.

Astrology plays an important part; and upon the birth of a child an astrologer is called in, and the child's horoscope is cast and carefully preserved.

As the child grows up, the parents begin to contemplate the possibilities of marriage. In the more advanced places in China the marriage ceremony conforms more or less to that which prevails in occidental countries, but in the interior of the country the old customs still remain.

Sometimes betrothal takes place at a very early age, and it has been known for a child to be betrothed *before* birth. That must have been a very doubtful speculation! The parents select the girl to whom it is proposed to betroth their son, and the horoscope of both children is studied in order to discover if their lives can be harmoniously joined. Their names are also carefully studied, to make sure that they do not clash with one another; for if one should be named 'Fire' and the other 'Water,' it is obvious that they are unsuitable for marriage to each other!

If all the omens are favourable, the mother of the boy pays a visit to the mother of the girl. Nothing is mentioned of any alliance, although both are aware of the reason for the call. The girl enters the room for a few moments only, probably bringing in some tea for the visitor. After some idle chatter the visitor is asked to remain for dinner, but if she considers the girl an unsuitable match for her son, she pleads an excuse and takes her departure. This is done with the sole object of 'saving face'—a most important thing in the life of the Chinese. Nothing having been mentioned of a betrothal, the mother of the girl does not consider herself slighted if the visitor departs.

If the invitation to remain for a meal is accepted, it is a sign that the betrothal is looked upon in a favourable light, and the way is open for conducting further negotiations. There is an exchange of presents between the families, and the betrothal becomes an actuality. A betrothal is a binding agreement of marriage, therefore such a thing as breach of promise is unknown. The date of the marriage is chosen by the parents of the boy, after a careful study of all the omens connected with the lives of both children.

The night before the marriage is called the 'flowery night' for the bridegroom. He is dressed in his finest garments, all his relatives gather at the house, and the night is spent in feasting. The visitors bring presents of money, and a list is carefully compiled of the amount given by each. In the event of one of the guests inviting the boy's parents to a similar function at some future date, the list is perused and the present given by them exactly coincides with the amount they received.

For three days before the marriage, the bride has a very 'thin' time of it. She is supposed to weep for two days, and the main theme of her weeping is that 'she does not wish to leave her home and go to the house of her mother-in-law.' The day before the marriage is a day of fasting for her, and on this day all the down on her face and superfluous hairs of the eyebrows and the front of the head are removed. This is done by scraping the face with a silk thread held taut between the fingers, and pulling the other hair out by the roots—a very painful operation!

On the wedding day the bride sends her trousseau to the house of the bridegroom, this including bedding, furniture and clothes. After being dressed for the occasion, she is carried from the house to the bridal chair. Her feet must not touch the ground between the house and the chair, for did they do so she would carry some of the evil spirits of her relatives into her bridegroom's house.

Having been locked in the chair, she is carried to her new home. For the first part of the journey she fills the air with her lamentations, her cry being that 'she does not want to leave her mother, and she does not like her mother-in-law.' When nearing the house of her future husband one of the coolies carrying the chair gives her the tip to stop crying, and she arrives at the house all smiles, albeit nervous.

She is carried from the chair into the house, and the chair is immediately swept out to get rid of any evil spirits that may be hiding there. Upon entering the house she bows to her husband's ancestors, and then husband and wife bow to each other but do not touch one another. Tea is brought, and a cup is placed before each. After taking a sip of tea the cups are changed round, and another sip is taken. This concludes the ceremony.

On the first even day after the marriage (odd days being considered evil ones), they both visit the wife's parents. The father

of the girl gives his son-in-law a lecture on how he should treat his wife, and then tells the girl how she is to act towards her husband. After the lecture a feast is given, and a portion of the food served at the feast must be left unconsumed for the newly-wedded pair to take away with them.

Time goes on; the sands of life run out; and eventually death, the master of all, steps in.

In all countries the mystery of death has given rise, at one time or another, to many superstitious practices, but in no country is this more so than in China. When a Chinese man is dying, his relatives inform him of the fact by knocking a hole in the roof to allow his soul to escape. If not too ill, the dying man immediately takes notice, and the more fuss that is made the better he likes it.

His coffin is brought in, and paper money is burnt in the room. Originally real money was placed in the coffin for burial, but this led to desecration of graves and a loss of revenue. So a wise ruler pointed out that it was impossible for the departed spirit to take the money with it; but if imitation money made of paper were burnt, then the spirit of the burnt paper would ascend or descend, as the case may be, with the spirit of the departed, and would be available for use in the next world. Thus was an ancient custom changed without trouble being caused.

Before death takes place the dying man is dressed in nine or eleven suits of clothes (it is always one of these numbers). No fur garments may be worn, for fear that the spirit may be taken for an animal on arrival in the next kingdom.

When death takes place, a crock is smashed outside the door to represent the liberation of the spirit; crackers are fired to keep away evil spirits; the body is washed and placed in the coffin. A willow wand is placed in one hand, and in the other a piece of bread or some rice. This is for the purpose of keeping away the 'soul dogs'—evil spirits that are supposed to devour souls. They are either to be driven away with the wand, or their hunger appeased with the food.

The priests are informed of the death, and they immediately prepare a 'road guide.' Great care is taken over this, for it is to show in detail the route the soul must take on its journey to the next world. It is placed in a jar and put at the feet, so that they may be guided in the right direction.

Masts are erected outside the house, their number indicating the number of days of mourning that are to take place. During the days of mourning a terrific noise is maintained both day and night, cymbals are clashed, and a band keeps up a continuous performance. The son is the chief mourner, and as a mark of respect he does not shave or cut his hair for one hundred days.

To ensure the safe passage of the soul a paper boat is launched upon the river. Beggar boys immediately jump into the water and endeavour to retrieve the boat, which they sell to the wife of some rich man, to whom it is supposed to bring good luck.

The coffin is placed on trestles in the centre of the room, and Buddhist priests walk round it, chanting prayers. On the completion of each round they are handed a sum of money, and when no more money is forthcoming their prayers cease.

On the day of the funeral the chief mourner is dressed in coarse white clothing, with a strip of the same material wrapped around his head. The procession is headed by two huge figures on wheels, representing giants, these being supposed to open the way for the passage of the soul. A cock is tied to the top of the coffin, and before the coffin is lowered into the grave the cock is killed. It is a superstition that the soul of the deceased enters into the bird, and when the bird is killed the soul cannot escape. The Chinese believe that a person is in possession of three souls, and that when death takes place, one enters into the next world, one roams about in space, and the other is buried with the body.

When a rich Chinese man is dying, it is customary for him to leave a sum of money to be expended solely on the funeral ceremonies. Quite recently I was fortunate enough to be present at the funeral of a man who had bequeathed the sum of 4000 dollars (approximately £400) for funeral expenses. The following is a brief description of the funeral ceremonies.

Elaborate arches of bamboo and straw matting, covered with paper flowers, were built across the roads leading to the house. Vacant spaces were covered in with painted matting, and hung round about were gaudy chinese lanterns.

Inside these shelters were placed dozens of crudely-painted figures made of paper and bamboo. These represented the household gods, and also all things necessary for the use of the deceased in the next world. They included horses, rickshas, boats, and a large house complete with furniture and necessary utensils. All the figures were very skilfully designed and painted in bright colours.

Food was placed around the coffin and outside the door of the house, and practically everyone in the village availed themselves of the opportunity of a free meal.

The day previous to the funeral a procession, headed by a band and small boys carrying banners, marched round the village. This was to enable everyone to see that the money bequeathed for the purpose was actually being spent.

The next day the funeral procession was formed up, headed by the chief mourner, followed by coolies carrying the coffin and all the paper effigies. On reaching the graveside, the coffin was placed on the ground and the effigies piled together a short distance away. The chief mourner, who had been crying aloud during the march from the house, here discovered something going wrong; he immediately ceased howling and commenced bullying the coolies. Having adjusted matters to his satisfaction, he returned to his lamentations. The paper figures were then set on fire and completely burnt, this being done to ensure their availability for use in the next world.

Refreshment was taken during the time occupied by the burning, and eventually the coffin was lowered into a shallow grave.

[We regret that pressure on space compels us to hold over four illustrations for this Article; but we hope to use them in the January number.—ED.]

Boxing at the Albert Hall.

On Thursday, November 1st, at the Albert Hall, a team of policemen of Great Britain and Ireland were engaged with a team representing the Imperial Services in twelve six-round contests.

An enormous crowd of over 10,000 people were thrilled from start to finish, and great enthusiasm was shown over each bout. This enthusiasm was extended to Brigadier-General Sir William Horwood on his arrival in the hall—cheer upon cheer rang out accompanied by the lusty rendering of 'For he's a jolly good fellow.' H.R.H. The Duke of York was no less enthusiastically greeted a little later in the evening, and the National Anthem was sung with great gusto.

The interest for Signallers was supplied by our popular pair of boxers, Rodda and Stuart.

Rodda's fight was thrilling throughout, and was without doubt one of the finest exhibitions of the evening.

He fought Guard Murphy of Dublin, who is the present Irish light-heavy weight champion. They were a well-matched pair, and Rodda won narrowly on points. During the bout Murphy caught him with some terrible right-handers, but Rodda stood up to them without turning a hair.

In the fifth round particularly he had to receive the full force of Murphy's attack, but he fought back to pluckily and to such good effect that he caused Murphy to miss badly on several occasions. Rodda took full advantage of this and scored freely with good, healthy straight-lefts.

The sixth round found both fighters hardly able to stand, but Rodda's stamina earned him a well-merited victory.

Stuart met Guard Flanagan also of Dublin, the Irish heavy-weight champion.

This, too, was a very close and thrilling fight, and the victory was given to Stuart on the referee's casting vote.

He fought in the true and approved Army fashion, keeping remarkably cool always and using his left time after time with good effect.

A distinguished company included: H.R.H. The Duke of York, Brigadier-General Sir William Horwood, Gen. Sir Walter Braithwaite, Admiral Sir W. W. Fisher, Admiral Sir E. G. Alexander-Sinclair, Air Vice-Marshal Scarlett, General Sir Robert Whigham, Admiral Sir Percy Royds, Lieut.-General Sir Hastings Anderson, Lieut.-General Sir Webb Gillman, Sir Norton Griffiths, Wing-Commander Louis Greig, the Marquis of Clydesdale, and many other notabilities.

The evening ended up with a victory for the policemen by 8 events to 4.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—A little voice within has urged me to 'take up my pen and write,' but I am hanged if I know what to write about; and at the same time I shall be hanged if I don't write something.

Have you every sat down to write a much-over due reply to a letter—scratched your head, murmured words not altogether appropriate, and finally torn the offending untouched paper asunder? Well' that's just how I feel. And the cause? Ask me not, gentle reader. I could tell you but, however, there would be room for Wing notes, and by the time you had finished reading to the very end, providing always of course that you read to the very end, there would be tears of sympathy in your eyes. In other words, I am 'browned off!'

Arrivals.—We welcome the 84 recruits who have arrived during the current month, and trust that they will soon settle down to the 'square' and the climatic conditions that are at present prevailing.

Cause and Effect.—A correspondent, who is shortly to be posted here, writes to ask why Catterick has a reputation for being so cold. Not being up to the educational standard required to answer such a question I passed it on to my friend Beck (of the Tooting-Becks) and herewith his reply.

'On March 21st the sun's rays strike vertically upon the equator; in other words, the insolation or radiation from the sun is vertical upon the equator. Therefore it may be said that on March 21st the equator is the line of vertical insolation. On June 21st the sun's ray strike vertically upon the parallel of latitude 23½° N.: hence this parallel is now the line of vertical insolation. After this date the sun turns southward, until on September 23rd the equator is again the line of vertical insolation.'

I trust that it is now as clear as pea soup to my correspondent.

Promotions.—Corpls Beazley, Smith and Romain have taken another step up the ladder of promotion and have received their second stripe. We offer them our heartiest congratulations.

More Gems.—The following are extracts from answers on a question regarding the hardships of the Signals in East Africa 1915:—

One afternoon per week will be alloted to 'Sports.'

'19-15-1915 the hardships of the Signals in east africa was laing cables and then at to over head wires as the cable was distroyed by white ants and was thick with jarafs rninos and other animals also getting sniped off' (Kommeant is Usles and Then at All not).

'To save damage by giraffes ground had to be raised 35 feet above the airline.' (Evidently the first experiment of one-way traffic).

'Owing to girraffes air liners had to fly 25 feet high.' (At the double I presume).

Departures.—Sergt 'Tich' Hamlin and family, Cpl Chadney V., L/Corpls Lewis and Young W.' and Sigmn Bowler, leave us for India's sunny clime on November 13th, so by the time these notes appear in print they will be well on their way.

They take with them the best wishes of the Wing for a pleasant voyage and a successful tour of duty.

Truth will out.—The 'Charleston' origin has at last come to light. It appears that the inventor obtained his inspiration from watching a dancer working a threepenny piece off the floor in an Aberdeen dance hall.

Cross-Country.—We managed to secure third place in the S.T.C. mass cross-country run. A very creditable performance, which we hope to beat next year.

Without Comment.—Overheard in the married quarters First young thing (about to be married to a dashing n.c.o.) 'Isn't it wonderful? George has promised to give me all his devotion when we are married.'

Second young (?) thing (married, on the strength, small family), 'Take a tip from me, dearie: ask him to make it C.R.A. instead.'

Matters Fistic.—October 26th saw the successful opening of the Wing's new boxing arena. On all sides one could hear nothing else but praise for the way in which the show was managed, and needless to say the efficient and professional-like manner in which the hall itself had been built came in for special commendation.

We are all looking eagerly forward to the next show.

The following received medals in commemoration of their share in bringing the scheme to a successful conclusion: Sergts Holmes, Hore, Devlin, Griffiths and Shoebridge. It is believed that the ribbon will be red with white stars. I wonder why? It will be rather awkward making stars with white paint, won't it, Shoey?

Compliments Seasonal.—We take this opportunity of wishing all units, at home and abroad, a very merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years. May their Christmas pudding contain all the currants they wish for and the beer have a good head, likewise themselves the next morning!

G. R. S.

E Company, Training Battalion.

Compliments of the Season.—A merry Christmas to all units at home and abroad.

Cause and Effect.—Compassion finds no place in the breast of officialdom, so that when the Powers decreed the observance of National Rat Week and voiced the tidings abroad, embellished with Royal coat of arms, the fate of Rupert was automatically sealed.

Rupert the Rat had his habitation in a drain situated on the northern boundary of E Company's parade ground, a noisome, dripping hole.

Rupert was known to be in residence and in rations, and the knowledge had for some time proved a thorn in the side of the authorities, because Rupert was not on the strength.

Traps were laid time and again, but Rupert was an old-timer.

Then came rat week and the regimental sergeant-major with his flying squad equipped with picks, shovels and poisoned bait.

The pick party worked in relays of perspiration and at length the privacy of Rupert's apartment was reached.

But as the attack advanced so did the rat retreat, methodically and in good order.

Someone suggested the employment of gas and a tin of carbide was placed at the entrance to the dug-out.

Nobody knows who threw the match, but at the exact moment that the explosion blew the manhole cover twenty-five feet into the air, Rupert was gathered to his fathers.

Without Comment.—Extract from Daily Press headline: 'U.S.A. Presidential Election.' Judge murdered.

Appreciation.—Pilgrim's article, 'Ten Years After,' published in the November WIRE, was greatly appreciated by all.

Marriage.—Congratulations and best wishes to Sigmn Marriott C. P. on his marriage on September 26th.

Discharge.—Our good wishes accompany L/Sergt Norton G., who left us on September 29th.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Sgt Lewis S. on his appointment to that rank.

Education.—L/Corpl Sanctuary J. gained a 'distinguished' certificate at the School of Education, Shorncliffe. Well done!

Tail Piece.—The palm this month is awarded to the man who submitted an application to *re-muster* from Church of England to Wesleyan.

L. H. D.

F Company, Training Battalion.

I must offer an apology to all for the absence of notes from this Company. We have lost our old scribe and have been searching for somebody to take his place. You will probably say 'That is an old one,' but believe me, it is quite correct, so please accept our excuse this time.

Since notes last appeared from this quarter we have lost and gained several members of our tribe.

Departures.—Signalmen Kenneally, Hurley, Cox S., Turner and Dargan, after having reached years of discretion or indiscretion, have succeeded in becoming men and have left us for Field units.

Boy White A. F. has left us for a period to obtain knowledge of the sounder at Liverpool.

Corpls Murphy and Ayres and L/Corpl Way have taken the chance of 'seeing the world,' and have proceeded on draft.

Corpl Murphy has gone to the land of the Pharaohs, and we shall miss his 'small' figure on the sports ground very much indeed.

Corpl Ayres left for Sarafand and with him goes one of Eff's renowned runners.

L/Corpl Way, after a very short notice, has embarked for India. Be careful, John, and don't lay too many 'kit inspections' out there.

We wish them all the best of luck in their new spheres.

Arrivals.—We are rather late in proclaiming them here, but better late than never. A hearty welcome is extended to Captain Henderson and to the new boys: Powell, Cox, Larkin, Anthony, Cope, Smith H., Boyland, Burden, Davidson and White R. May their stay be long and happy.

On the Square.—Ah! what a vision that expression brings before us. The new boys under the most able guidance of Sergt Carpenter (late of E Company) are now deep in the theory of 'turning about by numbers' and are showing good progress.

Whilst I am dealing with 'square,' thoughts are turned to stones, from there to rocks, which reminds one of

Rockeries.—Even though the weather is getting worse, gardening is still in vogue and flat and insignificant pieces of ground are developing rockeries very rapidly. I often wonder if we are going back to the stone age again, but next year we have great hopes of a wonderful horticultural display. Let's hope so, at any rate, because the boys have worked like Britons (ancient), hauling boulders from various parts of the 'broad acres.'

Boys' Club.—Recently fancy dress balls have been held and quite a lot of originality was shown, which in a lot of cases caused a great deal of amusement. Dancing was held to the tune of a gramophone which worked 'overtime.' It is rather a good job that graemophones do not belong to trade unions.

H-ohms Law.—By the time that these notes appear everybody will be looking forward to Christmas and the holiday. We therefore extend hearty Christmas greetings to all Signals at home and abroad.

EFFRAT.

School of Signals.

Postings: Officers.—Capt St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler, R.Sigs. to the Depot Battalion, S.T.C., and Capt F. S. Thompson, Royal Signals, to the Training Battalion. Both with effect from 1st November.

Lieut W. Scott, R.Signals, is posted to the School from the Training Battalion, as from November 1st.

As the end of No. 16 Q. Course draws near we shall be losing Lieut R. T. H. Gelston, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who leaves for 3rd Divl Signals; and Lieut H. C. B. Rogers, The King's Own Regiment, to the Training Battalion pending embarkation for India.

Arrivals: Other Ranks.—On the day No. 2318656 Sigmn Williams J. A. was posted to the School, he was the subject of an order which placed him under the category of 'awaiting embarkation' for India. That's quick work, anyway!

The 55th Refresher Course assembled on November 1st, and in consequence the sergeants' mess dining members' strength now beats the number of the 'married' belonging to the mess. A refreshing thought for the bachelors.

In the News.—That is to say, Part II. Orders news. Sergeant Tilling F. has re-engaged to complete 21 years with the Colours. Driver Bean left us on November for a cooks' course, and Driver Scholfield returned from the School of Cookery on November 2nd having spent a pleasant few weeks instruction in culinary art.

Massed Cross-Country Run.—The first S.T.C. massed cross-country run of the season was held on October 15th. About 1500 runners took part from all Companies in the S.T.C. The course was not a hard one; but the School's strength as compared to the strengths of the other Companies was a severe handicap towards our chances of success. However, we were the only Company which turned out 98 per cent. of its w.o.s and n.c.o.s—an example which might well be copied by the other Companies of the S.T.C.

PETER.

ALDERSHOT NEWS.

A Corps Signals.

No. 1 Company.

It is with a rather sinking feeling that I pen this month's notes. Our sports group have been very unfortunate ('B' Group, composed of A Corps, Command Signal Company, D Troop, and A.A. Signals).

We played the K.D.G. in the first round of the Army cup and were defeated by 9 goals to 1. (I leave the printer to deal kindly with this score.) The game seemed very nice when we scored the first goal, but afterwards, oh boy! I heard one of the K.D.G. spectators shout 'We will bring our horses to play you!' I thought this was very rude of him.

The next reverse was rugby, when we were defeated by the K.O.S.B. by 21—0 (you can leave this out if you like, Mr. Editor). The game was very exciting and we did try—but!

The one bright spot on the horizon was our indoor department, when our men's billiard team defeated the men's team of the King's Own Regiment by 1 (one) point, the score being 494 against 493. Both our individualists for the *Aldershot News* trophy have 'gone west')—Sigmn Harrison and Dvr Atkins. (I had booked a seat at Woolworths to see Atkins in the final. Bang goes sixpence!)

The M.T. Section have arrived from the Lido looking very fit and bursting to go on furlough. There will be some excuses to be made as to why the annual furlough was not spent at home. I have been very busy giving fatherly advice regarding marriage; one word suffices.

Promotions.—L/Corpl Appleby H. has been made a Corporal—another of the Napoleon type!

Appointment.—Congratulations to No. 2317973 Sigmn Cook T. on his appointment to U/L/Corporal.

Extension of Service.—Sergt Hayes J. is continuing for yet another year. Keep smiling, young soldiers—old soldiers never die!

Marriage.—Corpl Parsons J. (Padre) has been and gone and done it. Good luck P. You must join the C.R.A. league. Prospectus to be obtained from Barlow.

Births.—Congratulations to the following: Corpl Smith C. O., the proud father of a daughter (Joy Corinne), and Sigmn Mortimore, a daughter (Jill Noreen). Both fathers are unit clerks, hence the names. (We have quite a nice selection of names. Budding fathers, please note.)

Discharges.—Sigmn Martin E. A. has left us for a few days. He is being employed at the Corps officers' mess when it opens Sigmn Leach (1 M.T. Section) commences his second six years' furlough as a commercial traveller. One does learn something in the M.T. Section.

Lieut T. W. Boileau leaves us very shortly for India. We shall miss him very much.

UNCLE.

1st Divisional Signals.

A very happy Christmas to all units from Firstdivsigs!

'Ya,' our erstwhile correspondent, having had additional duties thrust upon him, we the new scribes can only hope to keep up his high standard in the future.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death of Sigmn McKillop D. on November 1st. A cheery and bright fellow, he will be missed by all who knew him.

Departures.—Sergts McGrath P. and Lombard W. left us for a scrounge on the P.S., T.A., on November 1st, to Aberdeen and Derby respectively. Influence, Wally?

Sergt Duggan J. left us on discharge on November 10th, and Corpl King J. to the Reserve on October 22nd.

Drafts.—R.S.M. Lawrence F. and others too numerous to mention leave us early in the new year for India. We are sorry to lose our R.S.M. and wish him the best of luck whilst in 'Plonky Land.'

Annual Weapon Training.—This is now a thing of the past, but although the new course looked much easier on paper, many surprises were experienced on the range.

G.O.C.'s Inspection.—The unit was inspected by the G.O.C. 1st Division on October 18th, and the unit has cause to be very proud of the excellent turn-out. Congratulations to B Cable Section in having their harness in such a pitch of perfection.

Still Climbing.—Congratulations to Corpl King J. on promotion to that rank, and to U/L/Corpls Glass J. M., Marler W., Annells W., Golding E., and Bryan H. on getting their first step on the ladder.

Query.—The 'Queer Hawkes' are still in doubt as to why that 3/- a day allotment was made.

QUEER HAWKES.

Sergeants' Mess.

What it is proposed to make an annual event—an Armistice ball—was held in Marlborough Lines Gymnasium on Friday, 9th November, and it proved a great success.

There was an attendance of about 400. First class dance band music was supplied by 'The Cerries' jazz band. The dancing lasted from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Corporals' Mess.

Greetings to all other junior n.c.o.s messes of the Corps on this our first appearance in THE WIRE.

As the largest (in numbers) corporals' mess in the Corps and representatives of 1st Div., 2nd Div., and A Corps Signals, to say nothing of D Troop Signals and Command Signal Coy., Aldershot, it was thought that perhaps old members of these units would welcome news of their acquaintances.

Now we have all returned from the 'war' in Sussex and the units are again at full strength, things in the mess are looking up. A gramophone, piano, dominoes, skittles and other indoor games have been purchased and tend to keep the members in the mess at nights in lieu of the erstwhile 'square-pushing.'

A dance is being held on the 30th inst., and as it is our first all are hoping to make it a huge success. A full programme of dances, whist drives, smokers, etc., has been drawn up for the ensuing season, and providing they are the successes we anticipate the juniors are in for a hectic time.

'Jackie' is back again with us, after a few days convalescing, and sends love to all his 'corporals.'

QUEER HAWK.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

The recent absence of notes from this Company is due to our having been split up for manœuvres and scattered to the four corners of Sussex.

Manœuvres were quite a success and all sections got a good report from their respective staffs. The glorious weather was an incentive to our tame sheiks, and I'm sure there are loads of aching hearts in Sussex.

All things must have an end, and here we are back in Smallshot indulging in an orgy of 'spit-and-polish' in preparation for the annual inspection by the G.O.C., which is rumoured for the early part of next month.

The drafting orders have hit us rather hard, and December will see nearly fifty of the Company going out to join the Threeco-ites who have gone before—I feel safe in making this statement, as, judging by last month's notes, we seem to have members in nearly every portion of the globe.

We are at present very short-handed, owing to the number on draft leave.

Education is in full swing, and technical training is due to start any time.

I fear we are to lose a valued landmark: Marie of 'oat-crushing' fame has been seen riding a Triumph, so presumably that ancient relic will soon disappear. There are rumours that the Science Museum has made a bid!

A splendid system of athletic training has been devised by our C.O., and will come into force with the commencement of individual training, so we expect all you newcomers to get down to it from the outset, and remember that if we are to retain the trophy it will be solely due to your efforts, as there are numerous gaps in our teams to be filled. Have a shot at all the sports until you find the one that suits you best. Get your place in the team, and then you'll be able to feel you've done your bit towards the retention of the trophy and cups now held by the Company.

An encouraging start was made by defeating Threeco of A Corps in the Hitchins cup after two-and-a-half hours of really good rugby. (My word, Mr. Milner, you did give us a shock!) The high standard of play demonstrates what a real benefit the new competition will be. As usual, it was our O.C., Captain Mathew, who set things going by getting through for us. Corpl Hammond converted, and a brilliant effort by Lieut Burridge brought the score up to eight points, by which margin we won. Our thanks are due to R.Q.M.S. Feegan, who has kindly volunteered to referee all the Hitchin cup rugby matches, his capable way of handling a game, together with his advice, do so much towards the making of a good game.

Obituary.—Our very deepest sympathy is extended to Col. and Mrs. E. N. F. Hitchins on their sad bereavement.

Our thanks to the Secretary, Signals Association, for being instrumental in finding Dvr Heam of this Company employment. Now, you other lads realise why we want a 100 per cent. membership.

ARMISTICE BALL.

Four hundred people attended the first annual Armistice ball of the Royal Corps of Signals, Aldershot Command, held in the Marlborough Lines gymnasium, on Friday evening.

The ball, arranged by a committee comprising C.S.M. Bayliss, C.Q.M.S. Bryant, Sergt Ball and Sergt Dixon, was in every way successful, and was attended by only one small drawback—the freezing atmosphere—and shawls and large wraps were much in request. A large marquee was erected outside the gymnasium for supper, which was enjoyed in spite of five or six degrees of Jack Frost. It was only natural that tea and coffee were demanded very frequently and jellies and sponges looked at with decidedly shivery feelings. The social event proved very jolly and there were large smiles everywhere, and when novelties, ranging from 'bridesmaids' headdresses' to huge 'cigars' were distributed midway through the evening, fun grew fast and general.

The decoration of the hall, the Signals' colours being very prominent, was most effective, and some time and patience must have been spent on the work. The dais on which the 11th Hussars' ('Cherries') band played for dancing was also neatly covered with coloured paper to which was added a splash of colour by the evergreens and ferns. The band gave a fine programme of dances ranging from the modern waltzes and fox trots to the Valeta, Boston Two Step and Grand March Lancers in which all present heartily joined. C.S.M. Bayliss, assisted by his colleagues, carried out the duties of M.C.

Representatives from the sergeants' messes of all units in the North and South Camps at Blackdown were among those present, as well as the following officers and their wives: Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., and Mrs. Worlledge. Major G. M. H. Henderson, O.B.E., M.C. (Commanding 2nd Divl Signals), and Mrs. Henderson, Major O. S. D. Wills (Assistant C.S.O. Aldershot Command), Captain and Mrs. R. Sutton-Pratt, Captain H. D. Beadon, M.C., and Mrs. Beadon, Capt F. H. Dallison, M.C., and Mrs. Dallison, Capt H. E. and Mrs. Rance, Capt H. A. Spencer, M.C., Capt R. F. H. Nalder, Lieut and Mrs. W. A. Gallagher, 2/Lieut D. W. Burridge, and 2/Lieut D. St. J. Hoysted.

Telegrams regretting inability to attend and wishing us a merry evening were received from Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer Aldershot Command, Lieut.-Col. R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., and Lieut.-Colonel G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C.

D Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Mons Barracks, Aldershot, November 12th.

General.—Something happened last month that necessitated our absence from the columns of THE WIRE. What it was exactly I don't know, as I was enjoying myself on the 'annual,' but here goes. The Brigadier 1st Cavalry Brigade inspected our lines on October 10th. Modesty forbids my saying more, but the following Special Order by Capt R. Sutton-Pratt, R.Signals, our officer commanding, needs no further comment:—

> I should like to place on record my appreciation of the excellent work done by every individual member of the Troop during training and manœuvres, and also of the excellent manner in which the barrack rooms, stables, M/T sheds, were prepared for the inspection by the Brigadier 1st Cavalry Brigade, on October 10th, which entailed a great deal of work on the part of the few remaining behind from leave.
>
> (Signed) R. SUTTON-PRATT.

Birth.—May we be allowed to tender our respectful congratutions to Capt and Mrs. Sutton-Pratt on the birth of a son and heir on September 26th.

Postings.—L/Sergt Weeks W. H. arrived on October 18th from Western Command Signal Company, and Corpl Sharples left us as his relief. Sergt Bale H. posted to 2nd Divl Signals, November 17th.

We welcome the first-named as a Don Trooper, and hope that the others do not forget their stay with us. (Shurrup-H.)

Army Reserve.—Sigmn Charlie Thompson left us for civvy street on October 2nd, on completion of a musical V.T. course, somewhere in London. We wish him the best of good luck.

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following who have been 'stepped up' to ranks as shown: Corporal Forrest W. H., and L/Corpl Marsh R. J., both on August 17th.

Old Soldiers.—Sergt Morgan F. E. has been permitted to re-engage for a further period of one year. (Will that be 22, M.?)

Agony.—Congratulations to Stan and Jerry. (Mine's a lemon.)

Blackbird: Awfully sorry re the cricket challenge, but can only put our forgetfulness down to the stop at Basingstoke on our way back. We hope to leave the epitaph *there* when we do play that footer game. It might pine if taken away!

Dick: Jimmy says that the mandolin ticket required rejuvenating, but he was a little pushed, and now—the suit's in!

Coton, Tiny, Watkiss and others: Oh, where is my wandering boy to-night?

More Agony.—Time: Educational training. Place: Educational room. Scene: Blackboard in front of class, containing drawing of Northern England (copyright by instructor).

Pupil: Did you draw that from memory, sergeant?

Instructor: Yes.

Pupil: Blimey! ain't you got a good memory. I couldn't draw that from a book.

Do you know.—What would happen to the coal dust in the coal yard if there were no married quarters?

How one can protect oneself from the terrors of television, when in the bath; or out late at night; or when the C.R.A. weighs heavy in the pocket?

Does She?—Sorry, Trooper Don, that joke was discharged to pension some time ago.—ED.

Lastly.—D Troop wishes all readers the Compliments of the Season, and hope all have a better time this year than last (if possible).

TROOPER DON.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

We have not experienced any exciting happenings during the past month. Those who will be leaving us for the East have enjoyed their furlough and will soon begin to count the years which will pass before they have the pleasure of another Blighty furlough.

One hears such remarks as 'Roll on that big boat.' Those abroad please note that the same cry goes out from this end of the 6000 miles. Really it is an adventure worth while. After all, some folks join the Army to see the world, and practical experience is the best teacher. 'Oh, won't it be grand when we see Indiland'—no buttons to clean, no boots to black: boy do this and boy do that! Oh, yes, it sound very nice! I wonder, do those on the new rates of pay still get fresh butter and four-course dinners? Why not! I understand that a good number of the pre-1925 wallahs returned with bulging pockets, and those who didn't return with it at least embarked with it.

One advantage of serving abroad is that one always has something to look forward to, even if it only a 6 ft. barbed wire boundary mark!

Sport, of course, is well encouraged, and at all times a match is made very exciting by the introduction of a stray lump of lead from nowhere, and the players last piece of energy is used by a sprint. Do you get me, 'Man's Eye?'

By the way, our Q-bloke has just received notice from Ordnance to collect two lamps for wagons, limber, G.S. I understand these were idented for two years ago. I wonder, 'have the Ordnance any bows and arrows in stock?' Perhaps a few old indents could be dug up.

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Our Latest!—Who was the man who dreamt that his horse was fitted with Magdyno lighting, three inch rubber shoes, steering damper and speedometer?

Have you ever been trapped in a London fog with an 'H' Triumph?

Is it possible to buy a motor-cycle for 10s.? Believe me, it has been done. No names please, but it is true a certain individual bought a Radco for 10s., spent at least fifteen minutes hard work to make it go, and then sold it for 30s. Very good business!

We are sorry to report that we have lost two of our fold in Corpl Mansfield and Sigmn Morgan, who have gone to No. 2 Wireless Company, Sarafand.

'Yorkie' of this Troop sends his best wishes to 2nd Indian Divl Signals, hoping they have a Christmas this year like other Christmases he had with them.

We were thinking of putting an 'agony notice' in the London dailies something like this: Lost, 'H' model Triumph complete with rider. It is thought that it might possibly be found and claimed by the museum authorities, but unluckily the rider returned minus the 'H' model. Chiswick and Putney garages had the gruesome task of repairing it!

BLACKBIRD.

No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Signal Company, Blackdown.

This summer has for us been a busy time: two camps and two different sets of manœuvres.

We started off at Watchet. On June 2nd Lieut W. D. J. Harries and the Cable Section started to lay out the practice camp lines there: some forty odd miles of cable. By June 16th, the whole Company, together with the 1st A.A. Brigade R.A. and the H.Q of the Air Defence Brigade had arrived.

The Company—less a detachment of one officer and twenty o.r.s, left at the end of June. The Cable Section took a hasty bit of stores and petrol, and then moved to Gatton Park, where another forty odd miles of cable were laid for the 1st A.A. S/L. Bn. R.E. practice camp and for participation in the air manœuvres to test the air defences of Great Britain.

At the end of August the Cable Section reeled up its lines and returned to Blackdown. At the same time the A.A. Brigade R.A. Signal Section moved away for divisional manœuvres, and was away three weeks. During this time they had no motor cycle off the road and were complimented on their work. The Cable Section had a ten days' 'breather' and then on September 17th moved to Westhampnett with a composite Company of the 1st A.A. S/L. Bn. R.E. for the inter-divisional manœuvres.

The Section moved fifty miles and was through to all Searchlight Sections that evening. The following morning all the cable was recovered, and relaid thirty-five miles away.

On the 19th the cable was reeled up and the Section returned to Blackdown. Considering that the cable was laid from Morris six-wheelers this was not a bad effort. On September 22nd the Watchet detachment having reeled up and returned all stores, came back to Blackdown.

During the whole summer, in spite of the large distances covered, no vehicle was off the road for more than a few hours.

General.—With the exception of a few details our 'happy family' is now complete, i.e., all gathered together in Blackdown.

Training is now in full swing: already one or two preliminary assaults have been levelled at the Command Trade Testing Board with satisfactory results. Further skirmishes may be made after coaching, during the ensuing training season.

The annual musketry course was fired during the latter part of October, and quite a number of people discovered what bad rifles they had.

Far better were the results on the revolver range, when a high average was maintained throughout the course—Sigmn Ives creeping away with the score of 47 out of a possible 50.

On October 9th the unit was inspected by Brigadier E. F. Shewell, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding 1st Air Defence Brigade, and judging by appearances the turn-out was very satisfactory.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following: L/Corpl Sandall to be Corporal, w.e.f. 20/7/28. Signalmen Richards and Feltham to be L/Corpls (paid) w.e.f. 29/4/28.

Departures.—Snowy Whitworth to Egypt. Signalmen Lawton (without a limp), Stock, Turner and Rouse to Shanghai, per H.M.T. 'Dorsetshire' on September 18th. Corporal Sandell on a G.P.O. course. 'Jammy' Sandall!

Things we want to know.—Is it profitable to miss the train at Waterloo on Sunday night, returning with the milk Monday morning? Can one double on the same bluff?

When members of the 'Hand-us-yer-Club' are going to invest in some cleaning gear, and is one mirror to twenty a fair proportion?

On Horticulture.—Will Barleux please inform us if some cheese (—) and onion (—) will grow if watered carefully.

Comments.—The ways of the world are mysterious, and adverting to such things as inspections, we wonder if the following advertisement in a 'local rag' would serve 'Aimie' as proof of this.

Ex-Signalman seeks situation as 'char gentleman.' Very experienced scrubber and under supervision can detect dust on the pictures in the barrack-room. Apply Box B.252.

It is stated vide 'Pearsons' Weekly' that steel, when subjected to prolonged shocks, not necessarily violent, will break.

No, 'Energy,' neither Joes or Alfs has broken yet, but burnishers are getting a firmer hold on the local change.

Postings.—C.S.M. Dolbear from India. It is thought that he is anxious to terminate his furlough, so that he may join us at Blackdown. *'Nice place.'*

Arrivals.—Signalmen Ruston, Short, Vidler, Willows, Nixon, Huddlestone, Metcalf, Pollard and Pope from S.T.C., Catterick.

Southern Command Signal Company.

Salisbury, Wilts, November 15th.

General.—By the time these notes are in print November will be gone again and December dawning upon us. Our thoughts will be turned to jolly old Christmas, and may all contributors and readers at home and abroad, also the Editor and his staff, spend a very happy one.

During the past month great excitement has occurred in this little town of ours: bonfires and fireworks created a great amount of excitement, besides the pleasure fair which assisted the lads of the Corps to indulge in a little fun.

On Friday, November 2nd, Salisbury was livened up with the first hit of the season, when the Headquarters here gave a dance in the Guild Hall. Major-General A. A. McHardy, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (M.G.A. Southern Command) and other officers were present. The dance went off with a good swing, the attendance numbering 250. The 'Blackbirds' orchestra of the 5th Battalion Royal Tank Corps from Tidworth again supplied six hours of good music.

The same, only different.—It was a very dark night and a young soldier was doing his first sentry-go. He had walked up and down smartly for half-an-hour, and like all good soldiers, thought it was about time he had a rest, so he stopped! and he looked! and he listened! Suddenly the sound of approaching footsteps reached his ears. Who could this be? surely not the orderly officer, out at this time of the night! Someone coughed —not a nasty cough: just one of those 'ahem's.' Something had to be done, and done quickly; so the sentry stamped his feet, and bringing his rifle down sharply to the 'on guard' position, shouted 'Halt! who goes there?' 'Chaplain!' came a voice out of the night. The young soldier thought for a moment, then in a loud voice replied, 'Pass, Charlie, all's well!'

Randomite.—O.C, to sergeant-major, who had brought a signalman up on a charge of insolence: What is the prisoner? Sergt-major: He is a footballer, and is the best outside in the unit. O.C.: Well, we'll change his position, he'll be 'left inside' for seven days. March him out, sergeant-major.

Foreman of Signals: Give a hand, Jones, to load up these bricks. Jones: I don't feel well, Quarter, I'm all of a tremble. F-of-S: Very well, Jones, lend a hand with the sieve!

A Southern Railway carriage was crowded at Salisbury Station, when a young signalman in a great hurry opened the door—observing the carriage was crowded he enquired in a sarcastic voice, 'Is this Noah's ark full?' 'Yes!' was the reply from an old soldier in the corner, 'We're all here except the ass. Come in!'

Beggar: Would yer kindly 'elp a pore man wot 'as seen better days? Lady: Better days? Beggar: Yes, mum, when beer was tuppence and baccy fourpence!

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Apology.—Sorry! Missed it last month.

Explanation.—Went on leave. So did the other chap.

Greeting.—Merry Christmas, everybody! See January WIRE for New Year's greeting. Order your copy early. If this coming Christmas is going to be anything like the last one, Heaven help us.

Everything was as it should have been except the weather, which was far too seasonable for modern life. You remember that some of us walked along a railway embankment through four feet of snow for three miles. In the sixteenth century such a thing would not have been possible. There were no railways then. Besides, troops were not granted leave at that time. We used to take it.

The Pip.—The 3rd Divl Signals offer their hearty congratulations to R.S.M. Adams J. on his being selected for commission as Lieutenant and Quartermaster. He leaves us in January for Jubbulpore, where he will acquire some valuable experience. However, more in the January WIRE.

Annual Furlough.—Those who have not been on leave, and returned, are either still on leave or are going next month. N.B. Or not going at all. Remarkable!

Tragedy.—Angus MacFiggis took over pay duties on Monday, paid the Company Thursday morning and died of a broken heart Thursday afternoon.

Bargain.—Silver-plated 'C' melody low pitch saxophone. Perfect condition. Splendid tone. Cash £12. Apply R.F.B., No. 2 Company Office.

Departures.—Capt G. Tayleur to Territorial Staff. Lieut C. A. H. Chadwick to Egypt. The best wishes of the unit go with them.

The 'Pimple.'—I expect you thought this had died a natural death. Well, it serves you right; you shouldn't think. The Pimple is flourishing. You try to remove one of the fatigue party for another job and see what happens. For the benefit of those who have just enlisted, the Pimple is, or will be, a magnificent recreation ground, with a huge grand-stand, officers' club, green grass, elm trees, pretty ladies, screaming babies, buses right to the gates, and trams back to where you came from (if you *did* come). That's looking ahead rather. It is all being constructed, except the last eight items, by the unit, though on second thoughts the seventh item appears to be—but never mind.

R. F. B.

Departures.—The following have left us for a 'refresher' in Palestine, and embarked on November 13th for Sarafand: Corpl Chesters W., Signalmen Lafford E., Cooper W. J., and Wright F. We wish them the best of luck.

Dvr Loughrey, Signalmen Cairns and Gilpin proceeded to the Depot on October 1st. L/Corpl Payne to Training Battalion on November 12th. Corpl Slater F. to Northern Command Signal Company, York.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corpl Keats on his promotion to that rank, w.e.f. 20/7/28, and to L/Corpl Turner on obtaining the first one, w.e.f. 16/8/28.

Back pay, eh! Free drinks, perhaps!

Births.—Corpl Norcup J. a son (Reginald Denis) on Oct. 2nd Dvr Pigg, a son (Norman) on September 19th. L/Corpl Twigger, a daughter (Hazel), on October 21st. Sergt Rhodes, a son (Frank Leslie), on October 14th. L/Corpl Lewis, a daughter (Alma Joyce), on October 22nd. Congratulations to them all.

Continuance in the Service.—2307728 C.S.M. Doust is permitted to extend for a period of one year beyond 21 years.

Things we want to know.—What does Hermann Darewski dream of when he sleeps all the afternoon? Is it the notes he expends from his trombone or the ones he collects for it. Has he arranged to be on guard every Thursday? If not, why not?

E. R. B.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Trooping.—Those anxious people in sunny climes who scan THE WIRE for possible reliefs will not be disappointed in 4th Division notes this month. Here they are:—

For India: Corpl Green W. J., Signalmen Cowley G. J., Stone P., Burke C. S., Hammond W., Rogers R. N., Rimmington C., Starke P., Bunce C. F., Bridle E., Kerr W., Stevens A. E., Dewdney W., and Collyns C.

For Shanghai: Lieut J. W. Gordon, Sergt Harris E. W., L/Cpl Page V. W., Signalmen Holmes T. E., Andrews J. E., Dopson A. W.,

For Ceylon: Sigmn Englehart S.

For Malaya: Signalmen Taylor A. and Wallace W. P.

For Gibraltar: Sigmn Morris W.

For Egypt: Dvrs Sutton and Gilbert F.

We take this opportunity of wishing them all bon voyage, and a happy stay in their new units.

Shanghai.—The remarks of the Griffin were appreciated by all. Try and keep it up please. Remember, we are bound up with Shanghai, and any news, no matter how unimportant, will be of interest to this unit.

Fancy the other ranks losing the tennis tournament. You'd better buy some more court tape and give to Mrs. Korelog's No. 1 Boy.

Very pleased to hear of the excellent W/T work being done by the unit.

We are interested in the Signals 'Peppy Five.' I suppose when the last trooper departs they become 'peppery.'

The 'Fine old English Gentleman' does not view your remarks with favour. Poor old Frank!

Malaya.—Poor old Arthur! You're not the only one who is helping to pay Wall Street. Weller has the same job but a bigger membership.

Christmas and New Year greetings from 4th Divl Signals to all past and present Signals at home and abroad.

Sports.—Unit notes will be found in the Sports supplement.

WELLER.

Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Victoria Barracks, Belfast.

General.—All ranks of the Northern Ireland Signal Company wish all a happy Christmas!

Arrivals.—Seven other ranks have joined from the Depot. To all we extend a hearty welcome, and hope their stay in the unit will be a happy one.

Education.—Congratulations to the following on obtaining their 2nd class certificate of education: Signalmen Gray, Goody, Mills and Thompson. Only the 1st and special to get now.

Draft: India.—A few likely runners, for the notification of pals, etc.: Sergts Beverley and Shirley, L/Corpls Hampton and

The Northern Ireland Signal Company.

Coram, Signalmen Semple, Howard, Manser, Mair, Peacock, Galbraith, Bruton, Brennan, Damer, Curtis and Roper. L/Corporal Williams to Egypt.

Diary of a man about Belfast.—Wearing Duffin's socks and collar, L/Corpl Williams on November 6th tripped down the aisle and joined the ranks of the binerdicks. The groom looked very nice, and was 'given away' by Youngers No. 1. His marriage is regretted—the number of 'bingemerchants' is again reduced by one.

Tears, regrets.—Rastus. F. E. S.

South Ireland Signal Section.

Spike Island, November 13th.

General.—After an absence of a few months we again come into the limelight by the advent of a few notes (pound and ten shilling notes not included).

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE we have had a few changes in the personnel of the Section.

Arrivals.—Corpl Pickwick and L/Cpl Hutcheon from B Corps Signals, India. Corpl Guile W. and Sigmn Wilson from Egypt Signals. L/Corpl Richardson from 1st Indian Divl Signals, India. Pink pants from Troedyrhiw (pronounced Trodrew) for Hookey (Ging.)

The first two named n.c.o.s have been posted to the Bere Island portion of the section.

Bere Island is a remote place, situated on the south-west coast of Ireland, and in the path of the cold Atlantic winds. Oh yes! it does blow, and those on the island know it. It is rumoured that the weather prophet of Bere Island is out of work on account of the weather being very settled. *It rains day and night.* Ask Jock fra' India and he'll tell ye all aboot it.

Departures.—Sigmn Cavell to China via Catterick. Signalman Walker (Hookey Junior) from barrack room to Y.M.C.A.

We have a list of 'probable starters' in the Indian handicap. All divisions in India will be greatly recompensed by securing any of the following for their fold: Signalmen Ashenhurst, Barker E. R. and O'Connell, O/Sigs., and Sigmn Walker, O/W/T.

Births.—Congratulations to Sigmn and Mrs. Evans on the birth of a daughter (Doris). Also to Sigmn and Mrs. Norman on the birth of a son (William John).

Marriage.—Cpl Guile of Egypt fame was married in Brighton on August 30th. This new addition to our list of benedicts will be one less to peel potatoes for—so the cook says. We hope he liked his casket of 'over-ripe' fish that was so kindly forwarded by the Section.

Education.—'Ere's the latest: A signalman approacheth the lordly Q.M. with a request for some kit. The Q.M. lays back in his chair and draws forth a much worn and over-worked remnant of a cigarette, and tries to light same—with a borrowed match. What is the alternative for the signalman—cigarette or no kit?

Another instance of how we are bringing this course to a fine art is, 'The seekers after knowledge.' This is only a cloak for the seeking after 'buck-shee' pencils and books. These are generally used for writing letters home, if a stamp can be procured at *half-price.*

Leave and Furlough.—Sigmn Ashenhurst has completed his annual furlough, but has had the 'misfortune' to go on the sick list. We all wish him a speedy recovery and return to the Section.

Old Comrades Association.—We have the glorified record of 100 per cent. membership. If any unit or Division can beat this, we should like to hear from them.

S.O.S.—Corpl (Hookey) Walker (of Bulford stable fame), would be pleased to hear from Corpls Crummy, Robertson, Lemon and Pack. Nip in quickly, as he is nearly ready for a civvy suit—and starvation.

Sigmn (Buddy) Brightmore would like to hear from members of the old 72 Squad.

Corpl (Freddy) Long (the old sweat) would like a post card from Ben Curtis, Arthur Fuller and Tich Fields. SISS.

Scottish Command Signal Company.

Edinburgh.

Strength Increase.—To C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) and Mrs. Simmonds a bonny girl. Congratulations!

To Corpl and Mrs. Daniell a bonny boy. Congratulations: another prospective A1 for the Corps!

Greetings.—The members of this Company express their very best wishes to all members of the Corps at home and abroad for a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Those of us who hope to have the pleasure of spending our Christmas amidst homely surroundings will have a special thought for our comrades abroad and send them a special 'here's to you!'

Inspections.—The Chief Signal Officer (Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O.) held his annual inspection of the Company last month.

The accompanying photo was taken after this inspection, and in case any of my friends happen to notice that I am conspicuous by my absence I beg to report that owing to a pressure of work I was unable to pose.

Standing (left to right)—C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) White A., Sgt Thompson P. H., L/Sgt Willis T., Sgt Foley J. E., L/Sgt Simmonds F. T., Cpl Daniell C. F., C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Simmonds P. A.

(*Seated*—Capt. S. J. Fielder (O.C. Coy), Lieut-Col. P. R. Bald, D.S.O. (C.S.O.)

Agony.—To Norrie, Egypt, from 'Titch': Have the 'Mossies' died a natural death?

Change of Command.—We have to announce this month, with great regret, the departure from this Command of Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O., R.Signals, our Chief Signal Officer. Whilst taking this opportunity of wishing him every success in his new sphere (that of C.S.O. Eastern Command) we would also extend the heartiest of welcomes to his successor in Scotland, Lieut.-Colonel J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O., who is now on his way home from India to take up his new appointment.

The Latest.—The 'Comingons' were arranging their latest play 'The Haunted Barrackroom,' but were having great difficulty in finding someone to take the part of the ghost.

At last it was suggested that 'Sandy Mac' would make a fine ghost, but this suggestion was met with great disapproval. Upon enquiries being made as to this disapproval the Company were informed that 'he wouldn't even give anyone a fright.'

WEE RITE.

Rhine Signal Company.

Wiesbaden, Nov. 15th.

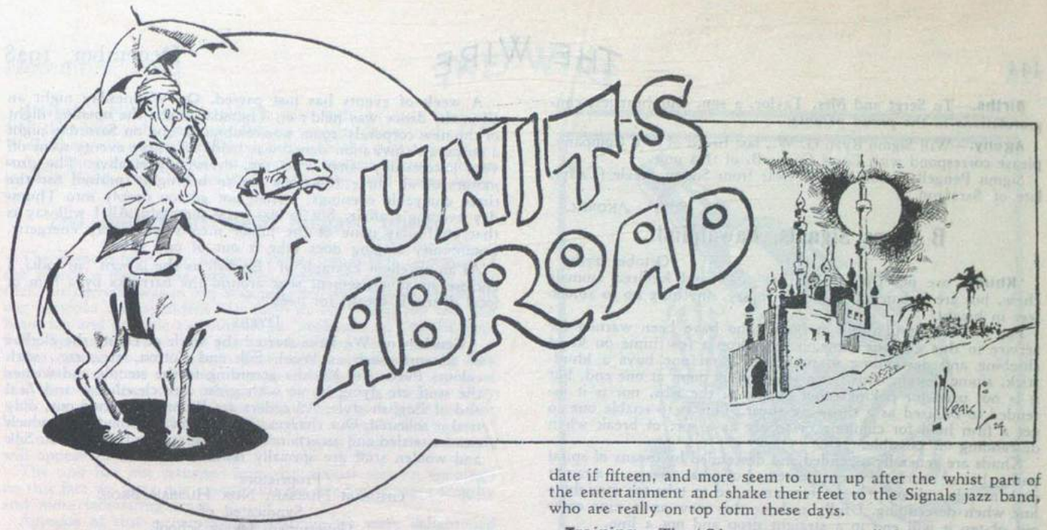
A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all our friends and enemies throughout the Corps!

Our usual scribe being at the brain factory, notes must in consequence be very brief until his return, and it is hoped that after his 'haybox' attempt of last month he will be able to publish a book of poems on his return to the fold.

Departures during the month, all to S.T.C. for overseas: Cpl Betts W. E., Signalmen Cooper W. T. and Cohen A.

Congratulations to Corpl Wheeler C. F. C. on his promotion, and to L/Corpl Woolcott W. A., on his appointment to that rank.

RHINESIGS.



Signal Training Centre (India), Jubbulpore.

Officers: Arrivals and Departures.—The S.T.C. (India) and indeed all Jubbulpore suffered a great loss when Lieut.-Col. P. Z. Paulson, O.B.E., left us to go on leave pending retirement. Lieut-Col. Paulson has been with the I.S.C. from its earliest days, and all ranks felt that they were losing a personal friend.

The send-off was a fitting tribute to his popularity. He was driven from his bungalow to the railway station in a six-horse barouche, eight officers of the S.T.C. acting as out-riders. The roads were lined by the Indian ranks, who cheered heartily as the carriage passed.

All the officers of the station and a large number of civilian friends had assembled to see him off. He was the recipient of innumerable garlands, several of which he was obliged to hand over to his friends to prevent himself being entirely flowered in!

Lieut.-Col. Paulson obviously felt his departure deeply, but his keen sense of humour did not desert him, and he caused much amusement by donning a bowler hat as the train steamed out, a headgear seldom seen in the East.

He will be greatly missed and his place will be hard to fill. We wish him all possible success in the future.

2/Lieut R. J. Moberly has departed for that land of promise for all young soldiers—the Frontier!

Dreams of wild Pathans, hair-breadth escapades, Victoria Crosses and all the rest of the Frontier legends (say nothing of Frontier sores!) obviously possessed him. May they all come true.

Sergeants' Mess.

We have been living a quiet life lately but I understand that we burst forth again on Monday night. I will go into the details in my next endeavour.

The mess photograph was taken on Thursday morning at 7.45 a.m. Sgt Weller R. J. M.M., looked very sprightly, and I think he will be the shining light on the Christmas card this year, providing, of course, that nothing happens to the camera. It certainly appeared to be quite in order on being dismantled, but one never knows.

General.—The freshness of Jubbulpore these days tends to enable everybody to skip about like 'spring lambs.' The mornings are quite nippy, but unfortunately the evenings close in very early, and after 6 o'clock one is at a dead-end. But still our 'Stoll' of Jubbulpore is getting some good pictures of late, and there is generally a dance or whist drive on somewhere or the other, so really I suppose one must not grumble.

The trooping season being in full swing we have lost some old faces and wish them the very best of luck. We shall be pleased to welcome the arrival of the first draft which is very late this season.

Company whist drives and dances are held frequently now and prove to be very successful. The average number of tables up to date if fifteen, and more seem to turn up after the whist part of the entertainment and shake their feet to the Signals jazz band, who are really on top form these days.

Training.—The 'S' course are now well down to it.

Loss statement to date: One motor cycle, one cable wagon. Personnel concerned O.K. but a little shaky.

SIGTRAIN.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

October 18th.

General.—Our individual training season has just been completed with excellent results. The large numbers who have risen to the dizzy heights of class 1. of their group and the small number of A/T still with us is most gratifying, and reflects great credit on the instructors. We are with confidence expecting great results during the forthcoming collective training season. The educational standard is probably the highest of any unit in India. There is now no n.c.o. or man without a certificate and only fifteen who have yet to obtain a 2nd. No less than twenty-four n.c.o.s and men sat for their 1st this month.

Association.—Our fortnightly whist drives and dances are still proving to be the most popular functions of their sort in Karachi. This is in no small measure due to our possessing the finest jazz band in the area. Unfortunately the dining hall is proving too small for the attendance.

Library.—The unit library continues to be most popular and deservedly so. The majority of the books are recent works of fiction with a few technical books. All new novels which are considered suitable are added to the library, and we now have approximately 1500 books. Additions are made at the rate of about fifty per month. We have had a little difficulty in competing with Edgar Wallace, but our Wallace collection is about complete. All tastes are catered for, but we were caught napping by the 'highbrow' who demanded 'one of G. B. Shaw's works.' However, that author is now represented in the library.

Arrivals.—From six months leave in the U.K., Sergts Harvey and Gould, L/Sergts Halfpenny, Male, Jones W. H. S., Fairman, Andrews, Godbold, Corporals Howell, Carfrae and Bosworth. Strangely enough they are all glad to be back. However, it only goes to prove our contention that A Corps Signals is a 'home from home.'

Departures.—To the U.K. in H.M.T. 'Neuralia' on October 12th: R.Q.M.S. Wassell, L/Corporal Autie, Signalmen Adams, Brown A., Browne W. A., Beard, Diver and Remington. We are sorry to lose them, and wish them the best of luck in civilian life.

All who were desirous of obtaining employment were registered with the Association some time ago. The R.Q.M.S. will be a great loss to the sergeants mess. He was entertained by the members of the mess before departure and presented with a silver watch and chain, and a set of gold cuff links and tie pins.

L/Sergt Lynch to the Signal Park, Quetta, in relief of Sergt Barnes. Having viewed our last two additions to the Park, Quetta will wonder what on earth we feed them on down here.

L/Sergt Stevens to B Cavalry Brigade Troop, Risalpur.

Births.—To Sergt and Mrs. Taylor, a son. Our heartiest congratulations to the proud parents.

Agony.—Will Sigmn Ryan G. W., last heard of in E Company, please correspond with Corpl Curtis B. of this unit.

Sigmn Pengelly would like to hear from Sigmn Steele (Taffy), late of Sarafand.

AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

October 27th.

'Khuds' are not the things that cows and kindred animals chew, but are Indian hills; that is to say, anything up to 10,000 feet in height.

For the benefit of those at home who have been warned for service in this glorious clime, let me drop a few hints on khud climbing and descending in particular. First one buys a khud-stick, alpine design. This has a strong steel point at one end, but it is not used for poking other people in the ribs, nor is it intended to be used as a throwing spear. This is to enable one to get a firm hold for climbing or to act as a sort of break when descending—if possible.

Khuds are generally ascended and descended by means of spiral paths, but of course, if one is possessed of great energy, a straight path may be taken. It is not recommended to take too straight a line when descending. I fully endorse this view as in nine cases out of ten it will end in a straight drop and not a line.

I do not know what is the record descent of the Topa khud, but if I have not beaten it, then I am confident that I have gone well towards the world's record for the hop, step and jump.

During my leave in September I was taking a very short cut down the aforementioned khud when I made it shorter still by doing the last twenty yards or so in *three* elongated strides. . . When I came out of hospital three weeks later I found that I was two weeks overdue with my notes. Please, Mr. Editor, take the above facts into consideration and forgive the omission of notes for last month.

Moral for khud climbing: 'Follow the beaten path slowly and surely.'

Officers.—Capt A. B. Bushby has returned from the Chitral Relief with all ranks safe and sound. Our best salaams are extended to him.

Congratulations are extended to Captain H. S. Morris, M.C. (A.I.R.O.) on his recent marriage. We wish him all happiness for the future.

We welcome 2/Lieuts D. L. Hyde and E. J. F. Heap into the fold, on posting from the U.K. May they have a really good time with B Corps!

We regret to advise that Capt C. T. Hughes, M.C., has been having a really bad time with malaria, and wish him a speedy recovery to renewed health.

Camera Club.—A Camera Club has been formed in the unit, with Capt R. F. Holwill and C.S.M. Jeffery at the head of affairs. Very shortly specimens of the club's work will be submitted for publication. From what I hear, great things are to be expected shortly. What a splendid action study was missed in failing to record my descent of the Topa khud!

Arrivals and Departures.—We welcome the following new arrivals, and hope they will like us: Corpl Gould T. H., from A Corps, Karachi (private information for Depot Battalion: Yes! still the same old Nat) and Sigmn Winton from Waziristan during August. Sergt Mason from over the road (1st Div.) during September. Corpl Halls E. from Jubbulpore during October.

Corpl McIntosh has left us for a civil job in the Malay States. Our best wishes for a successful future go with him.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on attaining their rank: Corpl Morley L., Corpl Watterton W., L/Corpls (paid), Healy, Choulerton (Joe), Penn, Tomkinson, Wood W. F., Hope, Lamb and Howard. Outsanding merit and ability must be rewarded, eh! Joe?

Double Harness.—L/Corpl Bob Charnock has been and gone and done it. Best of luck, Bob, and all best wishes for the future.

General.—Congratulations to the farrier-staff-sergeant on being right up to date. He is evidently a firm supporter of mechanisation of the Army. I foresee a dual-rated tradesman in the near future: that of farrier-fitter or farrier-despatch rider. One never know you know, does one?

A week of events has just passed. On Wednesday night an all ranks dance was held; on Thursday night the opening night of the new corporals' room was celebrated, and on Saturday night a corporals' invitation dance was held. All three events went off very successfully—that is to say, everybody is alive. The promotors of all three functions are to be highly praised for the three enjoyable evenings. I shall not go too deeply into Thursday evening's affair, but it was very successful. All I will say is that on Friday none of the junior n.c.o.s were very energetic. Community singing does take it out of one so!

As an excellent example of 'English as she is writ' in India, I enclose an advertisement sent around the barracks by a firm of local dyers. It speaks for itself.

DYERS.

Gentlemen—We have started the work of Dying the clothes of all sorts such as Wool, Silk and Cotton, etc., etc., with colours Pucca and Kachha according to the sample and wishes the stuff are dying by us with great care cleanliness and Zeal and of English style. All orders are Promptly carried out, only trial is solicited. Our charges are very low and moderate, which can be settled and ascertained on an interview the blots on Silk and woolen stuff are specially removed.

Proprietors
GHULAM HUSSAN, NUR HUSSAN BROS.
Syndicated of
Government Dying School,
Lahore.

Present Address—
Lall Kurti Regimental Bazaar, Rawalpindi.

In my next notes an account of the Chitral Relief will be forwarded, together with photographs taken by our people en route.

ECHO.

Peshawar District Signals.

October 10th.

General.—Our summer activities having ceased, we now devote all our time to section training in readiness for the Lahore manœuvres that will shortly be upon us. We have discarded shorts, shoes, spine-pads and the like, and are now wearing out all our good kit in getting the Section equipment in trim after its six months' repose in the stores.

We are the proud possessors of a full blown Camera Club, even though it is in its infancy. The members total about twelve at present, but we hope that more will join when they see the club's efforts depicted in the pages of THE WIRE.

The dark-room, the developing-room, club-room and all other rooms that are necessary for the welfare of such clubs is situated in one end of the wash-house.

The Chitral Relief Section arrived at their destination without incident, and on September 30th commenced the return march. On the march up to Chitral, Lieut J. W. Kenny, having unfortunately sprained his knee, could not continue the march, so he remained at Dir. He rejoined the column on its return march. Shortly we may expect those promised photographs of the stirring march to Chitral.

Sports Notes.—It having been rumoured that the detachment at Landikotal had a very strong cricket team, it was decided to send a team from Peshawar to Landikotal to attempt to lower their flag. Accordingly a charabanc was hired and a team wended its way through the Pass to meet this famous team of theirs. Arriving at Landikotal, we found that our hosts had provided a splendid breakfast.

After doing justice to the breakfast we took the field. The detachment batted first, and after some really good play were dismissed for a total of 159 runs. Our play, which was not quite so brilliant, netted the total of 103 runs (the worthy scribe carried his bat with a noble score of two runs). Then we retired for dinner, some to partake of the orthodox dinner, others to visit Messrs. Hafizjee's shop in the bazaar. Dinner over, play was resumed, and I am of the opinion that the unorthodox dinners some of the players had consumed must have upset their scoring abilities. We played an hour each as all visitors to Landikotal must leave there by 3 p.m. We scored a total of 123 for 9 wickets, and the detachment scored 69—so honours on the day's play were practically even.

Arrivals.—Hallo, what's this, a new draft arrived? No, you fool, they have only returned from six months' leave in the U.K. Well, there's a couple who were not with the party that went last trooping season. Well, to be more explicit, they went on leave in April 1927, and returned in October 1928—some leave, eh!

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

October 24th.

The responsibility for keeping WIRE subscribers informed of our monthly doings has now been vested in a committee; not that this decision was in any way intended as a disparagement on our previous correspondent—far form it, but it was felt that the brain fag and possible expenditure of 'midnight oil' would more fairly be carried by several pairs of shoulders than by one.

Our committee shall remain anonymous; needless to say they have been selected for their energy, penmanship, wit—at least this was what they were told at the time of their election. Very well, we thank you all for the honour you have done us, but beware of reprisals. One slip from the 'straight and narrow,' our scouts will find you out, and the chronicle of your misdeeds will appear in black and white.

The unit has just returned from the annual autumn training; on this fact we hang our excuses for not producing more lengthy and more interesting notes.

Apropos of this recent autumn training we were enlightened on a few knotty problems, such as the following, which have been secretly extracted from the private diary of the Clearing House Superintendent.

That *stabilized* means precisely the same as sterilized, vide Connelly's Concise Compendium Current. (Cross word enthusiasts please note.)

That forty-eight sheeps (plural mark you) *can* be accommodated cushy in one 'Albion' lorry, 30 cwt. solid tyres. It is not yet known in what condition they reached their destination, if any, and whether the S. and T. welcomed the innovation.

That 'a big cook' can safely be mistaken for, and forthwith despatched in lieu of 'a big book,' and that the said cook was infinitely more acceptable in lieu thereof. What transpired on the arrival of the 'big cook' we leave to the imagination. In any case, according to reports from our special correspondent at the Clearing House, the dialogue that ensued was a masterpiece of production, all rights reserved.

That the Wireless Section *were* in communication all day, but just to make assurance doubly sure, the fact was discovered by an exchange of question and answer per land line. This was duly confirmed.

That Manzani is a most delightful resort, as the name implies; but whether it is a kingdom and who the uncrowned king is, our correspondent is at present investigating. It sounds 'republican' anyway.

That the D.R. Section *do* break the monotony (and a few machines) by staging an unrehearsed trick riding stunt occasionally, dirt track riding included, and animals thrown in. This is under consideration as an additional item for next year's tattoo programme.

That the unending perplexitude '*Cope Nobis*' (?) as cabled by our special representative (eye-witness) caused a temporary dislocation in Morse circles Therefore they gave it to Dixie for filing purposes. The F.O.M. deteriorated considerably in consequence thereof, but has revived the temporary set-back, so much so that it now sits up and takes nourishment.

That when the milk went bad, the bearer was forcibly ejected through space with the aid of a boot ankle, grade one, size nine, and that ten rupees, a bottle of whiskey and a dozen eggs was substantial compensation for the milk discrepancy.

That blank A.F.B. 2128-2129-2130s despatched by orderly, materially increase the F.O.M.

That dud cells elect. inert, 'S' make deadly weapons in an attack in lieu of .303 S.A.A.

That a 'mule' is considered a highly substantial 'meal' for footsore and weary troops.

That 'yaru' translated into the mother tongue means 'you.'

That 'big cooks' after fluctuating for some time, rose steadily in the market, whereas 'big books' slumped heavily.

That 'cross ticks' on a Signal register convey a world of information (especially those sketched in various colours) and materially enlightened the long and arduous hours of the Clearing House staff.

A very big gun in military life

There is no better beer than McEwan's. Fine Brewing, fine malt and hops give it its grand flavour & consistent strength.

In canteens the world over "McEwan's, please," is the phrase that brings its speaker the good cheer of this, "The Soldiers' Beer."

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Wm. McEwan & Co. Ltd
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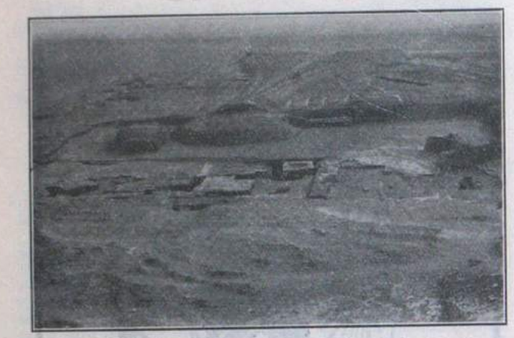


Excavations at 'Ur of the Chaldees.'
An old Temple surrounded by mhutti walls (about 3500 B.C.)
[*See "Talks on Iraq" on an earlier page*]

That an automatic telephone is a thing of joy to directing staffs, especially during a battle.

It may be as well to explain here and now, that the Clearing House sat comfortably in Quetta, on their normal human seating arrangements, censored the unit traffic, wrote unkind remarks on erring operators, discussed the latest scandals, and hence had heaps of time to extract the aforementioned solutions to knotty problems for your delectation.

Composed by the Clearing House staff during their long and arduous hours.

When you're scheming around on Baluchistan's bumps,
And your're feeling fed up and down in the dumps,
Just think of the slogan, 'More duty more credit,'
And do not forget the Figure of Merit.

Though the scheme may be tiresome and weary,
And you're earthing on both legs, keep cheery,
Just go for your foe like a savage young ferret,
And think all the time of the Figure of Merit.

When your tongue's like an earth-pin that's rusty,
And the road becomes more and more dusty,
Just pack up your troubles and trek it,
It's all for the Figure of Merit.

If the paybloke's on strike with the dough,
With the grub stakes and beer running low,
It'll do ye no guid for to werrit,
You can live on the Figure of Merit.

Excavations at 'Ur of the Chaldees.'
Tombs of the Kings and Queens of about 3000 B.C. (a golden dagger was found in the left corner)
[*See "Talks on Iraq" on an earlier page*]

So when the strafe's over and finished,
And your worries and trials have diminished,
You'll find that the honour will outweigh the debit,
When worrying out the last Figure of Merit.

Stop Press.—War on cats has been declared, and organised raids under the direction of 'Cabooter' John are being carried out regularly. With such an able leader the deadly menace should soon be stamped out. ANON.

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarter Section, Dera Ismail Khan.

General.—P.U.C. calling (I don't know if this is our correct call sign or not, but a perfectly efficient W/T operator sits at a table to whom one can say 'please is this right?') Nevertheless I shall be informed by quite a a number if I am wrong.

However, having effected a change of address and climate, that is to say, from Razmak to Dera Ismail Khan, also experienced a fog en route (six-wheeler dust) I can proceed to say something of the latter station.

To all 'locals' who duly arrive in Jubbulpore ex U.K. and are being warned for Dera Ismail Khan, I should like to record a few words.

Do not fall off the verandah when warned, or go on a 'special,' as it is really not quite so bad as those old soldiers (who should know better) would have you believe.

Do not kiss the S.M. for sending you to this little bit of heaven.

There is no need for you to insure with the *Daily Mail*, etc., against dry rot or any other sort of rot.

Anyway, we expect quite a number of you soon and a few sandstorms have been ordered for your benefit, as it is a well known fact that:—

All the stuff that's thrown away
Finds its way to D.I.K.
Comes in bungalows and in bunks,
Flies about in great big chunks.
Let it rain, let it pour;
When it's done that may it rain some more,
Wind and sand, sand and wind,
Sometimes we house the blessed Scinde.

However, here and there, or if you will have it there and here, we do not have a bad time on the whole. If perchance you get to the operating section, you are as a Rothschild, for one has the choice of both summer and winter residences.

When it gets too warm for Dera Ismail Khan the order is given to spread wings and you flutter to Razmak. Ditto repeato (delete warm, substitute cold) and vice versa.

However, not being in the know, I cannot guarantee the above for the ensuing year, but there is nothing like chancing it as Hereward the Wake said to the Cloister on the Hearth. (I'm studying for my special—not a four anna slice.)

In conclusion, to our new arrivals yet to come there is one thing more I wish to say. Leave not those things undone which should be left undone, or, as Alfred of cake fame said on the heights of Abraham to Gene Stratton Porter, 'Pull up your socks my merry men.'

Training.—On September 20th Razmak Brigade Signals proceeded with the remainder of Razmak Brigade to Ladha on column. The Section did extremely well, maintaining the Corps motto 'Through.'

I have to record two casualties on this column due to tribal activities, the victims being one sepoy from the 1/13th Frontier Force and one Khassadar.

A Despatch Riders' Course has just been successfully completed (this without casualties) the undermentioned adding a 'd' 3 to their present qualifications: Corpls Hazell, Hall and Fields, L/Corpl Vickers, Signalmen Eddings and Fairclough.

Promotions.—Corpl Richardson to be lance-sergeant w.e.f. 16/6/28.

Arrivals.—Sergt Szarkowski, L/Sergt Lewis, Corpl Mansfield, and Sigmn Edmonds from leave in the U.K.

Departures.—Sixteen b.o.r.s to U.K. Too numerous to mention in detail, but the unit wishes them the very best on return to civil life and civilization.

Births.—To Sergt and Mrs. A. I. Lane, A.E.C., attached, a son (Eric Edward), on October 5th.

Marriages.—Sergt Tiffy Thornton to Miss Eudora Plair at Bagalpur, on October 9th. Congratulations Tiffy, and the wife's privilege is to draw the marriage allowance.

Deaths.—Please communicate with the section dog shooter on this subject, i.e., Willy.

Bannu Signal Section.

Waziristan.

General.—The universal topic has been 'How many more days?' and 'Roll on that boat' as the following leave us for the Blighty cantonment on October 12th: L/Sergt Goff, L/Corporal Tanner, Signalmen Dunn, Clarke, Heatherington, Haddow, and Rocco Pietro Tacagni.

It has been reported that an outsize in snakes is wandering loose round this cantonment. By now it should have been caught, and I do hope that no one has been bitten.

It has been officially stated that the offer to a certain d.r. to participate in dirt track riding has been flatly refused. Nevertheless he is making enquiries for the ultimate purchase of a crash helmet and a tricycle for practise.

Training.—Not much training has been done owing to other sections drawing on our personnel. COBRA.

Manzai Signal Section.

Waziristan.

General.—We must apologise for lack of notes last month, but there was really nothing of interest to report, as nearly everyone was away on leave, etc., and we had just enough left behind to carry out the necessary duties.

A party of us went up to Razmak for the Signals 'week-end,' and had quite an enjoyable time. Bannu Section took all the events. Some people seem to think that it was owing to a certain individual in the Bannu team, who, having a brilliant shine on his box of grey matter, completely dazzled all the opposing teams. However, I should term that strategy.

Whether the Murree leave party got into any feminine entanglements or not I do not know, but S.O.S.s for more tin were pretty frequent. The last party arrived back at the end of August—some broke, some severely bent, and a few looking satisfied. One or two of them still wear their 'cease fire' and 'high frequency' topees that they bought whilst on leave. Evidently memories linger.

Our Commandant, Capt G. C. Winckley, M.C., paid us a visit the other day, and quite a number of the Section discussed the tactical situation with him as regards transfers, pay, going home to mother, etc.; you know that 'sell the pig and buy me out' sort of business. However, justice tempered with mercy was dealt out fairly all round.

MOBUS.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

A merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all Royal Signals past and present.

We are doing our best to keep our promise regarding notes, but owing to the unit being split up at present, it is hard to find much to write about.

By the time these notes appear many well-known faces of the Company will have left us for civvy street, so we wish them the best of luck.

It may be of interest to old members to know that we have at last a hockey ground of our own, and, by the way, it is considered the best in the station.

On November 20th we leave for the manœuvre area (Jhelum), returning to Rawalpindi on December 15th. We will let you know of the happenings later on.

We congratulate the Cavalry Divl Signals and Lieut Holland for the fine motor display. I think it is up to the Pindi d.r.s to do something of that sort.

Corpl Emblem will note that this Company is sending notes to THE WIRE these days. If he requires any further news he should write direct to me.

We have now got the married families back with us, and the place is brightening up a bit. This has relieved the orderly room sergeant of a good deal of work in making out passes.

The photographs sent with these notes were taken by Sigmn Ashpool during line construction in Kashmir.

Section training is in full swing. The Operating Section and Infantry Brigade Sections now in Topa will be with us again by the time these notes appear. According to reports they had a nice holiday in the bumps.

The 6th M.A. Section under L/Sergt Barker (Pasha) have left us for training at Abbotobad. This is the last time that Pasha will lead his noble warriors to battle, as he will be joining the civilians this trooper.

Arrivals.—L/Corpl King and Sigmn Packwood from S.T.C., India. We wish them the best, etc. Sergts Coombs and Madeley from U.K. leave.

Departures.—Sergt Mason A. to B Crops Signals. Sergt Philpotts and wife, Signalmen Williams (Gunner) and Davidson and their families to the home establishment. L/Corpls Frankcombe and Cave, and Sigmn Hannam to civvy street. We wish them all the best, etc.

Takht-i-Suleiman.—Called by the Hindu 'Shankaracha.' Situated on a hill which rises to a height of 1000 ft. above the plain and overlooks the town of Srinagar.

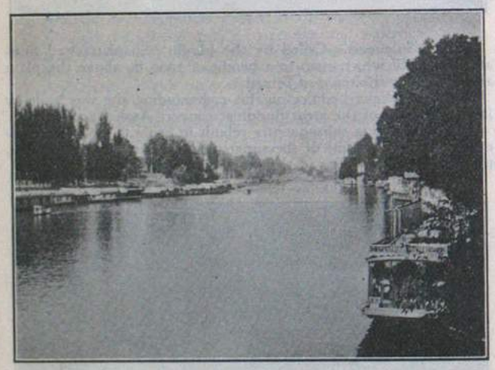
The first religious edifice on this commanding site was built by Jalaka, the son of the great Buddhist convert Asoka, 200 B.C.

This temple was subsequently rebuilt in 600 A.D. by Raja Capadittya. Although some of the superstructure is evidently modern, there still remain parts of the existing temple.

Kashmir State troops passing through Burzil Choka, en route to Bunji and Chilas.—These are two frontier stations in Gilgil The Gilget country is a barren one, with lofty precipitous mountains, narrow rocky gorges, and only narrow strips of cultivation around stone built villages. Bunji was a former convict settlement.

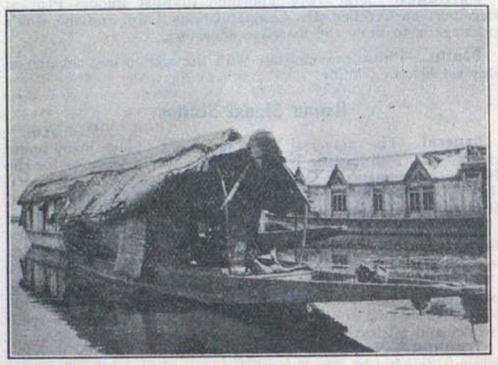
Lineman's hut on the Burzil Pass.—This hut is for the use of a lineman whilst out on interruption duty.

During the winter months there is a fall of snow of about 15 ft. on the pass, avalanches are very frequent, and many interruptions occur. Every year at least one section is carried away, and the lineman finds his task very hard. He must go out in all weathers, pliers in his belt and skis on his feet, as the line is important and must be got through as soon as possible. Also the Dak runners have a very hard time. They force their way through the snow with the mails, expecting to be caught in a snow drift any moment. Still, 'Theirs is not to reason why, but to do or die'—and many have died.



The Jhelum river at Srinagar.—The river Jhelum with its canals and lakes form a sort of arterial system to the valley of Kashmir. The best way of describing the valley is to review it as seen in a trip up the river. It winds with a smooth but not sluggish stream between flat marshy ground partly protected by raised banks, but become lake-like in the summer when the floods come. (This year the whole valley was flooded and wrought havoc among the villages.) The marsh then gradually expands and deepens to the Wular Lake, the largest in India. Its tributaries are numerous. On the left bank they drain the slopes of the Pir Panjal mountains; on the right bank the mountainous region north of Kashmir as far as the Zogi Pass.

During the winter the Jhelum becomes low, but rises in the spring, owing to the melting of the snows.



Dunga.—A very slow but cheap mode of travelling. They are used mostly by people on shikar trips. Also similar kind of barges are used for transporting goods and material across the lakes. Usually manned by a boatman and his family.

A typical Kashmir village.—Because of the surrounding forests the houses are made of wood: material is near at hand and hardly any transport is needed.

The average Kashmir lives a very primitive life. They have their own piece of land, grow their own vegetables, etc. Their clothes and blankets are made from the wool of their sheep. Many of course work as coolies or such like work, but whilst on these jobs their ambition is to save enough money to buy their own land.

Congratulations.—To Sergt McKenna and L/Corporal Smith G. F. on obtaining B.i O/L. To Sigmn Cowell on obtaining B.ii O/L.

To Sergt Philpotts on obtaining B.i O/W. To Signalmen Clarke G. H., Hobbs E., Kirkman, Lane E., and Gibbs T., on obtaining B.ii O/W.

To Sergt McCormick and L/Corpl Hylands on obtaining C.i O/V.

To Signalmen Airey, Appleton, Brookes J., Costello C., Harrison L., Wise C., and Williams H., on obtaining C.ii O/V.

To Sigmn Davidson W. on obtaining D.ii D.R.

Agony.—Would Sigmn Bugdale W. (Boozey) late of B.A.O.R., please drop a line to Sigmn Chetwood (Dobbin).

A. E. L.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

October 23rd.

The 1st class examination is over and countenances which for days had looked worried, now express only relief.

Our candidates, nine in all, had to go to Chaubattia on the 9th and 10th for the examination, and since their return many have been the arguments over their answers. Quite a heated one was held in my room the other night over the question on the English paper stating that someone was on the horns of a 'duenna.' One of the chaps maintained that a duenna was a strange horned animal, whilst the other thought it was a fish. I wonder how many marks they got for their answers to that question.

The excellence of the weather since the rains has been taken full advantage of by the majority of the unit. Many have developed a craze for walking, and on Thursday or Sunday morning they take a couple of sandwiches and a bottle of tea and push off for the day.

There are many fine walks around Ranikhet, and one in particular is that through the forest down to the valley below. It is a long way, and it is a hard climb back (3000 ft.), but the trouble taken is compensated for by the swimming and diving one can indulge in in the river. This river has such a fascination that two parties have been down there for week ends. One of the party purchased a fishing rod and went down there with the intention of providing a fish breakfast for the Company on his return. He fished all night and day and he brought back—a jar of tiddlers!

About a hundred miles from here and at an altitude of 15,000 feet, is the Pindari Glacier, and two parties from the unit have recently trecked there and back. One party was composed of Sergt Donaghy, Corpl Crummey, and Signalmen Denyer and Goss, and the other of Lieut R. H. Copeland and 2/Lieut L. W. J. Dryland. They all returned looking very fit and having enjoyed their hundred miles march. Sergt Donaghy's party marched all one day, when their rations ran out, on a handful of raisins each, but in spite of that, Corpl Crummey is still as fat as ever.

Our wireless detachment returned last Monday from the mountain warfare camp at Hawalbagh, where British battalions have been practising mountain warfare in co-operation with Gurkhas. They were in W/T communication with barracks and Meerut the whole time. During the whole season we have had W/T communication to Bareilly and Meerut (120 miles away) and our C. Mk. ii. sets have fully proved their worth.

At the beginning of the month we held a whist drive and dance in aid of the Sports Fund. After the drive, the unit band played sweet music on the verandah whilst couples danced by moonlight on the tennis court.

On the 12th a unit athletic meeting was held, followed by a dance at the rink. Although we have an annual sports tournament, this is the first time we have held an athletic meeting, and considering the small number of men of the unit in Ranikhet, it was very successful.

The dance, while not so well attended as those at the beginning of the season, was satisfactory, and much enjoyed by all.

At present everyone is busy packing up for our move down to Meerut, which takes place on the 17th. We go down to the railhead at Kathgodam by lorry, which is an improvement on marching down.

Here are three 'howlers' perpetrated at a recent preliminary examination:—

'The *preclude* to the speech was three cheers.'
'The contents of this jar are *pervade* in England.'
'He died during the *precluding* chapters.'

Birth.—Congratulations to Capt J. W. Bailey, M.C., and Mrs. Bailey—a daughter.

Kohat District Signals.

Visit of the S.O.-in-Chief.—We are on the eve of the Signal Officer-in-Chief's inspection. We are sorry that he will not see us as a family, for some of the unit is en route from Parachinar (milestone inspecting). Nevertheless, those of us who are here are to be seen at work. Kick ye mules, clike ye sounders, and buzz ye buzzers, for when we work, we *do* work.

The Ramblings of a Pardet.—After a spell of six months in that delightful little village in the foothills, Parachinar, the detachment returns to roost this week. The *brainy* ones came down some time ago by ways other than march route. No! I did not mean to be nasty, I meant those who were sitting for the October examinations—of course you *can* read it the other way I suppose, but I wouldnt' think that of Jimmy.)

Ramblings (continued).—About a third of the unit will be flitting away for manœuvres within a week, so we shall not be a family for long; and truly it will be a flitting away, for some go to Peshawar, some to Rawalpindi, and others—somewhere in India.

Welcome.—To Lieut A. J. G. McNair, Royal Scots Fusiliers, who has joined us on his return from U.K. leave. Having taken over the 'manœuvre section,' we trust that he will have a happy and successful time with the unit.

To C.Q.M.S. Barnett A. (and family), who has returned from 4th Indian Divl Signals, Jubbulpore, to take over as Acting Company-Sergeant-Major. Someone whispered that he did not like leaving that one tree which is so jealously guarded in Nicholson Lines.

To Sigmn Cosgrave G. from the Depot at Jubbulpore. 'Kate' Carney won't mind leaving us now that he has left another '4 dodger walla' to take his place.

To L/Sergt Crichton J., Corpls Bellwood, and Nesbit J. V. C. from U.K. leave, the latter being posted to us from the 3rd Indian Divl Signals, Meerut.

'Tich' Bellwood is pucca on the tack now and don't you forget it—his better half says that he has *got to be*. We offer him our congratulations on his smashing out a good joint on the anvil of matrimony.

Courses.—2/Lieut J. M. C. Hoblyn has returned from the Army School of Education at Belgaum where he obtained a 'qualified' report.

Whilst I am yarning about this I can mention too that the undermentioned gained their 2nd class certificates of education at Parachinar on July 26th: Signalmen Morris H., Shubrook A. J. K., Smith S. G., and Badland L. E. Signalmen Doncaster, White and Talbot F. A. only missed it by a fraction.

WOG.

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4th Indian Divisional Signals, Jubbulpore.

October 25th.

'Procrastination is the thief of time.' so let us get on with it. We wonder if we managed to get our notes home in time last month: we were 'pushed' as usual. So many changes take place in seven or eight weeks (the period we have to wait to see our notes in print) that they are like the Pathe Gazette at the local pictures—interesting but stale. For instance, one of us 'Joes' compiling this won't be in India when THE WIRE arrives.

California, here I come.—Ten passages! Ten! All on one boat. We won't be long now. The unit will be losing three families and seven bachelors on the 'California,' which sails from Bombay on November 22nd. Home units can look out for the following: Sergt Willis (Ticky), L/Sergt Bennett (the rough), Corpl Byrne and families, and L/Corpl Bates, Signalmen Hoare, Sheldon, James, Bailey, Smith and Newdick. Some are for civvy street and some will soldier on in Blighty, but in any case the unit wishes them all the best of luck wherever they may go.

There are still thirty of us studying boat sailings and 'Unit Orders.

Arrivals and Departures.—Sergt Waghorn, who we remember in Crowborough, 1922, has joined the unit from Peshawar District Signals, and made a welcome addition to the married quarters strength.

Sergt Bell is welcomed from Blighty leave. He is another who isn't so keen on the Special Roster now that he has seen England's green valleys.

Sigmn Ambridge has returned from the Cookery School, Poona. We can't say that we have noticed much improvement in the rissole line. Thank goodness the pork wallah is again within easy call.

L/Sergt Jarvis (the silent one) has at last seen another station besides Jubbulpore.He has gone to Poona to study internal wiring and adjusting faults of horses.

Sergt Harrington and family to Peshawar District Signals.

Extension of Service.—Sergt Littlefield, R.Signals, has permission to increase his 'dead-sack' if so desired until he has completed his pontoon. Indianisation, that's what it is. Was that one ring, sergeant?

Personal Magnetism.—Ladies and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in announcing that, being a leader of men now, I am desirous of extending my service to complete twelve. In view of the fact that I have re-mustered from a despatch rider to a fitter, I have placed a chair near my lovely badge. Take your partners for the next dance, please. Hullo! where's the band gone to?

Unit Sports.—We hope next month to give an account of our unit sports, which take place a day too late for inclusion with these notes.

We seem to have exceeded the four hundred word limit so we will close with this s.o.s. from a sergeant who hails from Kohat.

JOSABUN.

Personal.—To Wog and family? Kohdist. Your attention is invited to the penultimate sentence of para. 1 of last month's notes from this unit—re heat waves. I am aware that it is warm in Kohat, but C.O.O., Rawalpindi is prepared to make asbestos suits for you lucky ones who did not go to P.C.R. for the summer. Several of your band will probably need them when you 'check in!' Anyway, salaams to all.

Late News.—Capt R. N. Higgs is again in our midst after six months' leave and honeymoon. We trust Capt. and Mrs. Higgs will now settle down for a long spell with the unit.

A lad of this Company, a confirmed egoist, openly boasted and firmly imagined he could get a 1st class certificate of education with only a week of study. He swotted up during one afternoon and deluded himself into believing he had acquired sufficient data to form a foundation on which to raise the storehouse of knowledge so essential to those who aspire to a 1st.

Now it is a well known fact that acute mental stress often conduces to vivid dreams, and sure enough that same night he did dream (as set down hereunder), and one cannot wonder that he has now turned it up and is content to take a little at a time for the next six months.

I enlisted with Julius Cæsar,
And fought at Waterloo;
I drew my scutage money,
Had a day at Blackpool too.

I accompanied King Harold's army,
Which went, Canute to fight;
And when Napoleon married Matilda
I said it served him right.

I feared no foe in armour,
About battleaxes didn't fuss,
For if they got too near me,
I jumped on my Triumph bus.

I was with Nelson at Crecy,
Rode with Wolfe to Bannockburn,
And tried to catch the five-fifteen,
To give Bill the Conk a turn.

I charged with Richard at Trafalgar;
At Bunker's Hill joined in the race,
And on the hill at Killiecrankie,
Backed myself for win and place.

I dished out socks to Tippoo,
And beans to Von Kluck on the Aisne,
And while she sat upon her chair,
Gave the bird to the Queen of Spain.

I cruised with Long John Silver,
With the old Black Spot was cursed;
And thought I'd found the treasure,
But Raleigh had been there first.

When Henry the VIII. at Hastings
Put the telescope to his blind eye,
I promptly consulted Fortescue,
And gave him 'Out, leg before, bye.'

I routed Roger of Mortain;
Put it across Bill Rufus too;
And if you don't believe me,
You know what you can do!

I finally settled in Jubbulpore,
In the running for 'Brigadier,'
When Willium the bahadur,
Sounded 'reveille' in my ear.

JOESOPE.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

October 1st.

General.—Schemes are now in full swing, and the Wireless Section and the Visual Section can be seen in every corner of the lines with lamps, helios, flags, lines running all over the place with phones, D.iii's and every kind of signalling instrument possible to put out, but all for practice for the big forthcoming manœuvres which are due in November. The horses are also getting well ground to it, and they will pass the test pretty easily, the breaking-in they are getting, except perhaps our playful 'Kutch's' (Adam and Eve) who should have been in the Wembly rodeo instead of a respectable troop like ours. Sports are a very big thing at the moment of writing, for nearly every evening one can see the Troop teams performing against mightier teams, but win or lose, they always come out smiling.

We are expecting our U.K. leave party back now any time, and will no doubt hear from them all the exciting things that those in England do. Suppose Sud will be glad of the solitude again after his many encounters round Waterloo (you can trust us all to be very attentive, Spud)! Also we have a very nice horse all ready for you; our jumping lane is still here, but much better than before.

By the time these notes are published we shall have lost our he-man, who goes home on the next boat, but his tales will for ever be a memory in the Troop. 3rd Divl Signals (Bulford) will have the pleasure of a few of his jungle tales and the many cat-hunts he took part in (complete with lance and Busty), but George mind the 'misses' round Southfields.

Promotions.—Sigmn Hodge H. found the Field Marshal's baton one morning when he was clearing out the stores. All ranks wish him the very best of congratulations Good luck, Het.

Courses.—Sigmn Radford L. N. H. to the S.T.C. Jubbulpore on a class ii. E/Fitter's course (100 per cent. this time, Wally).

Departures.—Corpl Fuller A. and Sigmn Bailey F. to B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur. All ranks are very sorry to lose our 'rough,' as he was making a name for himself; still, a happy stay in your new station.

Signals Association.—Our secretary is still going great guns, and before long we hope to equal B Troop's record. Now, how do you stand, C, for percentage re members in the Association?

Things we should like to know.—When they are going to start on our new barracks (what is it like to be in a new home, C Troop?)

WOG.

November.

Greetings.—Greetings, all units! a happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year! To those units at home who will probably be snowballing and having the best that Blighty can produce, including M.C. and P.'s, the very best also!

General.—Training at the moment of writing is in its very heights, and mounted marching orders having been plentiful. All that is looked for now is manœuvres. Everybody has been well broken in for the auspicious occasion. Several signalmen have passed remarks on how easy it is to go down the jumping lane with marching order on—such a lot of things to hold on to—but how easy it is to do about eighty miles with a Cavalry Brigade—all dust and no rain. Remarks on this subject will be known later. Schemes thrice weekly have pulled up the Sections 100 per cent.

We shortly expect our education wallah back from the 'Knobon' School, Belgaum. It is also rumoured that the big words about gas-drill nearly got him beat, but we know that he passed.

(Confidence.) Now you will be able to teach the Irishman something, Fred; but you are sure welcome to him. Many have tried and many have ——!

The trooping season has started and we are due to lose two more of our little band. We sincerely hope that S.T.C., Jubbulpore, will send us good lads to replace them.

Inspections.—Major-General Solly Flood, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Major-General in charge of Cavalry) inspected the Troops on 20th October, and a very favourable report was given on our smart turn-out. He remarked how cheerful the Troop looked. (Quite right, for a happier crew one would have to go a long way to find.)

Sergeants' Mess: Arrivals.—A welcome is extended to the following on their return from six months' leave in the U.K.: Sergt Hinds W. and L/Sergt Shiner A. J. P., and to L/Sergeant Conyers J. on his reposting from Peshawar District Signals.

A tennis at-home was given to the junior n.c.o.s and men and the married families of the Troop during the month, and a very pleasant afternoon and evening were enjoyed by all. Quite a number attended, and many thanks are extended to the caterer (who was so ably assisted by the ladies present) for the arrangements in connection with the tea. (Double up, the Nippy's.)

Departures.—We have said goodbye to our he-man, who embarked on October 12th for the Army Reserve. Best of luck in civvy street, George.

Corpl Hall F. to 1st Indian Divl Signals, Rawalpindi. All ranks wish him the very best in his new unit.

Signals Association.—Our Branch is gradually increasing its percentage. We hope to have in a few months' time a 100 per cent. membership. Our Branch secretary should be congratulated on roping so many members, for it has been hard work on his part. Will shortly catch you up, B!

Correspondence.—Sigmn Willis sends his salaams to Sigmn Hamilton, of 3rd Div., Bulford.

WOG.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

October 17th.

Last month saw the annual migration to the plains of all the 'hill parrots.' No longer does one man constitute a whole section, but we have hordes of class ii. men falling over one another to give us the latest tips from the khuds. Inevitably they must tell of the pleasant times enjoyed at that celebrated health resort and seat of learning, Upper Topa, while the last of the plainmen set around in mute but expressive silence.

Preparation for manœuvres is in full swing and in a few weeks the Troop will will be toiling towards Jhelum. We shall see the country at our leisure; but the rude remarks of the car-sections as they whizz by in a cloud of choking dust make us gaze sorrowfully at our patient steeds and long for a 'plane' or two. But not always! it may rain, in which case we may be able to plod along past cars up to the axles in mud. Even the horses assume an air of superiority and indulge in derisive neighs, while their riders, forgetting their soaking saddles, elevate their noses to the skies.

I would like to thank Trooper Don for his tip, but as nothing ever happens here it wasn't much use. Anyway, I bet there was a wangle somewhere, but perhaps they regard it as a trade secret.

Lest anyone should imagine that we have joined the mechanised army, perhaps a description of the type of locomotion at present in use would not be amiss. I cannot give the exact description necessary to procure a similar article from arsenal (or wherever they get these things from) but this is near enough: Power, 1 h.p.; chassis, underslung.

Steering is effected by means of a pair of leather handle-bars, although an expert can often dispense with these by making use of the listening apparatus. The main faults lie with the equipment. Four-wheel brakes and a stabilizing device would make a vast improvement, while the inclusion of a vacuum cleaner in the tool kit would be appreciated by all concerned.

Arrivals.—L/Sergeant Hopkins from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore. Corpl Fuller and Sigmn Bailey from 'Lazy A.' Sigmn Gallop and wife from C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Returns.—F/S/Sergt Prince, Sergt Peters and Corpl Collins from U.K. The latter seems to have acquired a broader Devon accent than ever.

Departures.—Sergt Yates, Signalmen Wilson M. and Brown, to where we all want to go. They have been with the Troop since the Flood, and we miss their little eccentricities. Staff parade is not complete without Brown cantering up in the rear, and during stables it is strange not to hear Sergeant Yates whispering sweet nothings to all and sundry. We wish them all the best of luck.

I should like to quote the words of an irate gentleman who gave a slight discourse on flies this afternoon. Perhaps I had better not; and anyway, the 'dandelion' has just wandered in to worry me.

ARTOC.

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

General.—With the hot weather officially more or less finished (the temperature averaging only about ninety degrees in the shade these days) things in general are beginning to buzz.

Preparations for camp are now in full swing, W/T and visual schemes, route marches and a general hardening up all round being the order of the day.

We have just finished our anual musketry course with the following results: 1st, 32; 2nd, 53; 3rd, 8; an average of five points better than last year's figures, which, considering the short time available for preliminary training is better than we expected.

Our remounts have now reached the finishing-off stage, and the majority of them are quite up to the standard of the old trained horses, and great credit is due to those who have had the task of training them during a most trying summer.

Technical training is now being concentrated on with a view to the forthcoming Test Board and the annual re-qualification.

Since the appearance of our last notes, F/Sergt Williams and Sigmn Cobb have left us for U.K., the former to try his hand at civil life, and the latter to stand by on half-pay. We all wish them success. L/Corpl Batty and Signalmen Kelly and Robinson will also be leaving us very shortly for the home establishment, the former two having served six years with the Troop. Both will be greatly missed on the sports field, having captained the football and hockey teams respectively several times, and worked hard to keep sport alive in the Troop. However, 'It's an ill wind, etc.,' since where L/Corpl Batty goes he takes with him his ukelele.

Our jazz band have threatened to take their instruments to camp—that's the spirit, but we advise them not to perform too near the horse lines.

No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

Signal Barracks, Abbassia, Cairo, Nov. 1st.

Not many unusual occurrences have happened during the past month to disturb the peace of the Company, the arrival of new faces and the departure of old ones being the most important.

Four new members of the Company have joined us in the persons of Signalmen Ball, Donaghy, Sargent and Williams. It is the wish of everyone that they settle down quickly and enjoy themselves during their tour in Egypt.

Farewell! a long farewell! It was with sorry faces that we turned out of bed early on Sunday, October 21st, to say goodbye to Sergts Connelly, Cole, Collins and Solly. It is to be hoped that they soon find their feet in their new station.

L.H.D. must be a visionary. In any case, a certain n.c.o. of the Company actually blushed when he saw the representation of the 'one-man draft.' 'That will do, Reg! Keep him away, somebody!' Having been sufficiently vague as to the identity of the n.c.o. concerned, I beg to announce the departure of Sergt Bland, who has been seconded to the Sudan Defence Force. In future address all communications to Darkest Africa.

Corpl Wales A. E. has proceeded to the School of Signals in order to develop a knowledge bump on the W/T course commencing on November 15th. No! he didn't want to go!

Buckshee Akkers.—Congratulations to Drivers Allen, Arnold, Andrews, Cooper, Perry and Stillwell, who have been awarded proficiency pay on obtaining their 2nd class education certificates. The Post Office officials were amazed to see them rushing to open accounts. Ahem!

S.O.S.—Harry calling. To Jimmy Emblem. I've made my bed and laid on it. Thanks to you. Am still single.—Harry.

To W.G.L., Iraq: Did you receive air mail? No reply received yet.—F.H.D.

Corpls Powell and Dunn recently stepped up another rung of the ladder of success, and L/Corporal Knight firmly established himself on the bottom rung. My advice is, 'keep moving.'

Corporals' Mess.—Spurred on by the success of the 'Rummy' tournament which, by the way, resulted in a walk over for Corpl Kemp as the other competitor failed to put in an appearance, our committee has decided that we should indulge in a more strenuous game in future.

Two football matches have been played; the first v. the Military Police, and the second against the 1st Pack, Corporals' Mess. Against the Police our side scored three goals to one from them. Unfortunately one of our goals went into the wrong goal ('alright Topper, go steady!') and the result was a draw of two goals all. The 1st Pack proved too strong for us, and were the ultimate winners by two goals without reply from us. Considering that we crossed over two goals in arrears the final reply reflected on the defence, especially the goalkeeper.

After the match an impromptu concert was held at Helmeih, which was greatly appreciated by all present.

W. N. B.

DOMESTIC PETS.

With the exception of the house-fly, the mosquito is perhaps the most widely disseminated of our domesticated insects. He is to be found almost anywhere on verandahs, on upper and lower balconies, on front and back steps; but he is seen at his best when tucked away behind the little white bed curtains that are specially provided for him.

It is here that he can most successfully be brought to a hand-to-hand conflict, which is his delight. . . The mosquito knows no half measures. He is out for blood. Hence comes his high personal courage, which enables him to attack single-handed and unsupported an opponent of twenty thousand times his own weight.

Odds are nothing to him. He rushes into battle singing as he goes, selects the stoutest of his enemies, and seizes him in a death-grip in the fattest part of his neck. The British bull-dog and the American eagle are cowards beside the mosquito. . .

It is a pity to think that the mosquito, like the house-fly, is threatened with extinction. There are said to be only a few billion million left. Even these are going—falling victims to their own high courage in their fierce assaults against our civilisation like the Crusaders dashing against the Saracens.—With acknowledgments to Stephen Leacock.

No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

Abbassia, Cairo, November 8th.

This is to wish all Units of the Corps at home and abroad, a bright and merry Christmas, and at the same time commiserate deeply with those unfortunates serving abroad, who, like a lot of our hopefuls, had been sweating on the 'big boat' last September, are still sweating, and may, possibly, be sweating even *after* next Christmas! You, and I, have my deepest sympathies. I suppose I don't presume too much in accepting yours? Thanks! Poor consolation, isn't it?

Championships and Records.—Being as modest as we can, I think you all know that we hold many sporting records out here. Right! let's begin. As you also know, the Americans are very fond of claiming all sorts of weird and wonderful performances for 'records,' such as standing on one leg, with one eye shut, tongue hanging out, hat upside down, and bootlaces undone, for one hour—a world's record! or by placing the left hand on the right shoulder, right leg over the left one, chewing three packets of gum at once, and keeping it up for ten minutes—therefore a world's record. Easy, isn't it! Well, we are out to claim a record in so far as the Signals and rest of the Army is concerned, and that is the letter writing championship.

We had a worthy holder of the title in L/Corpl Sowles (yes, I know it is 'tips') before his wife joined him out here, whilst L/Corpl Gratwicke was always a close runner-up (before it got broken off), but their efforts are easily left in the shade nowadays. The new champion looks upon fifteen and twenty pages as a mere flea-bite! An M.T. driver, he only arrived out here a few weeks ago, but the day after his arrival gave a glimpse of his form with a neat effort of twenty-five pages!

During the second week here he got into his stride with a twenty-nine page epistle, but capped this two days later with a fine run of thirty-three. Within the month he had topped the thirty-eight mark, being quite fresh at the finish. After a week of in-and-out form, with only twenty pages or thereabouts as his best, he came right into the limelight with a splendid effort of *forty-seven pages!* Naturally, we are proud of him, and we now claim the letter writing championships and record of the Army. If any other unit can beat this, we'd like to hear of it!

Medals: Really Won.—The Company rifle team were runners-up in the small units competition at the Egypt Command Small Arms meeting, each member of the team receiving a medal. We believe this is the first time that a team from the Corps has done so well. They certainly deserved their award, if only for the time and trouble spent in practising for the competition. Sigmn Linacre W. H. was one of the team. (He asked me to put this in, as he sends THE WIRE to his prospective better half each month!) Myself, I think he only wanted to see what his name looks like in print. Looks nice, I think, don't you, William Henry?

'Donner und Blitzen!'—That's the only bit of German I know, apart from 'Der Tag,' otherwise 'der boat.' However, having got the Rhine Signals interested translating all this foreign stuff, will one of them please request Sigmn Butcher to tell Sigmn Hillier of this unit, all that he knows about sauerkrat, frauleins and lager beer? Thanks awfully. Guten tag! Der wacht am Rhine, etc.

The Sight of the Month!—'Tich' Wright's knock-out in the bantams! (Better seen than felt—take my word!)

Anybody want a job?—On leaving the Army, why not be a burglar? For a kick-off you linemen would make quite respectable cat burglars! But be sure that you practice in secret, as we have just forwarded applications from Sigmn Oldale L. E. for the Police Force, whilst Sigmn Powell (our Alfie) thinks he'd look sweet in the uniform of a warder in one of H.M. prisons. Now you pickers-up of tips from the latest Edgar Wallace, don't say I didn't warn you!

Literary Tastes.—I am not going to give the slightest hint here as to the identity of the young and tall, handsome and sunburnt, member of J Section, who receives weekly a bundle of papers from home. Accidentally, the other day, one of his weekly packages came undone, and we had our work cut out gathering up copies of the latest editions of the 'Rainbow,' 'Chips,' 'Comic Cuts,' 'Lot-o-Fun,' 'Dead-Eye-Dick, the Terror of the Prairies' 'Tiny Tot's Weekly,' etc., to make sure that the expectant receiver did not know that it had been undone. Now the mystery remains—where does he read them? What a chance for the prospective Detective-Inspector Oldale to make a name for himself so early, and thereby help prospective Chief Warder Powell with a charge to practice his powers of wardering on!

Navy Cake.—It's supposed to be very nice, though I've never had any myself. Last month, the sailors paid the Army a visit in a series of sporting events in the Garrison, and after all were concluded the celebrities began, mostly in all the 'wet ends' available for wetting. One of our 'Paddies' was noticed on several occasions to give his slacks a proper nautical hitch, and try the hornpipe on several occasions. The sequel came when, after the sailors had departed, we missed 'Paddy.' Naturally we thought that he liked the Navy cake so much that he had gone with them to their boats. However, after a couple of days, he was found quite safe and sound, and as a reward was given seven days' of 'Army cake!' He never told us which he liked the better!

October 30th, 1928.—This date is going to become famous in history, for 'twas then that the future Field Marshal George Clifton Shepherd received the first lift towards his objective. In years to come the great Field Marshal will doubtless turn up his old WIRES and gaze on these lines, thinking to himself, '*What* a prophet that scribe was!'

Unseen, Unannounced, Unsung—and *almost* unheard, Sigmn Cooper (Buck) returned from yet another five months' holiday in the U.K. on the 7th November. The official welcome given him last year on his return from a similar leave was conspicuous by its absence. Even no pressmen or photographers were ready at the station; no triumphal procession was organised; no brass band to play him 'home'—no excitement whatever: he just came along in a quiet, unassuming manner, just another of Britain's unknown heroes, prepared to 'hold them back.' Had he but let us know he was coming, we *could* have been ready to welcome him. The huts would have been decorated, the guards turned out, and his old pals in the stables rewarded with extra feeds and wearing their best nose bags. Still, next year, rely on the lads to make up for it, Buck!

Value for your Money!—Anyone stationed at home who would like value for *his* money, should volunteer for service in Egypt. At home, before you depart, they'll tell you 'a mere five,' but when you get here you'll 'do' six. Also, if you do come here, don't think you're going to finish on the date *you* think, add anything up to, and including, another twelve months; and you'll know you really are getting value for your money. Now, don't come along here and then say you didnt know! This paragraph is inserted with the wholesale backing of just under fifty of the fortunate ones getting value for their money. Once again, Mr. Records, how could you? You're heart must be made of stone. Please don't be so generous with all this 'buckshee.' ART.

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

October.

General.—Winter has descended upon us with a vengeance, and upon the well beloved musketry parades in the early hours of the morning, many are the red and blue noses that can be seen. The climatic conditions of this country are undoubtedly most peculiar as may be seen from the weather we are experiencing just at present. For perhaps three days at reveille it is freezing, then in the middle of the day it is very hot; then for the next two or three days it is just mild when the first parade comes round, while ten minutes later it is pouring veritable 'sheets' of rain, leaving the cricket ground practically submerged, while the ground outside the office buildings resembles the pond they had for the water shoot at our fair last week.

Boat.—In two weeks time the boat is due to leave for various places, arriving eventually at U.K. or the 'land of Uk,' and we have four of our own leaving and two of the R.A.S.C. who are attached to this unit. Those for departure are Signalmen Barratt, Killian and McKinlay for a short sojourn in Blighty prior to their discharge, and Sigmn Johnson straight away to civvy street. We wish them all bon voyage, and may their lot be a happy one in their new sphere.

Other Departures.—On November 1st one of the two other military units (3/5th Maharatta Light Infantry) left this command for India, the Iraq levies having arrived to take over their job. With the coming of the boat 'do's' are springing up everywhere and farewell dinners are in abundance. Ibn McEwan is doing a fine trade.

Congratulations.—To 'Nibbo' Varley (ex rat) on attaining the first part of trouble he has got coming his way, namely, his first tape. Also to Ives and 'Ikenstien' Wyman on being made paid lance-corporals. Good luck to all!

Courses.—We have one genuine case of a course in the Section, one of the d.r.s having a course over at the M.T. Pool (R.A.F.), running about with Leylands and what not, but there are several courses going on internally, 'Yahoudis,' etc. Well, the boat's coming soon!

Visits.—On October 29th the Secretary for State, Sir Phillip Sassoon, paid us a short visit, arriving in the Section at about 10.30 and expressed his satisfaction with the work, etc., and all things in general.

Rifle Meeting.—The Command meeting was held on October 29th and 30th, and some excellent shooting was seen. We did not enter a team as everybody was 'browned' with the past month's musketry. The cup was won by 55 (B) Squadron R.A.F. The unit's annual musketry course is in the throes of death. Next Tuesday should see us finished with banduqs for a month or two.

Information.—To 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, W/T Section. Some of the call signs mentioned in the October WIRE can be identified by looking up a list of 'International Radio Telegraphic Abbreviations,' notably QRV and QRX. PCJJ is the best station here. It is the Holland-Java Beam, and we are in the line of fire. 5SW is bad compared with earlier in the year.

HINAIDIAN.

No. 2 Section, No. 2 Wireless Company, Baghdad

November 2nd.

A happy Christmas to all, and as these notes won't be seen abroad before January, a happy New Year as well. And may you all get an early boat.

Rain fell to-day, the first for over eight months, and there's quite a nip in the air early in the mornings.

Hockey and football proceed apace, although we badly need some new blood in the latter team, not having won a game since the season started. At hockey, however, things are altogether different, as a glance at the Sports page will show.

Query. Where *is* that boat?

Reference the W/T notes of the 3rd Indian Divl Signals, Ranikhet, as shown in the October WIRE. If Sigmn Steele of that unit would look up International Procedure Signals, he will find quite a considerable number of his unknown 'call-signs' therein.

BAN.

Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

Speed the departing guest!

The meaning of this was forcibly brought to our notice when leaving our old billet, for we scarcely had time to pack our kits before the building was being demolished. Our new camp will no doubt be very pleasant when finally completed; but open drains and heaps of building material are unpleasant obstacles to meet after returning from a round of the cafes!

The trooping programme has been received and it appears that my forecast was hopelessly at fault. All are being relieved with the exception of the C.O. and 2 W/T n.c.o.s. To them we extend our deepest sympathy. A draft of 61 are for Egypt, and we are pleased to say that quite a number of them will be only too willing to help Egypt Signals to retain the Athletic trophy they won this year.

Having brought his northern campaign to a successful conclusion, Tommy has returned to the fold. We trust his declining years may now be spent in peace!

Ere these notes appear in print many of those now in Shanghai will have left for other and better lands. We wish them bon voyage and a happy future. To the newcomers we extend a hearty greeting and trust their sojourn in the 'flowery land' will be a pleasant one.

A very successful swimming gala was held during the month, and some good swimming was seen.

In the relay race, open to all Naval and Military forces in Shanghai, our team were runners up to the American Marines.

In the realms of King Football our team holds the lead in the 2nd Division B of the Shanghai League. Four matches have been played and won—the goal score being 20 for and 2 against.

To Weller.—What about a ticket in the Penman's sweep? Protection for all and Peking for the Pekingese.

THE GRIFFIN.

Aden Signal Section.

Steamer Point, Aden.

General.—Well, here we are again, although it's only just. What with the strain of the trooping season and that fickle jade Dame Rumour, it is a wonder we are not going home as nerve cases. Ah, well, you know the old adage, 'Troopers may come and troopers may go, but we stay here for ever.'

H.M.S. 'Emerald' called in on the 18th October and stayed until the 24th, after a trip up the Red Sea for 'summat or other.' Just out from Blighty, the navy men gave us a lively time at soccer, rugby, cricket and hockey, and some very good games were to be seen. Yes, bo, they are the goods.

We played the signallers and telegraphists of the 'Emerald' at soccer on the 22nd, and were very fortunate to win by the only goal of the match. On the following day we were invited to look over the ship and were forced (?) to stay to tea. After a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon, we left at 6 p.m., after promising that we would play them a return match on their return in 1930. (Oh, yes, by the look of things we shall still be here.)

Departures.—2306785 L/Sergt Murray H. R., and 2316870 Sigmn Chitty W. H. J. embarked per H.M.T. 'City of Marseilles' on October 25th for S.T.C., India. We are very sorry to lose these two Adenites, and we wish them the very best of luck and success in their new station. May they be as much appreciated there as they were here.

Departures (?)—Having L. H. Drake's cartoon of the one man draft in mind, Nell Gwynn has had two attempts to be 'it.' Alas! he is still with us, having missed the 'Somersetshire' (it didn't call in) and then worst of all, he even went as far as the landing stage to embark on the s.s. 'Malwa' and was sent back. Oh, what a place to be in, still the third time *may* be luckier, Nell m'dear.

Agony.—H.R.S. is in an agony of suspense—have you gone yet, Barleux?

Greetings.—To north, south, east and west, Christmas greetings of the best!

ACIER.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

October.

General.—We notice in the September issue of THE WIRE that home units had received their draft return. We are now patiently waiting to see who Records are sending to us. It is rumoured that one old Hong Kongite is returning to us; others we know very little of.

The people who seemed over eager to know if Records were going to be kind to them were the Shaforce attached, but they have since learned that they are soon to return to Blighty via Egypt, where they will wait a few years for a connection to take them the rest of the journey. Bear up! Shaforce. Up to the present we think that our tour expired men will leave here about November 16th. The reliefs should be well on their way now, and we are waiting to welcome them when they arrive here.

Musketry.—This year we fired our classification at Kowloon old city ranges. Needless to say the indoor staff retained the 'Bridgland' trophy for the third year in succession. Sigmn Pennington was our deadeye with a score of 118.

Tattoo.—For the first time in the history of the Colony, a tattoo on a large scale was staged on October 5th and 6th. When one considers the facilities available to produce the well known tattoos at Aldershot, and even at Shanghai, it is a matter of wonder that with such a small garrison in Hong Kong, a tattoo which could compare favourably with these was produced.

A few months ago it was suggested that Hong Kong should produce a tattoo for the benefit of the Y.M.C.A. and regimental charities. As a result of close co-operation between the military and civil authorities an excellent programme was arranged, which necessitated weeks of hard work on the part of units. Some of the leading prominent citizens of the Colony were involved.

The garrison sports grounds at Sookumpoo were used for the purpose, and seating accommodation for about 7000 was built. The chief feature of the tattoo was an excellent reproduction of Edinburgh Castle, whilst Scottish cottages and a Senussi fort were also realistically reproduced.

The principal scenes were 'The Gathering of the Clans,' 'Modern Battle Scene,' 'Torchlight Display,' and the 'Surrender of Edinburgh Castle.' In 'The Gathering of the Clans' one saw a Scottish village with the villagers awaiting the return of a raiding party. On the return of the party the bearer of the Fiery Cross was sent into the hills to summon the several clans to battle. Led by pipers, the approach of the clans formed a most effective picture.

The 'battle' scene was enacted by the British and Indian Infantry and supported by a section of the mountain battery of the H.K.S. Brigade, R.A., and motor cycle machine gunners of the H.K.V.D.C. The attack on the Senussi fort was made by the British Infantry; the star shells, and the noise of the field pieces, took ten years out of the minds of many present. It was the effort of the show, and those responsible for its reproduction are to be commended.

A 'torchlight display' was given by the 1st Battn. Queen's Royal Regiment. The precision with which various movements were executed was most impressive, especially the formation of the 'Crown.'

The 'Surrender of Edinbugrh Castle' was carried out by the 2nd Battn K.O.S.B., period uniforms being worn by the English and Scottish 'guards.' The lining of the battlements by the English troops, the singing of 'Land of Hope and Glory,' and 'Abide with me,' the sounding of the Last Post and 'Lights Out' made a fitting final scene to an excellent performance.

The lighting of the arena was most efficiently carried out by the 40th (Fortress) Company R.E., who used 32° and 45° cheese beams as flood light, and concentrated beams from the 'wings' as long spot lights. Two short 'spot lights' were erected directly in front of Edinburgh Castle gate, and the operators became real first class shots during the performances.

The telephone communications were installed and maintained by the Hong Kong Signal Section and worked without a hitch. That our efforts were appreciated can be judged by the following letter from the G.O.C., S.C.C. to C.S.O., S.C.C.:—

October 10th.

Dear Carnegie,—Just a line to express my appreciation of the signalling arrangements at the tattoo, which were excellent, and convey my thanks to those who worked so successfully under you.

Yours sincerely (Signed), C. C. LUARD.

We very much appreciate the thought which prompted this letter, and without hesitation say we would 'do it all over again with pleasure.' (Especially the Marshall's caterer—sorry, we mean operator.)

Congratulations.—To U/L/Corpl Worrall on appointment to that rank.

Agony.—Sigmn Crump of this unit would like to hear from Sigmn Barrett, last heard of at 1st Div., Aldershot.

Sigmn Winters would appreciate a long overdue letter from Sigmn Pink. What about it, 'Gunner'?

DAISY.

North China Signal Section.

Tientsin Detachment.

British H.Q., Tientsin, October 22nd.

This Trooping Business.—As happens with most units about this time of the year, we have with us a number of prospective voyagers, who a few months ago were confidently looking forward to England, home and beauty. In due course they were warned to be ready, but later told to stand easy for twelve months. Now they have been given to understand that there is a chance for some of them ('but which of the crew is not quite clear,' to mis-quote from 'The Gondoliers'). At present they are in such a state of oscillation that they do not know whether to pack or unpack.

Wireless.—We are greatly interested to read in THE WIRE for September that the Aldershot Station is about to reduce the values of its C's and L's. We had begun to think that short waves, with their long ranges, had been forgotten. Aldershot! China is waiting and hoping to hear from you!

It is now well over eighteen months ago that our Peking station was heard in England strength R7, on a wavelength of 34 metres. The distance is about 6000 miles as the crow hops, and the actual input to Peking's transmitting valve was measured as being 40 watts (800 volts, 50 milliamps). Those wireless-ops who do trouble to read this, and either become sceptical or regard it as a freak, are years behind the times.

Shanghai works nightly to Ismailia, in Egypt (but not to an Army station); the distance is about 5500 miles, and signals vary from R5 to R8. Polygon, QRK on 39 metres?

To A.W.H.: The description of your receiver sounds distinctly promising. Presumably these 'scream' valves reduce noises in the aerial.

Exchange and Mart.—Sigmn Blackham (Tim) offers a Manchurian whistling goldfish in exchange for a Wiesbaden warbler. Now, Tom Mayer, wor abaht it?

Our Climate.—Topees and drill uniform have once again been relegated to the bottom drawer, and mosquito nets neatly folded in bundles of tens. Moths are being dug out of fur caps and gloves, and people who have no tender spots are sharpening their skates.

Musings with Method.—By the time these notes appear in print we shall no doubt have some idea of our staffs for the next twelve months. We trust that the fates have dealt kindly with us, and have remembered that the China W/T group has a reputation to keep up, and we hope to receive some real operators. We do not expect them to be up to the standard of many of the men we are losing, but we do hope they can send *Morse*.

Whilst on this subject of Morse. 'It is strange, dear brethren, is it not' (as our Padre would say) how many men take so little interest in the work which provides them with their daily bread (to say nothing of tea and wads)? Everyone who learns the Morse code, for example, is positive that after a few weeks' brass pounding he can send perfectly at thirty words per minute, and therefore needs no more practice, though he may admit that he cannot read very fast. We had the same idea years ago, until we were told to send on a tape machine, and set to read the result! Then we saw the error of our ways. Do all instructors check their pupils on the 'inker'? We wonder. We recollect the words of our old visual instructor, who sweated around Afghanistan in the 90's: 'A bad reader stands a chance of reading a good sender, but the best reader in the world cannot read a bad sender.' This applies equally to flag and key.

Sporting Notes.—No, we have no exploits of our own to record, except that Sigmn Brown A. V., together with L/Corporal Catchpole, R.A.O.C., reached the semi-finals of the Garrison tennis doubles. In this round, the effect of playing on a strange court in front of a large crowd of spectators, seems to have disconcerted them, though they made their opponents go all out.

The North China athletic championships were held recently at Tientsin. This event is really an international contest, as many nations compete. The 1st East Yorks and the 2nd Borderers, normally keen sporting rivals, combined wholeheartedly to win the team championship for the British Garrison, with a total of 60 points, the U.S. Marine Corps being second with 48. The excellent performances of Pte Caisley, East Yorks, are particularly worthy of note. Although attending hospital for treatment for malaria, he won the 1500 metres in 4 mins. 12 1/5 secs., and the 5000 metres in 15 mins. 50 secs. He was not extended in either event.

Mr. Eric Liddell, of 1924 Olympic fame, ran for the Tientsin Anglo-Chinese College (at which institution he is teaching), and won the 400 metres in 49 9/10 secs.

HSING-HAI.

Malta Signal Section.

General.—An outing in the Section took place last month, and was fairly well attended, the linemen turning out in full force. No doubt the unsettled weather then prevailing prevented the others from participating.

A bus was chartered and arrived at the barracks at 6.30 p.m. under the supervision of our civilian foreman. Boarding the bus we drove to our stores to draw the refreshments, and were well catered for by our storeman, who suplied us with every available pick, shovel, hammer, crowbar, ladder, hurricane lamps—in fact, everything a good lineman could wish for, including belts and climbers.

Having loaded up and all settled comfortably aboard, we were treated to a delightful thirty minutes ride through the beautiful country lanes that abound upon this island (and must have bounced off again). At the end of this thirty minutes' ride we arrived on the outskirts of a village named Lia.

This village has the reputation of being the healthiest on the island. It produces the finest oranges (and the worst roads). It was here that we decided to halt, and by the light of the hurricane lamps, and the thunder and lightening, accompanied by torrents of rain, a gale of wind blowing, and a junction pole on our main route over on its side, we were able to appreciate to the full the picturesqueness of the surrounding country.

After a stay of three or four hours, during which all kinds of sports were indulged in, such as climbing the greasy pole, swinging the pick and hammer, putting the stays, and blind man's buff, we returned back to stores at 10 p.m., everyone tired but happy.

Great credit is due to our civilian foreman (who by the way has a share in the bus and lives at Lia) for the way in which he engineered the whole scheme. Some doubt seems to exist as to whether this pole was blown down—or pulled down.

Congratulations.—To L/Corporal Walters, who succeeded in running into second place in the open mile. Well done, Taffy! it's time that cup was filled and passed round!

Trade Tests.—Congratulations to Sigmn Vise on passing his grade 1. (draughtsman and clerk. The extra dough will sure buy that pram!)

Education.—We have indented for several outsizes in hats. Foreheads are growing taller and heads are getting balder, but they won't be happy till they get it (1st class certificate of education).

We welcome back to the fold Sigmn Burrows, alias Stoker Nutty. We hope he thoroughly enjoyed his cruise with the R.N.

MIMATE.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

November 12th.

Christmas, 1928.—By the time these notes are in print Christmas will be well in view. We wish you all a merry Christmas and hope it will prove as near ideal as possible. We hope all old members of this Section will give a thought to old times.

To Corpl Hitchin: Who is going to black their faces this year? I shall be in the U.K.—Joe.

To Canny Scots.—We have a man who some declare is Scotch by name. Personally I am of opinion that he was actually born and bred in the land of the thistle. On November 11th he was seen to obtain a faded poppy from the back of his locker and place it on the left side of his cap in accordance with—n'll that. When a poppy-seller arrived in barracks attempts were made to shame him into buying one—but alas! he had no change. The seller, admiring his Scottish instincts, gave him one—on tick—which has not yet been paid for. Now this man speaks like a full-blown cockney and has the name and instincts of a Scotsman. Can any real Scot decipher him?

Photos.—We promised, many moons ago, to forward photos of the single men's outing. In case old members are looking forward to seeing them we enclose same for reproduction.

Marriage.—Sigmn Burton F. W. H. to Norah Byrne. The Section unite in wishing him the very best of luck and extending their sympathies !

Promotions.—Congratulations to the following on attaining their respective ranks: Corpl Webb D. W., L/Corpl Lowing C H. (paid), Sigmn Smith E. B. to A/L/Corporal.

Birth.—To Corpl W. and Mrs. Warren, a son (Robert Lionel William), on October 15th.

Agonies.—Sigmn Cook F. J. of this unit would like to hear from Sigmn Drury C. of A Corps, India. When writing please enclose any old recipes for cooking.

To Corpl Perry G.: Agony noted; letter shortly.—Corporal Warren W.

Sport: Football.—We are unable to raise a Section team this year and so have amalgamated with the Staff and Depts. The team, even with the other S. and D. units, is nothing startling, so we do not anticipate any extraordinary news this season.

CALPE.

Bermuda Command Signal Section.

Prospect, October.

Greetings.—We take this opportunity to wish all members of the Corps a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Axed!—Negotiations have been completed with the local Civil Telephone Company, whereby they take over the control of our telephones within the next six months. (C.Q.M.S. Simmonds, please note—shame!)

This news has been received with great cheerfulness by the members of this Section, some of whom have not only done 'one buckshee,' but have started on their second.

With reference to the note in THE WIRE of September, and in view of the above. The artist who painted the map showing Signal stations throughout the world must have been in the know—hence the omission of Bermuda!

Dredger: What again?—Once more the dredger vented its fury on another of our submarine cables: this time at Town Cut. The dredger's buckets ripped open the armouring (5/16 in. steel strand) and severed the whole of the sixteen cores of the gutta-percha insulated cable. Relaying and splicing the heavy armouring was quite a wrestling match, but after a bit of strenuous work the task was completed and lines are now back to normal.

In connection with the above:—

Who was the individual who put the blow-lamp in a bucket of water to cool it?

Who dropped the soap overboard?

Who after many hours angling caught no fish?

Agony.—Will L/Corpl Curtis B. G., late of Spike Island, please communicate with Sigmn Hughes of this Section, who promises some interesting news.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. J. (Jimmy) Earl, ex-Sapper R.E. The deceased, whilst working on an electric power pole came into contact with an H.T. circuit which badly burned him and caused him to fall to the ground. He lived only a short while after the accident and was buried the following day. Members of this Section at St. Georges attended the funeral. We offer our deepest sympathy to the bereaved wife and relations.

THE PLUG-JUGGLER.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Burlington St., Manchester.

There was the noise of devilry by night, and, worse still, there was the devil of a noise that night. But then, what can you expect when the M.O. has mislaid his Austin Seven, and finds it underneath a few packing-cases and other 'stores'? How the Austin got under the cases and tarpaulin is, of course, another story, which we cannot relate here.

Of late the orderly room has worn a worried look. The P.S. have also looked worried, and shushed any intruder off at the double. And why; I don't know, for they have only been working out Company efficiency, etc., for the 'best Company shield.' Of course, as each Company is of different strength, and does different work, a common base to make the comparison must be found. And we have a very simple way of doing it which is roughly as follows.

You take the number of drills a man *does* put in, and divide them by the number he could have put in (making allowances for births, marriages and deaths). To this is added each man's musketry score, multiplied by the strength of each Company, and divided by the number of days in the year (or any other figure you like better) and the result is the base of efficiency. But since the P.S. have now all agreed to the answers, we can expect to see their cheerful smiles once again!

Mentioning smiles reminds me of the riding school, where the instructor was watching, in a compassionate way, a man trying to keep his horse in line. When he could stand it no longer he shouted, 'Why don't you drop your reins and tell the horse his number? He'll know where to go!' To our great joy the man took him at his word. He dropped his reins, clasped the front arch of his saddle with both hands, bent forward and muttered 'Number five, number five!'

It seems, however, that this horse has not been taught to count properly, because he continued to keep in line all right, but in the position of number four. It was then suggested that a horse's counting class should be started, because, as they know the other drill quite well, the riding master thinks it would save a lot of trouble if we just strapped recruits on to the horses' backs. This seems a little hard to us, all the same.

Once again November 11th is here with all its memories. And in a solemnness which marks this from all other occasions did the unit parade in Albert Square for the Great Service. May we humbly offer our deepest sympathy to all whose recollections on this day are those of sorrow and of anguish.

JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The Priory, Exeter.

A merry Christmas to all Royal Signals at home and abroad!

We have quite a lot to write about this month. Several important functions have taken place recently, the first being the officers' mess annual dinner, which was held at H.Q., Exeter, on Saturday, October 27th. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the P.M.C. (Capt R. C. A. Cummings) the arrangements were, as usual, quite satisfactory. Our Hon. Colonel (Col. H. T. G. Moore) was present, as well as Colonel R. G. Earle (C.S.O. Southern Command). Officers representing other units in the Wessex Division, including the Divisional staff, were among the party. The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Exeter also came, and a most pleasant and successful evening was spent.

The autumn Company Commanders' conference took place on the preceding evening under the presidency of the O.C. (Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Michelmore).

No. 3 Company held a week-end camp at Tavistock during October, but it was greatly marred by the presence of an unwelcome guest—Mr. J. Pluvius. There was, I hear, also a bit of a 'mix-up' in connection with the motor transport. However, like good soldiers, they managed to extract a good measure of pleasure out of it all .The 'bogie-man' seemed happy under all the untoward conditions!

The week-end (November 9-11th) was a full one. No. 3 Company officers and n.c.o.s held a week-end course of instruction at Topsham, that favourite health-resort on the banks of the Exe. Twenty-five officers and n.c.o.s rolled up and spent a useful week end.

On the Sunday their number was augmented by the Topsham Section, which made an imposing parade at church, which was attended by all the 'big-wigs,' councillors, and local magnates.

On the Saturday evening (the 9th) No. 1 Company (Exeter) held their annual dinner, a really great success. The number attending the actual dinner exceeded all previous records, and amounted to 110. The n.c.o.s of No. 3 Company came along later to swell the numbers. Major J. W. Western (O.C. No. 1 Company) presided, and the speeches and musical programme were up to the standard of former years.

Lieut.-Colonel Michelmore's exhortation to those present to keep the unit up to its present high standard and never do anything to 'let it down' will, I am sure, be remembered for a long time to come.

OLD SPARK.

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44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, Stamford Brook Lodge, W.6

Before the commencement of this month's notes, may I again remind members of this unit that THE WIRE is always on sale. This is perhaps rather Irish, so I will ask our regular readers to chase the defaulters into becoming regular subscribers. Sixpence per month is not a huge expense, and in view of the good work done with the proceeds, it is surely money well spent. C.S.M. Churchill does not mind being worried for copies, so roll up and let's see our circulation go up R.9.

Training is proceeding according to programme, and might I mention that the attendances at parades and lectures are very gratifying.

The W/T class is now becoming more and more highbrow, whilst it is a common occurrence to hear heated discussions in the canteen on hysteresis, molecules and atoms: perhaps our budding Marconies may solve the latter problem.

Question time for C.S.M. Jordan is becoming more and more difficult, which is surely a good sign. N.c.o.s are being well brought up in an instruction class. (Throat pastilles forward, please.)

Social.—I am rather at a loss for social news, as the bulk of events take place after this copy goes to press. Much hard work is being done for these events, which I trust will result in something to look back upon with pleasure.

Sergeants' Mess.—Here again social activities are only in the air, so next month please—thank you!

Armistice Day.—It is pleasing to note that this unit provided a detachment at the service at Shepherds Bush memorial.

Did you see the photo in the 'Daily Mirror' of the Justices' shield being handed over to Capt Barton on behalf of the unit? Also, you know that our team of crack shots is getting quite used to appearing in a police court? Someone has told me that if the aforesaid shield was lost and found the Lost Property Office would return it to us as a matter of course. Swank! but its certainly becoming to regard our H.Q.s as 'home sweet home.'

THE SCRIBE.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

Brighton, November.

Notes, absence of; apologies for—plenty! but I am too full for words.

Losses and Gains.—We regret to have to record the departure of our late Adjutant, Capt C. R. H. Firth, who was posted to the Eastern Command Signal Company on October 1st. Our loss is their gain.

At the same time we heartily welcome to the unit his successor, Capt A. E. Barton, from the Rhine Signals, and hope his stay with us will be long and enjoyable.

Honours.—At this year's Brigade rifle meeting at Bisley the unit were again successful in winning the Justices' shield, and as the Scribe said in last month's issue, it will soon be regarded as part of H.Q. furniture. But what about cutting a corner off for us?

The following team was sent up to represent this Company in another competition: Capt F. H. FitzHugh, Sergeants Lee and Trower, L/Sergt James, Corpls Brown and Marchant, and Signalmen Knight and Pickett. All fired well, but, unfortunately, not well enough to win. Better luck next time.

Captain FitzHugh did exceedingly well, viz., top score in the shield shoot, tied for third place in the Brigade championship, and was third in the Cheylesmore cup competition.

More Honours.—With our noses in the air we are very proud to report the enlistment of Sigmn Dawson and Sigmn Gaitley into the 1st Life Guards. Even in their now 'high social position' they have not forgotten the old Company and first riding school, and always pay us a visit when on leave. It has been rumoured that Sigmn Dawson is already doing duty at Whitehall.

Under this heading I think I may also record the departure of Sigmn Bossom to the Depot Battalion, Catterick, on enlistment into the Corps. Through the medium of these notes all of the Company wish him the best of luck.

Training.—With the commencement of the new training year (and wet nights) training is in full swing again. Lieut Boag and Sergt Sparrowe have been instrumental in establishing a Divl. H.Q. Signal office in the Company office, two Brigade Signal offices in the lecture room, and one in the canteen. It is surprising to see the number who volunteer for work in the latter.

Church Parade.—On Sunday, the 11th inst., under the command of Capt FitzHugh, Lieut Boag and twenty other ranks represented the Company at an Armistice churchservice. It is generally considered that, had the weather been more favourable, we should have had a better attendance. The R.E. (T.) very kindly permitted us to march behind them and their band to and from the church.

Attachments.—Sergt Maher E. was attached to the 1st Divl Signals during their period of manœuvres in Sussex, and from what he tells me it was 'a home from home.' We extend our thanks to the 1st Divl Signals for looking after him so well. (This includes you, Dick.)

By the time these notes appear C.S.M. Mumford and Sergeant Willett will again be attached to the 4th Divl Signals, Colchester. I wonder what the attraction is? I know what it is at Reed Hall, but there must be something outside, I'm afraid. Perhaps you can enlighten me, Weller!

B. B.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby, November.

Our scribe not being a member of that august body the A.O.L., he refrains from excusing himself for the absence of notes last month.

We are settled down now for the winter. Our Signal classes have started; reasonably good numbers are attending, and it is confidently hoped good results will accrue therefrom.

No. 1 (Derby) Company welcome the arrival of Sergt Lombard as P.S.I. His arrival is all the more welcome as owing to the long illness and subsequent discharge of their late P.S.I., Sergt Bareham (which was deeply regretted, for he had made himself most popular during his short stay with us) they have been carrying on without a P.S.I. for some months. It is hoped that the stay amongst us of Sergt Lombard will be a long and pleasant one.

Our social season has commenced. The w.o.s and sergeants held their annual dinner at headquarters on November 3rd. We were pleased to welcome amongst us guests from the 48th and 49th Div. Signals, but it was regretted that the distance was too great for any of our friends from the S.T.C. to be with us.

The dinner and subsequent programme of usual toasts and vocal selections was a huge success. Rumour hath it that several members needed a shoe-horn to get their hats on the following Sunday morn.

No. 1 Company have already held one smoking concert amongst themselves, which was such a success that it has been decided to hold another on December 7th and invite friends (if the room is capable of holding them all).

The unit took a prominent part in the Armistice Day services at Derby and Chesterfield.

No. 1 Company at Derby and No. 2 at Chesterfield turned out in good numbers and (as is usual) smartness. Alongside the other units on parade the turn-out was most noticeable. The local 'birds' (non-feathered variety) can always tell the difference between the Signals and any other unit.

Cupid has been busy round our area again. Another promising young officer has fallen under his sway. The wedding of 2/Lieut E. Chapman and Miss Thomas was solemnised at St. John's Church, Long Eaton. Nearly the whole of the officers of the unit turned out to form a guard of honour, and by the crowds outside the church the whole of Long Eaton appeared to be there to witness the arrival and departure from the church (which would not hold a tiny fraction of the crowd that assembled). Military weddings are not an everyday occurrence in Long Eaton.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are now settled down to their wedded bliss, and they have the wishes of the whole unit for their future happiness. We hope Mrs. Chapman will spare her husband to come amongst us occasionally.

By the time these notes appear the festive season will be upon us, and we take this opportunity of wishing every member of the Royal Corps a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

MEREBIMUR.

SUNNY RHODESIA'S MESSAGE TO YOU

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51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

General.—

We'll take your part if you are wrong,
We'll fight your battles to the end;
We'll listen when you sing a song,
And never count your tales too long,
Because you are our friend.

To say that news of the retirement of our Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., was received with profound regret by all ranks of this unit is describing our feelings very mildly. We have always looked upon Colonel Forsyth not only as our C.O., but as our very good friend. No stone was left unturned in his endeavours to make even the hardest task easy or to brighten the leisure hours of all ranks.

When it is remembered that Colonel Forsyth has been with the unit since its inception, first as adjutant and then as its commanding officer, it will be realised that his task has not been a light ont, but in spite of many trials and tribulations his cheery word and ready smile was always in evidence. All ranks unite in wishing him continued health and prosperity, and venture to hope that he will not desert us altogether.

To his successor, Lieut.-Colonel E. G. McHutcheon, O.B.E., we extend fraternal greetings. We are sure his period of command will be a happy and successful one.

A hearty welcome is also extended to Sergt McGrath P., who has been posted to No. 2 Company, Stirling, from 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot. May your stay with us be a long and happy one, Mac!

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

General.—Now that the training season has been brought to a conclusion by the best attended parade of the year ('Bounty Parade') all ranks are looking forward to the festive season.

The first dance of the season was held on October 12th, and to judge from the hoochs from the dance-room a most enjoyable time was spent.

A smoking concert for the 'Frothblowers and Men' was held on October 26th, and new talent was found amongst the officers (it was rumoured that the choicest of the stories were being broadcasted, but the microphone absolutely refused to function when Major Mutch, R.A., got to the interesting part of the second story).

On October 27th an enjoyable evening was spent in an officers versus sergeants shooting match. It was decided to publish the scores, but as this would probably lead to a challenge from the officers to some other form of recreation we are afraid—anyway, the sergeants won.

A Memorial Service parade was held on Armistice Day at the War Memorial, for which we formed a detachment of war veterans under R.S.M. Andrews C. F., M.B.E.

No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

Apology.—The absence of notes from this Company may have given rise to fears relative to an apparent demise of the Company or its scribe. To allay any fears we again burst forth!

General.—Everything is quiet and humdrum ; every man more or less received his 'pennies.' Before we finally turned in for the winter, a splendid day's scheme was carried through in mid-September. The Company was favoured with the presence of Lieut.-Colonel Muirhead, Commanding 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals, T.A., Colonel A. A. Jayne, Scottish Command, and Capt B. H. House, Adjutant. Major McHutchon, with his usual thoroughness, had all phases well thought out, and the scheme was remarkably satisfactory. Forty other ranks participated and enjoyed the day.

The winter activities of the Company are much curtailed this year. Through the departure of the crack shots the miniature rifle club is at present in abeyance.

Departures.—It was with sincere regret that we parted with our P.S. Instructor 'Bunny.' He was one of the best. We trust he enjoyed his stay and hope that if the future has any more 'body blows' for him they will be very indistinct. Good luck, Bunny, and if you peruse these notes, think kindly of us as we do of you. 'Pukka-Dink.'

The Company has lost the services of several stalwarts. We shall miss 'Geordie,' 'Dick,' and 'Bob,' and regret that they could not stay at least another year.

Arrivals.—We welcome most sincerely our new P.S.I., Sergt McGrath, and trust that he will find Stirling and the work with No. 2 Company most congenial.

No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

General.—The Company having now completed a rather successful year of training, are all looking forward to the usual winter courses and dances.

Whist Drive and Dance.—Under the patronage of our Company Commander, Major R. B. Lockhart, T.D., a most successful whist drive and dance was held in the drill hall, Kirkcaldy, on Friday evening, October 12th.

There was a most gratifying response by officers, n.c.o.s and men, the total acceptances being 156. The Dunfermline Section was conveyed by charabanc (free of charge) and included our pipe major and several pipers in their full glory. Several Eightstone reels were played by the pipers, which added much to the national feeling.

Following fourteen hands of whist an excellent supper was served.

Dancing commenced at 10.30 p.m. C.S.M. Cooper H. R. very ably acted as M.C., and submitted a capital programme. Music was supplied by the Algerian Band of eight performers, the quality of which added greatly to the evening's enjoyment. Several new innovations were introduced as surprise packets, viz., the dropping of 150 balloons which had been concealed by decorations from the ceiling of the hall, and the display of spot lights in the form of lamps, Lucas, daylight, signalling, manipulated by members of the Company during 'lights out.' The former created a general stampede and was heartily appreciated. The Lucas lamps operated in darkness put the finishing touch to the twilight dances. During an interval prizes were gracefully handed over to the winners by Mrs. H. R. Cooper.

Mrs. Cooper had the pleasure of presenting herself with the booby whist prize (better luck next tim,e Mrs. Cooper.) The dance was voted a huge success.

THREESOME.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Cardiff.

There were no notes from us last month, and worse still, there is no legitimate excuse to offer.

Camp seems a long way off now, and already the site for our 1929 camp has been decided on (it is to be Penally), but there is an apology to be made in connection with the account of our Signal scheme.

The wireless section are rightly incensed at the statement that the furthest out-stations on the scheme nearly reached Malvern, when in fact that section, representing a mechanised force, had reached Worcester and worked back to Hereford from there. Amplified apologies to the loud speaker who broadcasted the complaint. The W/T Section had every reason to be proud of itself though, and we had hoped for an account of its doings on the special mission it had in the scheme.

The officers had what by all accounts was an excellent week-end exercise at Bridgend in October. The Adjutant returned from leave to attend the exercise and practically all the officers were present. We gather that a hard afternoon's work was followed by an equally strenuous night's amusement, although there is no rumour of dinner jackets at breakfast. However, 9.30 a.m. Sunday found all the officers at work again, and reports say that the scheme set provided much interest. They also say that the Adjutant was seen returning to his bungalow in Sully, carrying a white wooden horse. Why and wherefore? Further, that the thoughtful juniors left the dud car for the second in command.

Lectures and exercises for officers continue, and a special class of instruction for n.c.o.s commenced on the 5th inst. and will be continued until March. The object is to help n.c.o.s to pass their promotion examination for sergeant and to assist in making them instructors.

The Armistice night dance given by the w.o.s and n.c.o.s on November 12th was as good if not better than ever.

The hall was certainly better decorated than it has ever been, and the dancing went with a swing. The n.c.o.s entertainment committee can certainly run a good show.

Capt R. E. Evans, M.B.E., T.D., whom we have not seen for many months, owing to his residing in London, has been transferred to the T.A.R.O., thus leaving a vacancy for a subaltern to be promoted. Lieut W. S. Catleugh is our senior subaltern, so he will probably be owing drinks before long. THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Stratford, E.15.

We take this opportunity of wishing all units, Regular and T.A., a merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

The unit took part in the annual Armistice church parade, the service being held in West Ham Parish Church. The address was given by the Rev. E. A. Gardner, M.C., T.D., M.A., S.C.F. 54th (E.A.) Division. The Cenotaph service was received in the church.

After the service the troops marched past, the salute being taken by the Deputy-Lord-Lieutenant, Brigadier-General R. B. Colvin, C.B., T.D., D.L. (our Hon. Colonel).

The Trade Board for Signals assistant was held on November 6th, and we congratulate the lucky ones on their success. Another Trade Board will be held in March, and it is hoped that many will come to the classes, to work up their speeds and knowledge, and so pass into higher grades.

No. 2 Company held their annual dinner on November 10th at the Manchester Hotel. A rather small number attended. This may have been due to a large number of re-union dinners being held on the same evening. The Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. E. A. Edwards, presented mementoes in the shape of silver cigarette cases to Lieut Wardle and L/Sergt Barnett A., the Section officer and n.c.o. of G Section, who won the Edwards cup. Capt F. A. Manley, O.C. No. 2 Company, seems to have carried out his threat of last year, in taking a few more trophies from No. 1 Company, who thought they were fixtures.

Congratulations are extended by all ranks to R.S.M. Adams, who has been permitted to remain with us for another year. So the gentlemen of the pigskin will still have to sit tight.

The boxing season has now opened and several of our members have renewed their acquaintance with the gloves. We hope that all members who have given us splendid shows in the past, will once again give their support, as there are many cups and prizes to be won this year in the various competitions. YEO.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Fencing Notes.

The opening of a new boxing arena on October 26th provided an unrivalled opportunity of witnessing the various means of offence and defence. During the interval between the two sets of excellent boxing contests an exhibition of fencing and self-defence was given by members of the gymnasium staff.

Boxing is essentially a form of sport to be indulged in between two men who have somewhat similar physical characteristics. In fencing, however, a man of lower physical weight or strength can be more than a match for his physical superior. Moreover, should a man know the art of self-defence he can deal with the burliest of fighters.

A short explanation of each form of fencing was given by Lieut Allen before each bout took place. Sergts Hart and Stafford took each other on with the foils, Sergts Stafford and Tomblin fighting next with sabre. Then followed a very amusing episode by Corpls Lambert and Beaumont in a quarterstaff display. The self-defence demonstration was given by Corpl Quinn and Sergt Stafford in appropriate costumes.

This display terminated by an epée match between Sergeants Hart and Tomblin. We then settled down again to watch some more exciting boxing contests.

The first match of the 1928-29 season took place in the S.T.C. gymnasium on Saturday, October 27th, when the Bradford Fencing Club visited Catterick Camp. Bradford won the foil and sabre contests, but were defeated by 8 wins to 7 in the epée. There were some very close finishes in the foil bouts, many of which Bradford just won by the fifth hit when the score was 2 all. Sergt-Instr. Hart (A.P.T.S.) who won all his four fights with the foil, was the only member of both teams to carry a weapon without defeat.

Corpl Lambert did extremely well in this his first match, winning three out of his four assaults with the epée. The fighting was very keen throughout, and provided interesting entertainment for both participants and spectators.

Teams and results were as follows.

Foil.—S.T.C.: Sergt-Instr Hart (A.P.T.S.), 2/Lieut G. H. S. Balmain, Sergt-Instr Tomblin (A.P.T.S.), Corpl Beaumont. 6 wins.
B.F.C.: Messrs. G. W. Andrews, W. A. Powell, L. A. Newton and A. A. Ward. 10 wins.

Sabre.—S.T.C.: Sergt-Instr Tomblin, Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., Lieut R. L. K. Allen (Norfolk Regt.), Sigmn Strachan J. N. 6 wins.
B.F.C.: Messrs. Andrews, Ward, Powell, Knapton. 10 wins.

Epée.—S.T.C. Major Helps, Corpl Lambert, Lieut Allen, 2/Lieut Balmain. 8 wins.
B.F.C.: Messrs. Ward, Powell, Andrews, Knapton. 7 wins (one 'coup-double').

Leeds University.—A team from Leeds University paid us a visit on Saturday, November 3rd, bringing four foil and three sabre fighters. They had a very fine set of foilists, and the S.T.C. only secured two wins out of the 16 bouts. With the sabre, however, the S.T.C. were superior, defeating the Varsity by 6 victories to 3.

S.T.C. team.—Foil: Capt H. G. Henderson, 2/Lieut G. H. S. Balmain, R.S.M. M. Hepburn, Sgt-Instr. Tomblin (A.P.T.S.)
Sabre: Sergt-Instr Hart, Hergt-Instr Tomblin, Sigmn Strachan J. N.

Two other matches took place during November. On the 17th we visited Sedbergh School for a match with foils and sabre, and on the 21st we took a team to York, where we met the Garrison in a contest with all four weapons—foil, sabre, epée, bayonet.

School v. Dismounted Wing.—This match took place on Thursday, November 8th. Only the 1st XV. game was played, as our opponents in the 2nd XV. failed to put in an appearance, thus giving us a walk over.

The first match provided a very strenuous game, both sides pressing hard. Our forwards played well as a pack, but when acting individually made many errors. There was far too much infringement of the 'off-side' rule. The game resulted in a draw, neither side securing a score.

Rugby Notes.

The results of matches played so far are as follows:—

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Gateshead Fell, lost by 0—5
Royal Signals(Catterick) v. Middlesbrough, lost by 0—9 and won by 18—0
Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Billingham, won by 13—6
Royal Signals (Catterick) v. St. Peter's School, York, won by 11—3, and won by 21—6
Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Old Bradfordians, lost by 0—9
Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Old Leedensians, won by 38—3
Training Battalion v. 4th Battalion R.T.C., won by 20—3.
Royal Signals (Catterick) 2nd XV. v. 1st Battn. Middlesex, lost by 5—6
Royal Signals (Catterick) 2nd XV. v. Darlington 'A,' won by 14—0
Boys' XV. v. Coatham School (Redcar), lost by 6—7
Boys' XV. v. St. Peter's School 2nd XV., won by 9—6
Boys' XV. under 16 v. Ampleforth Juniors, lost by 6—15
Officers' XV. v. Ampleforth, lost by 8—20
Boys' XV. under 15/4 mths. v. Richmond Grammar School under 15/4, lost by 0—9

The last match, v. Middlesbrough resulted in a win, which is most satisfactory, as Middlesbrough have defeated nearly all the best clubs in the north this season. Our team was the strongest we have turned out, and played splendid football.

CORPS TRIAL.

The trial was played at Aldershot on October 25th, and after the match the following were selected to represent the Corps v.

The Royal Engineers on November 19th: Signalman Richardson (Aldershot); 2/Lieut Wintle (Catterick), Sigmn Thompson (Bulford), 2/Lieut Knox (Catterick); 2/Lieut Hardy (Aldershot); Sigmn Reeves (Aldershot), Sigmn Cash (Bulford); Sigmn Staerck (Aldershot), 2/Lieut Severin (Catterick), Lieut Milner (Aldershot), 2/Lieuts Lewis and Worrall (Catterick), Sigmn Harry (Bulford), 2/Lieut Thuillier (Aldershot), and Lieut Morrison (Aldershot), captain. Reserves: Sigmn Lawton (Catterick), Sigmn Cale (Aldershot), 2/Lieut Bradford and L/Corporal Sadler (Catterick), and L/Corpl Simm (Bulford).

The trial match showed that the Corps has really good players, and we wish the chosen XV. the best of luck v. The R.E. and R.M.A. on Nov. 19th and 21st. Reports of these two matches will appear in next month's WIRE.

The 1st XV. (owing to courses, accidents, leave, etc.) has not yet turned out at full strength, but now at the beginning of November there is every reason to think that the team will be more representative. The various XV.s are composed more or less as follows:—

1st XV.—Sigmn Lawton; 2/Lt Wintle, 2/Lt Bradford,, 2/Lt Knox, Sergt Fegan; 2/Lieut Tucker, Boy Kerr; Sigmn Barnett, 2/Lieuts Severin (captain), Shawcross, Lewis, Tate and Worrall, L/Corpl Sadler, Sigmn Young. 2/Lieut Crawford and Sergeant Squirrell are unfortunately crocked, and Capt Owens is not always available.

2nd XV.—Boy Dolaghan; L/Corpl Harbin, Lieut Bolton, Signalmen Smee and Breeze; Boy McDougall, Sigmn Robertson; Boy Rider, Sigmn Delaney, 2/Lieut Docker, Sergt Laurie, Lieut Gelston (captain), Sigmn Taylor, Sergt Herbert, Signalmen Jenner and Dix, 2/Lieuts Palmer and Fothergill, Lieut. Allen.

Hockey Notes.

S.T.C. v. Bradford.—Played at Bradford on Saturday, October 13th. In previous years Bradford had always beaten us, but this year we came away winners of a good, hard, fast game by three goals to two.

Signals won the toss and started off uphill. For the first ten minutes the pace was sticky and was practically a game of ping pong between the opposing halves, neither set of forwards being in the picture. Bradford forced two corners, neither of which availed them much; but constant pressure was maintained on our goal, and our defence was equal to all demands made upon it. Only three times in the first half did we get into our opponents' circle, but did not look like scoring owing to weak combination.

A hot attack by Bradford near the end of the first half brought them into our circle, where a handball by one of our backs gave a short corner from which, with a magnificent shot, their inside right scored. At half time we were one goal down, and there was only one team in it. Our defence was good, but our forwards weak, out of position, and no combination.

The second half started at a great pace and up and down play followed for a bit. Our forwards were much better and at last were taking advantage of the good work of the halves. Good centres from both wings came frequently, and from one from the left and a good pass by 2/Lieut Ruck, Major Drayson scored.

Signals kept up the pressure, and for a long period were in the Bradford 25, until a sudden breakaway by the Bradford right wing let in their inside, who scored with a good shot. Signals again pressed hard and a good bit of combination by Lieut Hatfield and Sigmn Duncan enabled Major Drayson to score again.

The game was now very fast, with Signals obviously the better and fitter side, and a break through by Lieut Hatfield, and a shot which rebounded from the goalkeeper to 2/Lieutenant Ruck, enabled him to score with a good shot. We might have scored three more goals but were on each occasion offside in their circle. We maintained pressure to the end, and the result was 3—2 in our favour.

Sergt Hilman kept a good goal, and had little chance of stopping the two goals that were scored against us.

Sergt Carpenter and 2/Lieut Beeton were very safe at back, but the latter has a slight tendency to undercut free hits. They both cleared well and quickly and should have very few goals scored against them this season. 2/Lieuts Gardiner and Sanders as wing halves were excellent, while Lieut Malpass in the centre passed well and fed both wings excellently.

Sigmn Duncan and L/Corpl Podger appear to be the wings we have been looking for, and with more experience will develop into excellent players. They both stopped their passes well and got ahead without delay, and both have the attributes of good wings in that they do not play a selfish game, but put the ball where it should be put at the right time.

2/Lieut Ruck came in at inside left, while Lieut Hatfield moved over to inside right. It is hard to explain the forwards in the first half, but they were poor: the second half they were entirely different and combined well, both insides and wings being excellent.

Team: Goal, Sergt Hillman; backs, 2/Lieut Beeton and Sergt Carpenter; halves, 2/Lieut Gardiner, Lieut Malpass, and 2/Lieut Sanders; forwards, Sigmn Duncan, Lieut Hatfield, Major Drayson, 2/Lieut Ruck, and L/Corpl Podger.

This match was noteworthy from our point of view in that we were most hospitably entertained by Col. Boyle and the officers of the 49th Div. Signals at Gibraltar Barracks. We were able to effectively 'liase' with them and renew old acquaintances in R.Q.M.S. John Brown, C.S.M. Green, and several others. Not only did they entertain us right royally, but came and cheered us during the match. To hear 'come on the Corps' from the touch line was a welcome and cheerful sound from our T.A. brothers.

Sergt Banks, of the Northamptonshire Regt., a student on the 95th Regimental Courses, again kindly assisted us in umpiring, and his umpiring is of the best—an object lesson in how to control a game and keep it fast and clean.

S.T.C. v. Thirsk.—Played at Thirsk on October 20th, and resulted in a win for us by 2 goals to 1 after a good fast game.

We did not have a full side out, and the team did not play as well as in previous matches. The ground was slightly on the heavy side, making the taking of passes difficult. At half time, as usual, we were one goal down, which about represented the run of the play.

After the interval except for occasional attacks, we were always pressing, and scored twice through Capt Boyd, both excellent shots. 2/Lieut Gardner was excellent at right half.

Team: Corpl Morgan; 2/Lieut eeton, Dr C.onroy; 2/Lieut Gardiner, 2/Lieut Morris, 2/Lieut Sanders; Sigmn Duncan, Capt Boyd, Lieut Hatfield, L/Corpl Podger, Major Drayson.

S.T.C. v. Rest of the Garrison.—Played on Scotton ground on October 24th.

This match was played as a Northern Command trial to select a team from the Northern and Scottish Commands to play against the Army on October 29th.

The game resulted in a win for Signals by 6 goals to 0—we were easily the better side and in all departments of the game did much as we pleased with our opponents. The whole team played well together, and the game was contested at a fast pace except for the first fifteen minutes; it invariably takes us some time to settled own.

In this match the short passing game was used with great success: the wings were good, but we do not yet centre hard enough. Goals were scored for us by Lieut Hatfield, L/Corporal Podger, Capt Boyd (2), and Major Drayson (2).

Team: Goal, Sergt Hillman; backs, 2/Lieut Beeton and Sergt Carpenter; halves, 2/Lieuts Gardiner, Morris and Sanders; forwards, Sigmn Duncan, Capt Boyd, Major Drayson, Lieut Hatfield and L/Corpl Podger.

After the match the following were chosen to play for the Northern and Scottish Commands against the Army at York on the 29th inst.: Sergt Hillman (goal); 2/Lieut Gardiner and Sergt Carpenter (backs); Capt Boyd and Lieut Hatfield (forwards).

Depot Battalion v. Middlesex Regiment.—Played on Hipswell ground on Saturday, November 3rd, and won by Signals by 3—1. What would have been an excellent fast game was spoilt by the muddy state of the ground; we were easily the better side and would have scored heavily had the circles been anything but a ploughed field. Under the circumstances it was impossible to play hockey, and our combination had therefore to be cut out, and a hit and follow up method of play adopted.

The whole team played this style of game well under the circumstances. Goals were scored for us by Lieut Hatfield and Capt Boyd (2).

Team: Dr. McKinnon; 2/Lieut Sladen and Corpl Ryan; 2/Lts Morris and Gardiner and L/Corpl Davis; Sergt Hall, Capt Boyd, Lieut Hatfield, L/Corpl Podger, and Major Drayson.

1st Round Army Cup.

Depot Battalion v. 20th Brigade R.A.—Played on Scotton ground on October 31st and resulted in a win for the Signals by 4—1 after an excellent game played in the right spirit. It was one of the cleanest games we have had this year and an object lesson as to how this type of game should be played.

Signals lost the toss and defended the gorseland end. Again, as usual, we could not get together for the first fifteen minutes: during this period the Gunners attacked and from a scramble in the goal-mouth scored. We attacked for a short period, but the Gunners backs continually put us offside. Just before half time, in an attack from the left, L/Corpl Podger passed to Lieut Hatfield, who put it across the goal-mouth for Capt Boyd to score with a splendid first time shot.

At half time the score was one all. After half time we were continually the aggressors, and from an early attack a good centre by 2/Lieut Gardiner enabled Lieut Hatfield to give us the lead with a fine shot. Another attack from the right gave Capt Boyd an opening which he scored from. Several short corners proved abortive, and near the end a good piece of short passing enabled Major Drayson to score one more, leaving us winners of a good game by 4—1.

Our main fault appears to be lack of positional play—wings being out of position, forwards lacking anticipation, and halves not marking their men, with the exception of 2/Lieut Gardiner, who played a magnificent game. Corpl Ryan and 2/Lieut Sladen were safe at back and cleared well on the whole. As a whole the team did not play up to the form that they can produce. It would help considerably if more support was received from the touch line, especially in Army cup matches.

The 4th R.T. Corps are our next opponents, while the Training Battalion play their first round against the Middlesex Regt. shortly.

Boxing Notes.

The opening of the Dismounted Wing Boxing Arena, capable of seating 1500 people, took place on October 26th, and the results of a well-arranged programme were as follows:—

Capt Kennett, R.Signals, beat 2/Lieut Van der Goot by a close margin of points in a well-contested sporting fight.

Sergt Massey, R.Signals, easily outpointed Sergt Antony, Royal Signals.

Corpl Dow, Cameronians, knocked out Cpl O'Connor, Middlesex Regt., in the first round.

Sigmn Mills forced Gunner Smith, R.A., to withdraw after four rounds, in which the winner had matters all his own way against a plucky but slow opponent.

Sigmn Williamson, R.Signals, knocked out L/Corporal O'Neil, Middlesex Regt., in the third round, the loser taking a lot of punishment.

Dvr Etheridge, R.Signals, beat L/Corpl Dewbury, Cameronians, by a narrow margin of points.

2/Lieut Morris, R.Signals, just got the verdict over 2/Lieut Ruck, R.Signals.

L/Corpl Hinsby, Middlesex Regt., easily beat Corporal Crowley, 14/20th Hussars, who took severe punishment.

Congratulations to S/Sergt Hart and his staff on the excellent turn-out given to us during the interval in foil, epée, sabre and quarterstaff.

The Corps, it is certain, will carry off two more Service championships next year in the persons of Signalmen Mills and Williamson.

Prizes were distributed by the Commandant, Brigadier Clementi Smith, who remarked on the excellent boxing witnessed, and congratulated all those concerned in arranging the events.

The Recruits' championships resulted respectively as follows: Sigmn Jones (welter) beat Sigmn Brackenbury; Sigmn Barton (light) beat Sigmn Dangerfield; Sigmn Rawson (feather) beat Sigmn Byers; Sigmn Perkins (bantam) beat Sigmn Wright. Over eighty men took part in the preliminary rounds.

Inter-Company League Notes.

Rugby.—The Company League is progressing slowly. The Dismounted Wing, after suffering a heavy defeat from F Company, have improved, and managed to defeat the Mounted Wing, who had several men away in hospital and injured. The Dismounted Wing also drew with the School. Results:

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1st XV.s—
Mounted Wing beat School of Signals by 9—3.
Dismounted Wing beat Mounted Wing by 8—6, drew with School at 0—0, and lost to F Company by 0—58.
F Company beat D Company by 10—0.
D Company beat E Company by 25—0.

2nd XV.s—
Mounted Wing beat School of Signals by 6—0.
Dismounted Wing lost to Mounted Wing by 3—12, lost to F Company by 0—35, School (walk over).
F Company beat D Company by 14—0.
D Company beat E Company by 10—8.

Company Hockey League.—This was completely finished before the rain set in for the season. F Company beat the School (who had been undefeated for three years) and just managed to beat everyone else. The result of the league was as follows:—1 F Coy.; 2 School; 3 E Coy.; 4 Dismounted Wing; 5 Mounted Wing; 6 D Coy. Each Company defeated the Company below it in the league.

Cross-Country.—There have been three Company runs this year. The first was a 'mass' run: the first Company having 50 men home to win. There was a large field and E just beat F for first place. Remaining results: 3rd Dismounted Wing; 4th D Company; 5th School.

Two Company league runs have been run since then, at 2 and 3 miles (road)F Company have won both. Results:—
Two miles—1 F Coy. 202; 2 E Coy. 306; 3 Mounted Wing, 429; 4 Dismounted Wing, 457; 5 School, 533; 6 D Coy. 867.
Three miles—1 F Coy. 165; 2 Mounted Wing, 278; 3 E Coy. 311; 4 Dismounted Wing, 536; 5 School, 611.

Shooting.—Result of Shooting League to date shows Dismounted Wing and E Company both undefeated.

Squash Racquets.—The Mess beat the Regimental Course Officers by four matches to two. 2/Lieuts Bradford and Shawcross

were beaten, and 2/Lieuts Gambier, Knox, Minshall and Turner won.

The Mess defeated the officers of the Cameronians, the match being curtailed through all the lights in the camp going out.

In a match of three players a-side the Mess were beaten by St. Peter's School, York. 2/Lieut Hardy (Welsh Guards) managed to get a game off Mr. S. M. Toyne, the northern amateur champion, but Capt Boyd and 2/Lieut Gambier were defeated, neither getting a game.

F Company, Training Battalion.

Rugby.—We heartily congratulate L/Corpl Sadler on being selected for an Army trial, and from what we hear he was 'about the most conspicuous forward on the ground.'

Our under 16 and under 15/4 teams are having plenty of practices and matches, and are showing most promising form.

Cross-Country.—We have managed to win the first two cross-country runs, each time by just over 100 points. Keep it up, boys! there are pletny of ex-F-ites watching you, and are glad you are carrying on their previous good work.

Boxing.—We had a great fight against the Mounted Wing in the senior league, and managed to tie with 12 points each.

Aldershot Signals.

Rugby Notes.

The Hitchins Cup.—Profound apologies are tendered to Lieut.-Colonel Hitchins for the inaccuracy in the paragraph in THE WIRE in October dealing with the cup which he presented for competition amongst units of the Signals in Aldershot.

Colonel Hitchins presented the cup on his leaving the Command for the purpose of fostering rugby in Royal Signals. This is the first season that the cup has been played for, and I know that he will be delighted to learn that one of the Companies (No. 3) of his old command has been the victor.

The three Companies of the 1st Divl Signals were easy game, due partly to some of their star players, such as Lieuts Hardy and Danby, being away on leave. No. 1 Company scratched their match, and Nos. 2 and 3 were beaten somewhere around the 30 points mark.

The competition then lay between A Corps Signals and 2nd Divl Signals. Heroic struggles between the Companies of these two units saw the latter come out as the victor by the narrowest of margins—No. 3 Company 2nd Divl Signals, beating No. 3 Company A Corps Signals by 8 points to nil, after extra time and an extra game. No. 1 Coy. 2nd Divl Signals followed by beating No. 1 Coy. A Corps Signals by the same number of points.

This eliminated A Corps Signals, and as the cup was destined for 2nd Divl Signals, enthusiasm in that unit ran high as to which Company would ultimately prove the winner.

The battle waged between Nos. 2 and 3 Companies of 2nd Divl Signals on October 22nd was splendidly contested. Mr. Morrison was the outstanding figure in the match, and but for his wonderful play—both offensive and defensive—his team would have been beaten by a larger margin. He was unlucky with two penalty kicks, which might have turned the game to the advantage of his side. As it turned out, they were beaten by 5 points to nil.

Although a passenger, the presence of Capt Mathew in No. 3 Company was a great factor for the winners, but the result was due to Richardson who, in the second half, received the ball from the scrum, and offering the 'dummy' scored behind the posts with three opponents hanging on to him. The same player added the extra points.

THE FINAL.—In a drizzle, on October 29th, the match between Nos. 1 and 3 Companies of 2nd Divl Signals attracted a good crowd. It was a hard and strenuous game, fought out in the best spirit. Lieut Muir, for No. 3 Company, scored a magnificent try behind the posts just before the interval, the kick failing. Crossing over with three points against them, No. 1 pressed hard but failed to pierce the defence. Lieut Thuillier failed to equalise with a penalty in front of the posts, much to the chagrin of his supporters. Excitement was intense until the end, and Dr. Joy's drop at goal a moment before the whistle went made all heads turn towards No. 3 goal. The ball slowly but surely sailed towards the posts—it meant victory or defeat. No. 1's supporters shouted in sheer joy, but that shout was drowned when the ball sailed two feet *outside* the rear post, to leave No. 3 Company the possessors of the cup for the first time by 3 goals to nil.

Colonel Prickett, D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer Aldershot Command, who witnessed the match, presented the cup to the winners at the concluison of the game.

Well, that ends the Hitchins cup competition for this season. It has done a world of good for the code, and I, who have known the game for more years than I like to remember, am surprised at the high standard of the play I have witnessed.

"A" Group, Royal Signals, Aldershot.—"A" Group, Royal Signals, playing the Tank Corps from Farnborough on October 24th, ran out winners by 14 points to 3. Lieut Morrison, Corpls Bishop and Stearck played their usual fine game, and Richardson was responsible for two tries. A match with the R.A.O.C. from Bramley resulted in another win for us by 14 points to nil.

Army Cup.—Now comes the sad news. We are definitely out of the Army cup competition. The Border Regt. (Catterick Signals know them well) completely knocked us out by 25 points to 3. A very disappointed man was Capt Mathew, but there, one must give credit where it is due, and the Border men were top dogs in all departments. Their two halves were a highly talented pair, and I have seen worse in some of the crack London clubs. The Signals managed to hold them until midway in the second half, when the men of the Border wore our fellows down and did exactly as they pleased.

The Border Regiment play the King's Own Regiment in the next round, and as the latter are last years' runners-up, and as I know, are out to win the cup this year, the match will be well worth seeing.

"B" Group, Royal Signals, Aldershot.—In the Army cup, "B" Group found themselves lined out against the 1st Battalion K.O.S.B. on Guy Fawkes day. This match proved a bitter disappointment to all who had assisted in the building up of the Group XV. Beaten in almost every department of the game and fighting an uphill fight, the Signals struggled desperately but vainly against an excellent and all round side who improved as their score mounted. It must be admitted, however, that the side went down in a thoroughly sporting manner, and even in defeat worthily upheld the prestige of Corps rugger.

The score—24 points to nil—appears that it was a trouncing affair, but in was only in the second half, when the score stood at 3 points to nil that the Signals fell to pieces. The forwards giving away a lot of weight, and beaten in the scrum, were unable to give their 'threes' the ball, so that teamwork, for which they had trained so hard, went by the board, and they were a well-beaten side before the end. It was very disappointing to Lieut Milner to see his efforts shattered, but there is an old saying which all ruggerites should bear in mind: it is 'That it is better to have played and lost than never to have played at all.' So the best of luck, 'B' Group, in your other matches.

Other games played since last reviewing are:—
Oct. 3rd—v. R.A.O.C., Bramley, won by 31 points to 3.
Oct. 6th—v. Depot, R.A.M.C., won by 9 points to nil.
Nov. 7th—v. Depot, R.A.M.C., lost by 8 points to 13.

THE CORPS TRIAL.

Many new faces, and of course, some of the old, made their appearance from various parts of the U.K. to take part in the Corps trial held here on October 25th.

In view of the task of the Selection Committee in picking a representative side for the Royal Signals, I refrain from mentioning individual names, but it was particularly noticeable that the contingent from the 3rd Divl Signals (Bulford) played rattling good rugger, and were well trained. (We wish you all the luck in the Army cup competition, 3rd Signals.)

The score does not matter, but if the team selected to represent Royal Signals could get together for a few games they would turn out to be a first class combination. Individualism in the Signals teams is very noticeable, and only a team working as one man can matches be won. It is a warning—team work always!

Congratulations to Lieuts Thuillier and Hardy on playing for Blackheath and Quins respectively. Lieutenant Thuillier has long played in an Army trial, and Hardy has played in all matches for Hampshire up to the present.

A merry Christmas and the best o' luck in the New Year to all friends of the handling code both home and abroad from Aldershot Signals.

E Troop Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

Football.—Our football team being sadly depleted with men on leave and others suffering from injuries received in previous matches, we suffered the following defeats: v. R.A.O.C., lost by 0—7, and v. S.L.I. lost by 1—4.

We are hoping to do much better in future matches, especially the match against D Troop.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Rugby.

Taken all round, the season has been most successful. To date we have played a dozen matches, of which we have won 9 and drawn 1. Several new fixtures have been arranged, including two matches v. Swindon R.F.C. and two v. Newbury R.F.C.

Owing to the hard state of the ground, the season was late in starting, but by the second week in October we had played four or five friendly games against Cav. Div. Signals and the Sappers.

From October 17th onwards we have played as Signals, Southern Command, the Tidworth and Bulford units combining to form the Command team. Prior to the Army cup, our only defeat was at the hands of the Cheshire Regt., but in all fairness we can say that we had an off day, besides being without three of our regular three-quarters and our full back.

On October 25th, six of the Command side went to Aldershot to play in the Corps trial. As a result Corpl Cash and Signalmen Thomson and Harry have been chosen to play in the match versus R.E. at Chatham, while L/Corpl Simm is a reserve forward.

In the Army cup we were perhaps unlucky to be drawn against the 5th Battn. Royal Tank Corps in the first round. The latter are a very fine side, by far the best in the district.

The match was played at Perham Down on November 7th, and resulted in a win for the Tanks by 25 points to nil. The accompanying account describes the play.

We are looking forward to forthcoming matches against Aldershot Signals next year.

Extract from the *Andover Advertiser*:—

ARMY RUGBY CUP.

5th Royal Tank Corps 25, Southern Command Signals 0.

The game with the 5th Royal Tank Corps, which was played at Perham, was in the first round of the Army cup, and though the home side had the assistance of their international captain, Mr. A. T. Young, they were not quite at full strength. Yet well though the Tanks played, and better than their opponents though they were, the final score gives an entirely false idea of the merits of the Signals. The lads from Bulford put up quite a gallant fight, and considering the number of points against them, they had quite a good share of the game.

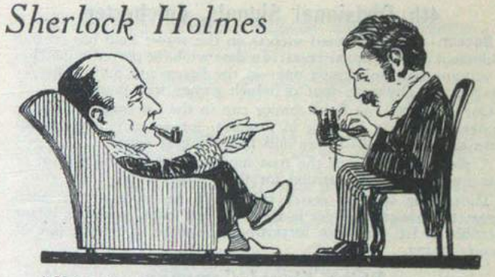
The Signals made ground at the start, and there was much movement in the Tanks half until Young gained possession and changed the venue. Bignell found touch nicely, but the Signals threes were on the alert and the ball went to Higgins who with a beautiful kick took play to the Tanks twenty-five.

L/Corpl Dennythorne opened the scoring: receiving from the scrum he neatly eluded two opponents to ground near the flag, but Bignell found it impossible to top the bar owing to the cross wind. The wind bothered both sides when it came to kicking, for Thompson from a free-kick had the chance of putting the Signals on level terms soon afterwards, but failed. The Tanks threes got moving nicely when Higgins tackled well and set his forwards moving, but it was left to Lakeman to clear the attack the Signals initiated.

The Tank forwards were getting the upper hand and after play had hovered near the Signals line for a minute or two one of the bunch of players grounded. Bovill, who tried to convert, was robbed of reward by the wind.

Yet the best try of the match came from Young, who was playing at fly-half. Receiving he cut through towards the line. An opponent grabbed him, or at least attempted to, for the famous wriggle of the Tanks officer allowed him to continue his run. There were at least three other men to pass to reach the line, but Young did it and thus scored a wonderful try. Lakeman took the kick but failed.

Sherlock Holmes



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The Tanks now led, but Barlow, the Signals full-back, was tackling splendidly, and the fifteen owe a great deal to him that the score was no more than 9 points to nil at the interval.

The Tanks saw a lot more of the ball in the second half than they did in the first. Dennythorne got over and Biltcliffe converted. Mr. Harding-Newman scored the last try of the match and Bovill converted.

The Signals played hard to the end of the match, and Barlow gave a wonderful exhibition. The Signals tackling was keen, but they were outclassed outside the scrum. The Tanks fifteen should certainly do well.

The teams were: 5th R.T.C.—Lakeman; Bignell, Dennythorne, Harding-Newman, Childs; Young, Biltcliffe, Clarke, Rew, Bovill, McIntyre, Copper, Dennythorne (Pte), Davis, Arm.

Southern Command Signals: Barlow; Davis, Thompson, Berriff, Higgins; Ewbank, Cash; Simm, French, Clubb, Young D., Crockford, Harry, Tennant and Walby.

Soccer.—The furlough season is taking its toll of the unit team. We have not shone so far. Of five matched played we have won one, drawn one, and lost three.

In the Army cup we lost to the 9th Field Brigade R.A. by 0—3, our team showing promise which will produce good results when they have played together more. The weather was the worst experienced in Bulford this year, making the ground very difficult.

Hockey.—To date we have played fifteen matches, with results as follows: won 7, drawn 5, lost 3.

The team as a whole is combining far better than last year, and we have great hopes of going a long way in the Army cup. We are counting on the Garrison cup (which we won last year) as a certainty.

I must mention that our prolific scorer is Sigmn Semmence, who, it will be remembered, played for Sussex as a boy whilst at Maresfield, and we have hopes of seeing him play for the Southern Command and perhaps the Army—who knows? Well done, Paddy!

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Soccer.—Our continued success on the soccer field has created additional interest in the team. To date we have played 5 matches—winning four and losing one—in the Essex and Suffolk Border League, 1st Division—four of which games were away.

Our exit from the Essex Junior cup in the 1st round to Hythe Bridge, may be a blessing in disguise, for we can now concentrate on the league. Stokes and Brightlingsea cups.

A pleasant feature of the past month has been the revival of the inter-Section competition for the Presney cup.

Those who saw the match H.Q. v. E Section, will not soon forget the antics of Fidel la Barba at left back, and the Infant Terrible at left half, not forgetting, of course, the front line of runner beans.

Rhine Signal Company.

Football.—In League matches the results are:—

v. R.A.M.C. won by 3—0 (Minns, Devey, Mayer)
v. Military Police, won by 2—0 (Devey, Brewer C. T.)
v. R.F., lost by 2—3 (Devey, Brewer C. T.)
v. R.A.S.C., lost by 3—4 (Devey 2, Brewer C. T.)
v. Casuals, won by 5—3 (Devey 2, Brewer C. T. 2, Beedon)
v. R.E., won by 1—0 (Devey)

To date we have played seven matches, winning five, and losing two. From results it will be seen we have a couple of players who can find the net regularly, and it is hoped that they will continue to shoot often and hard.

A little more support from the Company would be welcomed. They are a good team, backed by an energetic sports officer and committee. So, you 'football fans,' let's hear from you!

N.C.O.s Mess v. Men.—This match was scrambled one day during the month. Result: N.c.o.s Mess 1; Men 5. It might have been Moore!

Rugby. It is with regret, Aldershot Signals, that we learn those series of lectures could not have found their home in THE WIRE, but we welcome the extracts from the book by W. J. A. Davies.

The following matches have been played during the month:—Lost to R.A. by 0—3, after a hard struggle and a much-disputed try by us in the last minute. Beat R.A.S.C. by 8—0, and beat R.A.O.C. by 8—0.

Matches have been arranged up to Christmas. The one tit-bit we are looking forward to is against the Welch Regt., who beat us in the semi-final o fthe Rhine Army cup last year.

New players continue to be found, but if any of you Companies at home have any spare three-quarters, send them along in time to compete in the Rhine Army cup.

Hockey.—Owing to the demands of rugger and soccer, we have not been able to turn out our strongest teams, with the result that we have lost two matches: R.A. 1—4; Welch 0—3.

Miniature Rifle Club.—The first half of the Section League has been fired, with the following results:—1 No. 3 Section; 2 No. 4; 3 No. 1; 4 No. 5; 5 No. 2; 6 No. 6.

The spoon for the best individual average in the league for the month of October was won by Lieut Newell, with an average of 33.875 out of a possible 40.

The weekly handicap sweep continues to draw a large entry, and the handicaps are slowly but surely rising.

Signal Training Centre (India). Jubbulpore.

The Station football and hockey tournaments have just finished and we were a little more fortunate than in previous years.

Football.—At last, after many yearly attempts, we have succeeded in annexing the Porter cup, open to all the Garrison.

In the first round, versus the Royal Artillery, our team missed their centre forward, who was on the injured list, and just managed to draw, 2—2. In the replay we found our form, and ran out comfortable winners by 3—0.

The team retained their winning vein in the final, when they played the Prince of Wales' Volunteers, winning by 3—0. So at last the cup is ours (or I should say it will be when they find it).

Hockey.—We succeeded in entering the final of the Garrison hockey cup, but were unable to bring off the double event.

In the first round, versus the Royal Atillery, we drew at 1—1, and won the replay by 2—1.

The second round, versus the 4th Divl Signals, was a very near thing. In this match our centre half was injured, and this kept him out of the final. They won 1—0.

S.T.C. (India) Boxing Team.

The final was a chapter of accidents. We lost to the P.W.V.s by 0—1.

Telegram received yesterday morning: Loyals 2, Signals 1 (after extra time).

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Athletics.—The 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters held their annual sports on September 14th. As usual an open 440 was included in their programme.

Sergts Taylor and Shardlow entered from this unit and finished first and third respectively. A field of nine included two R.A.F. cracks in Aarons and Mowby. The latter is an ex-Army and R.A.F. champion and record holder, and represented England in the 400 metres in 1920.

The race is briefly described as follows: At the pistol Mowby took the lead and set a terrific pace. He was closely followed by Taylor, Aarons and Shardlow. At the bend Aarons unfortunately swerved and fell, almost bringing Shardlown down. The latter recovered but lost several yards. Mowby continued in the lead until about the 300 yards mark when Taylor gradually drew level and eventually won an exciting race by two feet. Shardlow, finishing strongly, was beaten out of second place by inches. The winner's time was 52 2/5 secs. The race was undoubtedly the best of the day and it is a remarkable fact that the first three were all married men with children, and over thirty years of age. They are to be congratulated on a very fine performance.

Football.—The Union Jack tournament commenced on October 12th. Unfortunately several of our 'stars,' including the redoubtable 'Jimmy' Rawson, were absent on manœuvres at Quetta.

We drew a bye in the first round and came up against our bogey team, H.Q. Wing The Foresters in the second round. The game ended with the score 1—1. In the first twenty minutes, after the Foresters' goal had had several narrow escapes, L/Corpl Tidey headed an excellent goal from a corner kick well placed by L/Cpl Prickett. There was no further scoring until the last minute, when the Foresters equalised with a surprise goal.

The tie was played off on the 15th, and an excellent game was witnessed. The Foresters scored in the last minute of the first half. In the second half our team overran their opponents and kept the Foresters' goalkeeper busy. It was good to see our forwards shooting so often, but unfortunately all shots went straight at the goalkeeper or missed the posts by inches, and a good game ended with the score 0—1. We were unlucky to lose, but the team gave such an impressive display that some of the remaining competitions are bound to come our way.

Peshawar District Signals.

Sports.—A match was arranged on September 22nd between the officers of the station versus the other ranks. Each unit was asked to send the names of two of their best players in order that the best team could be picked. When the teams had been published it was noticed that Capt J. A. I. Watts had been chosen for the officers' team and L/Sergeant Penny, Corpl Hayhee and Sigmn Warman had been chosen for the other ranks team.

After a brilliant game, in which Capt Watts scored one goal and L/Sergt Penny scored two, the game ended in the officers winning by 3 goals to 2.

Hockey.—v. the Golden Club, on October 3rd, lost by 2—3; v. 2/11th Sikhs, on October 7th, lost by 3—4; v. District H.Q., on October 8th, drew at 0—0; junior n.c.o.s v. Signalmen, the latter won by 3—2.

Kohat District Signals.

During the summer we have been so few that we have had to do the best we could and take some fearful whackings into the bargain. Now, however, we are proving that we have got a bit of mettle and talent if we like.

We are hoping to be able to turn out two good teams for the winter, and we can turn the tables on our victors of the summer.

Here are a few of the latest results:—

v. 2/12th F.F. Rifles, won by 6—1 and drew at 0—0.
v. 3/18th Garwhal Rifles, won by 7—1, lost by 1—5, and drew at 2—2.
v. Staff and Dept. Club, drew at 2—2.
v. 60th (B) Squadron R.A.F., won by 3—2.

A Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Sports.—Now we have some of our star performers down from Upper Topa, we are able to put in the field much better teams both at hockey and football, and we hope to win some trophy of some description this season.

Football.—An important item now is that we have on our charge a ground all of our own, on which we opened with an inter-Troop match, W/T Section v. V/T Section, which turned out to be a very good game with plenty of thrills, and ended in a draw. (Some goalkeepers are lucky!)

To date we have not lost on our ground, and it is rumoured that a billiard tournament will be played on it in the near future. We beat C Squadron 4/7th Dragoon Guards by three goals to one, drew with the R.A.M.C., and also drew with the Durham Light Infantry (Company team). The latter was rather a good game, but came to the end when the ball bust, and another was not available!

Hockey.—We have been doing fairly well at this game, and a few fast games have been played with the 2/3rd Sikh Pioneers, but they have beaten us on two occasions lately. Our team shows signs of making good progress, and we hope in our next issue of notes that we shall have got level with them.

We have played various Companies of D.L.I. and have done very well against them, and taking things all round we are square. To show the versatilities of the Troop a team turned out to play a squadron of the 4/7th Dragoon Guards at football, but owing to a misunderstanding we should have played them at hockey, so the 4/7th D.G.s kindly lent the football team some hockey sticks and after a good game it ended in a draw.

B Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

Sport.—The football team have been on form lately, and in the last six matches have won four and drawn two. Games played:

v. 27th Squadron R.A.F. drew at 1—1 (away)
v. H.Q. Squadron 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, drew at 2—2 (home)
v. Signals, Nowshera, won by 6—0 (away) and 3—0 (home)
v. Amm. Column, 23rd Brigade R.A., won by 2—0 (home), and 3—0 (away)

C Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

The following are the results of matches played recently:—

Football.—v. C Squadron 4th Q.O. Hussars, won by 3—1; v. 57th Battery R.A., drew at 1—1; v. 3rd Divl Signals, won by 3—2 and drew at 1—1

Hockey.—v. C Squadron 4th Q.O. Hussars, drew at 2—2; v. 57th Battery R.A., lost by 0—3; v. 3rd (I.) Divl Signals, drew at 0—0.

We have a new soccer ground being prepared, and when it is ready we hope to have a series of inter-section and six-a-side games with a view to discovering fresh talent and giving everyone a chance to shine.

The Corps in Egypt.

Boxing.—A novices boxing competition was held on Monday, November 5th, in our ring in the Signal barracks. Some really interesting contests were witnessed, though the entry in some of the weights were rather disappointing, however, despite the lack of entries, the boxers who did take part gave the spectators plenty to enthuse over.

The winners in the finals were as follows:—
Flyweight—Sigmn Chidgey beat Sigmn Graham on points.
Bantam—L/Corpl Wright H. knocked out Dvr Simms in the third round.
Feather—Dvr Allsopp knocked out Dvr Chantry in the first round
Light—Sigmn Blows beat Sigmn Wright on points.
Welter—Sigmn Jager knocked out Sigmn Williams in the second round.
Middle—Sigmn McKeer beat Sigmn Edwards on points.
Light-heavy—Sigmn Bodimeade beat Sigmn Baker on points.

Cross-Country.—A novices cross-country race was held early in the month, and was won by Sigmn McBain, with Sigmn Chambers second. It was rather disappointing to find only six runners completing the course.

The inter-Section race was held over a three miles' course on October 26th, resulting in a win for H.Q. and S.T., followed by J Section, H.Q. No. 1, 2 and 3 Sections, B Cable, K Section and H Section in that order.

Sigmn Beeton was first man home by about two hundred yards, followed by Dvr Hammond, Dvr Stillwell, Signalmen Shepherd, Hillier, Oldale, Andrews, Woolley, Gibson, Weller, Chantry, Donaghy, Silverstone, Chambers J., Corpl George, Signalmen Legge, Chambers E., Bazley, Freeman, McBain, Frommell, Pitt, Gratwicke, Sergeant Donaghy, Signalmen Whitworth, Thierrin, Gough, Knight, White, McKeer, Powell, Beach, Malins, Jeans, Homer, Baker, Abbott, Randall, Mitchel, McCormack, Langley, Blows, Stone J., Simms, Kerr, Brice, Cross, Chaloner, Capt Giblin Bows, Stone J., Simms, Kerr, Brice, Cross, Chaloner, Captain Giblin, Signalmen Denby, Chidgey, Lovett, Osborne, Bush and Weatherington. Fifty-five completed the rather heavy desert course.

Athletics.—At the Durham Light Infantry sports, held at Mustapha, Alexandria, on November 5th, the Corps relay team (four at a quarter mile each) were second to the R.A.F. Depot, losing by a bare two yards. The Corps team was: L/Corpl Gratwicke, Signalmen Stone C., Elliott and Beeton.

At the same sports Sigmn Beeton competed in and won the open mile from a field of eighteen runners, taking the lead in the third lap and winning by about 150 yards. Signalmen Hillier and Shepherd also competed, and finished in fifth and sixth positions respectively.

Iraq Signal Section, Hinaidi.

Sports.—The football and hockey teams are now in full swing and games are in abundance. The week before last we had a succession of six games without a break—footer, then next day hockey, then footer, hockey and so on. We were all glad of a rest when it arrived.

The hockey team has been doing exceptionally well just lately, scoring fives, sixes and sevens in most matches, and although the football team has not been so fortunate they have certainly done well. We have now reorganised our team, and are settling down to some real stuff. Next month I hope to give some good results.

On October 27th the Command athletic meeting was held, there being an open mile. We had two entries and Corpl Reeves

(an old Corps runner) took an easy first, with Sigmn Williams (our Tickey) coming in third. Well done, Iraq Signals. Keep the name of the Corps where it belongs—at the top!

No. 2 Wireless Section, Baghdad West.

As will be seen below, our hockey team is indeed keeping up the reputation of the Corps abroad. At football, however, we have so far played five games and lost them all. With a total score of 24 against and three for, it will be seen that the least said about that the better.

The following games of hockey have been played, and considering the very small strength of this unit the results are a credit to all.

v. B.G. Hospital, Hinaidi, won by 5—1.
v. Iraq Signals, M.T. Pool, won by 1—0.
v. 30 Squadron R.A.F., won by 4—0 and 2—0.
v. Works and Buildings, drew at 1—1 and 3—3.
v. A.H.Q., Baghdad, won by 4—1 and 5—1.
v. Central Supply Depot, won by 3—1.
v. Iraq Signal Section, lost by 2—6.

In league games we beat Iraq Signal Section by 4—2, and B Depot R.A.F. by 3—0.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Billiards.—The combined R.E. and Royal Signals billiard team have been doing very well this season. Sigmn White was unlucky to be knocked out in the semi-final of the Garrison individual championship.

In the final of the Garrison team championship we met and defeated the R.A.O.C. In this match Q.M.S. Roberts defeated the Garrison champion.

In the Volunteer cup championship, which is open to the Services and Government departments, we beat Stonecutters Naval Wireless Section in the semi-final, and qualified to meet the Hong Kong Volunteers in the final. This will undoubtedly be a very interesting and well competed match.

Most of our stars leave us this season, the Signals being Q.M.S. Roberts and Sigmn White, both excellent cueists.

Football.—This season a combined team of the 'small unit' has been entered in the Civil league. We hoped to do great things, but in the first match against the Club De Recreio they were defeated to the tune of 9—1. Not very promising, but it is thought that talent may arrive here with new reliefs.

Tennis.—In the Buck cup Sigmn Durand and Sergt Trumper qualified to meet Sigmn Penny and Sergt Palmer in the final.

Aden Signal Section.

Soccer.—The following are the results of matches played during October. What about sending out a few of the T.B. team by the next trooper, Mr. Records?

Royal Signals 0, R.A.M.C. Det. 2.
Royal Signals 7 (Price 4, Gee 3), H.Q. R.A. 0.
Royal Signals 1 (Hawkes), H.Q. B.F.A. 3.
Royal Signals 1 (Buckwell), 12 Platoon S.W.B. 0.
Royal Signals 8 (Chitty 2, Coleman 2, Kneller 4), 9th Battery R.A. 0.
Royal Signals 1 (Kneller), Sig. and Tele. H.M.S. 'Emerald'
Royal Signals 1 (Kneller), Sig. & Tele. H.M.S. 'Emerald' 0
Royal Signals 1 (Hawkes), H.Q. B.F.A. 1.
Royal Signals 2 (Kneller, Colman), C Coy. n.c.o. S.W.B. 1.

Malta Signal Section.

Football.—So far we have played three matches against the senior Service, resulting in winning one, drawing one, and losing one.

Swimming.—The close of the season has revealed several aspirants for the Channel swim next year, the following having passed their 100 yards test: C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S.) Mutter W., Corpl Bevis, L/Corpl Walters, Signalmen Green, Johnson, Stretch, Vyse and Davey.

Cricket.—The season has now come to a close. Signalmen Dunn and Johnson have take the honours, both in batting and bowling. Sigmn Dunn scored 19.1 for 21 innings, and took 78 wickets at a cost of 7.13 runs each. Sigmn Johnson scored 18.8 for 17 innings, and took 54 wickets at a cost of 7.1 runs each.

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