ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE WIRE

January—December, 1931

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XII.—No. 131 JANUARY, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

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

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We acknowledge the receipt of a communication from ex-L/Corpl W. Bolton (Buddy), late of Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth, who was transferred to the Army Reserve on August 13th, 1929. The writer, however, omitted to give his address, and we should be pleased if he would rectify the omission at an early date, in order that we can reply to his letter.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are glad to call attention to the forthcoming Re-Union Dinner for all ex-Motor Cyclist Despatch Riders as described in the announcement which appears on page 11 of this issue. That function is now definitely scheduled to take place at the Hotel Great Central on Saturday, February 14th, and any reader wishing to obtain further particulars should make early application in writing to Mr. Ernest R. Gilbert, c/o The Gilbert Advertising Co., Ltd., 14 Holborn, London, E.C.1.

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By the kind courtesy of the Editor of *The Daily Mail*, on page 4 of this issue we publish an article by James Dunn entitled "Brains and Nerves of the New Army." At last we know the reason for some of those hitherto incomprehensible "postings" to the Aldershot Command, and fully appreciate their subsequent adhesive dispositions.

We always had a feeling that Royal Signals supplied the brains of the Army, but—"window curtains," "floral table decorations," "mufti" and "Turkish baths"! Shades of Billy Dockerell, Dick Wake and Barnicott!—what *would* they say if they could read this!

❀ ❀ ❀

The attention of our Foreman-of-Signals readers is drawn to an announcement appearing under the Southern Command Signal Company's notes on page 18.

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In the November issue of our Corps Journal we published an obituary notice concerning the late Signalman Eustace John Penn of the 4th Indian Divl Signals, India. The notice in question was reprinted from *The Colchester Gazette* and was inserted in this Journal at the request of the late Signalman's parents. We understand that the particulars as stated therein have given cause for criticism, and we tender our apologies for making any announcement which was not in accordance with facts.

❀ ❀ ❀

Bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1930.—All readers, units, messes, etc., requiring these bound volumes are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. No Royal Signals library is complete without it! Price 8/- per copy, post free (at home or abroad).

THE EDITOR.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Salisbury and District Branch of Royal Signals O.C.A.

Salisbury, Wilts, December 15th, 1930.

General.—A meeting was held at the London Hotel, Fisherton Street, Salisbury, where some twenty odd old pals met to bring into being an Old Comrades Association. Colonel R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., Chief Signal Officer Southern Command, took the chair and opened the meeting.

Committees.—The following were elected to form the Committee: Chairman, Colonel R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C.; Vice-Chairman, left vacant, to be elected later; Hon. Treasurer, Captain L. C. Bell, M.C.; Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. Cole.

Sub-Committee.—Mr. W. G. Collins, Mr. W. Johnson, and Sergt-Major A. E. Smart.

Entertainment Committee.—Mr. T. J. Cannell, Mr. R. L. Harry and Sergt-Major A. E. Smart.

The Entertainment Committee are hoping to get up a smoking concert early in January, to which all old Signals will be invited. They also hope to get up a series of entertainments in the way of social events during the current winter.

The hope was expressed that old R.E. Signals and ex-Royal Signals in the Salisbury district will let us know where they live, so that old pals can get in touch with one another and "swap yarns." The best way to do this is to join the O.C.A.: and this they can do by getting into touch with Mr. F. Cole, 3 Haviland Cottages, Quidhampton, Salisbury, Wilts.

During the meeting Mr. W. Butler, General Secretary of the Signals Association, from headquarters in London, gave the members present a talk about "The Past, Present and Future" of the Association. His words inspired us and assisted in bringing a few more members into our fold.

A good deal of business was dealt with through the meeting, and everyone present was interested in the proceedings—as was evident from the discussions which took place.

To assist the Entertainment Committee, a fund was opened with a goodly donation from our Chairman, and a sum of £5 was guaranteed by the serving ranks of the Southern Command Signals, to whose generosity the O.C.A. expressed its thanks in no uncertain manner.

Branch Secretaries, please note.—Mr. Cole will be indeed grateful if hon. secretaries with units will put him in touch with those leaving the Service and about to reside in or near Salisbury.

Supper.—After the meeting a supper was served, and it can be well imagined that "Do you remember?" etc. was very frequently heard above the continual buzz of conversation. Bedford, Abbeville, Fenny Stratford, Ypres, Maresfield, Arras and Perham Down were names which floated round the room and made memories more real. It was evident that old friends and old occasions were being recalled.

The supper finished at 10.45 p.m., when "Au revoir" was heard many many times as old pals wended their way home to Tidworth, Bulford, Perham Down and Salisbury. Those who came from Portsmouth remained in Salisbury for the night.

To those who came from distances, our grateful thanks for the valuable support in the formation of the Branch.

The local press gave us two paragraphs, and their interest is appreciated.

FREDERICK COLE, Hon. Secretary.

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.	Assistant Manager
Ex-Signalman	Wireless Tester
Ex-Warrant Officer	Attendant
Ex-Signalman	Barman
Ex-Warrant Officer	Assistant Supervisor

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Captain C. J. Hughes and Captain B. Willoughby,

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, Signal Training Centre, Catterick; Colonel L. J. Worthington, T.D., 46th (N.M.) Divl Signals, T.A., Derby; 54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals, T.A., Stratford; R. L. G. Lindsay, Esq.; Captain R. M. Lunt; Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Aldershot; Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion, S.T.C., Catterick.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, London. Temporary difficulties. £1 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
3—Ex-Signalman, Essex. Unemployment and domestic difficulties. £1 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
4—Ex-Signalman, Cambridge. Chronic sickness. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
5—Ex-Driver, Newport. Domestic difficulties and unemployment. £3/10/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
6—Ex-Signalman, Liverpool. Chronic sickness and domestic difficulties. £5/4/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

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

Corps News—Officers.

MOVES—

Major C. H. H. Vulliamy from India to War Office
Major R. A. Bagnold from India to Catterick
Capt B. D. Willoughby from India to Aldershot (1st D/S)
Capt C. T. Hughes from India to Tidworth (A.F.V. Signals)
Capt R. J. N. Solly from India to Bulford (3rd D/S)
Capt J. C. McDonald from Gibraltar to War Office
Capt W. S. Wasey from 1st Divl Signals to Air Defence Brigade Signals
Capt F. A. H. Mathew from Aldershot to Egypt
Capt R. Maguire from Aldershot to India (B C/S)
Lieut M. G. Gordon-Wilson from Bulford to India (2nd D/S)
Lieut I. St. Q. Severin from Tidworth to India (2nd D/S)
Lieut A. T. Sladen from Aldershot to India (3rd D/S)
Lieut P. J. Palmer from Tidworth to India (A C/S)
Lieut J. R. Beeton from Scarborough to India (Peshawar)
Lieut J. D. L. Morris from Aldershot to India (3rd D/S)
Lieut N. I. Bower from Aldershot to India (S.T.C.)
Lieut M. G. A. Hepper from Tidworth to Egypt
Lieut D. A. L. Dwyer from Colchester to Egypt
Lieut A. B. Ruck from Catterick to Bulford (3rd D/S)
Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich from India to Aldershot (A C/S)

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 18/11/30

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Anti-Aircraft Signals (Artillery Zones)—Captain W. H. G. Rogers, R.Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 1/11/30
Capt F. W. S. Jourdain, R.Signals, to be Adjutant, 1/11/30

War Office, 21/11/30

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Captain G. S. O'N. Power is seconded whilst employed as Instructor, School of Signals, 1/11/30
Captain F. C. Curtis is restored to the establishment, 1/11/30

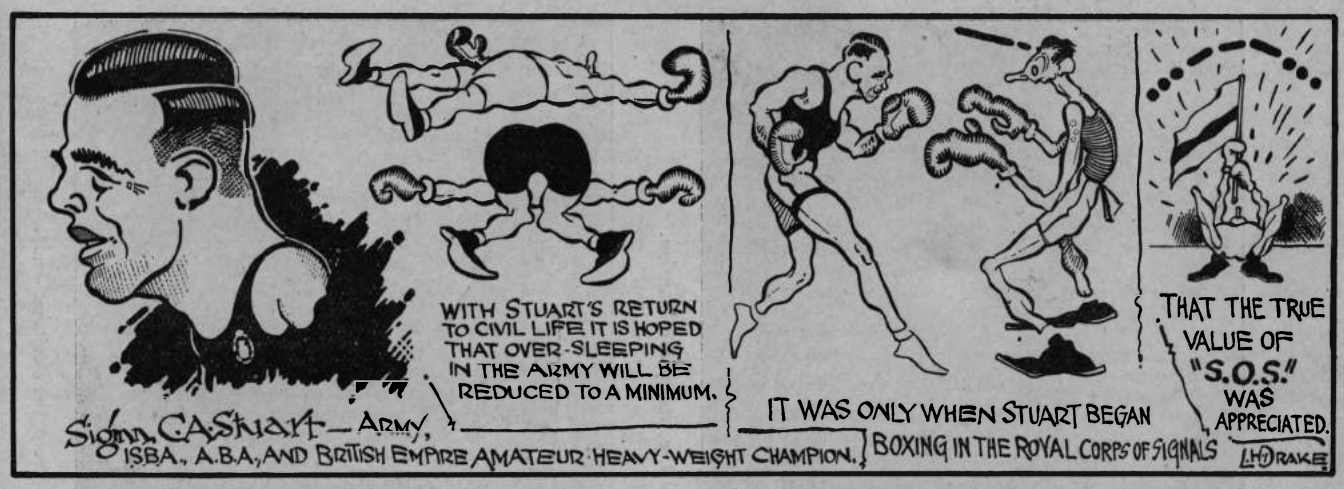
TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut H. F. Boyce resigns his commission, 22/11/30
43rd (W.) Divl Signals—Lieutenant J. M. Molland resigns his commission, 22/11/30
44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. E. Bridgman resigns his commission, 6/10/30

War Office, 25/11/30

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

51st (H.) Divl Signals—Capt B. H. House, R.Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 9/11/30
Capt J. H. Brown, M.M., to be Adjutant, 9/11/30



The Last of the Stuarts.

Hysterical History: By L. H. Drake.

History, like an onion, often repeats itself. Similarly, it is apt at times to thrust itself upon an inoffensive community in the form of Perfumes of the Past on the one hand, and Perfumes of the Repast on the other.

It is, therefore, with certain reservations that we accept the historical statement that James II., said to be the last of the Stuarts, ascended the throne in the year 1685, and was counted out after three years of fairly brisk in-fighting with the politicians of the period.

With all respect to the monarch in question, I would suggest that his ring tactics were deplorable and, instead of adopting an offensive against the Right of the People, a straight left to the solar plexus would have proved far more effective.

From the point of view, however, of military sporting circles, Stuart the Sovereign couldn't have lasted a round with Stuart the Signalman—the Army, I.S.B.A., A.B.A. and British Empire amateur heavy-weight champion—whose recent departure from the Army for civil life has resulted in a far greater civil civility than the majority of us realise. A cat may laugh at a king, but even a Cheshire would find little to grin at in a left hook.

During his six years of Army boxing, Stuart's straight left has proved a far better medium for sending the troops to bed than a regiment of trumpeters blowing "Lights Out" on trombones, and with his departure to a very civil life the Maida gymnasium will probably be given over to temperance meetings and flower shows.

When I asked the Stuart what he intended to do as a civilian, he replied that he had not yet decided, but it is pleasant to reflect that several ears testify to what he did in the Army. Good luck, Stuart!

Reminiscences. Who are they?

Maresfield Park Up to Date.

2 Cambridge Villas, 7 Church Street,
Uckfield, Sussex,
Nov. 29th, 1930.

The Editor, THE WIRE.

Dear Sir—I am forwarding the enclosed photographs of Maresfield Park, taken this week, hoping you will find space for their publication.

Barleux of "Plain Tales" made an appeal for these, and knowing his fondness for the district, I could not refuse his request.

The Park has been transformed into a residential estate.

The Avenue, commencing from the Main Gate, has seven houses on the left-hand side. The old Power House has been re-constructed, as also the Mansion—which is now called the Manor.

The Stables comprise five houses. The Dairy has been re-constructed and is owned by a millionaire.

On the site of the Church is another very fine house.

At the back of the School of Signals, in the copse, are four large houses.

Along the main road from Maresfield towards Nutley—known as the "Straight Half-Mile"—can be found two garages, three cafés, three bungalows, and one large house.

There are now numerous bus services passing the Main Gate to Uckfield. A very fast service is also maintained to Victoria—two hours from Uckfield. This will perhaps be of interest to a few of the old "Maresfieldites."

Quite a number of ex-Signals are residing in the district. Brigadier-General Godfrey-Faussett, Q.M.S. Horgan, F/Sergeant Bowker, Sergeant George, Corpl May, Corpl Henson and Driver Eglese are among them, and their names may be remembered by a few serving members.

I have put a descriptive line to the photographs, in case the views cannot be recognised.

Wishing all members of the Corps, past and present, a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

I am, yours faithfully,
W. J. A. NICKS.

P.S.—Old H.Q. Staff will be pleased to hear that R. Walker, the Librarian, gave me a call the other week. He is residing in Ealing.

Some Brief Notes on Wana.

Wana is situated in Southern Waziristan, some fourteen or fifteen miles from the Afghan border. Waziristan generally is a country of stony barren hills, with poor soil. Consequently, cultivation is only possible along the river beds. Wana Valley is about the most fertile spot in the whole of this dreary monotonous country, and it is quite refreshing, after passing through the fifty odd miles of barren colourless hills and valleys from Jandola, to see the trees and crops of Wana. Consequent upon its comparatively rich fertility, Wana is well populated. The inhabitants are a branch of the Pathan race: the Derwesh Khel Wazirs.

Relying on the inaccessibility of their country, the Waziristan tribes have for centuries defied the rulers of both India and Afghanistan, and on more than one occasion they met and defeated the armies of the Moghul Emperors. Their character and social organisation have made them extremely democratic—so much so, that even their own maliks (headmen) have little real control over the restless spirits. Any man may rise by courage or wisdom to become a tribal malik, but many who have attempted an undue assumption of authority have met with a speedy end.

True sons of Esau, the tribesmen carry their lives in their hands, and it is quite a common sight to see three or four men grazing flocks, armed to the teeth. Both Wazirs and the neighbouring Mahsuds are notorious for their raiding propensities, and for the rapidity with which they convey their plunder to the inner fastnesses of their hills. Only those with evil intentions roam the countryside by night, for the man who possesses a house gets inside at sundown and shuts the door *tight*. He who does not possess a house gets behind the largest boulder in the vicinity and prepares to spend the night in jackal-like security, for it is in the dark hours that the nickel-nosed terror that flies by night does its damage. This mode of life has produced in their men a fine physique, and in their women a remarkable power of resisting fatigue and nurturing their children under the most adverse circumstances.

Wana itself played no great part in history prior to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1892, a Memorandum was sent to the Amir of Afghanistan (who at that time occupied Wana with a military force) repudiating his claims to the country. He was told that although he would not be called upon to evacuate Wana immediately, we did not admit his right to occupy it, and that any further advance into Waziristan was forbidden. Under the Durand Agreement, signed in Kabul in 1893, the Amir evacuated Wana, and the border was fixed along a range of mountains some fifteen miles to the west.

It was considered that this was a suitable time to agree with the proposals of the Wazirs and to occupy Wana with a British military force, and thereby prevent further aggression either by Afghanistan or by the Powindahs (nomads). To do this it was decided to establish military posts along the Gomal Valley as a line of communication, with headquarters in Wana.

No sooner was Wana occupied, however, than a Mahsud attack precipitated the Mahsud Expedition of 1894-95. This attack was organised by a fanatical mullah of the Shabi Khel Mahsuds, known as the Mullah Powindah and dubbed by the late Lord Kitchener "the Pestilential Priest." The troops conducting the Commission engaged in the demarcation of the boundary line arrived at Wana on October 25th, 1894. Some sniping had occurred on the line of march, but no serious attack had been carried out.

The camp was pitched at the eastern end of Wana Plain, very near the site of the present camp, and it was surrounded by a chain of picquets, posted for purposes of observation and not intended to hold their own in the event of a serious attack.

The night of November 2nd passed very quietly until about 3.30 a.m., when the camp was suddenly aroused by three shots, followed by wild yells and the beating of drums. This was immediately followed by a wild rush of some five hundred fanatical Mahsuds, who under cover of darkness had crept up two ravines and "rushed" two picquets, one of which had fired the three alarm shots.

At the same time a large body of Mahsuds continued their advance down the main ravine and "rushed" the camp. They did much damage among the animals, cutting loose the horses and transport animals in the hope of causing a general stampede. The Gurkhas stopped the main rush and, aided by several Infantry Companies, engaged in bayonet fighting until dawn.

At daybreak the enemy's fire slackened, and they began to draw off, followed by the cavalry. The cavalry came in sight of large bodies of the enemy at about three miles from the camp, but were unable to carry out any effective operations, as the ground was so broken that they could not advance faster than at a trot.

Our losses were forty-five killed and seventy-five wounded, and the enemy succeeded in carrying off a large number of rifles and Rs.2300 in cash.

The next we hear of Wana is in 1914, when Major G. Dodd, C.I.E., the Political Agent of Wana, was murdered. This, again, was the action of Shabi Khel Mahsuds, led this time not by the Mullah Powindah but by his son Mullah Fazal Din. The Brigade at Wana carried out punitive expeditions into the Khaisora area in May, 1914, and the Militia posts at Sarwekai, Khajuri Kach, Nili Kach, etc., were garrisoned by Regular troops. This matter was settled by a tribal jirga, which decided to resume friendly relations with the British Government, return stolen rifles, and pay the necessary fines. Although no severe fighting took place on this occasion, the difficulties and hardships undergone by the troops may well be imagined. The thermometer stood at 120 degrees in the tents by day, with a minimum of 90 at night.

At the commencement of the Afghan war in 1919, Wana again came into the limelight. The Militia were at this time being utilised to garrison all the frontier posts, supported by Regular troops at Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu. The North Waziristan Militia, many of whom came from tribes opposed to the British Government, were in a state of foment.

During the first fortnight in May, the situation at Wana and in the Gomal gave no cause for alarm. The South Waziristan Militia (now the South Waziristan Scouts) with their headquarters

Old Maresfield Scenes Re-Modelled.

The Manor.

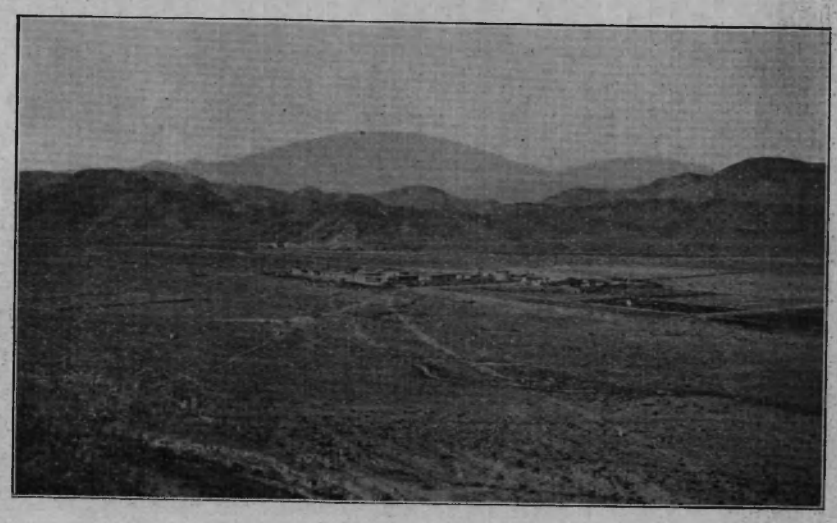
The Manor on the site of the Mansion.

The Stables (comprising five houses).

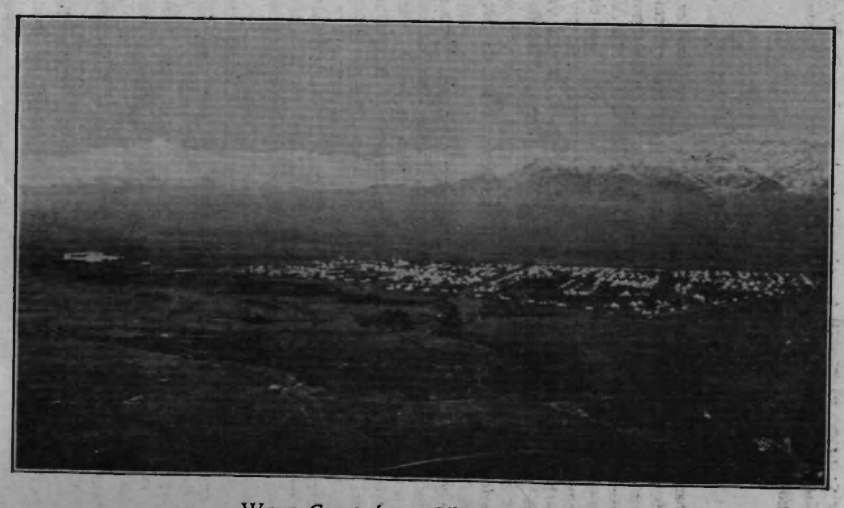
The Avenue (from the Mansion end).

Scenes in the Wana Area, Waziristan.

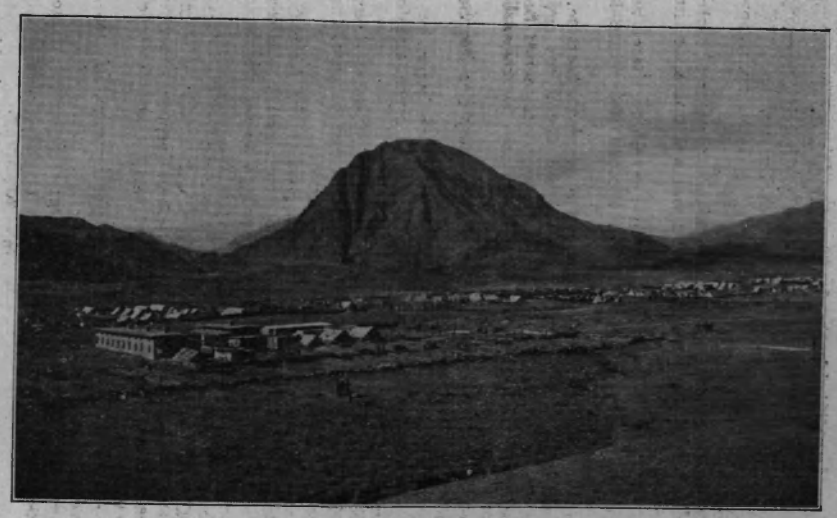
Wana Fort covered with Snow.



Tanai Camp.



Wana Camp from Gibraltar Picquet.



Camping at Karab Kot.

at Wana, were holding twelve outposts. The Corps consisted of eight British officers, thirty-seven Pathan officers, and about 1800 rifles. On May 22nd Major Russell, in command of the S.W.M., received orders to evacuate Wana only if he thought the situation became serious enough. This order was in itself disastrous, as a man of the bull-dog breed would not be likely, under the circumstances, to retire until all possible hope of holding out had gone.

The evacuation of the Upper Tochi posts by the N.W.M. came like a bolt from the blue. The Political Officer, on learning the news, decided as senior officer in the Agency that the withdrawal from Wana was desirable, before the Mahsuds generally had knowledge of the evacuation of the Tochi. The evacuation was therefore fixed for 6 p.m. on May 26th.

Captain H. R. Traill and Lieuts A. R. Barker and R. E. Hunt left Wana at that hour with sixty infantry and ten sowars, and prooeeded via Toratizha to evacuate the post at Karab Kot and then move on to Tanai. Lieut. Barker, in the meantime, went on to Khajuri Kach with the object of evacuating the garrison there to Moghul Kot in Sheranistan.

At 7.30 p.m. Major Russell assembled the Pathan officers and informed them of his intention to move out at once. They appeared somewhat surprised, but apparently understood the situation and moved off to make arrangements for their Companies, as transport was only sufficient for the light baggage of the officers and some treasure.

All went well until several shots were heard, and it was found that the Wazir and Afridi sepoys, with their officers, had seized the Keep containing the treasure, some 600,000 rounds of ammunition, records, etc., and the transport for the same. Efforts were made to quieten the men in the Keep, but without success.

As the withdrawal into the Zhob was to consist of forced marches, and there was a possibility of the camels (only eight of which now remained in the hands of the loyal party) being needed for casualties, no baggage of any description was taken. Those men who remained loyal, numbering about three hundred, set out on their perilous journey about 9.45 p.m., accompanied by Major G. H. Russell, Captain C. T. Burn Murdock, and Lieut C. S. Leese, of the South Waziristan Militia, Major Owen, the Medical Officer, and Lieutenant E. J. MacCorstie, the Garrison Engineer.

On reaching the Toi Khula Pass the party was re-organised, when it was found that there were no Afridi officers present and only a few men of that class. There were no Wazirs. The remainder consisted of sepoys and recruits, and about one hundred unarmed followers, natives of India.

At 7 a.m. the following morning they arrived at Toi Khula Post, and efforts to gain communication with the garrison were greeted with shouts and rifle fire.

As it was apparent that the post had already been evacuated and taken over by the local Wazirs, Major Russell decided to push on to Moghul Kot, a distance of fourteen miles. The day was exceedingly hot, the ascent to the Tesh Plain steep, and all were worn out by a night march of over twenty miles—with no water procurable en route. Progress was consequently very slow, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that the column was kept together.

The Tesh Plain having been reached, the going was easier, and a junction was effected with Captain Traill's party, consisting of the loyal elements from Tanai, Karab Kot and Toi Khula. The tribesmen, appearing in ever-increasing numbers, became bolder in their attacks, and punished the rearguard severely. Fortunately for the weary column, the Zhob Militia from Moghul Kot assisted in picqueting the last two miles of the route. Moghul Kot was reached at nightfall, but stragglers continued to come in all night, and some did not arrive until the next day. Here Lieut. Barker, with seven sowars—all that remained of the Khajuri Kach party—joined the column.

The situation was reported to the Political Agent in the Zhob, who suggested that the Moghul Kot Post should be evacuated immediately. This, however, was impossible, as the men were exhausted, footsore and incapable of marching. The total number of rifles in the column was three hundred ; but about a hundred were recruits, and at least half the remainder were trans-frontier men and therefore of doubtful reliability in the crisis which had arisen. During the following night, tribesmen sniped the post continuously and caused several casualties.

On the morning of May 29th, the only supplies available in the post were flour for one and a half days and grain sufficient for three days animal rations. During this day heavy sniping killed eight men and the water bullocks. This made it more difficult than ever to obtain water, and several casualties occurred in the attempts made to fetch it. It was, therefore, imperative that the post should be evacuated as soon as possible.

It was arranged that one hundred and twenty rifles of the Zhob Militia from Mir Ali Khel should picquet half the route to Moghul Kot, and that some sowars of the same Corps should push on to the Moghul Kot Post. Immediately the evacuation began, heavy fire was opened from all sides by the enemy. The first picquet to be posted went too far, and failed to return when signalled to do so. The picquet eventually fled in the direction of Mir Ali Khel.

As the fire of the tribesmen increased, so the movement instituted by the picquet became infectious, and soon numbers of the Militia were to be seen fleeing in the direction of Mir Ali Khel, abandoning their arms in order to move more quickly out of a zone of almost certain death. An officer attempted to stem the rout, but in no case with success, for no sooner had he turned away from those he had stopped than they disappeared.

After four or five miles had been traversed, the mounted infantry of the Zhob Militia appeared in sight, holding picquets to cover the progress of the column. Efforts were made to rally and re-organise the South Waziristan Militia behind the cavalry. These were partly successful, but the men were now quite out of hand ; the Pathan officers and n.c.o.s no longer had authority, and there were few men left still in possession of a rifle. The appearance of the Zhob Militia, however, stopped the rush of the Wazirs, who had hitherto been carrying out a vigorous pursuit, and the survivors of the South Waziristan Militia made their way to Mir Ali Khel.

This was probably one of the worst disasters that have ever overtaken a British force in the history of our fighting Services, but from the experience gained, it is not likely to happen again.

The officer casualties during the withdrawal to Moghul Kot were: Killed, Captains C. T. Burn Murdock and H. R. Traill and Lieut C. S. Leese (S.W. Militia), Captain A. F. Reilly (Zhob Militia), and Lieut E. J. MacCorstie (1/25th London Regiment, Garrison Engineer, Wana). Wounded, Major G. H. Russell and Lieut R. E. Hunt (S.W. Militia).

These casualties, with the exception of Capt. Reilly, occurred at the commencement of the withdrawal from Moghul Kot. The Extra-Assistant Commissioner of Wana, Khan Bahadur Muhammed Yar Khan, was also killed. The casualties amongst the other ranks are not known, but are believed to have been about forty.

Disastrous as it was, the withdrawal of the party itself stands out as a fine achievement on the part of Major Russell, who conducted the movement with great courage and skill. Taking into consideration the almost insurmountable difficulties that beset the path of this small column, marching through a country without roads and where every man is an enemy armed to the teeth, the exploit stands out as one of the finest in the history of the frontier.

Since that time until the occupation in November, 1929, Wana has not been regularly garrisoned by a British force, although on many occasions columns have stayed a short time in camp there "to show the flag." The history of Wana for the last ten years has been one of comparative peace, raids being of a casual nature and no widespread outbreaks having taken place.

Experimental Wireless Exercise, Hong Kong.

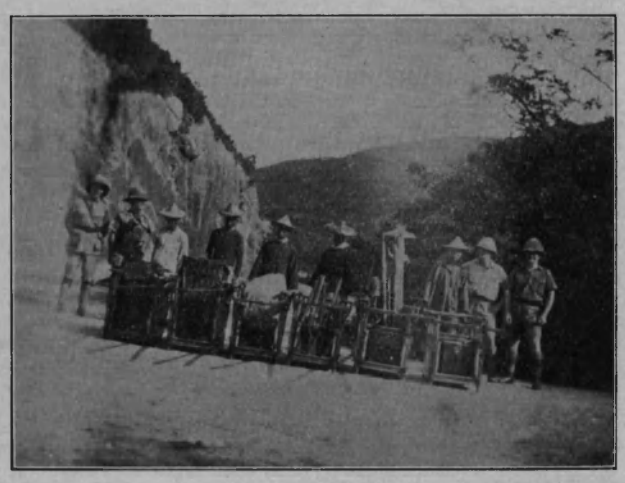
October 16th, 1930.

The Object of the Exercise.—(*a*) To test the suitabilty of chairs, carrying type, to transport a W/T set (type C) across country in this Area ; (*b*) To decide whether local pattern chairs are suitable or whether special chairs should be constructed.

The Set.—A C mark ii. Field W/T Set, complete, with the exception that the power was obtained from batteries and the heavy generating set was not carried. (Note: A recommendation that all sets in this Area should be battery-driven has been made in the suggested Store table forwarded to the War Office.)

Loading of Set.—The set was loaded in six chairs (details shown in Loading table attached). The average load was 118 lbs. per chair. The first photograph shows the six chairs drawn up before moving off.

The Locality.—The ground chosen for the test was the area between Mount Nicholson and Wong Nei Chung Reservoir. Three types of route were available: (*a*) A well made path, 8 ft. broad, with an easy slope about one and three quarter miles long. (*b*) A well made path, 8 ft. broad, with a very abrupt slope about three quarters of a mile long. (*c*) A forest path, 2 ft. wide, with difficult corners, wet rocks, and abrupt slopes—too narrow and difficult for a pack mule—about two and a half miles long.



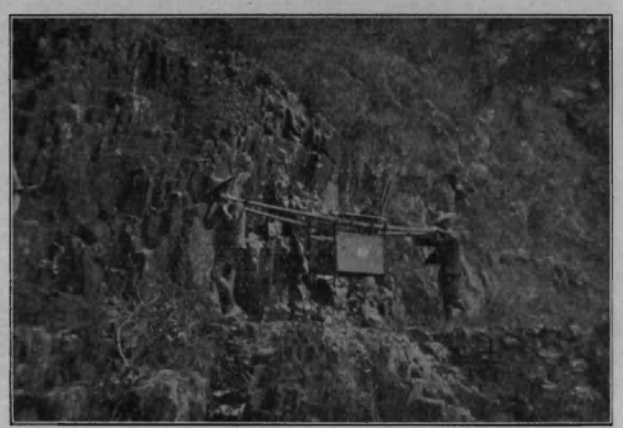
The Coolies.—On each type of path these men had no difficulty in maintaining a speed which the British ranks found it difficult to keep up.

On the narrow forest path they were able to negotiate ledges of rock with sheer drops and difficult corners with greater ease, though carrying a load, than could the British ranks who were shod with boots.

After five miles with one brief halt, and another halt of thirty minutes, the coolies were still fresh and did not complain at all.

The three remaining photographs show the chairs on the forest path. It is interesting to contrast this with the experience in the Combined Exercises of 1929, when relays of Infantry took a whole day to get one of these sets from Hebe Harbour over Shatin Pass.

Conclusions.—(*a*) That chairs in this country of narrow paths are ideal for this purpose, and that the coolies will always be



able to carry the sets with ease as far as British troops can go each day; (*b*) That although specially constructed chairs would make it easier to distribute the loads more evenly, and would make it possible to erect and dismantle stations more rapidly, the cost would hardly be justified for the occasional use of Field W/T Sets with troops in this Area.

Loading Table, Experimental W/T Exercise.

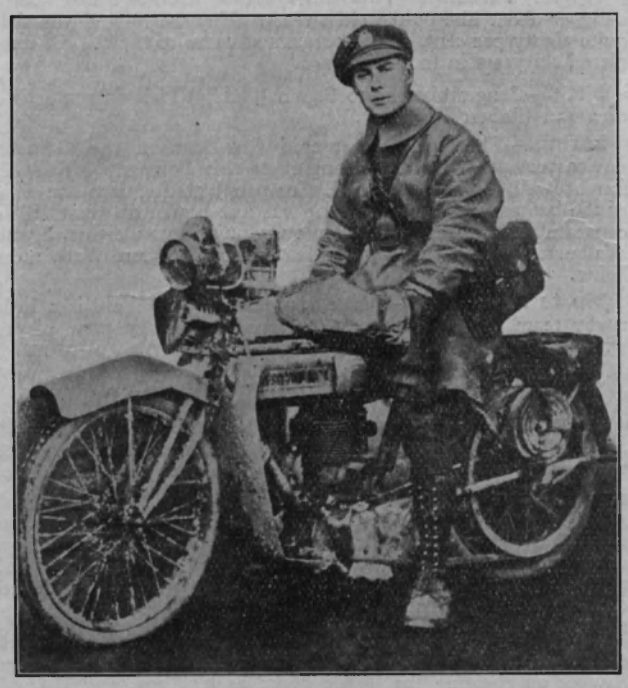
	Contents of Load	Weight
No. 1 Chair	2 Masts 15 ft.	35 lbs.
	1 Mast of Frame Aerial ...	11 lbs.
	Tent Poles	23 lbs.
	Tent Pegs	22 lbs.
	Total	91 lbs.
No. 2 Chair	1 Tent Telegraph	100 lbs.
	1 H.T. Battery	40 lbs.
	Total	140 lbs.
No. 3 Chair	2 Batteries 6v. 123 a.h. Total	126 lbs.
No. 4 Chair	1 Pannier	22 lbs.
	6 Valves, A.R.3	4 lbs.
	3 Valves, A.T.5	4 lbs.
	1 Frame Aerial	7 lbs.
	1 Lead in, 18 ft	1 lb.
	2 Hammers, 24 oz.	4 lbs.
	6 Pegs	10 lbs.
	2 Batteries, 2v. 16 a.h.... ...	10 lbs.
	2 Pair Headphones	4 lbs.
	2 Insulators, Rubber Cord ...	1 lb.
	1 Box, Teak (Battery) ...	1 lb.

No. 4 Chair (contd.)—	1 Wavemeter	8 lbs.
	1 Earth Net	9 lbs.
	1 Generator	23 lbs.
	1 Aerial, 120 ft.	3 lbs.
	Stationery	7 lbs.
	Total	118 lbs.
No. 5 Chair	1 Receiver "C"	29 lbs.
	1 Sender "C"	45 lbs.
	1 Spare Battery, 6v. 125 a.h. ...	63 lbs.
	Total	137 lbs.
No. 6 Chair	3 Men's Kit and Blankets ...	36 lbs.
	3 Rifles	21 lbs.
	1 Table Telegraph	34 lbs.
	1 Stool, Camp	6 lbs.
	Total	97 lbs.

Ex-R.E. Despatch Riders' Re-Union.

To the Editor, THE WIRE.

Sir—It is now twelve years since the war ended, and there has never been a re-union of R.E. despatch riders. An effort is, however, being made to organise a dinner in London early in the New Year for all who served as R.E. motor-cyclists.



"Certa Cito."

(Interpreted, in this instance: "Reliable Information Quickly")

A committee has been formed, and they are anxious to receive the names and addresses of all ex-R.E. despatch riders, so that further particulars may be forwarded to them as soon as the final details have been arranged.

Over three hundred and fifty letters have already been received from ex-D.R.s wishing to participate, and I should be obliged if you would allow me sufficient space in the Corps Journal to broadcast this announcement for the benefit of others who may still be serving.

Further information will be supplied on application to

Yours faithfully, ERNEST R. GILBERT, Hon. Secretary.

14 Holborn, London, E.C.1

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments

To be W.O. I. (R.S.M.)

* 532939 Cann R. 25/4/30

Appointed R.Q.M.S.

2307300 Dolbear S. 2/9/30

To be W.O. II. (C.S.M.)

2306535 Price G. 10/5/30
2307349 Markham W. 26/10/30

To be W.O. II. (C.S.M. Riding Instr.)

2306756 Young C. 13/10/30

To be C.Q.M.S.

*1017974 Austin F. 11/6/30
2306516 Eyres A. 14/6/30
2308729 Newbury R. 17/6/30
1853142 Nash E. 2/9/30
2308550 Holmes W. 2/9/30
2308164 Thomas S. 26/10/30
1850290 Lawrence A. 26/10/30

To be Sergeant

2308715 Ring H. 11/6/30
2314240 Francis A. 17/6/30
2314360 Wilmot H. 11/7/30
*1414078 Parker C. 12/7/30
2306485 Hatherly F. 1/8/30
2314176 Holness A. 4/8/30
2309300 Brooke G. 7/8/30
2310408 Nicholson G. 15/8/30
1855003 Bartlett C. 2/9/30
1856412 Fahey W. 25/9/30
2313948 Tinsley E. 13/10/30

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

5562760 Rice J. 1/8/30
2314287 Field H. 4/8/30
2309115 Finney E. 7/8/30
2309579 Jones F. 25/9/30

To be Corporal

2313705 Leary F. 1/8/30
2309465 Harrison G. 2/8/30
5610805 Brown C. 2/9/30
2315186 Cousins B. 2/9/30
2316487 Harbin H. 7/9/30
2316730 Birkett W. 7/9/30
7213106 Kennedy J. 26/9/30
2316654 Phipps E. 30/9/30
1857681 Ray J. 13/10/30
6279806 Parry C. 21/10/30

Discharges.

*1038143 R.Q.M.S. Chandler W. 25/10/30
2306216 C.S.M. Bishop J. 12/10/30
*4529726 C.S.M. Fletcher W. 7/11/30
*1852514 C.S.M. Nixon R. 13/11/30
*7177200 C.Q.M.S. O'Connor R. 5/11/30
*5763177 C.Q.M.S. Newstead A. 7/11/30
* 311949 C.Q.M.S. Newport A. 7/11/30
2308079 F/S/Sergt O'Sullivan T. 30/11/30
2306654 Sergt Wyatt C. 20/10/30
1852766 Sergt Hoare C. 5/11/30
* 311919 Sergt Rolfe W. 7/11/30

* *Special Roster, India*

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

By the time these notes are in print, it will be too late to wish everyone a happy Christmas, but we hope that all will have had a really enjoyable time, and that the New Year will bring us all a step nearer that which every man sets himself to get—such as a higher rate, another subject towards a 1st, a " good " pass, etc.

As each year comes in, especially when you are young, you should review the past year and see how you now stand in relation to your objective. Everyone should have an objective. If you haven't had one, make one now ; otherwise you will stagnate, and stagnation is degeneration. You can't remain still ; you either improve or slide down the scale, both intellectually and physically. Last year you got a 3rd ; this year you are going to get a 2nd, and if possible a Group III. as opposed to a Group " E " last year—and so on. If you didn't get all you expected, that doesn't matter: hold on, and include it in this year's programme of work. We all get a set-back, but if you have the right spirit (and *you* have) you will push all the harder next time and get it " under."

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

On December 16th twenty-three other ranks left us for India, and another twenty or thereabouts will leave us in the middle of January. I am inclined to think that the sort of weather we are having at present will make them pleased to be off.

Amongst those on the early draft were Corporals Javens and Greenfield, and a smoker was held in the Corporals' Mess to give them a send-off. The event was such a success that the junior members of the mess are hoping for a draft every week.

Ex-members of the corporals' room will perhaps be interested to hear that considerable alterations are being made to the regimental institute. The old corporals' room is to be taken over as part of the Boys' Club, and another room is being built for the n.c.o.s. It is hoped that the work will be completed early in the New Year.

The most pleasant feature of the week is the prospect of Christmas leave. This year we are having nine days, which is very welcome. Unfortunately the nine days are to count as furlough, so I shall not get a few extra days after all.

D Company, Training Battalion.

Christmas is right on top of us, and the n.c.o.s are studying duty rosters whilst the lads are trying to steer clear of C.B. By the time these notes are in print, it won't matter a hang either way—will it?

Education.—We must be a brainy lot up here. Special certificates are fairly cheap, but 1st's are almost three a penny. The educational staff must congratulate themselves on " catching them young." Quarter-blokes, of course, have more spare time for study than most people. Well, anyway, we heartily congratulate the following: Corpl Briar and Sigmn Cunningham (each a special certificate ; Corporal Briar went reckless and obtained " D " in English, physics and E. and M.). L/Corpl Blake (passed in maths.) ; C.Q.M.S. Elkington, Signalmen Solley and Traill (each a " D " in maths), Sigmn Hope (" D " in map reading), and Signalmen Farmer and Phillips, all passed for the 1st class certificate.

Trade Tests.—Congratulations to the following on passing trade tests as shown. C.Q.M.S. Elkington (fitter signals, class i.), C.Q.M.S. Johns (clerk, class i.), Sergts Sherwood, Betts and Gale (linemen, class i.)

Indian Draft.—The undermentioned will have sailed for India per H.M.T. *Dorsetshire* on December 16th: L/Corpl Pat Mills (the one and only), Signalmen Bedford, Butler, Coates, Green J., Green L., Griffiths, Motley and Wilding.

Arrival.—We welcome Sergt Finley from D.I.K.

Extensions of Service.—R.S.M. Hepburn to continue in the Service one year beyond his twenty-one. We are all pleased to know that you are not going to leave us just yet, sir.

L/Corpl (Busty) Smalley to complete twenty-one years with the Colours, and Sigmn Brunning to complete eight years with the Colours and four with the Reserve.

Tip to Personnel returning from India.—Please don't swagger about like pukka old sweats. May we remind you that quite eighty per cent. of the permanent cadre of the S.T.C. completed six years in India long ago.

Birth.—Congratulations to Sigmn (Nobby) Hall on the arrival of a son (Robert Reginald).

Boxing.—The Battalion entered four men in the Garrison novices competition, two belonging to this Company. They all fought well, Sigmn Taylor (E Company) getting into the final of the bantam-weights, where he was just beaten on points. We congratulate the Depot Battalion on winning two weights, Sigmn Walburton taking the cup for feathers and Sigmn Walker the lights.

Tip to F Company.—Have you noticed that there is a little rugby team in this Company that has won every game played without having a single try scored against it? JOSOPE.

E Company, Training Battalion.

General.—As usual, the weather and the " orderly corp." are the jokes of current interest at this time of the year. The weather is, I believe, improving ; but the ord. corp.—oh, no, sir! Further outlook: very unsettled.

Education.—Since it has been proved that even quarter-blokes can get their 1st, it has been noticed that the Company school attendance has been increased twenty-fold. Keep it up, lads! swotting is required. It has been rumoured (I hope it is true) that the C.S.M. intends to sit for the special.

Trade Tests.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Ingles W. H. on qualifying as clerk, class i. ; also to Signalmen Barron and Sawyer on cheating the Trade Board as B.ii. ops.

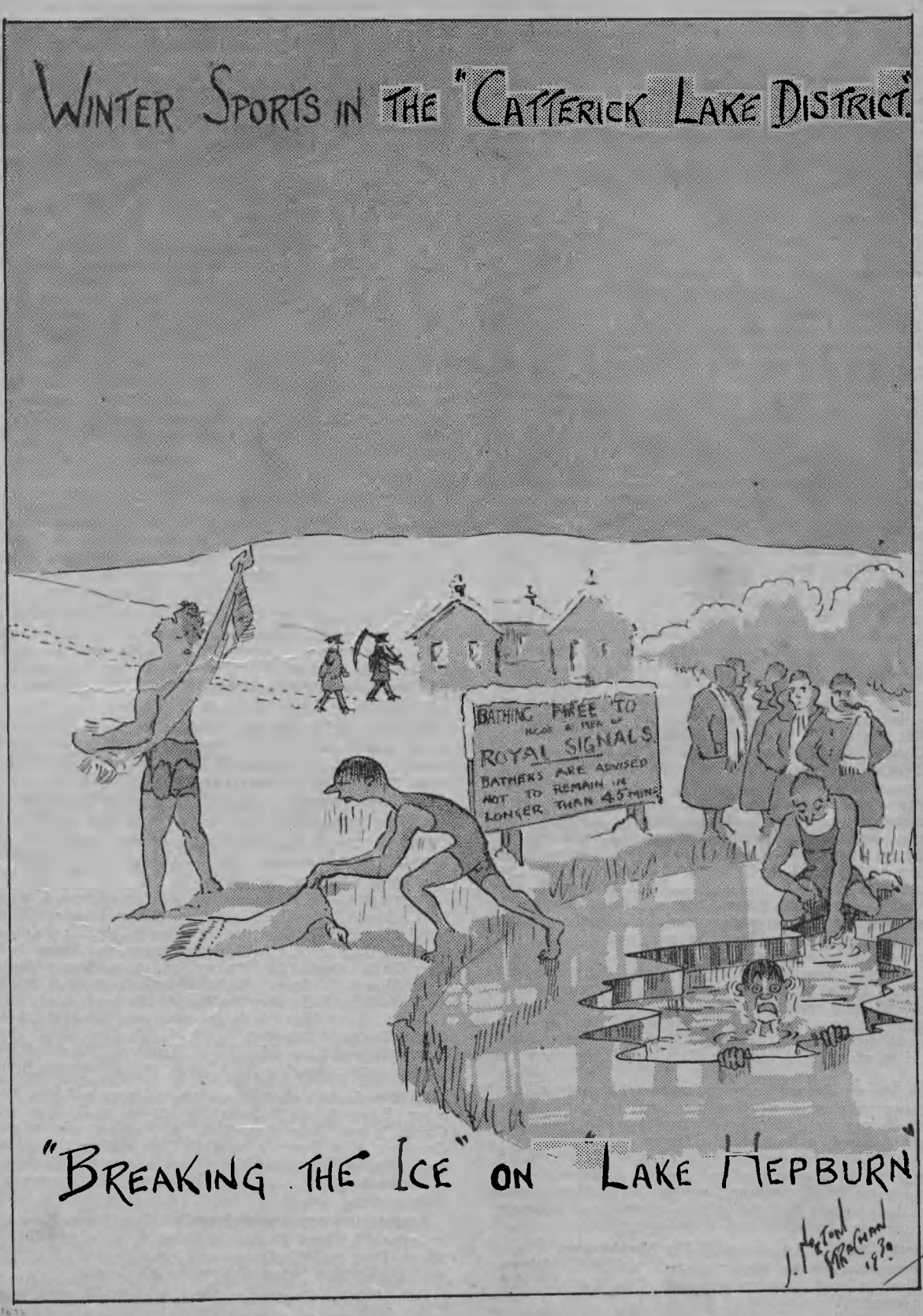
Inter-Platoon Sports.—These have been very popular in the Company during the last month. At present No. 1 Platoon are leading by a small margin. We hope that next month we shall be able to give a detailed account for the benefit of old E Company-ites.

This Month's Best.—Signalman to Pay Sergeant: " Can you tell me how much I am drawing for Christmas leave?" Sergeant: " Yes ; one pound." Sigmn: " Is that all?" Sergeant: " Yes ; that includes everything." Sigmn: " Well, that has rather spoilt things. I intended giving you and the orderly corporal a small present." Sergeant: " What! still here? I've told you once that you are drawing two pounds. Beat it!"

Agony.—We have plenty, but dare not dispose of it.

THE WATCHER.

WINTER SPORTS IN THE "CATTERICK LAKE DISTRICT"



"BREAKING THE ICE" ON "LAKE HEPBURN"

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—The Company are doing as well as can be expected. Up to the time of going to press, at cross-country they are "it"; shooting—well, results will show, and rugby likewise.

All our boys are anticipating a good time this month and are busy preparing for Christmas leave.

Great strides have been made with the erection of the new Boys' Club, and we are looking forward to an early occupation of the premises.

The tournament organised by our O.C. has proved very popular. The results of games played to date will be seen in Sports News.

Taking all things into consideration—the loss of one or two of our stalwarts, sickness, etc.—our teams are doing very well indeed.

Congratulations.—We offer our congratulations to L/Corpl Weeks L. C. on his appointment on the Corps roster.

To the undermentioned, who have obtained the Army 1st class certificate of education: Boys Bennett R. C., Chatfield, Day, Fleckney, Davies, Griffiths, McKillop, Roake, Moore A. L. ("D" in maths), Speakes, White J., and Price E. ("D" in maths), and Sigmn Pirie.

Also to our C.S.M. on getting his long service and good conduct medal presented on Sunday's church parade, Dec. 7th.

A.O.K.

Sergeants' Messes.

On December 10th the officers of the S.T.C. entertained the W.O.s and sergeants and families at a Christmas tree and party in the Newbigging Hall. Among the officers present were Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Colonel E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., Lt.-Colonel H. I. Allen, D.S.O., M.C., and also the C. of E., R.C. and Wesleyan padres.

The hall was decorated in the proper Christmas fashion, plenty of holly being in evidence. An excellent tea was provided, to which justice was done all round. Towards the end Father Christmas (in the person of Captain Firth) made his appearance, much to the children's delight. The Corps Band rendered some light airs under the direction of Mr. Ricketts.

After tea the children played musical chairs. The last three were all girls, the boys having been steadily eliminated, and Barbara Nobes managed to be the finalist.

Father Christmas then handed each child a present, and for a while mothers didn't know their own children.

Then a game was organised in which "fathers" (real and otherwise) took part. We walked round in a circle, and when the music stopped, everyone had to reach the floor by the "cheapest and most direct route"—*and* watch their fingers as they got up, in case they became mixed up with half-a-dozen pairs of boots. Captain Cary had a difficult task to spot the laggard sometimes, but as a general rule the "corporations" backed a loser early in the game. Several false alarms were started, and these provided an extra means of elimination. After a certain amount of soreness, Sergt Sullivan was adjudged the winner amidst much amusement.

The children were amused with various games, the padres and Sergt Deptford being prominent, accompanied by the pianist (Sigmn Phillips), who appeared tireless.

During the afternoon the padres had a real "close up" of the combined members of the three Sergeants' Messes, and wondered if so many could *really* be "on duty" elsewhere on Sundays!

Then the officers claimed partners for the "bar dance," in which capacity we showed ourselves singularly apt pupils (after years of steady practice). Like leading lambs to the slaughter! I'm not sure, though, who were the lambs and who felt the slaughter. It all depends on the point of view, I expect.

However, we all spent an excellent evening which was thoroughly appreciated by all concerned, and when R.S.M. Hepburn called for three cheers for the officers, there was a hearty response from everybody.

Promotions—Congratulations to C.S.M.s Markham and Young on their promotion to that rank; also to C.Q.M.S. Holmes. "Uneasy lies the head," so they say—but, then, that shouldn't apply to a quarter-bloke.

Aldershot News

A Corps Signals.

As these notes go to press, Christmas is indeed very close at hand. We hope that all our readers will thoroughly enjoy themselves, and to all we extend our good wishes for a happy New Year.

Hearty congratulations to No. 3 Company rugby team on winning the Hitchins inter-Company rugby cup. A great effort, which we all much appreciate.

2/Lieut N. I. Bower sailed for India on December 19th. We hope he will have a pleasant voyage, and wish him the best of luck during his tour in the East. 2/Lieut W. A. K. Stodart sails on January 10th. We wish him bon voyage, and our good wishes will always be with him. We shall always be glad to get news from both of them for reproduction in these columns, especially news of old friends abroad.

I apologise to those readers who look for notes from us. I fear me my "press men" have their thoughts elsewhere than on their pens, and no copy has been forthcoming of late except from one or two—and then always at the eleventh hour. However, we will try, with the permission of our Editor, to keep the columns full during 1931.

Arrivals.—From S.T.C.: Corpl Johnson, Signalmen Arnold, Marshall, Davies, Aldridge, Hope and Coulson, Drivers Hills and Stretton. From overseas: C.Q.M.S. McGregor, Corporal Walker, L/Corpl Crawford and Sigmn Henderson. From overseas, for attachment whilst undergoing a course at the V.T.C.: Corpl Holtham, Signalmen Harrison, Silverhome, Norris and Tilley. From South Ireland: Sergeant Spong. Welcome to the unit! may your stay be a long and pleasant one.

Departures.—To S.T.C.: Corpl Wright, Signalmen Turner, Fox and Hymus, Driver Butt. Overseas: L/Corpl Bowie, Signalmen Baldwin and Brooks. To the Reserve: Corpl Peuleve, L/Corpl Clarke, Signalmen Short, McCarthy and Ramsdaile. To 5th Divl Signals, Sigmn Brown. On discharge: Sigmn Richards. The best of luck to you all, wherever you may be!

Service.—R.S.M. Wigglesworth continues in the Service beyond twenty-one years, to complete five years in the rank of warrant officer. C.Q.M.S. McGregor continues beyond twenty-years to make up boy's service.

Re-Engagements.—L/Corpl Alexander, Signalmen Worrall and Miles, to complete twenty-one years with the Colours.

Extensions.—L/Corpl Knight, Signalmen Slater and Ashman, to complete twelve years with the Colours; and L/Corpl Cooks, to complete eight years.

Marriages.—At Portsea, 4/10/30, Corpl Brown J. A. to Miss R. L. March. At Fleet, 4/10/30, Sigmn Langley C. to Miss E. G. Sayers. At Winchester, 4/10/30, Sigmn Baldwin J. to Miss K. E. Adcock. At Halifax, 11/10/30, Sigmn Fish J. to Miss G. M. Algar. At Farnham, 23/10/30, Sigmn Worsdell L. A. to Miss E. R. Epps. At Portsmouth, 5/11/30, Corpl Gerrish A. V. to Miss E. E. May Smith. At Steyning, 8/11/30, Driver Uwins F. S. to Miss M. A. Histed. At Pontypridd, 11/11/30, Sigmn Breeze W. to Miss R. Gould. At Darlington, 18/11/30, Sigmn Wilson C. to Miss M. E. Lumley. To all of them we extend our best wishes for a happy and prosperous future.

Births—At Aldershot, 13/10/30, to Sigmn and Mrs. Williams, a son (Edward). At Tidworth, 23/10/30, to L/Corpl and Mrs. Clarke, a son (John Reynolds). At Farnborough, 7/11/30, to Corpl and Mrs. Dunn, a daughter (Eileen Alice). At Aldershot, 10/11/30, to Sigmn and Mrs. Quaintance, a son (Leslie George). At Birkenhead, 28/11/30, to Corpl and Mrs. Frampton, a son (Eric Leslie).

Promotions and Appointments.—Corpl Jones F. to L/Sergt. 25/9/30; L/Corpl Phipps to Corporal, 30/9/30; U/L/Corpls Green, Dean and Woollett to paid appointments; Sigmn Crowley to U/L/Corpl. Congratulations to all of you!

G.C. Medal.—Awarded to Sergt Withers W. with gratuity.

Education.—C.Q.M.S. Halls passed in geography and map reading; Sigmn Morrow awarded a 2nd class certificate.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 Construction Section.

November 13th.

General.—"Construction Section all present, sir!" Yes, we are both here! Leave, stables and courses have reduced the Section to two, so I am afraid notes will be reduced accordingly.

By the time these notes appear, the leave party will be back again, and the barrack rooms will resound with wonderful tales of exploits while on leave.

Technical training is due to commence shortly, and we are looking forward to being a class ii. Section. According to Dame Rumour, quite a lot of work is coming our way. Well! we can do with it—*and* do it!

Apropos my remarks in the November WIRE re stores. The "80, 85, 90, 100" stunt didn't work—the result being 5/6, 3/6, 2/-, 1/9. Nuff sed.

Departures.—L/Cpl Sandy McKowin to Feltham on an M.T. course. Sigmn Murrell to Peterborough on a G.P.O. course. Sigmn Cartwright to the School of Hygiene on a water course. Sigmn Crowther to the School of Cookery on a cook's course. Sigmn Grant to Woolwich on a cycle repair course. Signalman Renals to Prospect Road on a jew's course. May you all come back with a 100 per cent. report! Sigmn Baldwin to Singapore. Good luck! A few more are on the waiting list, but more about them anon.

Arrivals.—Some of the lost stores!

Appointments.—None in the Section, but we extend the glad mitt to L/Sergt Jones (A Cable) on his appointment to that rank. Leave mine on my table, Joner!

Gems from the School Room.—(1) John Cabot borrowed £10 —got a few ships together—went West and discovered Newfoundland—came home—met by the Queen—was knighted and called Sir Francis Drake. (2) The result of the Dutch Wars: Defeat of Dutch at Battle of Spanish Armada at Trafalgar under Lord Nelson.

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Williams, a son (Edward) on October 13th. A chip off the old block, eh?

Agony.—L/Corpl J.O.D. (2317825) reminds L/Corpl G.N.R. (2317044) that his address is unchanged. DANGLER.

December 13th.

General.—With the arrival of the December WIRE a dead silence fell on A Corps Signals. Great men talked in a strange language, and we who write nodded our heads one to another —for behold, the notes which we wrote did not appear! [Too late for press last month, but included above.—ED.]

On Saturday, December 6th, we bade farewell to our O.C. Section on posting to Blackdown. We are sorry to lose you, sir, but we realise that one must keep moving in these days. We wish you a happy sojourn with your new unit.

Our new O.C. is at present "sick in quarters," and in extending to him a hearty welcome to the "Cotton Wool" Section, we trust he will soon be up and about.

The first upgrading course is almost finished, and we trust the lads will benefit by the extra dibs.

"Drake goes East." Strange, but true. Good luck to you in your new Station!

Arrivals.—L/Sergeant Hayles and Signalmen Cartwright and Crowther from courses. Sigmn O'Donnell from A Cable.

Departures.—Captain W. S. Wasey to A.D.B.S. Blackdown. Sigmn Drake to Malta Signal Station. Sigmn Hymus to Depot.

Appointments.—Congratulations to U/L/Corpl Crowley on commencing the journey to the top of the ladder.

The Section wishes all ranks of the Corps a happy New Year. And now for a spot of furlough! DANGLER.

No. 4 Wireless Company.

Since the publication of our first notes in November, I have been overwhelmed by enquiries, chiefly from abroad. To some of the more pressing I publish replies, hoping that in each case satisfaction will ensue.

THE HANDY STORES

COLEFORD BRIDGE ROAD, S.

MYTCHETT, FRIMLEY GREEN

FOR

Groceries, Provisions, Confectionery and Tobacco, etc.

FAMILIES WAITED ON DAILY

INSPECTION INVITED

Personal Attention given to Royal Signals Customers

P. H. PURKISS

(late R.Q.M.S. Royal Corps of Signals)

Marie (Jaffa): Signalman Cooper is at present on leave. His address is not known, and the date of his return is exceedingly vague.

Olga (Ramleh): Reference Sigmn Ball—as above.

Tewfik (Lydda Baz): At no time have I had goods from you. Someone has cruelly deceived you.

The remainder must reluctantly be passed over till next month.

General.—The Company has been more or less quiet since the training season ended. Weeding has been the only obstacle in the even tenor of our way. In passing (for the educated, "en passant") I might add that the aforementioned way goes by the canteen, through the billiard room, and so on up to the Soldiers' Home.

Courses of instruction are rife at the moment. L/Corporals Harris and Mortimer are away at Feltham and Catterick respectively, whilst L/Corpl Willcocks should be down at Maida. How we long for their return!

A good percentage of the Company are also attending for certificates of education.

Observation.—A few will be able to work out the duty roster now. Education is a wonderful thing!

The personnel on loan from No. 3 Company have returned from whence they came. We thank them for the assistance given, and we hope to borrow them again.

Movements of Warships.—Jury's boots—for Three Company —left B.B.15 to-day.

Meditation.—They say that water is the king of all drinks— but who am I that I should have the best of everything?

Sport.—The Company is not very strong, and at football and hockey a fairly representative side is somewhat hard to find. However, we have played two games of football and one of hockey, resulting in a win and a draw in the former and a wm in the latter.

Sergt Bremner, L/Corpl Harris, Signalmen Knight, Robinson, and Hutchcroft have gained Group honours in their respective games, whilst others have played occasionally.

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

Outing.—On Saturday, October 18th, the Company moved en bloc to London for the day, the time being spent at football matches, theatres and cabaret shows. The occasion was interesting in various ways, and individual performances were soon on the market.

Sarrafeans opened steadily, if with a slightly downward tendency, but rallied later in the day, and at the close of the House remained firm.

Baghdads had a bad day on the whole, several unforeseen slumps taking the market unawares. The latter tried to force the going, but caught a cold, unexpected opposition coming from the Shanghai group.

Takings were brisk. Breweries were especially prominent, though Distillers had a very fair share, prices on these reaching a very high figure.

We had a fairly good day, and are looking forward to another —but not before we have paid for the last one.

Replying to No. 1 Company and their Construction Section. We realise that Larkhill has a bad name for winds, but it is an ill wind indeed that will carry away wash-bowls.

Sunshine Sketches of our Community.—No. 1: "Baldy Waters" (born tired, out of work). This youngster is built on raking lines—rakes in everything you put down, as a matter of fact. With a becoming smile (it becomes a wonder how his face doesn't crack) his type is more or less well known, their peculiar cry of "I'll push 'em" being often heard in the surrounding woods. Should prove a good thing for backers before long.

Conclusion.—As a Company, we send to all readers, especially those at Sarafand, our greetings for a happy New Year. The quayside gets nearer, and we await you. T.

1st Divisional Signals.

Unit Headquarters.

I hope that, by the time these notes appear, one and all will have recovered from the after-effects of Christmas, such as bad heads, indigestion and other numerous ailments, and settled down to a few more training lectures—which, if listened to, will not give any of the above ailments but more pay.

I am pleased to report that Colonel Worlledge is rapidly recovering from his hunting accident and, as far as can be ascertained, will not suffer from any after-effects.

It is regretted that last month a reference was made to "A junior n.c.o. holding out the olive branch to the Officer i/c Records," as unfortunately it produced an impression that individuals are corresponding direct with that officer. I wish to impress upon all readers of THE WIRE that no such correspondence could be indulged in without disciplinary action being taken, and I hope I have made it clear that it was not intended to convey any contrary meaning.

Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Shenton on being awarded the L.S. and G.C. medal. Now for the presentation parade! No exemptions from the Q.M.'s branch.

R.S.M. Eves J., having taken a liking to the Army after a trial of twenty-two years, has decided to serve for a further four years.

Sigmn Jennings (Emile), not having taken a liking to boxing after a trial (of how many seconds?) has decided to take up wireless.

Arrivals.—Capt E. Levett from No. 2 Company, as officiating adjutant during the absence on leave of Captain H. D. Beadon. I don't know whether Captain Levett gave him the tip, or not, but the Officer i/c Barracks has kindly issued an arm chair so that he can while away his spare time at ease—as adjutants always have a cushy time!

L/Sergt Napier, having arrived from Palestine, is now engrossed in the intricacies of the Q.M.'s ledgers. I hope his stay in unit headquarters will be a long and happy one.

Corpl Davis C., from 2nd Divl Signals, interested himself for a week on draft documents, but has now faded away on (oh! need we say?) leave.

It would be unfair to let these notes go to press without wishing Sigmn Stuart a very prosperous time in civvy street, and thanking him for all that he had done for the Corps during his time in it.

In the Net.—Corpl Dennis A. G., at Aldershot Parish Church on December 6th—at least, we believe so, for he has not been seen since about 14.00 hours on that date. A.F.D.

No. 1 Company.

General.—The monsoon having broken over Aldershot, aquatic sports are now in full swing. Those who have not had the pleasure of picking a ball out of the swamps have enjoyed themselves in paddling a few miles across country.

The D.R.s have done their bit in this way, too, but are now issued with bigger and better mounts (long-faced ones). By the way, who was the D.R. who led his horse round to the petrol pump on his first morning out?

At the time of writing, those who have not yet had furlough are sweating like—oh, anything, especially as Christmas is so near. Those who have had furlough are easily distinguished by their resigned looks, which at times give way to a faint glimmer of hope whenever Christmas leave is mentioned (*very faint*, like Smee's lights on a night scheme).

Draft.—The Company's best wishes go with those who leave us for Stations abroad. The departure of a certain man from No. 3 Block (West) has been awaited with keen interest by the other occupants. We hope they will now enjoy their biscuits more.

The Company are anxious to know why a certain occupant of No. 1 Block is so desirous of going back again o' Ponky? Could it be some dark-eyed maiden? Never mind, Jim! the 10th is not far off, now.

Marriage.—Sigmn Rawlinson to Miss Maisie Danielson, at Farnham, on November 10th. The best of luck to them both. Our deepest and heartfelt sympathy is extended to the bride.

Birth.—Hearty congratulations to Signalman E. J. and Mrs. Dickinson on being presented with a son on November 16th. Mother and child are doing well.

Discharge.—Good luck to L/Corpl Jock Kay on his return to civvy street. No more will I trail that mudguard, Jock.

Death.—After being with us twelve whole months, we are sorry to announce the death, through shortness of time, of "1930." Another good pal gone. Alas! and lack-a-day!

Agony.—Sigmn Llewellyn would like to hear from Arthur Mann, last heard of in the Depot (Mounted Wing).

Sigmn Stratton S. would like to hear from "Major" Bell, last heard of in Gibraltar. ONECOY.

No. 2 Company.

Greetings.—We take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Corps, both past and present, a very bright and prosperous New Year.

This month, I am afraid that owing to pressure of work these notes will be rather brief. However, we have the following to record.

Arrivals.—We have the pleasure of welcoming to the Company Driver Ward W. from the Depot Battalion. We wish him a long and happy stay with us, and by the time these lines appear in print he should have settled down. Driver Borrow is due to arrive shortly, and we look forward to Tubby's arrival—he should materially help to strengthen our rugger team, and his form will be keenly watched.

Departures.—Corporals Gray and Heaseman and Signalmen Brackenberry and Burrell left the Company on December 16th en route for India. These men have all pulled their weight in the Company in various branches of sport, and we wish them a pleasant journey and a safe return to the Company when their tour of duty in the East expires.

Obituary.—We cannot close these notes without offering the Company's very deepest sympathy with Sergt Trayner, of A Corps, in the great loss he has sustained in the death of his wife.

LULU.

No. 3 Company.

General.—A happy New Year! I hope all and sundry have got over Christmas leave, etc., and are settling down to a happy 1931—after making New Year resolutions.

The first period of training has finished, and at the time of writing the Trade Board is in progress. About ten of our Company are on it, and we await the result with interest.

Last month we said goodbye to our O.C., Capt. J. L. Collings, who is, we believe, leaving the Army. Our wishes for the best of luck are extended to both Captain and Mrs. Collings in their future undertakings, and we sincerely hope that we shall hear from them in the future.

As Captain J. Wynn departs for India this month, that means the loss of two stalwarts of Threecoy, and we shall miss both of them. Captain Wynn, we understand, is bound for Jubbulpore, and so we shall hope to hear from him through THE WIRE. We wish him bon voyage and good luck.

Lieut E. J. H. Moppett is at present our O.C., but the cares and worries of being O.C. Company do not up to the present seem to have affected him, and we are hoping that his reign as such will be long and pleasant.

Draft.—That ugly word again! On December 10th Corporal Dennis A. G. and Signalmen Evans S., Dunn S., Darke C. and Levitt H. departed for India, and on the 16th, C.Q.M.S. Gaffney and Signalmen Duke, Cody and Barber for Egypt—with more to follow at a later date.

Corpl Dennis, as predicted in last month's WIRE, took unto himself a wife—having "did the trick" whilst on leave. Good luck to him! and our best wishes are extended to his wife also.

The Officer i/c Records has informed us that L/Sgt Murphy C. will be required for service in Egypt this trooping season. It might have been worse, Spud—it might have been India again. It's a funny thing, though; we haven't yet fathomed how it is that people get caught for a second tour while others remain at home for ever.

Arrivals.—Corpl Tilling F., and then immediate departure to Belfast (minus gas mask). How could you, Ben?

L/Sergeant Napier from Palestine. Welcome! and may you enjoy yourself.

Departures.—Nil, with the exception of the one reported above and the draft that left us on the 16th. We hope they had a pleasant voyage, were not seasick on Christmas Day, and are already enjoying basking under the sun in India.

Agony.—Will Sigmn Poole H. (late of this Company, but now in India) please write to Sigmn Sellars J. THREECOY.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

I really must apologise for the lack of news from this Company. Our scribe is in hospital—and looks like staying there "for the duration."

We welcome Captain D. A. Campbell as our new O.C. Long may he reign!

Arrivals.—Drivers Tinham and Hebblethwaite from S.T.C. Two very likely lads. The Q.M. is a bit peeved about the second name. His Army Forms won't hold it; still, it's not Hebb's fault, we know.

Sigmn Traunter arrived from Edinburgh to finish his last six months with us and help our football team on.

Departures.—If the powers-that-be who watch over us don't move soon, we will all be "departures"—twelve of them, and only three arrivals.

Sigmn Johns J., Driver Swan and Sergt Partridge have left us for a long course in civvy life. We wish them the very best of luck.

Sigmn Holliday has departed to A.V.T.C. Hounslow to prepare for civilian life. Make good use of it, old man!

Signalmen Alderman, Cornthwaite, Dumville, Moore, Gentle, McKenzie, Eltringham, Fleming and Johns H. departed on 16th December for India to keep the flag flying. I hope they find little Cornthwaite under his topee when they want him: he reminds me of a bee-hive with a pair of boots on the bottom.

Our C.S.M. is missing. Oh, yes, we know where he is—not with the rum jar, but in hospital with a very bad knee. Our Q.M. will be very pleased to see him on parade again, as these early morning parades at 6.30 a.m. are getting the said Q.M. down. I wonder why Q.M.s don't like the early morning parade.

V. DOG.

No. 3 Company.

So this is the New Year! (or it will be when these lines are in print). We wish every other Company at home and abroad a happy New Year, and a speedy recovery from any ill-happening that may have befallen them.

At the present time our ranks are being sadly depleted by that inevitable scourge, draft, in addition to which a few of our erstwhile comrades have ignored the advice set forth in last month's WIRE—or perhaps they have already been "thinking it over." Anyway, they have departed for civvy street, and their absence is sorely felt, especially in duty week, which reminds me:—

Once there was a youthful soldier—
Very fond he was of "gaff":
There he used to spend his week-ends,
And there he used to sit and laugh.

Once he went to look at Orders—
And he stared at them right hard:
For the first that met his eye was
His own name, and then—main guard.

This, somehow, upset his liver;
He didn't like the thing at all—
He had booked up for the morrow,
Therefore dread was duty's call.

Well, this soldier went to kip, sir;
Had an awful dream that night—
Dream't he'd joined the Foreign Legion:
He was in an awful plight.

In his dream he saw the Legion—
Feet all burning, shoulders red;
"It's a snip, this guard," he murmured,
Turning over in his bed.

There's a moral to this story—
What it is, I'm not quite sure;
But you can guess, perhaps, because
I haven't time to think of more.

And these notes have to be in by twelve o'clock, and it is turned eleven now—but you see what happens to a chap who has too much "gaff."

Agony.—Will Shorty Ashton, somewhere in India, please communicate with Bill?

Heard at a recent Trade Test.—Q.: Describe the action of a D.iii. A.: On depressing the key, the secondary rushes out to line, causing the armature to break. (Nothing mentioned about breaking the instructor's heart.) Then the primary circuit follows—in fact, give it an A.B. 108 and it will almost obtain its own signature when it gets there.

Q.: Describe the action of a relay. A.: The tongue pulls the sounder down to a mark, then pushes it into space. This happens as long as the key is depressed. (Why not leave the key alone and let them have a fair fight?)

Arrivals.—Several remounts arrived "in the raw." These are being ably handled by our O.C. in the vicinity of the barbers' hut. Some of them have been ear-marked for a staff ride in the near future—so, clerks, beware! As these horses will eventually be numbered, it is suggested that such designations be taken from the number of attempts made to mount them.

We welcome the arrival of Sigmn Pike from Catterick.

Departures.—Drivers Husk and Hyde to civvy street.

Congratulations.—To Sgt Harris on the birth of a daughter. To Sigmn Heath on obtaining his 2nd class certificate of education. To U/L/Corpl Turner on obtaining the first step up the ladder of promotion. PETER.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

The first furlough party has returned to the fold, to the evident joy of the second ditto—who are now enjoying the bright lights and gay spots of this festive month. Those who are back, having already counted the number of pay days to Easter, have adopted a ca'-canny campaign in view of the prospect of Christmas leave! Funny thing, leave; one never seems to tire of it!

A hearty welcome is extended to Captain W. S. Wasey, who has joined us from A Corps Signals, Aldershot. In view of the

fact that A Corps are our deadly rivals so far as cross-country running is concerned, we would not be human if we did not ask him what he really thinks of our chance in the Aldershot Signals shield competition.

Congratulations to U/L/Corpls Tebby, Burton, Bartle and New on being appointed to that rank. It is rumoured that they are now reading handbooks on the sure way to success, arguing rightly that at least they have their foot on the bottom rung of that ladder of fame. True, brothers, true! Stick there, and the " necessary " is bound to follow.

Weep, ye hard-hearted wallahs, weep! L/Corporal Richards and Sigmn Sadler have left us en route to India per the *Dorsetshire*. A list of stations to dodge has been presented to the former by several well-meaning old Indianites of this unit. We trust the list will be a success.

By the time these notes appear in print, we shall be preparing to bid adieu to another well-known figure in the person of L/Corpl Dewhurst, who also follows the golden path to the East—India. His prowess on the football field will be greatly missed, for he has rendered yeoman service as centre-half for the unit. His efforts in other branches of sport, although not so brilliant as his footer, are nevertheless well known: he is a thorough trier. The best of luck to you, Johnny!

These notes would not be complete if we did not wish our faithful George the best of luck on his hard-earned furlough. May his sleep be untroubled, for we are sure he gets little here.

The late craze for little bits of fluff upon the upper lip having apparently died out, it is good to notice that another school has sprung up—that of pipe smoking. May we congratulate the pioneer, none other than our redoubtable Ike! He certainly seems to run better on it ; perhaps an issue will be made to our athletes?

We must not forget to take leave of Sigmn Huddlestone, who goes to the School of Signals, Catterick, on December 18th, having been held on command for a period of nine days owing to sickness. The best of luck to you, Pip! You'll find it none too warm up there.

Agony.—Sigmn Nixon W. A., of this unit, wishes to hear from Sigmn Croft R., last heard of in Shanghai. What about it, Sheffield?

Sigmn Brind A. M., of this unit, wishes to hear from Sigmn McLaren R., last heard of somewhere within the spacious bounds of India. Remember Christmas, 1928, Mac?

Yours truly would very much like to know whether he will get Christmas leave this year—or must he wait until January?

B.A.E.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

December 14th.

Arrivals.—By the time these notes appear in print, we shall have Captain C. T. Hughes, M.C., in our midst. A very hearty welcome is extended to you, sir. May you enjoy a long and pleasant stay with the unit!

Since last writing, we have had numerous arrivals from the Depot. We wish them all a long and happy sojourn in Tidworth.

Departures.—Sigmn Veale to the Depot Battalion on 9th December, and Sigmn Thorley to the Training Battalion on the 13th. On the 16th we lost Signalmen Yerrell and Strutt, both of whom decided to try their hand in sunnier climes and accordingly sailed to India on the *Dorsetshire*. Sigmn Goodanew, also longing for a warmer spot—but not so far away—sailed on the same day to Gibraltar. Our best wishes go with them all. The postman is clapping his hands now that he will have a few less letters to deliver each morning.

Annual Furlough.—The first party returned on December 5th, looking somewhat sadder and wiser men. They were all very pleased to be back! (if they weren't, they should have been). We are pleased to see them on the picquet roll again, which amounts to almost the same thing.

The second batch shook the mud of Tidworth from their boots on December 9th. We are wondering if any will return in the near future with the old old excuse (hearts of oak). We hope none of them is aspiring to the M.Q.R., as we have it on good authority that the recent sale of quarters resulted in a complete " clean-up " of the stock,

General.—The other day a gentle breeze was wafting a new and very appetising odour across the square from the cookhouse. Taking a peep in at the rear window, the cooks, all in white (cooks and hospital orderlies usually wear white—we wonder!) were seen in deep meditation before the boilers. Discreet enquiries resulted in the discovery that the Christmas puddings were boiling. The smell of those puddings almost made several cancel their annual furlough! We hear that one of the cooks was getting quite excited, watching them sink to the bottom of the boiler. Was he afraid they would refuse to sink? Never mind, Harry ; all's well that ends well, eh?

Talking—it should be writing, I suppose—about Christmas reminds me of a little story I heard in the sergeants' mess the other day. One member, meeting another's children crying rather bitterly, enquired as to the cause of their grief. The reply was " Daddy says Father Christmas has been shot!" Too bad of you, Jock!

The mess will also vouch for the authenticity of the following (so don't blame me!) The guard having been turned-out, inspected and duly dismissed, the orderly officer was questioning the sentry concerning his duties. The poor sentry had repeated his various orders, when the following cropped up. O.O.: " If nothing came from nowhere and attacked you, what would you do?" Sentry: " I would pick up nothing and throw it at him."

We hear that a change is shortly to take place in the orderly room. Our O.R.S. (Sergt McEwan P.) has been posted to the School of Signals vice Sergt Rhodes J., who will take up the duties here. We wish them both the best of luck in their new spheres.

Personal.—I am sure you will all join me in passing a vote of thanks to G.H.R.F. for his article on " The Malta Command Telephone System." It was very interesting indeed. (The office boy says he may cut himself a piece of cake.) More articles of this nature would be very welcome.

An Ode: To a He-Man.—One of our Post Office experts has blossomed forth, and the following is the result (he won't allow me to publish his name: modest man).

Oh! why do the girls all fall for me?
I cannot understand.
Is it my hair, my handsome face, or my civvy suit so grand?
I haven't been in Bristol long,
But a thousand hearts I've won,
And a thousand more I'll win and break, 'cos I'm a " son of a gun."
I go to dances posh and swell
And do my stuff quite briskly,
And on return to my domain drink a couple of bottles of whisky.
Did you say " drink "?
Well, I guess I can!
Just try me any time you like ; of pints I'll knock back seven.
Enough of this sob muck for me!
I'm made of stronger stuff:
I'm a sheik and a he-man from St. Paul's ; in fact, I'm a piece of duff.

The office boy, having given away one slice of cake, says that the writer of the above may take the remainder. I think I will creep away quietly before I am accused of it. H.Q.

Southern Command Signal Company, Salisbury.

December 15th.

General.—Readers and members of the Signals Association are asked to read the O.C.A. news, in the earlier pages of the Journal, in respect of the Branch which has been formed in Salisbury and the result of its first annual meeting.

Christmas Greetings.—We thank all those messes and units who sent us Yuletide greetings. Funds will not allow us to return the compliment, but we most heartily reciprocate the kind wishes.

Foremen-of-Signals: Important.—The " Gazette " is now ready for the printer. Will Foremen-of-Signals and potential Foremen let Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Roberts C. S., M.B.E., know (at Government House, Portsmouth, Hants) as early as possible if they want a copy of it. The first issue will cost 2/6 per copy ; future issues, 1/0. Please send cash with order—C.O.D. not recognised!

Congratulations.—To C.S.M. Smart A. E., of the C.S.O.'s office, Southern Command, Salisbury, on being awarded an instructor's certificate for R.L.S.C. 1930. Any member of the Corps living in or around Salisbury who wants instruction in swimming in the forthcoming season should get into touch with the C.S.M., and I am sure he would be glad to arrange lessons, etc. His first class of eleven members are being awarded bronze medallions, R.L.S.S.

The Mayor of Salisbury recently presented the sergeant-major with a silver cigarette case (suitably inscribed) as a token of appreciation from his class, at the Swimming Club's annual dinner and dance. COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

We wish all and sundry the best of everything in the New Year.

The " Bulford Oval " is now in course of construction—you ask our fellows who are putting in eight hours digging a day! Of course, it will be a fine thing when it is finished, and I am sure that generations to come will appreciate the fruits of our labours. I can assure those who served in Bulford during the famous (or infamous?) days of the Pimple that our Oval will really materialise. One has but to consult the robot digger to obtain confirmation (when it robots).

Marriages.—Corpl Tennant to Miss Sparkes,. at Bath, on October 30th ; Corpl Harrold to Miss Jarrold, at Barningham, on November 20th ; L/Sergeant Talling to Miss Waller, at Lostwithiel, on November 26th. It grieves one to find that the young soldier of the day does not heed the advice of the Great Man, who considered a man to be a soldier only when without " encumbrances." However, what the Great Man said does not deter the usual good wishes.

Arrivals.—Plenty, included in them being Captains F. R. Courtenay-Thompson and H. N. Brown, Sergt Garroni, L/Sergt Pack, Corpl McKenzie H. and L/Corpl Waite from India.

Departures.—On December 16th, Corporals Norcup and Harrold, L/Corporals Strickson and Sherard, and twenty-one Signalmen—all to India, with the exception of one Signalman to Gibraltar and one to Malta. (Oh, for a life on the ocean—and Christmas in the Bay!)

Some of these (L/Corpl Strickson notably) have been here since—well, I hardly like to say, for I would hate to jolt their memories too much. The marked similarity between Point 306 and some of the points they will encounter in India will doubtless convince them that the move is a fraud, if a change in scenery was intended.

Promotions and Appointments.—C.Q.M.S. Price to be C.S.M., 10/5/30. L/Sergt Tinsley to be Sergeant, 13/10/30. L/Corpl Kennedy to be Corporal, 26/9/30, and L/Corpl Ray, 13/10/30. Signalmen Webb, Fox, Stevens, Sowerby, Bell F. C., Houlden, Edwards W. and Long G. to be U/L/Corporals, 20/11/30.

Education.—The names of those who have obtained their 2nd class certificate are so numerous that the O.R.S. has been having a " crib " at the length of his Orders—so what chance have I, Mr. Editor? " Gratters " to them all, anyhow ; and we hope to see some 1st's next March.

Sergeants' Mess.—C.Q.M.S.s Sweeting and Seymour, on behalf of the Mess and by kind invitation, visited our very good friends the 43rd (Wessex) Divl Signals, Exeter, for their annual dinner held in the drill hall on the evening of November 8th. Judging by their enthusiastic remarks on their return to " Breezy Bulford," the dinner was the best ever. They were given a very warm reception and a high old time. Anyway, we shall have no lack of volunteers for the next one, I am sure.

We are told that the arrangements for the dinner and entertainment which followed would fill many of us with envy. We are sorry we couldn't all go!

The dinner was attended by all their officers, many ex-officers and gentlemen of high civil rank, together with a number of civilian friends of the ranks. Many excellent speeches were made, and it was noted with gratification that in all those by their officers, reference was made to the parent unit, 3rd Divl Signals, and special mention and thanks were given to the officers, n.c.o.s and men of the parent unit " who assisted so whole-heartedly " at their annual camp this year.

The following day being Remembrance Day, a parade was arranged at Exeter Cathedral for all T.A. units. Our representatives made a point of watching the march, and their opinion is that, undoubtedly, the Royal Signals were easily first in smartness of movement and turn-out. Finally, they thanked R.S.M. and Mrs. West for making them so comfortable and at home during their short (all *too* short, they say) stay at Exeter.

On the evening of 5th December, a smoking concert was held in the sergeants' mess, the occasion being a farewell and presentation on behalf of members of the Mess to C.Q.M.S. J. Sweeting, M.M., on his retirement after twenty-one years service.

A party of some forty or fifty members and guests assembled and were entertained by a concert party raised from members of the unit. Everybody was at once put into a good humour by the opening performance by Sigmn Bennett (on the piano) and the chorus by the rest of the party—Corpl Cox, L/Corpl Why (organiser), Signalmen Jordan, Boylett, McKittrick, Greatorex, Rostron and Snelson, and Dvr Buxton. Sergt Vignaux gave a special turn. The party kept the audience thoroughly amused for about three hours, but undoubtedly the star turns were McKittrick and his graceful glides, Bennett and Boylett in their " spooning " turns, and Why as the French professor avec souvenirs.

Just after the interval, R.S.M. Clark made the presentation and the following speech (which will illustrate to all the esteem and regard we have for our Joe):—" This is the occasion of an official good-bye to our old friend C.Q.M.S. J. Sweeting. I regret he is going, and I am sure every other member of the Mess does, too. However, we all hope it is only au revoir, and that we shall have the pleasure of his company again soon—shall we say at the annual dinner and ball in January? If he can't manage that, I can assure him of a very hearty welcome at any time, and no doubt he will be able to re-occupy " old 14 Shed "—as he always called it—if he is able to spend a night or two with us.

" It is always a matter of great regret to me—and, I am sure, to all of us—that fine, cheery, sprightly young men like C.Q.M.S. Sweeting should have to leave the Service after twenty-one years. There is no need for me to remind you of his record of service, or that he came to us from the Guards in 1912—showing his business acumen. Suffice it for me to say that he served through the war with Signals, winning the M.M. and bar, and has served with the 3rd Divl Signals for the last six or seven years. Now, he finds himself with twenty-one years to his credit, and wishing there were still a debit of a few years to wipe off.

" I say ' twenty-one years to his credit ' because, though I am sure he has done those things he ought not to have done and has not been found out, he has done the many things he *ought* to have done in such a cheery way, and has always been ready at any old time to give any one of us a helping hand, a smile and a cheery word.

" No doubt, had he helped himself a little more and others, perhaps, a little less, we should probably not be bidding him farewell this evening, for I well remember seeing his name at the bottom of the batch of sergeants promoted on the same day that I was—of whom he and I are the only two now serving.

" It has always been C.Q.M.S. Sweeting's way not to worry much about things, whatever happened ; and if I, for one, could take a leaf from his book and always look on the bright side, I am sure I would be much the better for it.

" As a member of this Mess he has always been most helpful, and there's many a little thing for which we are indebted to him. Perhaps he had in view the taking away of one of those little things as a souvenir when he was looking round just now ; but as most of the things are either part worn or not removable, I see he has abstracted the " joker " from one of our best packs of cards—which I have no objection to his removing—for you'll all agree with me that C.Q.M.S. Sweeting was the joker as far as this Mess was concerned.

" It is with the greatest regret that I learn that he is not yet fixed up with a job in civilian life ; but he has a good many irons in the fire, and our earnest hope is that he will get in somewhere before long.

" It will, I am sure, be a long time before we have somebody who will adequately fill the place of C.Q.M.S. Sweeting ; and to mark our remembrance, respect and good fellowship—and with

our heartiest good wishes for his future prosperity—I present him, on behalf of myself and brother mess members, this watch as a small token of our regard, in the hope that each time he has occasion to look at it, it will remind him of old friends in the Mess and the hour and spirit in which it was given."

The reply by C.Q.M.S. Sweeting was brief, as words would not come, but he thanked the members most heartily in his own inimitable way and assured us we should see and hear of him again.

Later in the evening, Mr. Leeman made a speech on behalf of the guests which showed how much C.Q.M.S. Sweeting is esteemed by the civilian population of Bulford Camp.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Big Ships and White Helmets.—The foreign drafting roll is going to take a very heavy toll of this unit. It looks as if we shall lose at least three officers and ninety n.c.o.s and men, who are required for India.

Lieut. L. T. Shawcross and twenty-four men depart on 16th December. Lieuts A. S. Milner and W. B. Rowett have received their orders and will leave early in the New Year. Many will remember Lieut Milner as a formidable opponent on the rugger field. It is to be hoped that he will not lose any more ears, parts of his nose, or knee-caps, through playing rugger during his stay in India.

Many officers who have served at Colchester will remember that super-raconteur Lieut McDermott, R.A.S.C., who has left the Signals Mess. He has obtained rather a "spot" job in East Africa.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of 2317737 Signalman J. Watson (Joe) by collision with a trolley car in Ipswich on November 15th. He had been with the unit about three and a half years, most of his time being spent in the Cable Section. We all regret the loss of this cheery little friend.

In addition, we regret to report the death of the daughter of L/Corpl Bishop J. W. on November 25th.

Entertainment.—The corporals held their first carnival dance of the season on November 8th. It was a success in every way, and the largest dance yet held in the Garrison. The committee (Corpls Clarke C. W. and Hancock E. and L/Corpl Scrase R.) are a particularly efficient body.

The Signals Association have held two very successful dances—one on November 24th and the other on December 8th. Both functions were well attended. These dances are very popular in the Garrison and town. Sergts Andrews, Gilmour and Kilford are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Corps Explorers.—Captain V. C. Holland and 2/Lieut D. A. L. Dwyer (late of this unit) recently joined an expedition, led by Major R. A. Bagnold, to explore the unknown parts of the Libyan Desert in south-western Egypt and northern Sudan.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to discover the lost oasis of Yeryura, the existence of which has been persistently reported for centuries, but which has never been located.

In other ways, however, the expedition was a great success. The oasis of Uwenat (only discovered in 1923 and twice before visited by Europeans) inhabited by a wild black tribe from French Central Africa, was visited. Valuable geographical and botanical information was collected, and pre-historic paintings and carvings were discovered. A large area of previously unknown country was roughly mapped.

The expedition took three Ford cars with specially designed bodies and travelled 3100 miles over waterless desert. For one stage of the journey it was necessary to carry 240 gallons of petrol and 45 gallons of drinking water on the three cars. Some of the country was extremely rough going, and it is doubtful if any type of car other than a Ford could have stood up to it.

B.M.D.—To Sigmn F. J. Halliday, a son, on September 19th; to C.Q.M.S. J. Linder, a son (Peter John Max).

Sigmn G. Bassett married to Nancy Beedle on April 26th; Driver J. H. McMurray to Mary Cowie on October 14th; Corpl S. Purcell to Agnes Orr on November 14th.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Burniston Barracks, December 16th.

To all Signal units at home and abroad, a happy and prosperous New Year!

This being the third attempt to get moving, I must relate my unfortunate position. Our regular scribe decided to go on furlough (most unfortunate time, too—Christmas) and asked me to send in a few notes. As I do not collect pound or ten shilling notes, I presume he intended me to *write* a few notes, so here goes.

Have you heard this one? Sorry! still, there was an individual who once said "My sergeant-major won't let me out." Not his wife, mind you.

Which reminds me of the second replay in the first round of the Army hockey cup. As hinted in last month's notes, we took York by storm and returned victorious by two goals to nil. Hearty congratulations to the unit hockey team. We were, however, unfortunate in the second round and we were defeated at Catterick by 3—2 goals.

Cupid seems to be "doing his stuff" just lately. Three arrows have pierced our ranks. Corpl Lambert J. W. was married to Elizabeth Dixon at Lancaster on November 15th, Sigmn Porter E. W. to Kathleen Annie Dukes at Scarborough on 10th November, and Sigmn Jamieson R. F. to Vera Edith Appleby at Pickering, Yorks, on October 22nd. The best of luck!

Births.—To Driver W. and Mrs. Smith a son (William Arthur) and to Driver W. E. and Mrs. Osland a son (William Joseph). More congratulations!

Arrivals.—C.Q.M.S. Hales A. G. and family from India, Sergeants Cooper V. G. and Atkinson F. (and family) from 52nd Divl Signals (T.A.).

Departures from the unit include Captain T. A. R. Scott to India—a great loss to our cricket and hockey teams in particular and the unit in general. Corpl Patterson to Training Battalion, S.T.C.; Sigmn Thomas S. to 1st Divl Signals; Sigmn Stanley T. to Depot Battalion, S.T.C.; and Sigmn Turner S. to the Reserve. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

On December 15th we bade au revoir to our first Indian draft. Led by the band of the 5th Battalion Green Howards (many thanks!) they marched to the station. The draft numbered about twenty—see "Departures." The unit wish one and all a pleasant journey and comfortable destinations.

Ere these notes appear in print, we shall have lost another score or so, en route for India also, and to them we offer our best wishes.

The award of the L.S. and G.C. medal to Sergt Cooper V. G. (the glad mit!) should serve as an inspiration to L/Corporal Harbury W. A., who has decided to run football sweeps in the Corps for a period of twenty-one years. Two others (who write home for money as well) have secured a "mention": L/Corpl Spargo W. M. to the Corps roster, and Sigmn Baker W. H. (Nell's mother) to U/L/Corpl. "Once aboard the lugger," etc.

The social side of life progresses very favourably, our latest effort being a carnival dance. A few more of these, and the local dance halls might as well close down! The juveniles of the unit came in for their share, too. Several budding trumpeters were in evidence the next morning.

Sergeants' Mess.—The snooker tournament has finished—at least, as far as playing is concerned. Dark horses came to the fore and cleared the board: Winner, Sergt Lewis W. F., and runner-up, Sergt Fahey. Partnered in an exhibition game which followed, they retired unbeaten (was the water cold, Bill?)

A whist drive and dance took place on November 24th and was voted a great success. Well done, committee!

Our officers were entertained by the Mess on Tuesday, 9th December. Going all out, we just managed to win by a short head. S'more, a new play entitled "Buying a Carpet" was produced by three members of the Mess. Unfortunately I was unable to witness the final act, but I believe the principal boy and company passed the carpet.

In conclusion, I wish to say that the alarm goes off twice nightly, Tubby.

Departures.—Corpls Lambert J., Taylor W. D. and Hutcheon J., L/Corpls Oliver J. and Page C. A., Signalmen Ball S., Blake D., Anthony A., Beever W., Blenkinsop W., Cant R. O., Carney J., Case I. S., Durkin R., Evans S., Finch C., Matthews J., Simpson J. and Whitelaw R.—all to India.

To 1st Divl Signals, Signalman Thomas S. To Training Battalion, S.T.C., Corpl Patterson H. To Depot Battalion, S.T.C., Signalmen Sedgewick W. E., Keeler T. and Stanley T. To Army Reserve, Sigmn Turner S.

UNITS ABROAD

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

November 26th.

I must take this opportunity of wishing all readers of our Corps Magazine the compliments of the season and all the very best for 1931. May you all become sergeant-majors!

Very little of interest has occurred in this wonderful place during the past month. Our "Frontier Fighters" still number more than several who are sweating on at least five or six medals. The majority of our sportsmen have been returned to Pindi for the forthcoming tournaments, thus giving a few of the stay-at-homes a golden opportunity of seeing the beautiful sights around Bara.

This month has seen the commencement of festivities in the jazz line. Two very successful whist drives and dances of the "limber gunner" variety have been run by Sergt Collyer, our O.C.A. representative, ably assisted by an exceedingly live committee; while on Saturday, November 22nd, the opening dance of the season was staged in the regimental theatre and proved a great success. It is hoped to have a fancy dress affair in the near future.

Arrivals and Departures.—The one and only addition to our happy little family here is L/Sergt Crichton, who joined us on the 19th inst. from Kohat. May his stay be an enjoyable one and not too long!

In the departure column, five of our number left us for the U.K. per the *Dorsetshire* ex Karachi on the 15th of the month. These unfortunate (?) people were Corpl Summers, Signalmen Tillott, Pickett, Triggs and Carr, of the W.E.S., to whom we wish all the very best of luck in their new sphere of life.

Congratulations.—These are extended to Sergeant Law on taking unto himself a wife while on leave in the U.K.; to Sergt Hatherley on his promotion to that rank; and to L/Sergt Miles, of the W.E.S., on his appointment to that rank.

Coir Crushing Competition.—In my October notes I asked for the coir crushing champion of Landi-Kotal to be named. Only one competitor guessed the name of this undefeated champion, and the prize of a bung-hole has been despatched per V.V.P. to Signalman Edwards. Congratulations on your success, Eddy!

Sports.—In future, it is proposed to run all sports as a Combined Signals team, with a view to entering tournaments in all games and being in a position to place a representative eleven in the field. With football, it appears to be wholly a Corps affair, with very few players coming from our neighbours 1st Indian Divl Signals for the first eleven. With hockey it will be a fight for places, with the odds on the Div. finding the backbone of the team. It is, however, proposed to run two teams in all sports, thus giving everyone a chance to show his paces.

Much to the regret of quite a number of our forces, it has been decided *not* to run a crown and anchor team.

Kennel Club.—The unit "went to the dogs" on November 20th—dog show in the morning, and dog racing in the afternoon. Indeed, it was "every dog having his (or her) day." Lady Nethersole very kindly came forward to judge all classes other than the terriers, and was ably assisted by S.Mohd Sarwar Shar, civil veterinary surgeon. Sergt C. M. Lee was appointed "adjudicator" of the terrier class, and right well did he perform his job.

Quite a platoon of terriers were put in the ring in condition worthy of a championship show. It was soon very apparent that some of them took the show ring for a boxing ring, but this only tended to make the "terrors" show themselves to better advantage. Lady Nethersole was certainly assured that Tommy feeds his friend well, as most of the dogs were plump and glossy. The judges' notes on a few outstanding dogs and bitches were as follows:—

Rough-Haired Terriers.—Corpl Silver's bitch Spot. Almost true to type; a compact little bitch; good front, right size; requires a little more rib packing.

Smooth Fox Terriers.—Signalman Rashleigh's dog Micky. A sparkling upstanding terrier, full of fire and dash; requires about 4 lbs. more in weight for its height: exceptionally well groomed.

Other Terriers.—Signalman Davis's dog Jacky. A compact all-black terrier; a real soldier's pal; reminiscent of the old black and tan type.

Spaniels.—Sergeant Stone's cocker dog Prince. An "outstander" all the way, and would hold his own in any company. Sergt. Stone's cocker bitch Joyce of the Clouds (a bench winner at the last Murree championship) fell short of her kennel mate in point of size and condition.

Other Breeds.—C.Q.M.S. Gibbens' Alsatian dog (pup) Peter. Expression true to type; should come on well for future shows.

Any Variety owned by a L/Corporal or Signalman.—Sigmn Tutt's beautiful cocker spaniel puppy Wendy. An outstanding puppy of real promise; with good handling should do well in Kennel Club of India shows.

Any Variety owned by N.C.O. above L/Corporal.—Sergeant Law's Labrador bitch Jet. A bench winner at Murree championship show; good condition; well handled; should make better progress in any company. This bitch won as the best opposite sex to the best exhibit in the show.

Gun Dogs.—1, Sergt Stone's cocker bitch Joyce of the Clouds; 2, Sergt. Law's Labrador bitch Jet.

Best Exhibit in the Show.—Sergeant Stone's cocker spaniel dog Prince.

Best Conditioned Dog or Bitch.—Corpl Wood's smooth fox terrier bitch Twinkle, aged 13 years. This class took the combined efforts of the judges to award the prize to Corpl Wood's entry, with Corpl Searle's Queenie running a very close second. Both bitches were a credit to their owners and the ring.

Ugliest Dog in the Show.—A walk-over for Sergeant Rose's Group Captain Billy of the Highway. A smart little fellow whose remote ancestors were more dachshund than wolfhound.

At the conclusion of the show, Lady Nethersole kindly presented the prizes. Many thanks are due to Sergts Renecle and Rose for performing the onerous duties of hon. secretary and ring steward respectively.

Officers v. Sergeants.—On the occasion of the visit to Rawalpindi of the Signal Officer in Chief (Brigadier-General Clementi Smith, D.S.O.) on the 16th, 17th and 18th November, a cricket match was arranged between the officers and the sergeants on the club ground.

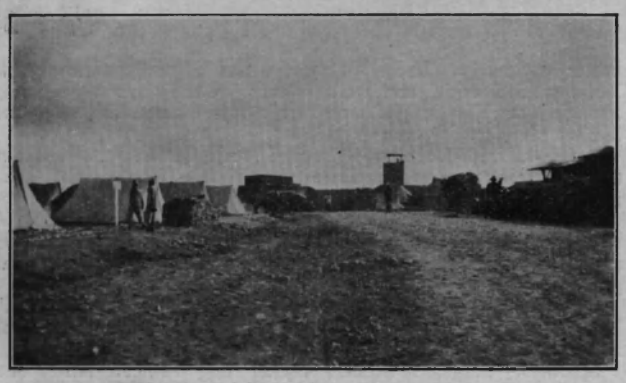
The sergeants won the toss and elected to bat. It was arranged on starting that every member of both sides should bowl at least two overs, with a view to "brighter cricket"—and this certainly succeeded, for the sergeants, after making a promising start, were dismissed for 86. R.M.S. Kneebone, Sergt Wheeler and L/Sergt Goodman proved themselves the stars with the willow, while Major A. E. Phayre Mudge, with three wickets for five runs, was the Tate of the officers' side.

On the officers batting, a disastrous start was made, Captain Gray being dismissed with only a single on the board. However, Lieut.-Colonel Drayson (with a sparkling 48), Major Mudge (23) and Major Phillips (17) saw the sergeants' total passed after a hard struggle—five of their wickets falling for only two runs.

Peshawar District Signals.

Peshawar, November 19th.

On November 3rd the C.-in-C. in India paid the unit a farewell visit. We paraded at 5 o'clock in the evening for his inspection. On his walk round he spoke to a large number of n.c.o.s and men, thereby showing the interest he has in all who are under his command. All ranks of the unit wish to convey, through the medium of our Journal, our very best wishes to His Excellency for every success in his new sphere of life.



Bara Fort.

To-morrow, the 20th inst., we are to be visited by the S.O.-in-C. We trust he will find everything working to his satisfaction. We have no doubt that he has a lively interest in the unit at the present time, owing to the fact that we are taking part in the present operations against the Afridis. A fair proportion of the unit are now out in the field on service. B Corps Signals and the 1st Indian Divl Signals are also well represented. Many old faces and acquaintances from these units have been encountered on their way through here to take up their positions.

The photographs herewith are of Bara Fort, where Advanced Divisional Headquarters is established, and of the Signal office and lines of K Section (Nowshera Brigade) at Narai Khawar.

It is pleasing to note that we are at last making an effort to get going with entertainments again. A committee has been formed, and a start is to be made next Friday with an all ranks dance. We also hope to form a small concert party by Christmas time.

Signal Office, Nowshera Brigade.

Preparations are now being made for Christmas, which we all hope will be as successful as last year. Once again the responsibility for the Christmas fare has fallen to L/Corpl Smith W., who made such a successful show last year. Already he has a fair-sized squad of ducks and geese, and he made all the Christmas puddings last week. The preparation of the dining hall has also been started under the able guidance of young Nick.

Talking of Christmas reminds me that I forgot to send our greetings to all members of the Corps in my notes of last month. I apologise, and offer now the very best wishes for prosperity to all during the New Year.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following, and hope that their stay with us will be a happy one: Sergts Bennett J. and Snook H., L/Sergt Bonner J., Signalmen Brookes R., Field M., Norton G., Parker V., Pures J., Shinn J. and Smith G.

We also extend a hearty welcome to Mrs. and Miss Lawrenson, who arrived from England early in the month.

Departures.—Sergt Handby J. and family left us for home per the *California*. The sergeant has been chosen to attend a Foreman-of-Signals Course commencing in January. We all wish him the best of luck, and trust that he will be successful.

Appointment.—Congratulations are offered to C.Q.M.S. Lawrenson G. on his elevation to that rank. SIGS PESHDIST.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

November 20th.

Command.—Major C. H. H. Vulliamy has handed over the command of the unit to Major H. G. Henderson, and sailed for the United Kingdom on the 14th inst. to take up an appointment at home. All ranks of the unit wish both Major and Mrs. Vulliamy the very best of luck and success.

General.—On November 18th the Signal Officer-in-Chief in India inspected the unit—or rather, the remnants of it, for our numbers are sadly depleted owing to the heavy demand for operators on the frontier.

There was no special parade on this occasion, and the inspection took place whilst everyone was carrying out the normal unit routine. The inspection took two hours, and the S.O.-in-C. appeared to be satisfied with all he saw. Anyhow, as we were allowed to leave our beds down on the following day and check parade was also dispensed with, we imagine that he must have been *more* than satisfied.

Sunbathing at Upper Topa.

A short time ago the unit sent a small detachment to Upper Topa to assist in reeling-in the lines of that Station. On their return they told us tales of the great work they had done, but the photograph shown with these notes certainly does not bear them out.

Company Training.—No. 2 Company completed Company training on November 9th, and No. 1 Company commenced. A strenuous programme was arranged, and on the 12th we all disappeared into the blue on a three days scheme. On our return to barracks, however, Company training ended abruptly, for H Section had to find two more signal offices " somewhere on the N.W.F." ; and as you will all agree, it is impossible to carry out Company training with only fourteen signalmen.

Social.—On November 7th the unit gave a farewell smoking concert to Major and Mrs. Vulliamy, prior to their departure for the United Kingdom. Lieut.-Colonel Fitz A. Drayson, M.C. (C.S.O. Northern Command) and Major W. T. Howe, O.B.E. (D.C.S.O. Northern Command) were also present. An excellent programme was arranged by Sergt Hall, and everyone spent a very enjoyable evening.

On November 18th we ran the first whist drive and dance of the season. It was a success from the moment the doors opened

to admit the long queue of players, and great credit is due to the committee who ran the show. It has been decided to run a similar entertainment every week.

Sports.—This month, sport has been chiefly confined to cricket and football. The results of matches played are published in the Sports Supplement.

Vocational Training.—The undermentioned have completed a course of instruction in vocational training as shown: Sigmn Kirkman at Ambala, Signalmen Jackson and Baker at Calcutta, and Signalmen Chetwood and Westley at Mhow.

We have it on good authority that the commencement of courses in agriculture at Mhow was *not* due to Barleux's presence in that place!

Departure.—Corpl Wills to the United Kingdom for a Foreman-of-Signals course.

Active Service.—Mera Khel Camp, N.W.F. The W/T packs arrived here on October 17th from Peshawar via Abdara and Bara Fort camps, and were soon initiated into the secrets of wielding a pick and shovel.

Possibly you will ask "Why the pick and shovel?" Well, it was ordered that all ranks should "dig themselves in"—or, rather, their tents—to a depth of from two to three feet. It was not easy work, as the blisters on the hands of many would tell you, could they speak. However, the digging was essential and had to be done, and very soon everyone was settled down in a snug little home, safe from enemy bullets (or "tockdongs," as our Larry calls them). Anyhow, Larry should know the correct name, as he collected a few of them at Tanda China.

On the night of 24th/25th October the Packs were "at home" to the Afridis, who arrived at the camp without invitation cards. They were repulsed by the Seaforth Highlanders and the Jat Regiment. All lights had to be lowered or extinguished. Ginger, not to be put off his food, took the office torch and was later found in the vicinity of the cook-house with bullets flying all around him. This episode of Ginger's upholds the time-honoured belief that an army marches on its stomach, for Ginger certainly is an army where food is concerned.

We have now got used to enemy bullets, and are constantly out on operations around and in the Karawal and Khandan Passes. It was hard going at first, but is now somewhat easier owing to the extensive work of all units in road making—particularly the Sappers and Miners and Pioneers.

The Construction Section, B Corps Signals, are to be congratulated on the good work they have done in laying the permanent route from Bara Fort to Mera Khel Camp.

Things we hear.—That Conker is thinking of taking a course of instruction in motor-cycle trick riding before the next Company scheme commences.

That the B.O.R.s of No. 5 Bungalow will not purchase enamel mugs from the grocery bar, because their colour does not blend with that of the wall paper in the bungalow.

That a certain sergeant does not know that the guard room has been altered.

That quinine, taken in small daily doses, prevents malaria.

TONY RED.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

November 17th.

General.—"Once more unto the breach, dear friends; once more. . ." I have a faint recollection of that quotation having appeared in the notes of this unit many moons ago. However, now that we have again made an appearance, it is hoped that we are here to stay.

R.Q.M.S. Saunders is leaving us this month for Jubbulpore, after a stay of three years with the unit, and the best wishes of the Troop go with him.

Our "band," led by the able Nippy, is practising assiduously for the Christmas festivities. An evening practice that was recently held on the hockey pitch caused great anxiety to a neighbouring quarter-guard (they thought that it—namely the "noise"—was the signal for the commencement of a riot or something similar).

The whole of the summer months were spent in marching backward and forward between Charsadda, Peshawar and Risalpur, but although still on short notice to move out again, we hope to spend Christmas in barracks,

Christmas preparations are proceeding apace, the arrangements having been placed in the hands of separate committees elected by show of hands at a Mess meeting.

Arrivals and Departures.—Arrivals and departures, promotions and appointments, since our last appearance in print, are too numerous to mention. We are sorry to lose those who have left. We extend a glad hand (with grooming brush, in most cases) to arrivals, and congratulate those who have been fortunate enough to catch the eye of the Officer i/c Records.

Five of our old hands left the fold for the Army Reserve in October, namely Corpl Haisell and Signalmen Hoare, Thomas, MacDonald and Wilson, and one other (L/Corpl Crawford) for the home establishment. We also expect to lose another six in January (Sergt Robertson, L/Sergt Handley, L/Cpls Mulholland, Dirs and Ravenhall, and Sigmn Hale.

LINK.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

November 27th.

General.—Our hearty greetings and best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a bright, happy and prosperous New Year are extended to all ranks of the Corps at home and abroad.

We are now in the midst of the training season, and schemes, etc., are coming round very frequently—too frequently to suit the palate of some of the Erbs; but that can't be helped, and they have to bear up.

Armistice Day was observed with all due solemnity and respect. The Troop turned out as strong as possible for church parade, and the few odds and ends left, including Indian ranks, paid homage in the lines.

Birth.—To F/S/Sergt and Mrs. Agar a son, at the Families Hospital, Sialkot, on November 13th. Congratulations to the proud parents. Well done, Shoey!

Tennis.—The finals of the unit tournament have been won and lost. A tennis " at home " and knock-out competition were run in conjunction with the finals, and a very pleasant afternoon ensued. Captain and Mrs. Morgan and Lieut Moberly honoured us with their presence. Mrs. Morgan very kindly presented the prizes. At the conclusion the M.C. called for three cheers for Mrs. Murphy—thereby crediting Spud with a wife! What does it feel like to cut out the C.O., Spud? Except for the dire need of alcohol expressed in your sparkling eyes, you bore the honours laid thick upon you as straight as a bottle!

The results of the finals are as follows: Handicap singles—Sigmn Semmence (scratch) beat Corpl Stanley (—40) by 6—4, 6—1 ; a very enjoyable game, with plenty of hard hitting. Handicap doubles—Sergt Turland and Sigmn James (4/6) beat R.S.M. Cann and Sergt Hinds (—30) by 6—1, 4—6, 8—6 ; a very evenly contested match, with good play on both sides.

The cup for the winner of the singles was very kindly presented by our R.S.M., and is very much appreciated.

Two of the accompanying snaps (taken by Lieut. Moberly) show Mrs. Morgan presenting the cups to the winners. [We presume the other one shows some of the spectators.—ED.]

Special prizes were awarded to Corporal Murphy and Sigmn Younie as best losers. Sergt Horsley (32nd Field Troop R.E.) and Signalman Roebuck were the winners of the knock-out competitions.

The secretary takes this opportunity of thanking all those who helped towards making the tournament a success.

Agony.—To L/Corpl Bell R., A Corps Signals, Aldershot: When are you going to answer that letter?—J.S.

To H.E.H. and Heath, London: Have you been to the Alhambra yet? LANKY.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

General.—This is to wish all units of the Corps, at home and abroad, a bright and happy New Year, and at the same time to commiserate deeply with those unfortunates serving abroad who —like a lot of our hopefuls—have been sweating on the big boat in September, are still sweating, and may possibly be sweating even after *next* Christmas. You and ours have my deepest sympathies. I suppose I don't presume too much in accepting yours? Thanks! Great consolation, isn't it?

Arrivals.—We are anxiously waiting to see those under orders for service in Egypt, but up to date have only received a one-man draft from Palestine: Sigmn E. C. Barnes, who has been posted from No. 2 W/T Company. To him we extend a hearty welcome.

Departures.—The following left us during the month per H.M.T. *Somersetshire*, which sailed from Alexandria on 29th November:—Capt R. C. Woodbridge, posted to home establishment. Corpl Bryan B. J., Signalmen Birt, Baker, Horn and Bailey, for transfer to the Army Reserve. L/Sergeants Ayton A. and George M. on No. 8 Foreman-of-Signals Course. To all ranks we extend our best wishes in their new spheres.

Promotions.—We also congratulate the following on the promotions which have been promulgated during the month:—L/Corpl Cousins B. promoted Corporal, 2/9/30 ; L/Corpl Beach S. promoted Corporal, 26/10/30 ; Sigmn Healey J. appointed paid Lance-Corporal, 2/9/30 ; Sigmn W. Ponsford appointed U/L/Corporal, 18/11/30.

Educational.—Further congratulations are tendered to the following, who competed at the examination for 1st class certificates of education in March, with the results shown:—Signalmen Govey W. E., Lovett F. C. and Pearce T. W. E. passed (" D " in maths).

The following also passed in the subjects shown:—Sergeant Kendall A. G. and L/Sergt Field H. in English and geography ; L/Sergt Schofield J. in mathematics and geography (" D ") ; Sigmn Cooper J. T. in English, mathematics and map reading.

Truly Irish.—A certain Paddy B——, who believes in an adequate supply of fresh air, has been in the habit of sleeping on the verandah of his barrack room. One evening, having knelt at the shrine of Bacchus in the wettest spot of the canteen, he returned at peace with the world. As it became rather chilly in the small hours of the morn, he went around the room to close all the windows, which awoke all the other occupants. Then he retired again to his bed on the verandah. Oh, Paddy! it seems that a little more Irish spirit is required.

This Month's Short Story.—A certain Scotsman was heard to remark that he is smoking Three Nuns cigarettes at present, viz., *nun* yesterday, *nun* to-day, and *nun* to-morrow!

Sergeants' Mess.—A whist drive and dance was held in the Mess on Friday, December 5th. This was voted a great success by all who attended. It was continued until the small hours of the morning, when sundry hectic spirits found life in Egypt rather gay, especially the member who *almost* lost his trousers. No, I won't mention any names, Mac.

It will be of interest to late members of the Mess that the late hours of this dance took the form of an impromptu farewell to S.S.M. McDonald E., R.A.S.C., who has been a member of the Mess for some time and is being repatriated to the U.K. Many members of the Mess turned out to bid him bon voyage from Cairo station on Sunday morning, when he left for Port Said for embarkation per the s.s. *Mantua*. As he is being posted to Aldershot for duty, no doubt he will soon renew old acquaintances at the Signals Mess there.

Shanghai Signal Section.

November 24th.

General.—A happy and prosperous New Year to everyone! This is the month when all of us turn over a new leaf ; and, because habit is so strong upon us, the majority usually sink into the same old routine again ere the month is out.

Well, as far as it concerns this unit, trooping is over until the 1931-32 season, and then we *will* sit up and take notice. After saying farewell to umpteen troopers, we are all looking forward to that big *last* farewell, when the waving will be in our favour.

Major-General O. C. Borrett, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., conducted his annual inspection of the Section and lines on Wednesday, the 19th inst. The turn-out was smart, the drill good, and the work of the Section was of the highest order.

General Borrett is handing over the Command in the near future, and all heartily agree that we shall lose a very capable and highly esteemed commander.

Arrivals and Departures.—There are not many of either to report, but in a small Section such as ours, the smallest change means much.

Sigmn Beminster was the first to depart, and in taking him Tientsin has robbed us of a jolly fine fellow.

We bade a sad farewell to the following, who left us for destinations as shown. Sergt Whittle, Corpl Hirst and Signalman Jones C. for U.K. (all time-ex.). Sergt Whittle is returning to civilian life after twenty-two years service (hide those dodgers, you young soldiers!) and we all unite in wishing him the very best in the future; also to Corpl Hirst and Sigmn Jones—may they get a good billet and settle down quickly.

Departed for Hong Kong: Signalmen Cameron, Taylor W., Powley, Maguire and Ghost. "We don't want to lose you, but we know you've got to go." Oh, dear! these inexorable troopers and this army of "ships that pass in the night"!

We welcome the following from U.K. and Hong Kong per H.M.T. *Neuralia*: Sergt Griffith, wife and family, Sergt Higham and wife, and L/Corpl Bowie, from U.K.; and Corpl Lewis, Signalmen Stock, Ambrose and Keeble from Hong Kong. Last, but not least, Sigmn Dicks arrived from Tientsin. May their stay in the land of fireworks be a happy one!

GADBS Calling (8600 kilo-cycles).—The Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce arrived at Shanghai in her solo machine on November 14th on her gallant flight from the West to the Far East. Mrs. Bruce alighted at Hungjao Aerodrome and was accorded a hearty reception.

Mr. W. A. G. Price (ex R.A.F. and i/c operations at the Aerodrome) sent a note to our wireless fiend (L/Corpl Penny) asking him to endeavour to locate a fault in the wireless set of the plane—and of course Mr. Penny obliged, complete in Russian suit. The fault was in the wind-driven generator armature, which became damaged when the machine crashed at Jask. It was very difficult to make a thorough overhaul, owing to the inaccessibility of the transmitter and the short time available for effecting repairs, but a temporary repair was executed and Mrs. Bruce was able to resume her flight.

Photograph.—The illustration this month depicts a portion of Jessfield Park, Shanghai. This park is about the nearest approach one can get here in Shanghai to English scenery. It will be observed that the picture shows some idols and images carved from marble and stone.

Jessfield Park is a household name here, and, I would say, the Hyde Park of Shanghai. To this spot of beauty and freshness flock hundreds of people of all nationalities, and of course the inevitable nursemaid (or amah) with her young charges.

Jessfield Camp, in which is stationed part of one of our infantry battalions, adjoins the Park.

A zoo is one of the many attractions of which the Park boasts.

On a fine hot day the Park presents a beautiful colour scheme: Japanese maidens in their bright dresses, and the little children (with their brightly-coloured parasols held aloft) gambolling like so many young lambs over the green sward. Truly a glimpse of home!

The Scotsman's Corner.—Will No. 2316860 write to No. 2316857? What about it, Mac?

To Topper, No. 3 Company, A Corps: Do you still remember Sadie? Jock.

To B.B. (late of Shanghai): Waiting for you. Jona and Jock.

DEBROY.

Extension.—Sigmn Taylor to complete eight years with the Colours. His only regret is that he could not take on for the pontoon all at once. Sigmn Pullen, of A Corps, Aldershot, please note.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, Oct. 16th.

Training.—The training season commenced on Tuesday, 7th October, with No. 1 scheme. Advanced Headquarters were established at Kai Tack, with three Brigade H.Q.s operating in the New Territories. The weather being ideal, operations opened at 7.45 a.m. and a steady flow of traffic was maintained until 13.00 hours. Amongst the various means of communication used during the war was one known as "comic airline," but here we go one better. It would interest readers of THE WIRE if they could see our "Comic Cable Detachment"—a dozen Chinese coolies—wrestling with a barrow and a mile of cable three parts of the way up the side of a 1200 ft. hill, which is really a rock.

With the arrival of the latest type A set, the W/T Section will be able to show their abilities in No. 2 scheme.

Entertainments.—The weather being more settled, the Section decided to run a dance on the tennis court on Saturday, October 4th. Captain R. R. A. Darling and Lieut H. Gough and their wives honoured us with their presence, and owing to the large number present, it was decided to run a dance every fortnight.

Sport.—Our tennis team have now completed their league fixtures. They were unlucky in their last game with the R.A., losing by 4—5 when a win would have entitled them to compete for the Kowloon championship.

L/Corpl Penny was beaten in the final of the Y.M.C.A. Services singles championship, but is to be congratulated on reaching that stage.

Football and cricket are now in full swing and by all accounts we shall be stronger in the latter game. E.H.S.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

British H.Q., November 25th.

Arrivals.—We welcome L/Corpl Ralph J. from Tidworth and Sigmn Beminster R. from Shanghai, and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

Departures.—L/Corpl Dick Salmon and Signalmen Dicks R. and Jennings R. left us on the 16th to embark on the *Neuralia* at Chinwangtao. All three have different destinations.

L/Corpl Salmon, who is going home, has served four years in China, being one of the original Shaforce. He came from Shanghai to Tientsin late in 1927, at a time when our staff was but a fraction of its present strength. He has spent much of the time at Peking, being n.c.o. i/c for about twelve months, and his conscientious attention to duty gained him a good name from the Commandant and Staff of the Legation Guard. His capacity for "keeping at it" is known best to those who served with him—one particular period being the summer and autumn of 1928, when the retreating Chinese Northern Armies necessitated the creation of "Treforce." A good journey and a good Station, Dick! You deserve both.

Sigmn Dicks, destined for Shanghai, was on the staff of Wei Hai Wei when the Station was taken over by this Section in December, 1929. He came to Tientsin last June, and has spent several weeks on our Peking Station.

Sigmn Jennings, bound for Hong Kong, joined us from that Station in August last year. He has served at Tientsin, Peking and Shanhaikuan.

Both signalmen are useful short-wave operators, and will be assets to their new Stations, where we wish them the best of luck.

Junior Staff Mess.—The Mess lived up to its reputation on November 8th, when a farewell dinner and smoker was held in honour of departing members. The arrangements reflected great credit on the committee, and members of the Corps did their share. Dusters showed his artistic talents in the decorations; Viv. made an efficient chairman; and Tim's handling of the five-pint jug would enable him to pass a test as barman, class i.

The Chinese Puzzle.—The situation has somewhat clarified since we last touched on this subject, and the militarists appear to be really striving for peace. This being so, we hope that at least some of our staff will be able to "stand easy" on Christmas Day.

HSING-HAI.

Aden Signal Section.

December 1st.

General.—It is too late to wish everybody a merry Christmas, but not to wish all units at home and abroad a happy New Year.

Aden Signal Section.

Owing to the lack of happenings, notes for THE WIRE have been scarce, but if anybody has missed them, I will apologise. Appeals have been broadcast amongst the Section for anything that may be of interest to readers, but the result was—well, just as it was before. So you will have to put up with this.

We are at present preparing for the grand slam at Christmas, and members of the Gannet's Club have decided on an "easing-up course" for a week prior to the event. So non-members are applying for ten minutes start.

Indoor Sports.—Bridge is played by a select few. The following bidding was heard at the round table the other day. Patricia: "One club." Wobbly: "Pass—no bid." Alphonse: "One heart." Winnie (just learning): "Two spades—the deuce and the trey." Exit the players in a mad dash for the ice-chest. Patricia wishes to state that she has retired from all sport and has given her ludo boards, etc., to the sweeper.

Entertainments.—The Aden Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society presented a variety entertainment in aid of the Poppy Week Fund, but owing to the lack of seating accommodation several would-be spectators were absent. From the account of an individual who got in twice, "buckshee," it was a good show and worth the entrance money. Also in aid of the Poppy Fund, a football match was arranged between the Command and the natives. The result was a draw, both sides being off colour.

Departures.—Sigmn Greenaway J. to the home establishment for transfer to the Reserve. We wish him the best of luck in his new sphere, and wonder if Mr. Records will bestow upon us another umpire and referee to take his place.

Arrivals.—We are still waiting for any one who may find their way here, and can assure them of a welcome.

Hospital.—During November, nobody qualified for entrance to this abode of peace—which must be a record for the Section. Sergt Beverly rejoined us after an operation at the beginning of the month, and is now looking forward to the next. However, he is bearing up.

Photographs.—Somebody has purloined the photos I was going to send, so they must wait until next month. If any members of other units are interested in "snap" collecting, they can always exchange with

SEASHORE.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, December 10th.

General.—It is some time since news of Gibraltar was heard through THE WIRE, but, dear readers, mine is a sad lot when I have to sort out Part II.s and A.F.O. 1848's to find something interesting. After many sleepless nights and much racking of brains (I have not given them all to *The Daily Mail*) I have found something to write about.

Before we tell you what we have done and have not done, though, we must wish all ranks of the Corps a happy and prosperous New Year.

We have had to say goodbye to our late O.C., Captain J. C. McDonald, M.C., who left us on Dec. 5th for U.K. prior to taking up the appointment of D.A.A.G. at the War Office. At the same time we extend a hearty welcome to his relief, Captain B. H. House, who joined us on November 19th, and trust that his stay with us will be a happy one.

From a perusal of various records, we find that Captain McDonald's departure is a loss not only to the Section but also to the Garrison, in that he was president of the Garrison Rowing Club—a club started by Major R. P. A. Helps. We have the consolation, however, that the presidency is still in the hands of Signals, and that Captain House will still further improve it.

Our sporting events have not been very notable so far, but a complete list of results will be given in the February issue.

We have entered a football team in "B" League, and although we have not yet won a match, we are very proud of the fact that as Signals we had entered; a complete eleven from a Section only twenty-six strong is good going.

Owing to lack of space and a heap of casualties, these General notes must be short and sweet. I will include anything outstanding in next month's Journal.

When the troopers have finished coming and going, it is proposed to give the names of the Section, to enable old "half-backs" to know of each other's whereabouts. The Section will be pleased to see any Royal Signals who visit Gibraltar during their travels to and from abroad.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following, and hope that they find the Station to their liking. Sergt Rankin J. D. and family from 4th Divl Signals, Colchester; L/Corporal Gavins W. and family from 5th Divl Signals, Scarborough; and the wife and family of Corporal Hardy R.

Departure.—Sigmn Purrington A. left us on December 5th for the U.K. for transfer to the Army Reserve. The best of luck to him in his undertakings!

Promotions.—Our congratulations are extended to the following on their respective promotions (come here in troopers, and go away in liners-de-luxe): Sergt Hart C. to be C.Q.M.S.; L/Corpl Parry C. to be Corporal.

Certificates (of sorts).—More congratulations! To L/Cpl Cook and Signalmen Poulton G. and Purrington A. on being presented with the National Life Saving Society's certificate and bronze medallion; and to Corpl Hardy on passing in maths. for his 1st class certificate.

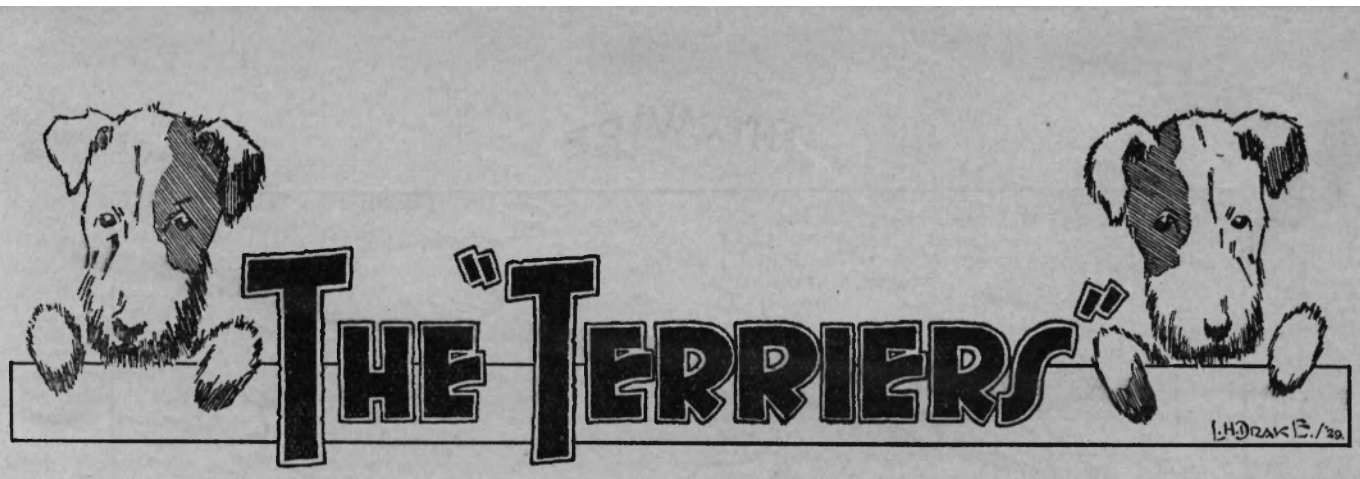
Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Clewlow, a daughter (Valerie Joy).

Anti-Dole-ites.—The following have decided that the Service is really a "home from home" and have elected to continue: Sigmn Saunders to complete twenty-one years, and Signalman O'Brien to complete twelve.

Agony.—To D.L.: What about an answer (schnell machen)? B.

Compliments.—We must compliment the author of "Think It Over" on his article. In my opinion, it is very true, and it is the duty of everyone to thoroughly study it before contemplating the plunge into civvy life. After all, the Service is pretty good compared with years ago, and the little burdens that one has to bear are fairly light.

R.D.H.



26th and 27th (London) Anti-Aircraft Signal Companies.

56 Regency Street, S.W.1

Annual Dinner.—On Saturday, December 6th, we held our annual dinner, and over a hundred of those whom Mr. Grover calls "our brave ones" sat down, under the chairmanship of our hon. colonel, Colonel O. W. Nicholson, M.P., to an excellent repast, which was followed by a concert.

Before the concert, the toast of "Our Guests" was most admirably proposed by Major Wickins. His charming references to the fertility of his fellow Company commander only provoked the retort that, next year, the tables would be turned. I hope I am spared to witness the return match! Responses (suitably embellished with stories) came from Colonel Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., and ex-C.S.M. Arnold. [See next page for the unit artist's idea of the inter-Company rivalry referred to.—ED.]

Then Colonel Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding the 26th Air Defence Brigade, gave us the toast of ourselves, to which—after our C.O. (Colonel Carter, T.D.) had responded—we all drank with great gusto. Up to that time, half of us had never realised what jolly good fellows we really are ; and even Mr. Boggis was heard to admit that there might be something in it.

I am not going to attempt to name all the artistes who entertained us afterwards. Suffice it to say that they all gave of their best, and next time, I am taking a *big* note book to take down all Mr. Grover's stories.

The presentation of the challenge cups by the Chairman showed how evenly the Companies are matched. The 26th Company have won three and the 27th have won three, and the remaining one has been shared in true brotherly spirit.

The Adjutant.—Now that I have really seen it in Orders, I take it that I can let the world know that Captain Rogers has departed for the land of arsenals and multiplication tables, and that Captain F. W. S. Jourdain reigns in his stead. Of course, we have known Captain Jourdain for some time now, and we all like him, and I can only add that I hope he likes us and will enjoy his stay with us.

J.F.T.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

By now you should have got over Christmas—and I hope you have had a good one. All the very best for the New Year! The outlook of the unit is more promising than ever, and training should go forward by leaps and bounds.

Annual Prize Distribution.—This, our greatest social event, took place on Saturday, November 29th, and was a huge success. The weather conditions being milder than usual, the drill hall (which is not heated) was not quite so cold, and with the aid of a barrier of waggons dressed with bunting, a very picturesque enclosure was made. The platform was decorated with plants, coloured lights, and Chinese lanterns.

Our C.O. (Colonel R. S. Newton, M.C.) presided, and was supported by Colonel Sir William Coates, K.C.B., C.B.E., V.D., T.D., F.R.C.S. (who presented the prizes), the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Ald. G. F. Titt), Major-General W. H. Beach, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Divisional Commander) and Lieut.-Colonel Allan (C.S.O. Western Command).

Amongst the large and distinguished assembly of guests were Colonel T. Blatherwick (commanding the 127th Infantry Brigade), Colonel Wolstenholme (A.D.M.S.), Colonel Sowler (Hon. Colonel 52nd Brigade R.A.), Colonel Bentley (Hon. Colonel 8th Battalion Manchester Regiment, T.A.), Lieut.-Colonel B. Palin Dobson, T.D., Mr. J. Maxwell (Chief Constable), and Mr. T. E. Herbert, M.I.E.E. (Supt. Engineer, G.P.O.).

The C.O. said that the unit had made a considerable advance this year in organisation and technical efficiency ; and the average number of drills throughout the unit for the year was 55.2, which showed considerable keenness. He hoped that before next annual training we should be at full strength.

Both Sir William Coates (Chairman of the East Lancs. Territorial Association) and the Divisional Commander complimented the unit on its progress. The latter said he considered Signals one of the best-turned-out units of the Division at Kinmel Park camp in 1930. The Lord Mayor concluded with an excellent recruiting speech.

No. 1 Company (Captain E. R. Sutton, M.S.M.) won both the inter-Company trophy and the Dobson cup. No. 1 Detachment B Section (under Corpl Kewley) carried off the Telegraph cup. A Section (Lieut E. L. Ellis) captured the Roberts cup. 2/Lieut T. A. H. Lea (No. 3 Company) won the Subalterns cup.

Many compliments have been received on the huge success of the function, and great credit is due to Major R. Lazenby, Capt Sketch (adjutant), the P.S.I., and our caretaker (ex-R.Q.M.S. Jones). Next year we hope to be in our new headquarters, where we shall certainly break all records.

Personal.—Under this heading there are several items this month.

First of all, we are sorry to lose Lieut E. Ellis, who has transferred to the S.R. ; but as they have their headquarters with us, it is not as though he is really lost.

We welcome 2/Lieut Baldwin to the unit, and will now proceed to whisper to him all the best things that Signals ought to know (on this matter, the adjutant is *not* always consulted, I fear).

Sergt Watts, we most sincerely congratulate you on your promotion to Acting C.S.M.. At the same time, we should like to know whether the rumour that you have put on four stone in celebrating it is true (perhaps it has been a little exaggerated!)

The Territorial efficiency medal has just been presented to C.Q.M.S. Edmonds, and we offer him our best congratulations.

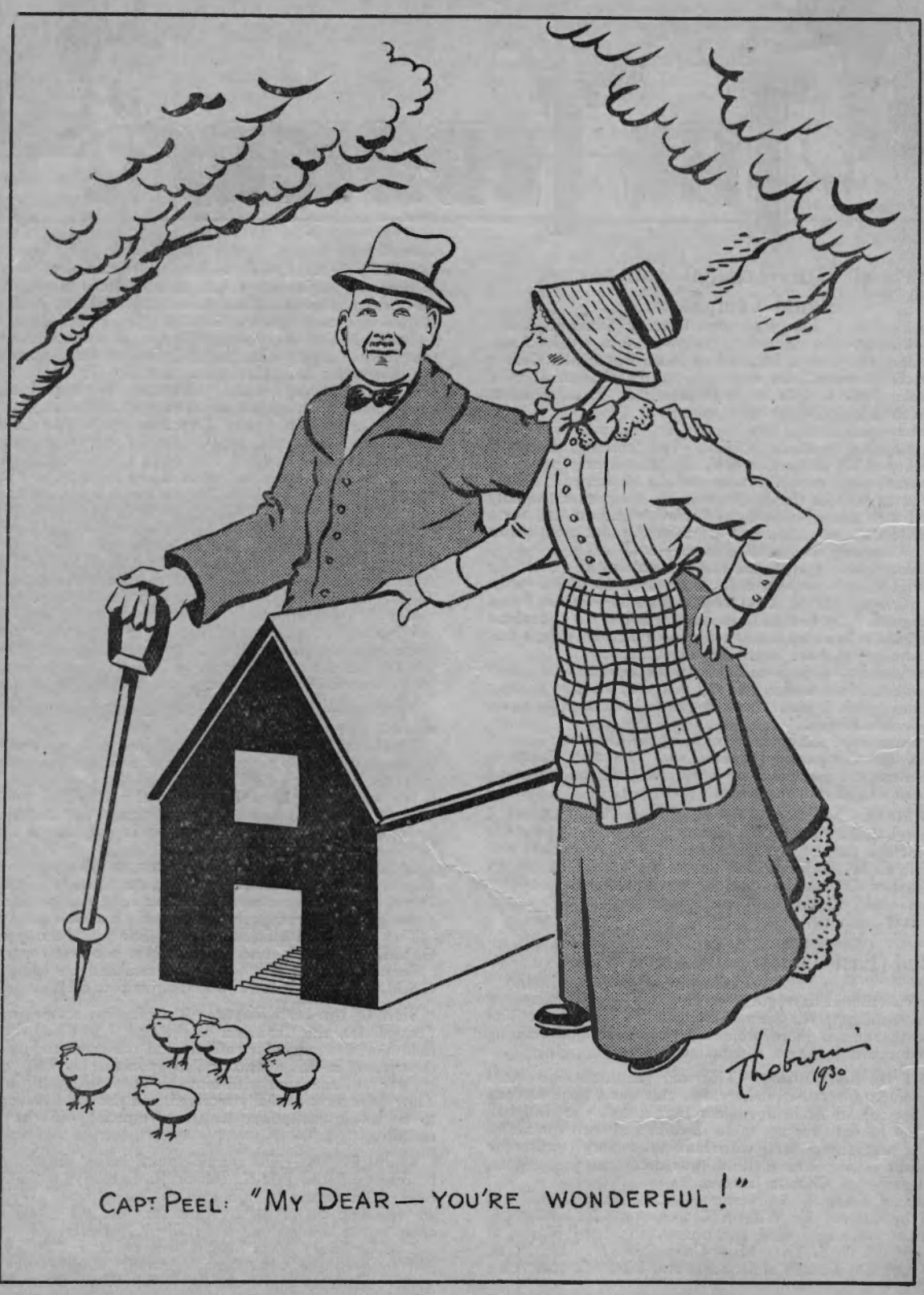
Sergt Daulby is also to be congratulated on being promoted C.S.M. (my word! now, you lads, jump to it!)

Visit to the Lord Mayor.—A deputation comprising the Divl Commander, the Chairman of the East Lancs. Territorial Association, our commanding officer, and the commanding officers of other units in this district, called upon the Lord Mayor of Manchester and discussed with him the Territorial work in this area. They were most cordially received, and the Lord Mayor promised to do all in his power to assist, especially in the matter of recruiting.

Social Events.—The second annual ladies' dinner was a great success, and the P.M.C. (Major R. Lazenby) is to be complimented on arranging things so extremely well. We hope that the thinking out of the treasure hunt did not give him a headache, as the whole thing was really very clever.

The Sergeants' Mess held two dances and a children's party, just to keep the wheels going round. All three events were jolly good shows and most successful. Only those who get up these things know the work involved, and we compliment all who organised them on the success of their efforts.

JIMMEE.



The Officers commanding the 26th and 27th (London) Anti-Aircraft Signal-Companies have been engaged in a little friendly rivalry, and we have pleasure in presenting a picture of their activities.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

As it is getting towards Christmas, our notes for the month have to be "rushed," I fear.

We held a most successful officers and n.c.o.s week-end course on November 28th/30th, and there was a most satisfactory attendance. We did some W/T with C sets, some map reading, and some cable laying, which—with a few lectures from the O.C., the adjutant and the R.S.M.—made a very interesting and instructive week-end.

On November 28th a Company dance was held, which provided an exceedingly enjoyable evening. Corpl Lee and Sigmn Woodley must feel proud of the success of their efforts.

On December 12th a "poultry" whist drive was held, and thanks to the pep put into the affair by R.S.M. West, there were twenty-nine tables in play—a record for any of our whist drives. The fortunate winners of turkeys, ducks and fowls have now happily solved the Christmas dinner problem!

Pip of No. 2 Company was pleased to greet a representative from No. 1 Company at their annual dinner at Southampton on November 22nd, and we greatly appreciate the kind hospitality of Pip and Mrs. Pip to one of ours. Perhaps, next year, we can return the compliment to one of No. 2's merry crowd. Will Pip please enter this upon his list of "things to be remembered"? Perhaps the C.Q.M.S. can remind him.

OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

The event of the year took place at the drill hall, Totton, on Saturday, November 22nd, when our first annual dinner was held. It went off very successfully, and for a first effort all agree that it was a good show.

We were delighted to have the commanding officer with us for this event. He was supported by His Worship the Mayor of Southampton and many other distinguished guests. We were also pleased to welcome Mr. Edwards (representing No. 3 Company) and Corpl Wright (from No. 1). We hope they enjoyed it as much as we did. R.S.M. West was also a welcome guest.

During the evening a new song was sung, and I feel that it is worthy of being reproduced, although I offer apologies to a famous song writer:—

Sitting in his old store tent, as happy as can be,
One can see old Freddy, there; a jolly chap is he.
You say you want a hundred yards of Army cable line—
Before you go, of course you know, he'd like you just to sign.

You sign for your tunic, sign for your hat,
Sign for a football, wickets or bat;
You gotta just keep signing all day—
Fred's funny that way.

Whilst in camp one night, I heard a horse say "Nay! nay! nay!"
There was Freddy trying to make him sign for his hay.
You sign for a lanyard, jack knife, or bed;
Sign for D.iii. or a cold in the head;
You gotta just keep signing all day—
Fred's funny that way.

Can anyone guess to whom it refers? No prizes are offered!

Sergt-Instr. Purseglove was very glad to be able to represent this Company at Devonport on the occasion of No. 3 Company's dinner, and thanks them for the very great welcome they gave him. He says it was good, too, to meet old Charlie and friends of other days.

We must close now with a last wish that Nos. 1 and 3 Companies have a very happy and prosperous New Year. May the friendly rivalry that exists at present in the good old "43rd" always remain as it is to-day.

PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

On December 6th the Company's annual dinner was held in Devonport, and the record number of a hundred and twelve sat down. We were honoured with the presence of The Lord Basing (our commanding officer, who journeyed all the way from Basingstoke to be present), Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. (D.C.S.O. Southern Command, whom all ranks were delighted to see once more in Devonport), Major J. W. Western, T.D. (O.C. No. 1 Company), Captain G. W. Odell, R.Signals (adjutant), Captain M. N. Ford, and representatives from Nos. 1 and 2 Companies.

The toasts of "Our Commanding Officer, the Adjutant and Permanent Staff," "Our Guests," and "Success to Nos. 1 and 2 Companies" were heartily received, and our congratulations are extended to No. 2's representative, Sergt Purseglove, on his witty reply.

A very enjoyable evening was spent. Old Spark and Captain Cornelius were honoured with a special song by Captain Noel Ford, and Mr. Edwards and his cabaret troupe from Topsham gave general delight.

In order to avoid the night journey back to Topsham, J Section spent the night in the drill hall; and from all accounts, Charlie and all ranks slept like tops, not waking till Ernie brought the early tea!

Heard after the dinner (3 a.m. on the 7th)—Captain (newly married): "Where the —— are my —— keys?"

THREECOY.

No. 223 (Bristol) Section.

For the first time we have a piece of copy from our Bristol friends.

On Tuesday, November 18th, by the kind permission of the Postmaster-Surveyor of Bristol, they spent a most interesting and instructive evening in the telegraph room of the P.O., Bristol.

The party was conducted over the building by Mr. Bruce Owens, D.C.M. (of the P.O. staff, and an ex-member of "the Signals.")

This is the second of such visits; the telephone room had been thoroughly "inspected" by the Bristol Section on a previous occasion.

Well done, Bristol! You are a strong limb of the old tree—the Wessex Signals.

OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

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

We are breaking into print, if only to leave less space for our No. 2 Company at Brighton. We have no photos, but hope to get an original copy of the "Retreat from Worthing" for a future issue.

Training.—This has been going on since October, and is well under way. By the time July comes, we hope to show the inhabitants of Canterbury something good in the way of signalling. All ranks are hereby warned that Cricket Week at Canterbury coincides with our arrival. The Mayor (for economical reasons) will probably make the same display of bunting serve a double purpose.

Shooting.—It seems a waste of time to report that our "dead eyes" again won the Middlesex Justices shield. This is the sixth time in ten years that the trophy has been brought to this unit. A little bird whispers that, to celebrate having won it four times in succession, a replica is to be struck and presented.

Annual Dinners.—Both the sergeants' and all ranks' annual dinners were held in November, and each event deserves a column to itself; but they can be described in a few words by saying they were excellent shows, and the sergeants were particularly pleased at the strong contingent that came up from Brighton.

Dances.—The weekly dances are a pronounced success, and the M.C. has accumulated nearly enough lost property to start the business he is saving up for. So far his stock consists of seven ladies' handkerchiefs, one garter (blue), one brooch, and a hat that unfortunately does not fit.

Recruits.—There has been quite a rush of these, and we look to them to carry on the good work.

Boxing.—Boxing on a serious scale is about to be undertaken, and we are lucky in having with us as coach ex-Signalman Richmond, who was well known in Corps boxing circles.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Ball A. E. and Reynolds H. G., and Drivers Cole J. F. and Bath W. F.

Departures.—Sergt Forest W. G. and Sigmn Trotter.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—I must apologise for the absence of our Christmas greetings in my last notes, and hasten to wish all members throughout the world a very happy New Year. We have every reason to anticipate an enjoyable year, and that we shall continue to be as successful as in the past training year.

Now that the Territorial 1930/31 training year has commenced, recruits have commenced to come in and Part II. Orders show attestations once more. We have every reason to think that the Company will at last be up to strength before the annual training at camp. This is due in no small measure to the activities of our P.S.I.

Yet another piece of furniture has been added to the Company office in the form of a distribution board showing at a glance " Who's who and what's what " in the Company. There is also a chart which shows how every operator in the Company is progressing in his trade. These are very useful additions, and the persons at headquarters responsible for these ideas are to be congratulated.

Signal Terms Illustrated. No. 6: "A.R." (Message ends)

F Section.—It has been officially decided that the Section shall in future be known as the 226th Signal Section. They will be responsible for the communications of the Kent Yeomanry Brigade. They have been allotted extra accommodation at Lewes, where our P.S.I. has been getting things into shape. One room is being transformed into a Brigade signal office, and another is being used as a club room.

Concert.—The usual monthly concert is being held on 18th December, but as these notes have to reach the Editor by the 16th, this will be dealt with in our next notes.

Company Annual Dinner.—This is being held on January 17th—not as previously announced. The postponement has been made to enable our chief guests to be present. Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, please note. We are looking forward to seeing a lot of you present at this gathering.

Sergeants' Mess Dinner.—This was held at the unit headquarters at Stamford Brook on November 6th. Several members of No. 2 Company attended. After a very enjoyable evening, they stayed the night at Stamford Brook and on the following day went on to Radlett, Herts, the home of our late R.S.M. Jack Lovell. He is now the licensee of the Railway Hotel. After enjoying themselves to the full, they left for home, arriving back at Brighton in the early evening of the 7th, after spending a very successful week-end.

Schemes.—We commence our activities again on January 10th, and hope to continue these Sunday schemes until annual training is due.

Annual Training.—The usual rumours are afloat. It is to be Canterbury this year, and there is to be only one camp this year for No. 2 (I can imagine our P.S.I. giving a sigh of relief!)

Musketry Cup.—Our Company has had the honour to win this cup, and I am sure that everyone will endeavour to retain it next year. As musketry practice commences on December 11th, everyone will have ample time and practice to show that previous records do not belie them.

Trade Cup.—We have also been awarded this cup for having the greatest number of trained men. We have plenty of recruits who will, we think, turn out good operators.

From the last two paragraphs it will be seen that we can do something besides writing WIRE Notes, Nos. 1 and 3.

NIMROD.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Captain J. H. Brown, M.M., who has taken up the appointment of adjutant to the unit, and we trust that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Winter Training.—By the time these notes appear, the first three sixty-hour courses for training operators during the winter months will have been completed.

Arrangements have been made for a further three courses to be carried out before the training season commences, and it is hoped that a large number of men will be in a position to pass the Trade Testing Board on the completion of them.

Entertainments.—Companies have now directed their attention to winter entertainments, and several whist drives and dances have already been held.

A smoking concert was specially arranged at Aberdeen by the w.o.s and sergeants, to welcome our new adjutant (Capt. Brown) to Bon-Accord and give him an opportunity of meeting the mess members before the training period.

In addition to the *serving comedians* and singers, the vocal and instrumental talent produced by the committee was a huge success, and no effort was spared to make the evening's entertainment suitable to the occasion.

In introducing the w.o.s and sergeants to Captain Brown, the chairman (R.S.M. Cooper H. R.) caused some amusement by his witty remarks on each member.

In the course of his reply, Captain Brown said that he was delighted to find that he had been posted to the 51st, as this unit was recognised to be one of the most efficient Territorial Divisional Signals. He paid high tribute to all n.c.o.s for their share of the work in bringing the unit to its high state of efficiency. He also said that if he obtained the same assistance from the n.c.o.s as his predecessor (Captain B. H. House), he would feel certain that the present standard would be maintained.

We were all very pleased to have with us our commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E.) who had come from Stirling for the occasion. Captain T. P. E. Murray, O.C. No. 1 Company, and the officers of the Aberdeen Company, turned out in force. It was also pleasing to note that all the Mess members were present.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff.

Now that Christmas festivities have subsided, we wish everyone, near and far, a very happy New Year.

The chief happenings during the past month have been of a social nature, the first of which was the annual dinner in connection with the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. This function was attended by about a hundred members and visitors, including nearly all our serving officers. The chief guest of the evening was Lieut.-Colonel A. Heir Davies, D.S.O., T.D., secretary of the Glamorgan Territorial Association. A very pleasant evening was spent under ideal conditions. This was the first dinner to be held at home in our drill hall, and it proved an unqualified success. The musical items left nothing to be desired. During

his speech, our commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Seel, M.C.) mentioned our good work at camp last year, and his hopes of extra efforts to go still one better next year.

Smoking Concert.—A very well attended smoking concert was held on November 29th to say farewell and Godspeed to R.S.M. Freemantle. During a break in a most enjoyable evening, he was made the recipient of a cheque and a tankard (suitably inscribed) by the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess in appreciation of his work and help in the short time he had been with them. In a few well chosen words R.S.M. Freemantle expressed his thanks to the Mess for their tokens of esteem and the wholehearted support given to him by all during his tour of duty with the unit.

Dances.—The premier drill hall in Cardiff, at Dumfries Place, has been transformed into a luxurious ballroom, really wonderful effects being obtained with some softly-blending blue muslin and ornamental columns placed at intervals round the walls. The first to take advantage of the committee's excellent work were the w.o.s and n.c.o.s of the Glamorgan Territorials. This is the second annual dance held in this connection, and like the first it was given full support by all units in Glamorgan.

One of the social functions of South Wales last month was the Glamorgan Territorial Army Association ball held at the same place. The Western Command was represented by Colonel and Mrs. Longhorne. Among those from this unit were Lieut.-Col. R. C. Seel, Major Fawcett, and Captains Tayleur, Hawkins and Trice.

Obituary.—We regret to record the death of L/Sergt Smith H. J., of No. 2 Company, which took place with tragic suddenness on November 14th whilst he was at work in the pit at Pontypridd. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and family in their bereavement.

Congratulations.—We extend our hearty congratulations to Sergt O'Connor D. J. on being appointed R.S.M. of the unit. He has already served as P.S.I. to No. 1 Company, and his extended tour is greatly to the satisfaction of all members of the unit.

Arrivals.—Sergt Ellerbeck A. J. from India, to fill the vacancy on the P.S. May his stay be pleasant! His month's leave is certain to give him a good impression to kick off with.

A son to Corpl and Mrs. F. S. Smith (of S.R. fame). Congratulations, Sid! There is still a vacant seat in the Baby Austin.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

Here's wishing everybody in the Corps a happy New Year!

No. 3 (Southend) Company held a boxing tournament with D Company 6th Battalion Essex Regiment on November 22nd, and lost by one point, although they made a very good show. Two men from headquarters (Sigmn Bird and Driver Gosling) won their fights.

The unit held a monthly dance in headquarters drill hall on December 6th, which turned out a very pleasant affair, some hundred couples being on the floor.

The officers held a dinner at headquarters on the 11th, at which many senior Signal officers of the Eastern Command were present.

No. 2 Company held their annual dinner on the 13th inst. A very good concert party (the Nomads) enlivened the evening, and a comedy sketch was presented by members of G Section. Sigmn Detenon certainly makes a very charming young lady.

The unit children's Christmas party is to take place on 3rd January, and this event is being eagerly looked forward to by the juveniles. Even some of the older ones are hoping there will be a Punch and Judy show!

The Divisional boxing meeting takes place at Northampton on February 14th. We hope to send some representatives and to furnish some winners to represent the Division in the T.A. championships at the Stadium Club on March 25th and 26th.

Old friends will be sorry to hear that C.S.M. Leckie, P.S.I., was admitted to hospital on November 24th, suffering from pneumonia. He is at present in the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, but is progressing favourably.

Y.E.D.

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55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

38 Mason Street, Liverpool.

The year 1930 is now rapidly approaching its close, and it is perhaps natural that we should indulge in a little retrospection, in an endeavour to detach from the tangle of memories which come back to us something of value to be retained for further use.

Besides thinking of the past, we meditate upon the future and wonder what measure of success will attend our efforts in 1931.

The beginning of 1930 saw the advent of a new system of training for officers, n.c.o.s and picked men. Many week-end schemes were organised, and the party went out in buses (hired for the purpose) to fresh ground twenty or thirty miles away, where the tactical side of signalling was considered in relation to that particular area, and our conclusions compared with the pre-conceived ideas we had formed from a study of the ordnance map of the district. Valuable discussion followed, and from all points of view the training was a "signal" success. We are all looking forward to schemes of a similar nature in the coming year.

The officers' dance took place at the Adelphi in Liverpool on Thursday, December 11th. It was a well-attended and enjoyable function, and everybody voted it a great success.

The children of the n.c.o.s and men are by this time looking forward to the Christmas parties to be held on Saturday, Dec. 20th—by No. 2 Company at Prescot and by Nos. 1 and 3 Companies at headquarters. These functions are always extremely enjoyable, both for the grown-ups who feel that the spirit of Christmas allows them to indulge in childish pranks without loss of dignity, and for the younger fry who realise that Christmas is all their own.

By the time this appears in print, it will be 1931—so a happy New Year to everybody!

FIVE-FIVE.

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return ?

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Corps Rugby Matches.

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers.—Played on the Command central ground at Aldershot on Monday, November 17th. The weather conditions were very gloomy and raw.

The game started with an interchange of touch kicks, which left the Sappers in our twenty-five. From a scrum the ball came out to the Sapper left wing, Corpl Powell, who scored in the corner. The goal kick failed. Following the kick off, the Signal forwards carried the ball well into the Sapper half, but a free kick for feet up in the scrum brought back play to the halfway line.

The Sappers gained possession in all the early scrums. Sigmn Etchells changed the aspect of affairs with a long kick, which bounced the wrong way at the corner flag. From the drop out Lieut. Milner marked, and following some scrambling play on the twenty-five Corpl Harbin got touch near the Sapper line. Weight told, however, and the Sapper forwards rushed us off the ball right down the field to our twenty-five. Here Sigmn Ward got offside, but the kick at goal failed.

Immediately afterwards Signals were awarded a free kick for obstruction, and Sigmn Etchells got touch near the corner flag with a beautiful kick. Signals could not get the ball out, and Lieut Kellett intercepted and gave the ball to the Sapper three-quarters. A good passing movement ended in Lieutenant Kellett scoring under the posts. Hornby converted.

From the kick off the Sapper forwards again rushed the ball into the Signals twenty-five, where, when a try seemed almost certain, Sigmn Taylor gathered the ball from the feet of the Sapper forwards and got in a clever kick which found touch in their twenty-five. Signalman Moore was hurt at this point, but not enough to put him out of the game. Scrambling end-to-end play continued, and half-time found the Sappers pressing. Half-time score: Royal Engineers 8 points, Royal Signals nil.

On the resumption two free kicks for offside against the Signals failed. The Sappers were getting the ball out from most of the scrums, but the Signal defence was good—Corpl Harbin's tackling in particular. Eventually Signals were forced to touch down. From the drop out scrambling play ensued, and Lieut Kellett tried to drop a goal. The ball fell short, and after an exchange of touch kicks Sigmn Robertson marked. His kick found touch at the centre.

Weight again told, and the Sapper forwards dribbled the ball right down to the Signals line, where a touch down gave relief. A free kick to Signals for offside took the play from twenty-five to twenty-five by a long kick by Sigmn Etchells. This was the last event of note, and time found play in mid-field. Result: Royal Engineers, one goal and one try (8 points); R.Signals, nil.

The undermentioned represented the Royal Signals: Sigmn Fraser; Lieut Tucker, Corpl Harbin, Lieut Morriss. Signalman Moore; Signalmen Etchells and Robertson; Driver Ward, Lieut Severin, Corpl Staerck, 2/Lieut Purser, Lieut Milner, Signalman Taylor, Corpl Saddler and Sigmn Beckett.

Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery.—On Wednesday, Nov. 5th, the Corps XV. played the Royal Artillery on the Command central ground at Aldershot. This was our first match against the Gunners, and we hope that it will become an annual fixture and played under such ideal conditions in future years—but not always with the same result!

The Corps were well and truly beaten. but by a team that played a thoroughly clean and sportsmanlike game and indulged in rugger of a high standard. We offer them our hearty congratulations on their victory, but trust that the tables may be turned next year, and that then (and in other future years) the game will be as enjoyable.

The forwards, ably led by Lieut Milner, were rather unlucky; in fact, about ten minutes after the commencement of play Corpl Staerck, our hooker, was handicapped by ankle trouble—the result of an old injury. Corporal Saddler was limping with a damaged thigh muscle, and Sigmn Taylor from a blow on the knee.

It was not surprising, therefore, that the ball from tight scrums went very frequently to the Gunners and only on rare occasions to the Corps backs. In the loose, some good rushes were carried out at times, in which Lieut Milner, Corpl Walby and Signalman Beckett were always prominent.

Failure to get the ball from tight scrums had the inevitable result of giving the initiative to the Gunner backs, who were not slow to take advantage of the opportunities offered them. Their fly-half, a fast and clever player, made frequent openings for his three-quarters, particularly in the second half, and increased a half-time lead that we had hoped to reduce.

Our three-quarters had very little chance of showing their attacking powers, as they were suffering from starvation diet; and as so frequently happens on such occasions, their handling was not too good when they did get it. Sigmn Fraser, at full back, played a good game and kicked with great length and accuracy.

The Gunners started away strongly and kept the ball for some minutes in our half, when from a scrum it came back to the three-quarters and along the line to the left wing, who was in a position to score but was well tackled by Sigmn Fraser. The pressure was relieved by some good forward play, but not for long. The R.A. forwards took the ball right up to our line, and a score was only just averted by a timely touch down. Still pressing, the Gunners from a scrummage in our twenty-five gained possession of the ball, and their fly-half eluded the defence to score under the posts. The try was converted.

It was now the Signals' turn to attack; the forwards, working well, took the ball into enemy territory, but the attacks from the team as a whole failed to develop. The ball appeared to hang up and not come away cleanly to the outsides, who were taking their passes standing still and, alas! occasionally dropping them. Sigmn Reeves attempted a drop kick which very narrowly missed a goal. His kicking throughout was excellent.

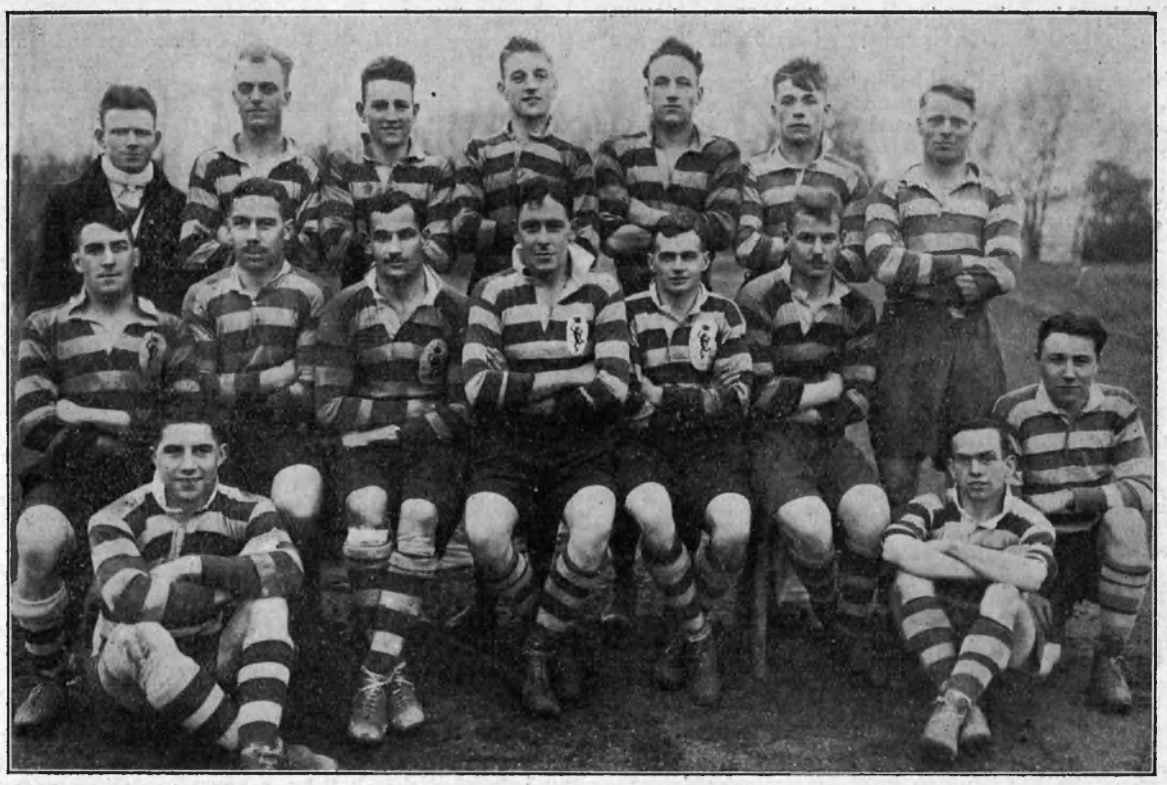
By half-time the Gunners had again crossed our line, but failed to convert. Score: eight points to nil against us.

In the second half our hopes of drawing level and then forging ahead were soon dashed to the ground. The Gunners were again pressing and getting the ball every time from tight scrummages, and their insides, by good handling and clever manœuvring, were able to take the score to 22 points.

A few minutes before the finish our forwards rushed the ball up the field, and Sigmn Robertson completed the movement by scoring under the posts. The try was converted. Final score: Gunners, 22 points; Signals, 5.

The following represented the Signals:—Sigmn Fraser; Lieut Tucker, Corpl Harbin, Sigmn Reeve, Lieut Morris; Signalmen Robertson G. and Robertson J.; Driver Ward, Corpl Staerck, Corpl Walby, Lieut Milner, 2/Lieut Purser, Sigmn Beckett, Cpl Saddler, Sigmn Taylor.

Royal Signals v. R.M.A.—The last Corps fixture of the season was played against the R.M.A. at Woolwich on November



The Corps Rugby XV. v. R.M.A., Woolwich, November 19th, 1930

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen Player (reserve), Moore, Beckett and Taylor, L/Corpl Sadler, Sigmn Etchells, Corpl Walby
Sitting—Corpl Staerck, 2/Lieut Morris, Lieuts Milner, Severin and Tucker, 2/Lieut Purser
On ground—Corpl Harbin, L/Corpl Kerr, Sigmn Dologhan

19th. It was a very close game, and the Corps XV. played well together as a team.

The forwards were able to get the ball frequently from tight scrummages, and backed up well in the loose. L/Corpl Kerr at scrum-half was very sound in defence, and when attacking he sent the ball away cleanly and accurately from the base of the scrum to his partner Corpl Harbin. This enabled the Corps supporters to witness an enjoyable open game and frequent attacks by the outsides—a factor sadly missing in the two preceding games.

Corpl Harbin deserves special mention for scoring a really brilliant try soon after half time. From about half way, the ball came away from the scrum; he cut through, and after a speedy and elusive run added a much needed three points to our score.

The score at the close of play was: R.M.A., 13 points; Signals, 11.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Boxing.—The Dismounted Wing are to be congratulated on winning the boxing and ousting us into second place, but it was a tight squeeze—and we heartily congratulate our team on putting up a jolly good show. We all appreciate the amount of extra training it involved, and thanks to their efforts we witnessed some excellent bouts of sheer grit and pluck.

Old hands like Drivers Shorey and Etheridge, with the assistance of Sergt Bennett, have given a great number of hours of their spare time in coaching the teams. Their efforts have produced some good material, and the results, I am sure, repaid them for the work they put in.

Unfortunately we are unable to retain our boxers for any length of time, but I feel that the Depot Battalion is passing on some promising lads who, if kept at it, will soon be boxing for the Corps. Those who have left us, we wish the best of luck and success later on. We hope to see their names figuring in these columns in the future.

Shooting.—We have completed the first half of the fixture list and rest somewhere near the top; and considering the small amount of practice we have had, we have done very well.

At times our "rapid" scores were excellent, and had we fired up to form in the first two matches, we should have collected a few more points.

Unfortunately, half way through the season we are confronted with new conditions for the latter half. The "rapid" has been eliminated, and "A" team are to fire with B.S.A. rifles. Both these conditions are to our disadvantage, but we must get down to it and shoot all the straighter.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Cross-Country.—We again proved successful in the S.T.C. cross-country run, this making the second successful run this season. L/Corpl MacCulloch and "Old Man" Blades are still among the best in the S.T.C., and are heartily congratulated by all members of the Company on their fine running performances.

On Saturday, November 15th, we entertained a team of boys from Barnard Castle School. A cross-country run was arranged for teams of ten, the first eight home to count. The running was very close, our team just winning by six points. Tea was provided afterwards and enjoyed by all.

Football.—Semi-final of the Enlisted Boys' Knock-Out Competition: F Company boys "A" team v. Prince of Wales' Volunteer boys. This was played away on November 8th. A very hard, keen and well-fought game was played in the right spirit, our boys being victorious by 5—0 goals. Well done, "A" team! Keep going and win the final!

Rugby.—We played the boys of Ampleforth College on 11th November, and we returned home a very sad lot. We were defeated by 41—15 points.

A further fixture was played on November 25th: our colts v. Ampleforth colts. Again we were defeated—this time by 9—3 points.

On Thursday, November 20th, we played the Mounted Wing in the Rugby League, both teams being victorious by 9—0 points.

On Thursday, November 27th, we played D Company in the Rugby League, winning the first game by 18—0 points, but losing the second by 0—6. It should be noted that this is the first time in four seasons that our second fifteen have been defeated.

Miniature Rifle League.—Our teams have done very well indeed and are in a good position. Our results to date are:—

v. Mounted Wing, won A and B
v. E Company, won A and B
v. D Company, won A and lost B
v. Dismounted Wing, won A and lost B

"A" Group, Royal Signals, Aldershot.

Rugby Notes.

Second Round, Aldershot Command Cup.—"A" Group v. 2nd Battn Cameron Highlanders. Played on December 1st on No. 69 ground, the result being a drawn game.

The first thing of note was a break through by Lieut Finney, who looked certain to score, but Lieut Duncan (full back) just touched his ankle. Our forwards more than held their own throughout the game, but desperate tackling by the Camerons prevented a score.

L/Corpl Sadler and Signalmen Taylor and Hulme were excellent forwards, and Sigmn McDougall played very well at scrum half and constantly got his three-quarters moving. The team at last realised expectations and played their best game of the season. The replay will take place on January 26th.

Royal Signals (Aldershot) v. Old Johnians.—Played on 6th December. Owing to leave we had eight players away, and after an exceedingly good game we lost by 11—16 points.

L/Corpl Crowley scored a good try within five minutes by fast following up, but the Old Johnians crossed over leading by 11—5 points.

Soon after the second half had started, our three-quarter line got moving and Lieut Masters scored in the corner. Lusty (the old Oxford blue), Rayner and Rogerson were always trying to break through our defence, which was very sound, and the latter player eventually succeeded.

After the game our opponents said that our tackling was the best they had seen this season, and it was the most pleasant and cleanest game they had had for a long while.

Hitchins Cup.—Some splendid games were seen in this competition for a cup kindly given by Lieut.-Colonel Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., when he was commanding the 2nd Divl Signals.

The cup was won by No. 3 Company A Corps Signals, who defeated No. 1 Company 2nd Divl Signals in the final by 16—0 points. The result was somewhat unexpected, but the A Corps team, under the excellent leadership of Captain Bailey, played very hard and are to be heartily congratulated on their success.

They had a splendid match in the semi-final against No. 2 Company 1st Divl Signals. Five minutes before time No. 2 Company was leading by a penalty goal to nil. However, A Corps Signals went all out and snatched a victory by two tries to a penalty goal,

There is no doubt that this competition has done much to create interest in rugger and unearthed some very promising beginners.

Congratulations to L/Corpl Sadler, who has played in two Army trials, and to Signalman W. J. Taylor, who played for the Command.

The first half of the season has, on the whole, been very satisfactory. The forwards are a really good pack; they lack weight, but are fast and go hard throughout a game. The outsides are fast but somewhat inexperienced, and after each game one is left with the feeling that if we could play the same players next season, the team would go a very long way in the Army cup. Lieut Morris and Corpl Heasman have unfortunately sailed for India, but Sigmn Hull and Driver Borrow have been posted to 1st Divl Signals, and they are just the type we require for Command cup purposes.

We all wish 2/Lieut Whiteway-Wilkinson a speedy recovery after the operation on his shoulder. His absence from our three-quarter line has been a serious hardship.

The following have been awarded "A" Group Jimmies:—Lieut Morris, 2/Lieuts Worrall, Pocock, Tate and Finney, Corpls Staerck and Heasman, L/Corpls Hunt, Sadler and Fraser, Signalmen Taylor W. J., Cunningham, Robertson J., Robertson G., Hulme, Rider and Lennon.

During the close season, when Corps and Group players are on leave (i.e. from December 10th to January 20th) games will be organised for beginners and for those who have not been good enough to get into Group teams.

Boxing Notes.

London Fire Brigade v. "A" Group Royal Signals.—This annual match took place at the Holborn Stadium (under I.S.B.A.) on Thursday evening, December 11th. The fixture attracted a large audience, and some real good bouts were witnessed. The Firemen turned out a very strong team and ran out winners by one point.

Sigmn Stuart took his place in the Signals team for the last time, and as usual he put up a good show, running out a somewhat easy winner. Tony did not, however, pull out all he knew, as Phil Scott was present, and probably he did not want to show Phil any tricks (?)

After the contests the Signals were entertained by the Fire Brigade to supper in the club, and a real good evening was spent. The Signals look forward to the return contest, and hope to reverse the decision when again they meet.

Official in charge: H. G. H. Chandley. Referees and Judges: H. G. H. Chandley, F. Northcote, A. S. Purdy, S. F. Labdon, A. E. Polton, G. H. Stonard, A. J. Challis and D. Pinto. Timekeeper: W. J. Pepper (A.A.A.). Medical Attendant: Dr. A. Westerman. M.C.: W. Chadwick. Stewards: London Fire Brigade Committee. The referees and judges were appointed by the A.B.A.

Welters.

Fireman Botten v. Driver Baker.—Round one consisted mainly of sparring, though Baker got in several times with neat lefts to the head. Botten also boxed cleverly, and the round ended even. Round two was a fine one, with clever boxing. Botten stopped Baker's lead with a fine drive to the jaw. He also whizzed in a hard right, but Baker ducked and rattled his opponent's body at close quarters. In the third round Baker drove Botten to the ropes, and a fine slam followed. Both "had a go," and a great round ended even. Round four: There was a further bout of hard hitting in this session. Botten missed Baker's chin with a wicked right, the latter ducking. Both had a slam and this round also ended even. In the fifth round Baker got in with several neat lefts to the head and a stiff right to the body. Botten then forced the pace and, using his extra inches, scored freely to take the round. In the sixth and last round the Fireman forced the fight, outpointing Baker and taking the final decision after a very clever exhibition.

Fireman Rice v. L/Sergt Langley.—Round one was a bout of hard hitting. Langley was the first to score with a splendid left to the point. Rice countered smartly with a stiff left to the body, but Langley shook him with another heavy right and took the round. Langley punished the Fireman in the second round and smashed in a heavy left to the face. Rice's eye was badly cut and he was forced to retire, Langley taking the decision.

Fireman Reeves v. Sigmn Houghey.—In the first round both men sparred for an opening, and Reeves got in a stiff left to the head. Houghey went in close and smashed some hard rights to the body. Both boxed cleverly, and the round ended even. A surprise was in store for Houghey in the second round. Reeves dropped him twice with beautifully timed punches to the jaw. He did not recover, and the referee intervened to award the points to the Fireman.

Fireman Bluck v. Sigmn Ringrose.—Bluck appeared to take things rather easy in the first round, and Ringrose, boxing cautiously, got in with several lefts to the head and took the round. In the second round Bluck got in to the body, but Ringrose levelled up with a left swing which caught Bluck on the point. Both boxed well, and the round ended even. Hard hitting on both sides was seen in the third round. Ringrose landed several nasty lefts on the Fireman's head, but the latter, going close in, rattled the Signalman's body. In the fourth round Bluck clearly outpointed his opponent in spite of his brave show. Bluck again forced the fight in the fifth round,

but Ringrose took the lead with repeated lefts to the head. In the sixth and last round Ringrose fought well, while Bluck went close in to punish him on the body. Both men slammed away, and though the round ended even, Ringrose took a clever points decision.

MIDDLES.

Fireman Gray v. L/Corpl Midgeley.—The Signalman opened cautiously in the first round and felt for his man with his left. Gray got through his guard to snap in a heavy blow to the body. Much clinching followed, and the round ended even. In the second round Gray repeatedly rushed in to be met with stiff lefts to the head. A stiff bout followed, but Midgeley boxed his man, held his own, and took the round. Gray punished his man in the third round, connecting with several stiff rights to the head. Midgeley went in, but was dropped by a heavy right swing at the close of the round, and as he was unable to continue the referee awarded the verdict to Gray.

Fireman Shawyer v. Sergt Moore.—In the first round the Fireman (one of the best the L.F.B. has produced) boxed cleverly and forced Moore to make much use of the ring. The latter got in to drive home to the body, while Shawyer scored freely at long range. The second was a fast round, in which Shawyer drove Moore to the ropes. The latter jumped in to be met with a stiff punch to the head. He then boxed his man, but Shawyer took the round. Shawyer again forced the pace in the third round and kept Moore on the trot, eventually getting him on the ropes to score freely. In round four both men made a fight of it, but Shawyer punched much faster and compelled his man to give way. Moore boxed cleverly but could not keep the Fireman out, and he was well behind when the bell rang. In the fifth round Shawyer rushed in, but was steadied by a stiff right to the point. Both clinched, and the Fireman scored to the body. Moore got rattled and swung wildly, Shawyer taking the round. The last round was one of hard hitting on both sides, but Moore, although boxing cleverly, was outpointed and Shawyer well deserved the points decision of the referee.

LIGHT HEAVY.

Fireman Abbott v. Private Vale.—The first round produced a fierce burst of hard hitting in which both men shared. Vale slashed in several hard lefts to the head, but the Fireman closed in and shook him with a stiff upper cut, and the round ended even. The second was another fierce round which caused much enthusiasm in the audience. Both men slammed each other mercilessly, and a great bout ended in the Fireman's favour. Round three saw Abbott going after his opponent and repeatedly shaking him with heavy rights to the jaw. Vale was dropped several times before the referee intervened to save him from further punishment and awarded Abbott the decision.

Fireman Sharp v. L/Sergt Woods.—In the first round Woods got several left leads to the head and snapped in a neat right to the jaw at close quarters. A hard slam followed, and the round ended in Woods' favour. The second round was marked by some clever boxing by both men. Sharp got in close and drove several hard lefts to the body, while Woods boxed cleverly and kept his left going to even up matters. Woods opened the third round with three snappy rights to the face. Both went in for a fierce slam at close quarters, and each suffered punishment. The round ended even after a further burst of hard hitting. The fourth round was a real good one, both men putting in all they knew. A great fight followed a clean break, each man trying to pull off a knock-out, and again the round ended even. In the fifth round the Fireman drove Woods to the ropes, but the latter got in freely with smart lefts to the head. Sharp rushed in, but was met with a stiff left to the point, and Woods took the round. The sixth and concluding round found the Fireman forcing the fight, though he missed the head with several hard lefts. Woods boxed very cleverly, and scored enough to gain the final verdict in a very fine fight.

HEAVY.

Fireman Ivall v. Sigmn Stuart.—In the first round the Signalman at once got busy and banged several hard rights to the head and body, forcing the Fireman to "step out." After a good slam the round ended in Stuart's favour. Stuart again forced the pace in the second round. A good slam ensued, Ivall being quite willing to "mix it." Stuart fought cleverly and punished his man, taking the round. In the third round Stuart went after Ivall and, getting to close quarters, rapped home several heavy body blows. Ivall put up a game fight but could not prevent Stuart from taking the round. Round number four was a fast one in which both slammed hard. Stuart frequently got in to the head and body, the Fireman retreating throughout this session. In the fifth round the Signalman went after his man, but the latter made use of the ring and kept clear of many dangerous punches. Stuart, however, piled up the points and was well ahead at the end. Round six was a repetition of the preceding bout, with Stuart forcing the pace throughout and taking a well-earned points decision.

No. 2 Company, 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

Rugby.—In this branch we ran into the semi-final of the Hitchins cup and met No. 3 Company A Corps. The game was keenly fought, and about twenty minutes from time L/Corporal Hunt scored a brilliant penalty goal from well outside the 25 line. This quite upset the opposition, and they fought like —— scoring two tries and running out winners by 6—3 points. Our consolation is that the team that beat us won the troph", and we take this opportunity of congratulating them on their very fine achievement.

Soccer.—The unit team met their Waterloo in the third round of the Army cup, losing a very fast game by 2—4 to the Training College, R.A.S.C. The unit put up a great fight, but the visitors were better trained and as a result they won the game.

Our friends at Colchester continue on their winning way, however, and their future ties will be keenly watched. We hope to have the pleasure of seeing them on the Command ground on Easter Monday. Optimistic? Well, it is about time the Corps had hold of that trophy, and we look to the 4th to "bring home the bacon" in due course.

In the inter-Section games of the Company, B Cable Section beat E by two goals to one, the latter failing to score from a penalty in the last few minutes of the game. No doubt, the chap who missed the penalty felt like the Guardsman who dropped his rifle; and, no doubt, what his Section mates thought about it would turn the printing machine red hot. However, such is life!

Cross-Country.—The Company continue to do well in this branch of sport, and we should not have any difficulty in holding the trophy which is already in our possession. We congratulate Driver Hempshall on being selected for the Command team, and hope he will in time turn out to be another Cotterell.

Shooting.—The Company team is being got together, and we hope this season to win the Powell cup. This is the premier objective; already a position has been allotted for the cup in this office—so why worry? No doubt, the holders will have other views on the matter, but that doesn't matter. We are not losing any sleep on that score: we intend to have that cup!

No. 3 Company, 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

Sport.—There is little to report this month except that we finished third in the third Cross-Country League run, and in the fourth run we were unable to enter owing to practically all our team being on a Trade Board. We are looking forward to the fifth run, after Christmas, with teams of eight (first six to count), when we feel sure we shall make ourselves seen and heard.

No. 1 Company 2nd Divl Signals beat us in the Hitchins rugby trophy by 16—3 points, but we were handicapped considerably by the loss of our star Sigmn Taylor J. W., who went off injured in the first few minutes.

One cannot close these notes without saying goodbye to Sigmn Stuart, our renowned heavy-weight. We feel sure everyone joins us in wishing him the best of luck in civvy street in whatever he takes up. Good luck, Tony boy! may your shadow never grow less!

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

Owing to furlough, very little sport has taken place with the exception of cross-country running—which most people argue is not sport but more in the agony line!

Whilst our soccer team carry out extensive training at their various leave resorts, and the hockey team does likewise (!) it is left to the remainder of the cross-country team to uphold the laurels of the unit. In the fourth run of the Aldershot Signals shield competition we occupied the third place, which is a very creditable performance. Well done, lads! we will get that shield yet.

Up to date we are level with No. 1 Company A Corps Signals, and together we lead the field. No. 1 have a very fine team indeed, and it is a pleasure to meet such worthy rivals, although eventually we shall win—won't we, No. 1 Company? We feel sure our crack runners will be proud of us when they hear the news! (We wonder who is blushing now: Smudger, Uncle or Poll?)

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

On November 7th, a boxing competition was held in the men's mess room for novices who had never won a prize. A great deal of trouble and time was spent in getting the Garrison ring fixed up in the room and making arrangements for the contests. From the point of view of one behind the scenes, the amount of work entailed in one of these shows is surprising, especially when nearly everything has to be improvised and the ring made to fit a building in which it was not meant to be installed. However, thanks to Lieut C. H. Lyddon and his hard-working committee, our first competition of this kind went off without a hitch.

Our thanks are due to Major R. H. Neale and the other officers who so kindly undertook the duties of referee and judges.

The house was quite a good one, and the spectators had full value for their twopence. May I ask here that for the next show we get a 100 per cent. attendance?

Several of our friends from Tidworth entered this competition and put up a good show.

Following the novices competition, we entered six competitors in the Tidworth Garrison novices championship open to troops serving in Salisbury Plain Area. Our men did not get further than the eliminating rounds, but put up a gallant show against men of far more experience. Driver Maile gave a particularly plucky display.

A week later we produced our star performer for the " open." Sergeant Child had a very hard fight in the middle weights against Rifleman Lewis (who had previously beaten him) and won on points. In the final he again won on points, but showed signs of his strenuous ordeal.

Sigmn Snelson was runner-up in the welter weights ; he was obviously beaten in the final through lack of training.

Our four other entrants all put up a stout show, and we were gratified to have six entrants in the open championships.

On December 12th Sergt Child and Sigmn Parry were both chosen to represent the Area in a contest with the Royal Navy (Portsmouth) at Tidworth. Sergt Child was defeated on points after a very hard fight. The bout was so keenly fought that the decision was in doubt until the winner was announced.

On December 17th the Area is fighting the R.A.F. at Salisbury, and Signalmen Snelson and Ryan have been chosen to represent the Area (Sergt Child is on furlough).

We are now confidently looking forward to retaining the Bulford Garrison cup and winning the novices. We have no doubt that the experience gained and the marked improvement shown will tell.

3rd Divisional Signals Novices Competition.

WELTER WEIGHTS.—1st Group. Sigmn Carr beat Sigmn Humphreys ; Corpl Broadley beat Sigmn Slater ; in the final, Carr beat Broadley.

2nd Group. Sigmn Darlington beat Sigmn Child ; Signalman Matthews beat Sigmn Colley ; in the final, Darlington beat Matthews, who retired owing to arm injury.

3rd Group. Sigmn Reece beat Sigmn Stringer ; Sigmn Evanson beat Sigmn Evans ; in the final, Reece beat Evanson (retired owing to arm injury).

Contest.—Lieut C. H. Lyddon beat 2/Lieut Anderson on points.

FEATHERS.—Driver Maile beat Sigmn Morris.

Contest.—Sergt Child beat Sigmn Parry. This was the bout of the evening, and a lot of good boxing and hard hitting was indulged in, Child eventually winning.

MIDDLES.—Sigmn Garrity beat Sigmn Wright ; L/Corporal Ford beat Sigmn Williams ; in the final, Garrity beat Ford.

LIGHT.—Sigmn Power beat L/Corpl Peake ; Sigmn Oliphant beat Sigmn Fisher ; in the final, Oliphant beat Power.

Contests.—Sigmn King beat Sigmn Palmer. Driver Maile beat Sigmn Snelson. Sigmn Milligan v. Sigmn Ryan and Sigmn Hughes v. Sigmn Barber resulted in a " no decision " verdict.

Hockey.—Several games have been played which have proved that our team has retained its skill with the stick and the necessary clear eye.

A notable victory was secured at the expense of the Small Arms School, Netheravon, in the first round of the Army cup, the result being 5—2. With but fifteen minutes to go we were a goal down (1—2) when Semmence with a characteristic breakaway scored the equalising goal. This proved the necessary incentive, for our team then began to get down to it, and within ten minutes had added three more goals. A narrow squeak—and we think our team would profit by a little more *team* work. Plenty of rain fell during the match, and altogether the weather conditions were far from conducive to good play.

We are to meet the K.O.Y.L.I. in the next round early in January next.

" Rugger."

[*With apologies to " Watsonian."*]

When you're teaching the rugger team how they should go,
Take care of their passing: it mustn't be slow.
It's better to bungle a service or two
If the odd one in five lets your winger get through.
As Liddells and Hardys and Pearces are reckoned,
A yard's the same thing as the tenth of a second.
Show the boys what the Signals can do with a yard—
And whatever they do, let 'em sling it out hard!

Hard, hard, sling it out hard:
Here's to the half who can sling it out hard.
A lob will be late, and the way will be barred,
So hard, hard, sling it out *hard !*

You dashing young centres, whatever your pace,
Remember your wingers need plenty of space ;
Ten yards to the touch-line's as bad as a loss,
And the jolly old field's only sixty across.
You may run like a rabbit and sprint like a hen,
Yet jam on the touch-line a better man ; then
Don't pass it too soon and don't keep it too late—
But whatever you do, run with it straight.

Straight, straight—run with it straight.
Here's to the centre who runs with it straight!
Leave plenty of room for your Tucker and Tate,
And straight, straight—run with it *straight !*

With a pack of good forwards in chase of the ball,
You've got to go down to stop 'em at all.
In an Aldershot rush—about five in a row,
With fire in their eye and the ball at their toe—
Your scratching and scraping won't save you at all ;
It's a dozen to one you won't gather the ball.
The fly kicking trick is the work of a clown ;
To be certain to stop 'em you've got to go down.

Down, down—you've got to go down.
Here's to the man not afraid to go down!
What's a rap on the ribs or a crack on the crown?
Down, down—you've got to go *down !*

Now, your side-stepping halves and your galloping "three's "
Are like latest-joined rookies if held round the knees ;
If you grab at their ears, then—whatever you do—
Your hefty fat forwards will barge their way through.
But your Wakefields and Bannermans, Tuckers and Beales
Are like children in arms if they're held by the heels.
When you're teaching the rugger team how they should go,
Tell 'em " Low, low—go for 'em *low.*"

Low, low—go for 'em low.
The rest of my lessons don't matter a blow!
It's twenty to one on the team that goes low ;
So low, low—go for 'em *low !*

Rugby.—Up till the moment of writing, the results of this season's matches have been most encouraging.

Versus Swindon Town, on October 4th, we won a somewhat scrappy game by 8—3 points. Lieut Denholm-Young and L/Cpl Pells each scored a try, Sigmn Etchells converting the first one.

On October 25th we played Salisbury at Salisbury. There was quite a large crowd of spectators, including Major Cobb and Captain Pope, who had come to " spot " talent for the Corps XV. We won a hard-fought game by 9—6 points, Signalmen Etchells and Camm scoring tries and Lieutenant Denholm-Young kicking a penalty goal.

Versus 5th Battn R.T.C. at Perham Down, on October 28th, we lost by 5—11 points. Sigmn Etchells scored and Lieutenant Denholm-Young converted. It was a hard-fought and very open match.

Versus Royal Welch Fusiliers, on November 3rd, we fought out the first round of the Army cup. The match was played on Amesbury Road ground, the whole unit turning out to watch. There was nothing between the sides until the last five minutes, when the Welch were definitely on top. We lost by 6—11 points: the narrow margin of one converted try. The Welch were most unfortunate in losing Lieut Rice-Evans early in the game owing to a knee injury.

The first of our two annual matches with Aldershot Signals was played on Bulford Fields on November 2nd. It was a scrappy game, and we won by 5—0 points, Driver Broadbent scoring and Lieut Denholm-Young converting.

The following have played for the Corps XV. this season: Lieut Severin, Corporal Walby and Signalmen Dologhan and Etchells.

The following have represented the unit: Lieuts Severin, Denholm-Young and Lyddon, Sergts Pack and Childs, Corporals Walby and Berriff, L/Corpls MacKenzie and Pells, Dvr Broadbent, Signalmen Birkett, Camm, Burke, Catherall, Warren, Monk, Binge, Giles, Dologhan and Cullen.

Jimmies have been awarded to Lieut Denholm-Young, Sergts Pack and Child, Corpl Walby, Signalmen Dologhan, Catherall, Etchells and Burke, and Driver Broadbent.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Hockey.—On account of bad weather, only two of our fixtures were played since my last notes: v. Fusiliers, won by 3—1; v. Braintree, drew at 1—1.

In the Inter-Unit League we played the 2nd Battn Royal Fusiliers and lost by 2—4, and against the Black Watch we lost by 5—6.

In the Inter-Company Knock-Out Competition, No. 3 Company were successful in knocking out a Company of the Black Watch by 11—0. Unluckily, Nos. 1 and 2 Companies are drawn against each other.

Rugby.—We do not seem to have our team playing together yet, and this, combined with a certain amount of bad luck, has made us the losers in most of our recent matches. Great keenness has, however, been shown by all players, and we have had some very good even games.

On November 3rd we were faced by a strong team of the 17th Field Brigade R.A. in the first round of the Army cup. We were only just beaten at the very end after an exceedingly close game. One of the features of the match was a brilliant drop goal from the half-way line by Sigmn Snowball.

On November 6th we made an expedition to Norwich and gave a weak team of that ancient city a good beating.

November 19th saw us being royally entertained by H.M.S. *Ganges* at Shotley. We were just defeated after a close game.

The 17th Field Brigade beat us again on December 4th, and a match arranged with Colchester Town for December 11th had to be cancelled owing to the arctic weather conditions.

The following have been playing in recent matches: Lieuts H. N. Crawford, A. S. Miller and L. T. Shawcross, 2/Lieuts J. H. L. Crichton and R. B. Gray, C.S.M. Herbert, Sergeants Kilford and Lawrie, Corpl Longhurst, L/Corpls Gourlay and Milne, Signalmen Barnett, Galbraith, Hurrell, Leslie, Manson, Pope, Simms, Smee, Snowball, Spetch and Walton, Drivers Briggs, Brooks, Newman and Taylor.

Up to date, Jimmies have been awarded to the following:—Signalmen Snowball, Smee, Hurrell and Barnett, C.S.M. Herbert, Sergt Lawrie, L/Corpls Milne and Gourlay, Lieut A. S. Milner and Driver Brooks.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Hockey.—I suppose all those interested, either at home or abroad, are anxiously awaiting the result of our second replay in the first round of the Army hockey cup with the 4th Battalion R.T.C. Well, to put you all out of agony and suspense, the result was a win for us by 2—0 goals. The following is an account of the game.

As notified in last month's notes, this replay was to take place at York on November 20th. Enthusiasm was very high within the unit, so we journeyed to York with a band of approximately sixty staunch supporters. The game was played on the barrack ground at Fulford Barracks, and the bully-off was delayed some ten to fifteen minutes owing to the late arrival of the Tank Corps from Catterick.

The ground was already heavy and sodden with previous rains, and just on the commencement of the game rain fell heavily and lasted throughout the whole of the first half. This state of affairs did not damp the spirits of the players *or* the spectators—for on the field, play was very keen and fast, and on the touch line, voices roared thunderously (local inhabitants, unaware of what was taking place, were attracted by the hilarity and soon became acquainted with the cause).

It was evident that our team meant business. They forced the game from the start, and at any moment a goal seemed imminent. For twenty minutes we completely hemmed the Tank Corps in their own half, and during this period we were indeed unfortunate not to score. Corporal Weeks hit the foot of the upright with a great drive, and on two other occasions the Tank Corps goalkeeper brought off marvellous saves, both of which resulted in a corner for us but were cleared.

About ten minutes before half-time L/Corpl Wright (outside left) was sent off with a beautiful pass, and taking it well over the 25 yards line, he centred for L/Corpl Ferrier to pick up and open the scoring for us with a glorious shot. This caused our supporters to invade the field, and the bully-off was held up until they could be cleared back from the touch-line. The game re-started in very lively fashion, the R.T.C. making determined efforts to equalise, while our team were just as determined to keep them out and to go further ahead. Half-time arrived with the score at 1—0 in our favour.

The commencement of the second half saw the Tank Corps still determined to open their account, and for a period they gave our defence a harassing time during which they came within an ace of scoring. Our team, taking a grip of the game again, made their way to the other end, and after repeated attacks we got the ball in the net through Sigmn Drury, but the point was disallowed for a knock-on.

Not disheartened by this, we continued to have the best of matters, and with only ten minutes remaining we were pressing hard. During this pressure we were awarded three penalty corners in quick succession. Each was taken and well placed by our centre-half, Sergt Brandon, and from the third Sigmn Drury shot true and hard to score our second goal. This completed the scoring, but the few remaining minutes were fought out keenly.

The final whistle came with the score 2—0 in our favour, and so we entered the second round, and brought to a close a series of well fought out games, each of which was played in a really good sporting spirit by all players.

Second Round.—The draw of the tournament being completely against us, we had again to travel for the second round game. We visited Catterick again—this time to play the 2nd Battn Lancashire Fusiliers. The game was played on Wednesday, November 26th. The weather prior to this had been wretched, with the result that in Catterick we had difficulty in finding a playable ground. Owing to the kindness of the Officer i/c Hockey of the 4th Battn R.T.C., who possess about the best ground in Catterick, the match took place on their ground in Bourlon Lines.

From the bully-off we completely surprised the Fusiliers by keeping them to their own half and, within ten minutes from the start, taking the lead through Corpl Weeks, who made no mistake with a good hard drive from close in. This reverse nettled the Fusiliers and they raided our area time and again, but without success. Still, they were not having matters all their own way, and from our raids we threatened to score again before they did.

The Lancashires certainly had a let-off when L/Corpl Ferrier was through, with only the goalkeeper to beat and no one to mar his shot, and the whistle went for a free hit to be awarded to us for a previous infringement outside the circle—an unfortunate mistake by the umpire, and certainly an unfortunate one for us, for it meant the loss of a certain goal.

About five minutes from half-time the Lancashires equalised, our defence standing still (waiting for the whistle to sound for an infringement) and allowing their centre-forward to put the ball just where he wanted to. Half-time score: 1—1.

The second half saw the Lancashires taking up the attack and threatening danger, and within ten minutes they took the lead. Our team now woke up with a determination to get level, and for the next ten minutes we transferred play to the other end. With about ten minutes to go, we were awarded a free hit from just outside the circle. The hit, taken by Sergeant Brandon, was nicely placed to L/Corporal Ferrier, who drove through a well-packed goal into the corner of the net, bringing us on equal terms again.

From the centre bully the Lancashires pressed hard, but were repulsed. Again they came, and here we had the misfortune to lose our centre-half, Sergt Brandon, who stopped a terrific drive for goal with his knee. He had to retire for the remainder of the game, and in the closing minutes the Lancashires, from a corner, secured the winning goal. Result: Lancashire Fusiliers, 3; Signals, 2.

I think we were really deserving of a draw in this game, and even if the score had been reversed in our favour, it would not have flattered us.

I must take this opportunity of congratulating our team on the splendid games they have played in this the unit's initial attempt in Army sports games. It is regretted that we shall not be able to continue with the same team for next year, as 2/Lieut Beeton (our left back) is now on his way to India. Peshawar Signals, please note: here's a left back for you—one we are sorry to part with.

The players who represented the unit in the four cup games are:—Driver Evanson, Sigmn Cooper S. G., 2/Lieut Beeton, L/Corpl McLean, Sergt Brandon (captain), L/Corpl Kelly C. E., Sergt Fegan, Sigmn Drury, L/Corpl Ferrier, Corpl Weeks, L/Cpl Wright and L/Corpl Henshaw.

FRIENDLIES.—On Saturday, December 13th, we played the Pickering H.C. on our pitch. The ground conditions were all against good hockey, but nevertheless, after a very pleasant game, we retired the winners by 2—0 goals.

Boxing.—The boxing in the unit, this season, has not commenced properly—mainly due to the fact that no gymnasium has been available. Now that this has been rectified, it is hoped, when the leave party returns in January, to turn out a team which will be good enough to enable one or two matches to be arranged. We are lucky to have the help of Mr. Frank Fowler, the professional boxer, whose expert advice should be invaluable to us.

Football.—Since my last report, we have gained more successes. Our Wednesday League team is still at the top, having played 9, won 7, and drawn 2. A fortnight ago we beat the Post Office by 9—0 goals.

Our Saturday League team have got into the semi-final of the Scarborough and District League cup by beating Anfields by 7—1 goals. We now meet Filey Town—a stiff proposition, but the match is on our ground—in January. In my next notes I hope to tell you that our team has passed into the final. We are many matches behind in this League, and in consequence appear rather low in the table. We have, however, beaten teams above us in the cup games, so when we once more get down to it in January, up we shall go!

The Inter-Section League games have been held up owing to inclement weather and the leave period. These will be in full swing again in January. The table up to date is as follows:—I. Section, 8 points; J, 6; F, 5; D and H, each 4; B, 2; A, 1.

Hunt Club.—We have been hunting hard since the beginning of November, with meets at Suffield, Lindhead Beck, Ayton and Snainton—the latter by invitation of the Master. There were good days and bad ones, but on the whole hounds have shown excellent sport. The weather has been very kind, except for an occasional mist and rain storm. Our attendance has been somewhat interrupted owing to leave and the fact that we have to work "sometimes."

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

A good deal of sport has been played this month, with the following results.

Football.—Versus 3rd Light Battery R.A., won by 5—0 and lost by 1—4; v. 1st Indian Divl Signals, won by 5—2; v. 4th Brigade R.A., won by 5—0; v. 2nd Battn Border Regiment, lost by 0—4; v. 1st Battn East Surrey Regiment, won by 6—2; v. R.A.M.C. (2nd XI.), won by 1—0.

Hockey.—Versus 1st Indian Divl Signals, lost by 0—2 and 4—5; v. Telegraph Club, won by 6—3 and 4—3; v. 1st Battn East Surrey Regiment, lost by 0—8; v. R.A.M.C., won by 2—1.

Cricket.—1st Indian Divl Signals declared at 178 for six wickets, in reply to which we made 148 for six—the game being left drawn. We also drew two other games. Against 116 and 150 for two wickets (declared) by the 4th Brigade R.A. our total was 100 and 50 for four wickets. Chaklala hit up 168 against us, while we managed to get 105 and 84 for three wickets.

We managed to beat Northern Command by 58 and 83 for one wicket against 71 and 69. Success also attended our efforts against I.A.O.C., who scored 77 and 59, our first innings total of 136 leaving us one run to get at the second attempt. The only loss we have to report was inflicted by Pindi Sports Works—144 to 103.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

Cricket.—We played B Corps Signals on October 26th. We batted first and declared with 171 runs for eight wickets. B Corps Signals had scored 147 for seven wickets when bad light stopped play and robbed us of victory. [The bad light appears to have troubled the scorers also, as B Corps' figures are entirely different.—ED.]

1st Indian Divl Signals.—Sigmn Airey b Price 1; Sigmn Stirk b Price 57; Sigmn Duffy b Dale 1; Capt White c Davies b Collyer 14; Lieut Clements b Price 37; Sigmn Millman c Watts b Price 25; Sigmn Perry c Davis b Watts 9; Sigmn Aitkins lbw b (?) 3; L/Corpl Appleton not out 7; extras 17—Total 171 (for eight wickets).

B Corps Signals.—Sigmn Davies b Ebbage 4; L/Corpl Winton b Perry 22; Corpl Price lbw b Perry 50; Sigmn Lundie b Stirk 33; Sergt Watts b Stirk 6; Sergt Collyer b Ebbage 7; Sigmn Davies not out 5; L/Corpl Dale c Aitkins b Stirk 7; Corporal Worth not out 13—Total 147 (for seven wickets).

In a match between our "A" and "B" teams, the former were victorious by 108—102. Sigmn Aitkins scored 47 and 27, while Sigmn Ebbage took six wickets for 35 runs (presumably for the "A" team.—ED.)

The B.O.R.s scored an easy victory by 111—58 over the officers. L/Corpl Appleton made a useful 26, while Sigmn Ebbage captured four wickets for 14 runs.

Football.—We beat B Corps Signals by 2—1, but also lost to them by 2—5 and 2—4. In other games, we won against I.A.O.C. by 2—1 and Gordon College by 3—1, while the 4th Field Brigade R.A. beat us by 4—1.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

The Troop continue to hold their own in the field of sport. The following are the result of matches played to date.

Football.—Versus B.M.H. Sialkot, won by 2—0; v. N Battery R.H.A., lost by 0—1 and 0—2; v. Band and Drums Norfolk Regiment, won by 5—1 and 5—2.

Hockey.—Versus N Battery R.H.A., drew at 3—3 and lost by 2—3 and 1—2; v. 32nd Field Troop R.E., won by 4—3; v. Brigade Headquarters, won by 6—0 and 4—2; v. M.E.S. Sialkot, won by 2—0; v. Punjab Police, won by 2—0.

Cricket.—Versus H.Q. Squadron 9th Lancers, won by 94—80 and lost by 83—127; v. N Battery R.H.A., won by 92 (for nine wickets)—50 and lost by 52—149.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

Corps Football.—We have continued in a winning vein in the Cairo Military League since our last notes went to press, as will be observed from the following.

On November 12th we played the 12th Lancers at Helmieh and, as this regiment was level with us on points in the league, a needle match ensued which ended in the Corps running out winners by 3—2 goals.

On November 19th we entertained the 13th/18th Hussars at home, and avenged an earlier defeat by winning to the tune of 6—0 goals.

On November 26th we played the 1st Light Brigade R.A. at home, and also avenged an away defeat at their hands by running out winners by 4—2 goals.

On December 3rd we arrived at the critical stage of the league championship, as we were engaged with the 1st Battn Gloster Regiment on their ground. The result of this match practically decided the championship, and our congratulations are due to the team for rising to the occasion so magnificently. We cannot do better than quote the report in *The Egyptian Mail* on this match.

"It will be remembered that in Tuesday's columns it was predicted that an excellent game would be the outcome of the fixture between the Glosters and the Signals—and an excellent game it was! From the start to the finish, both teams provided the large crowd of spectators with thrills galore. It was truly a game that will be remembered for a long time by those who saw it.

"Had the Glosters won this match, they should have finished as league leaders, as they have one more game to play—at home to the 2nd Brigade R.A., and they should have no difficulty in overcoming them. On the other hand, the Signals—who should easily beat the R.A.S.C. in their final match at Polygon next week—had only to make a draw of the game and they were the Abbassia Section champions for the second year in succession.

"The Signals won the toss. The Glosters immediately made tracks for the Signals goal, but Murphy soon cleared his lines. Away went the Corps on the left, and Nicholls twice had to go full length to stop shots from Beard and Terry. Shortly afterwards the Signals were awarded a penalty for a foul against Terry, who was making tracks for Nicholls. Beach made no mistake from the spot. Mid-field play was then in force, and half-time came with the Signals still holding their lead of the only goal scored.

"The second half opened amid great excitement, and the Signals held the Glosters defence on tenterhooks for a few minutes. Play then reverted to the Signals goal, and West sent in a shot which beat Poole all the way, making the scores level. Terry was sent away on the left. He crossed beautifully, and in a scramble for the ball Wallis's foot got in the way and deflected it past Nicholls into the net.

"The Corps tried hard to increase their lead, but the Glosters defence was giving nothing away. Each team in turn was now making raids on the other's goal, and after a melee in front of the Signals goal Jukes snapped the ball past Poole, once more putting the sides on level terms. Towards the end great excitement prevailed, each side making determined efforts to assume the lead. Full time came with the scores unaltered.

"A draw was a fitting result to this fine game, and each team deserves the highest praise for the display they gave."

As predicted in the foregoing extract, we managed to win our last match with the R.A.S.C. on our own ground by one goal to nil. We therefore head the Abbassia League for the second consecutive year. The league table is now as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts
Royal Signals	14	10	3	1	41—25	21
Glosters	14	9	3	2	39—13	20
12th Royal Lancers	13	7	3	3	30—27	17
2nd Brigade R.H.A.	14	7	5	2	39—28	16
17th/21st Lancers	13	5	7	1	21—33	11
13th/18th Hussars	13	3	5	5	21—32	11
2nd Light Brigade R.A.	13	2	9	2	24—37	6
R.A.S.C.	14	2	10	2	17—37	6

Small Units Football Competition.—No. 1 Company Egypt Signals. On November 29th, No. 1 Company lost to C Battery R.H.A.—and thereby bid adieu to the cup which they have held for three years in succession. It is worthy of note that this unit had not lost a match in the small units football from the 1926 season until now. But the Signals' interest in this competition has not ended, as will be seen below.

No. 3 Company Egypt Signals wound up their league fixtures with two matches with the 5th A.C. Co. Royal Tank Corps. On November 13th they lost, away, to the tune of 4—5 goals, but in the return match, at home, they won by 4—2, thereby winning this league and qualifying for the knock-out competitions.

We now look to No. 3 Company to go on and win the cup, so that it may still remain with Egypt Signals.

Corps Cross-Country Championship.—The final inter-Section run for the Corps championship took place at Polygon, on 1st December, over a course of five and a half miles.

The individual winners were: 1st, Driver W. Hammond (31 min. 2 sec.); 2nd, Corpl E. Collins (32 min.); 3rd, L/Corporal G. C. Sheppard (32 min. 25 sec.).

The winners of the Corps championship were Nos. 2 and 3 Sections, with J Section as runners-up. The full results were: 1st, Nos. 2 and 3 Sections, 71 points; 2nd, J, 103; 3rd, B Cable, 113; 4th, H.Q. and Signal Troop, 133; 5th, H.Q. and No. 1, 136; 6th, K, 151; 7th, H, nil.

After the race, Mrs. R. M. Powell (wife of our Chief Signal Officer) kindly distributed the prizes.

From the results of this run we think we can look forward rather optimistically to the Command cross-country championships, which take place on December 23rd. We are hoping that Royal Signals will win the team event, so that our name may be the first to be inscribed on the cup which was kindly presented for this competition by the Royal Signals Officers' Games Club in June last.

Command Hockey Championship.—Second Round: Royal Signals v. 1st Battn Gloster Regiment. This match was played on the Wembley ground, Abbassia, on November 23rd. It was expected to be a tough nut for us to crack, as in two friendly games with them we had suffered defeat; but the team rose to the occasion and ran out worthy winners by 3—1 goals.

INSTITUTED 1855 INCORPORATED 1923

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65 Rosslyn Hill, London, N.W.3.

Semi-final: Royal Signals v. 13th/18th Hussars. This match was also played on the Wembley ground, on December 5th, and the following extract from *The Egyptian Mail* is an accurate account of the game.

"With their victory against the 13th/18th Hussars in the semi-final of the Command hockey cup, the Royal Signals enter the final for the first time in their history. The Signals deserved to win by far more goals than they did.

"Setting the Signals to face a strong sun, the 13th/18th were the first to press, and a cross by Styles should have been converted by Rose. The Signals then made a raid on the Hussars goal, and Wales missed a good opportunity from Hawks. Midfield play was then the vogue until Collins went away on the left and hit the upright with a hard drive. Until the interval the Signals were all over the Hussars, but bad shooting spoiled their chances of scoring. Half-time came with no score.

"For a minute or two after the resumption, the Hussars pressed. A good clearance by Schofield sent Collins away on the left, and from his cross Wales sent in a good shot which was well saved by Thompson. The Signals were now striving hard for a goal, and their forwards seemed to put more life into their play; and only the brilliance of the Hussars goalkeeper and backs kept them from scoring. A nice piece of individual play by Hawks was completed by Wales, who hit the ball hard into the net, Thompson touching the ball but failing to stop it. Immediately after this Thompson was again called upon to save from Wales, and a clearance by him gave the Hussars timely relief. Taking up the pressure again, Collins nearly put the Signals further ahead, his shot going narrowly past, with Thompson well beaten. Full time came shortly after this with no further addition to the scoring.

Final: Royal Signals v. 12th Royal Lancers. The final will be played on the Wembley ground on December 13th, and we are hoping to make further history by winning this cup for the first time—but more of this in our next notes.

Command Rugby Championship.—First Round. The draw for this competition was eagerly awaited, but, when published, it was found that luck had not been entirely on our side, as we were drawn to play the 1st Battn Cameronians at Moascar in the first round. This match took place on November 19th, and after a very grim struggle we ran out winners by four tries (12 points) to nil.

Second Round. Once again the luck of the draw was against us, as we had to make another journey to Moascar—this time to meet the 1st Battn King's Regiment. This match was played on November 27th, and was a real battle royal for supremacy; but, thanks to the brilliant efforts of the team, we returned as victors by 7—6 points: a very narrow margin, but quite wide enough to put us into the semi-final.

Semi-final. In this round we had to meet the 12th Royal Lancers (A.C. Regiment). The game promised to be a real battle royal, as that regiment is our most serious rival at present for the best all-round unit competition. The match was played on the ground of the E.S.R.L. at Gezerit Badran, on December 9th, and we ran out winners as will be observed from the following newspaper report.

"From the start the Signals pressed and were unfortunate in not scoring a try in less than two minutes. A good run by the Lancer three's brought relief, and for a few minutes the Signals were kept in their own 25. Gratwicke came to the rescue with a long kick. At this period the Signal three's were playing well, and it was not long before McBain scored a try. Harrison was inches short with the kick. The Signals came back to the attack and soon went further ahead, Upton scoring from a good run by Gratwicke, though Harrison failed to convert from a difficult angle.

"Undaunted, the Cavalrymen got moving, but Jones brought down Wesson when the latter was almost through. A free kick at the other end gave the Lancers slight relief, and the interval whistle blew with the score at 6—0 in the Signals' favour.

"After the resumption the superiority of the Lancer forwards was evident, but the brilliance of the Signal three's more than compensated for this. A few minutes after the re-start Murphy was carried off, but, although a man short, the Signals pulled their weight and kept the exchanges in the opposing half.

"Immediately after Murphy resumed, the Signals increased their lead through McBain. The same played failed to convert. Then followed the best try of the match. Jones, who had been playing brilliantly for the Signals, got the ball from a scrum near midfield and, after beating the field, ran round to score between the posts, Upton making no mistake with the kick. In the last few minutes Murphy, in spite of his injuries, waded through a crowd of players and scored a good try, which Harrison failed to convert from a very difficult angle."

We shall now meet the 1st Battn Gloster Regiment (the present holders of the cup) in the final, which is to be played on the same ground on Monday, December 15th—just too late for the result to be included in these notes. But, needless to say, we are hoping for the best.

Sports Championship Challenge Cup for Best All-Round Unit.—Since the table for this competition was published in the November WIRE, we have added considerably to our aggregate of points by our successes in the Command hockey and rugby competitions.

On December 23rd the Command cross-country run takes place, when we hope to see the Royal Signals team well to the fore, not only for the cup at stake but also for the points to be collected towards this competition.

A revised table will be forwarded with our next notes, which will include the points gained by all units in hockey, rugby and cross-country; but until then, no doubt, it will be of interest to state that at present Royal Signals are established at the head of affairs, with six points in hand.

Shanghai Signal Section.

Hockey.—Results to date are as follows: Area Details v. R.A.S.C., won by 3—2; v. H.Q. Worcester Regiment, lost by 0—5; v. A Company Worcester Regiment, won by 7—6.

Soccer.—We have excelled in the League soccer matches, and we hold a very good goal average. The following are results to date: Area Details v. Jews, won by 16—0; v. Sokal, won by 18—0; v. Pagoda, lost by 2—3; v. Redcaps, drew at 1—1; v. Aurora, won by 2—0.

Aden Signal Section.

Hockey.—There is a rumour of a Hockey League being started, but so far nothing has come to light. The results for the month are shown below.

Football.—The Wills football cup has been lost and won. Some excellent matches were witnessed during the struggle for supremacy, but our own interest vanished when the R.A. Right Section knocked us out in the first round and beat S. and S.D. in the final.

The league games started last month. So far we have played three matches and lost two.

Athletics.—We entered a team for the mile relay at No. 8 (B) Squadron sports a fortnight ago, but lost to the R.A. Our team consisted of Captain Sugrue and Signalmen Parry, Green and Jaggard. Three teams were entered, the R.A., Royal Signals and Naval Wireless finishing in that order.

Hockey.—Versus S. and S.D., won by 7—0; v. Hospital, drew at 1—1; v. R.E., won by 4—2; v. E.T.C., lost by 0—7; v. R.A., won by 3—1.

Football.—League games played: v. A.A. Section R.A., lost by 0—1; v. Naval Wireless, lost by 0—2; v. R.E., won by 2—0.

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association?

If not, join now!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in finding civil employment. See how the Association helps its Members in that direction, as shown on page 2. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XII.—No. 132 FEBRUARY, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

The Colonel in charge Royal Signals Records points out that a vacancy occasionally occurs for the enlistment of a lad for training as a TRUMPETER in the Corps and subsequent training as a DESPATCH RIDER.

He would like to give preference to the sons of non-commissioned officers and men of the Corps—particularly those who, having qualified at the periodical examination for Apprentice Tradesmen, have not passed high enough to secure a vacancy as such.

Boys are enlisted between the ages of 14 and 16 years, and a roster of suitable applicants is kept in the Record Office, from which vacancies are filled.

Parents desirous of having their boys registered for enlistment should make application through their Commanding Officers, except in the case of ex-soldiers, whose applications should be addressed direct to the Colonel in charge Royal Signals Records, Chatham.

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Bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1923, 1924 and 1925 are required by the Officer Commanding 4th Divl Signals, Reed Hall Camp, Colchester.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are indebted to Q.M.S. (Foreman-of-Signals) C. S. Roberts, M.B.E., for an interesting series of articles entitled "GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS OF RADIO RECEPTION"—the first instalment of which is published on pages 46 and 47 of this issue.

The author of these articles will be pleased to answer any questions on the subject. Such correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, marked "Radio Reception" in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, with a stamped addressed envelope enclosed for reply.

We have frequently called our readers' attention to the many and varied ADVERTISEMENTS which are published in the Corps Journal, asking that support should be given to those firms who, by advertising in THE WIRE, assist in no small measure in meeting the heavy overhead charges which are unavoidable with a publication of this description.

No magazine, however popular, could possibly be a financial success without its advertisements, and the proprietors of this Journal have every reason to congratulate themselves on the high status of the firms with whom they are fortunate enough to have business dealings.

A unique opportunity is now offered to WIRE readers. On page 47 of this issue we illustrate an example of business enterprise which we venture to hope will be to the mutual advantage of the firm concerned, the customer, and also ourselves. Messrs. WINGROVE & ROGERS LTD., of 188/9 Strand, London, W.C.2, are well known wireless experts, whose POLAR brand of accessories (particularly CONDENSERS) are considered an essential feature of all the most up-to-date receiving sets.

The London Manager of this firm is Lieut.-Colonel G. D. OZANNE, M.C., M.I.E.E., late of the Indian Army (Signals), and it is of particular interest to note that ever since the London Branch of the firm has been in operation, Signals Association have had the first refusal of every employment vacancy they have had to offer. Most of their London employees, to-day, are ex-Royal Signals personnel, and it is fitting that we should appeal to those of our readers who are wireless enthusiasts to use the goods this firm offers—taking care to mention THE WIRE when ordering.

Messrs. Wingrove & Rogers offer advice on all matters dealing with variable condensers and their uses, whether the set in question be a single valve or a complicated multi-valve receiver.

SUPPORT HOME INDUSTRIES.

❀ ❀ ❀

Will any survivor of the original R.E. WIRELESS EXPERIMENTAL STATION at Aldershot, in 1907, please communicate with Mr. A. E. White, 25 Godstone Road, Kenley, Surrey?

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes

Westminster Branch.

Notice to Members.—The annual General Meeting of the Westminster Branch of the Signals Association will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 18th, at 8.30 p.m., at the headquarters of the 26th and 27th (London) Companies, Air Defence Brigade Signals, 56 Regency Street, London, S.W.1, by kind permission of the commanding officer. In accordance with the usual custom, the meeting will be followed by a smoking concert.

The attendance of members at these annual meetings has always been very encouraging, and we hope that this year will constitute a record, thus confirming the Committee in their opinion that a development of the social activities of the Association would be welcomed by members.

As you are aware, the Association exists mainly as a form of Benevolent Society, open to all present and past members of Signals, whereby a helping hand can be extended to those in distress; and the record of achievement of the Westminster Branch in this direction is remarkably good. But the Association also performs another valuable service: that of keeping together, in a social organisation, old members of Signal units who would otherwise lose touch with friends they had made in the Service.

A re-organisation of the local Association has recently taken place, in consequence of which this is now the only Old Comrades Branch in London, and we have therefore a considerable increase in our membership. For this reason the provision of entertainment and social facilities becomes even more important, and we look to you for support.

The meeting on February 18th will therefore be as welcome to our new members as to the old, and a cheery evening can be promised. Please come along—and bring any past or present member of Signals you know as a guest. The Entertainments Committee of the A.D.B. Signals unit has undertaken to provide a really enjoyable concert in keeping with their high standard.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the Branch is running its very first dance—a carnival—on Saturday, March 7th. This will follow the lines of the A.D.B. Signals unit dances, and is expected to be a huge success. Make a note of the date, and bring all your friends along.

Salisbury and District Branch.

General.—I must commence my Association notes by wishing all members a very happy and prosperous New Year, from the members of this Branch.

We are very anxious to get in touch with any serving members about to leave the Service.

Activities.—As anticipated in the January issue, a smoking concert for all old comrades of Signals was held at the White Horse Hotel, Castle Street, Salisbury, on Friday, January 9th. This was thoroughly appreciated by all present. Those who had the misfortune of being unable to attend missed a rattling good evening's enjoyment.

Miss D. Edmunds, accompanied by Miss Holdridge, delighted the assembly with her singing, and the concert party of 3rd Divl Signals were most entertaining in their variety; whilst community singing of old war-time and other songs enabled old pals to give voice to their feelings. Much amusement was caused when "apres la guerre souvenirs" of the British soldiers were displayed. We also had various piano solos and accompaniments to several songs by Mr. Roper.

Another such evening will be arranged by the Entertainment Committee in the near future, at the same rendezvous, when it is hoped that all members of the Signal Service will do their utmost to give us their support and make the evening even merrier. So keep your eyes open for the notice when given.

Membership.—I am very pleased to record that up to date we have been able to gather in thirty-eight members. We welcomed one new ex-Signals to our fold on the night of the smoker, and we are always ready to enrol members if they let me know.

Membership Badges.—These badges can be obtained from me on receipt of a post card (for members of the Association only; price 1/-).

Corps Ties.—There is still a supply of Corps ties in the hands of the Secretary, who will be pleased to let you have one in return for a postal order for 2/6.

FREDERICK COLE, Hon. Secretary.

* * * *

Allocation of Monthly Membership Subscriptions.—It has been brought to the notice of the Central Committee of the Signals Association that misunderstandings have arisen in certain quarters regarding the allocation of monthly membership subscriptions of ninepence.

Ninepence per month is the equivalent of nine shillings per annum, which represents Association membership, two shillings per annum, and subscription to THE WIRE, seven shillings per annum.

In order that every member of the Corps should have equal facilities for Association membership, and at the same time receive his monthly copy of the Corps Journal without unnecessary pecuniary embarrassment, the Committee passed a resolution in 1926 that a system of monthly payments of ninepence should be inaugurated, and that the allocation of that amount should be: Sevenpence per month as the proportion belonging to THE WIRE, and twopence per month as the proportion representing ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

It was agreed at the time that if every member of the Corps could be persuaded to support his Corps Association in this, or the alternative manner of annual payments, the resultant increase of custom would be the means of placing the Association on a much firmer financial foundation than it had been hitherto; would enable the Committee to extend their activities considerably; and would ultimately make THE WIRE the Corps Journal with the largest circulation amongst regimental publications—thereby offering far better facilities for advertisements, without which no magazine of this description could exist.

Authority was given at the same time for Unit Representatives and Branch officials to retain one penny of the twopence representing Association membership, as the nucleus of a Branch Fund for the furtherance of local Branch activities, with the reservation that such accumulation of funds should only be used for the emergency relief of Branch members, and that Branches should remit any accumulation of money considered to be in excess of local requirements to Headquarters office for investment purposes.

It is understood that a feeling exists in certain places that the money so collected is placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Association Benevolent Fund when it might be used to better advantage in other ways.

Such, however, is not the case. The Association Benevolent Fund derives its income solely from Officers' subscriptions to that fund and from amounts collected and donated by Units and Messes from time to time.

All profits derived from THE WIRE and all moneys received in respect of Association membership are devoted (after all expenses of administration have been paid) to the building up of Association finances (capital investments, etc.)—with the task of increasing the circle of prospective employers for the accommodation of discharged warrant officers, n.c.o.s and men, as the first and most important objective.

* * * *

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.	Wireless Examiner
Ex-Signalman	Clerk
Ex-Signalman	Motor Driver's Assistant
Ex-N.C.O.	Porter
Ex-Driver	Van Driver
Ex-Signalman	Railway Porter (temporary)
Ex-Signalman	Railway Porter (temporary)

GENERAL SECRETARY.

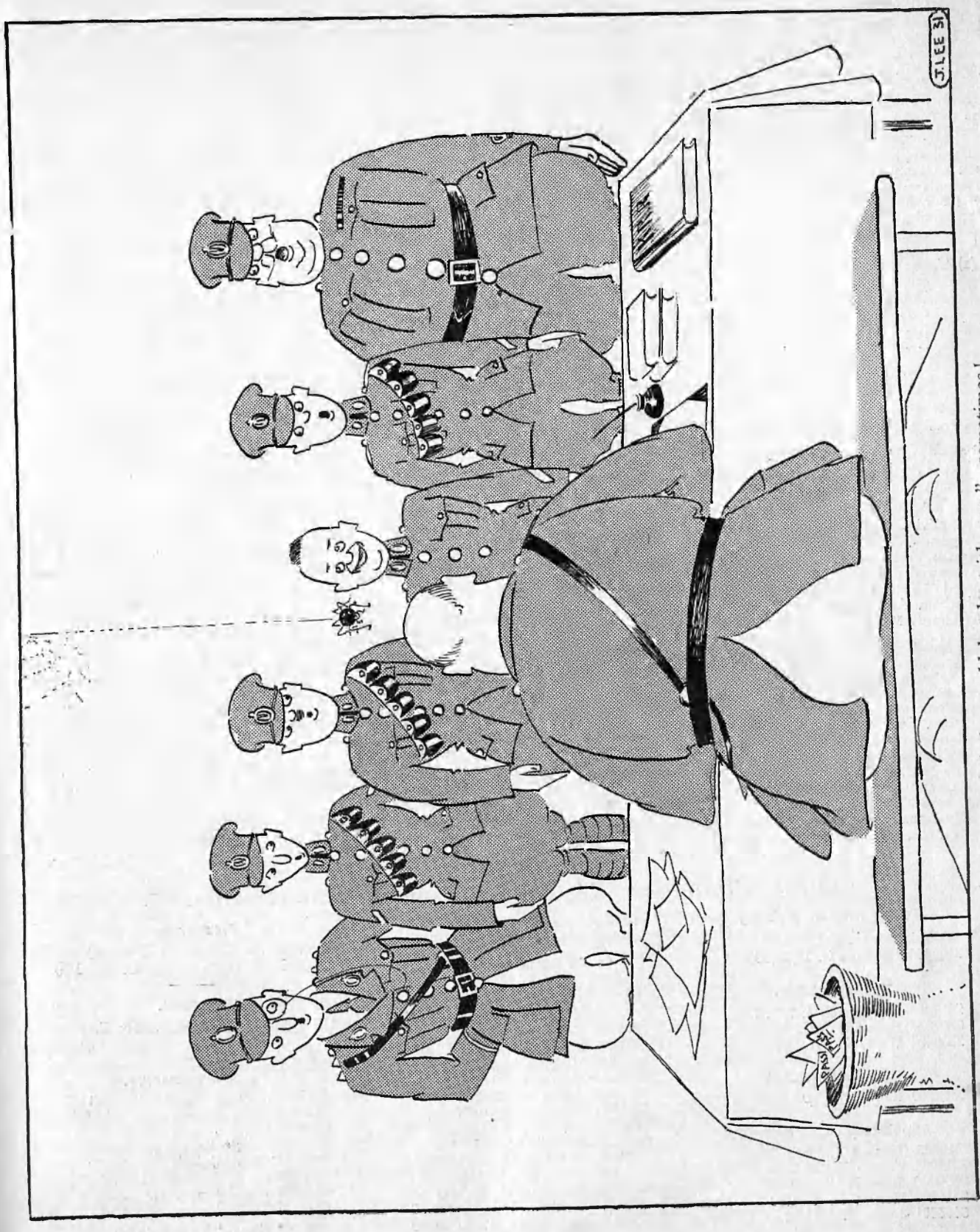
Benevolent Fund Notes.

Premature Discharge from the Corps.

December 18th, 1930.

I feel it necessary again to call attention to the remarks on page 42 of THE WIRE of February, 1930.

Cases are still occurring of men who have obtained their dis-



"Laugh, and the world laughs with you"—sometimes!

charge on compassionate grounds finding themselves stranded and appealing to the Benevolent Fund for help.

The following is taken from the latest appeal. A Signalman, enlisted in December, 1926, and discharged " on compassionate grounds " in November, 1930, with an " exemplary " character, writes: " Sir.—Having been lately discharged on compassionate grounds, I find that my employer has just finished his contract, the next one commencing in February. As I am not entitled to unemployment benefit, it is rather hard to make ends meet....."

I will repeat two facts which, in February, 1930, I asked all men contemplating an early discharge from the Corps to bear in mind:—

(1) For a man with ordinary qualifications, employment is almost impossible, as there is not nearly enough to go round. (N.B.: The situation is far worse now than in last February.)

(2) Unless a soldier is an insured man and has paid a certain number of contributions under the Unemployment Insurance Act *before enlistment*, he cannot draw the dole if he obtains a " compassionate " discharge from the Service, as it is held to be his own fault that he is no longer employed in the Army.

A. H. FRENCH, Colonel,
President Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:—

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

Colonel A. C. Fuller, O.B.E.; Lieut.-Col. A. E. Meredith, M.C.; Captain C. H. Akehurst; Captain C. W. Knight.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

3rd Divl Signals, Bulford; 44th H.C. Divl Signals (T.A.); Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion, S.T.C., Catterick; 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot; E Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth; Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth (Southern Command " Tattoo "); Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Aldershot; Chatham Area Signal Section; Egypt Signals, Cairo; Corpl A. Grant, M.M.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, Stow Bridge. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

2—Ex-Signalman, Ashton-under-Lyne. Unemployment and domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

3—Driver, Royal Signals. Temporary domestic difficulties. £4 allocated as a loan from Association funds.

4—Ex-N.C.O. (T.A.) Chiswick. Sickness and convalescent treatment for child. £2/15/6 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

5—Ex-Signalman, Leeds. Unemployment and domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

6—Driver, Royal Signals. Temporary domestic difficulties. £1 allocated as a loan from Association funds.

7—Ex-Driver, Bradford. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

8—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

9—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £1 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

10—Ex-Signalman, Bergholt. Domestic difficulties. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

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

Are You Prepared for Civil Life?

[We have pleasure in publishing the subjoined correspondence, in the hope that all serving members of Royal Signals may be induced to prepare for civil employment when their time comes to leave the Service.—ED.]

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford Camp, Wilts,
To the Editor of "The Wire." 6th January, 1931.

Dear Sir—I have received a letter from an ex-Signalman of this unit, a few extracts from which might be of interest to readers of THE WIRE.

It is true that only certain tradesmen in the Corps are eligible for vocational training courses; but the subjoined extracts may encourage those who are eligible to endeavour to get sent on a course—and having obtained one, to work hard and put their best into it when there.

The Signalman in question, although desirous of employment in quite a different line, underwent a vocational course in electric wiring, with a view to having something to fall back on. He was not successful in obtaining his chosen employment, but the extracts from his letter show the result of his success in his vocational course.

I am, sir, yours etc.,
E. W. J. HOBKIRK, Major.

" . . . Thanks to my vocational training, I secured employment with —— Electricity Company, who cover a very large area for all electrical installations. They have placed me on a progressive basis, and another twelve months should put me on top rate of pay.

" My work ranges from house wiring to churches, and among my latest installations were the prison cells of the ——— Police Court. You will judge by that that my work is not in the least monotonous.

" I would advise anyone leaving the Colours to take a vocational course and stick at it, as a trade of some kind is essential to a man who hopes to obtain employment in the labour market of to-day. There are too many of the every-day worker type on the dole at present to give a chance to any fresh ones.

" . . . . . "

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. II. (C.S.M.)

2306516 Eyres A. 2/9/30
2306454 Hopkins C. 14/11/30

To be C.Q.M.S.

2310810 Lawrenson G. 7/8/30
2307033 Harris F. 6/11/30
2306404 Watts R. 14/11/30

To be Sergeant

5562760 Rice J. 7/9/30

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

2310863 Conyers J. 2/8/30
*2311061 French W. 15/8/30
2309008 Miles H. 7/9/30
2315290 Haines E. 6/11/30
5663391 Joyce F. 8/11/30
2315644 Pagett W. 8/11/30
2306620 Widgery J. 14/11/30

To be Corporal (Farrier).

1039674 Welch W. 1/12/30

To be Corporal

2308489 Knight, E. 1/8/30
2315645 Lewin J. 7/8/30
2315542 Myddleton J. 15/8/30
2316133 Hanna G. 1/9/30
2315464 Brown C. 25/9/30
2316655 Beach C. 26/10/30
2317211 Pope F. 6/11/30
2315537 Nuttall R. 6/11/30
7733896 Andrews W. 8/11/30
2316794 Bastin W. 8/11/30
2318222 Anderson G. 25/11/30
2315525 Whitehead R. 26/11/30
2315518 Humphries A. 28/11/30

Discharges.

2306247 Sergt Kent W. 10/12/30
2311392 Sergt Partridge C. 27/12/30

Deceased.

*1048160 F/S/Sergt Willsmore E. 10/1/31

To Army Reserve.

2312934 L/Sergt Brown V. 27/11/30
2316232 Corpl Wheeler C. 24/11/30
1057156 Corpl Tanner E. 25/11/30
2315897 Corpl Gow S. 4/12/30
6279504 Corpl Haisell J. 4/12/30
2315988 Corpl Summers R. 22/12/30
2315931 Corpl Bryan B. 28/12/30
2316647 Corpl Farmer R. 29/12/30

* *Special Roster, India*

Corps News—Officers

MOVES—

Major R. V. Montgomery from Catterick to India (S.T.C.)
Major F. R. Cobb from Aldershot to Colchester (4th D/S)
Major A. C. Sykes from War Office to Tidworth (A.F.V./S)
Capt H. V. V. S. Thorne from A Corps Signals to Aldershot (Command Signal Company)
Capt R. C. Woodbridge from Egypt to Catterick (S.T.C.)
Capt F. C. Curtis from Aldershot to Staff College
Capt G. St. J. Martin from Staff Coll. to Aldershot (2nd D/S)
Capt E. H. du Cros from London to India (Army H.Q.)
Capt J. Wynn from Aldershot to India (S.T.C.)
Lieut C. P. S. Denholm-Young from Bulford to India (B C/S)
Lieut E. C. Thompson from Blackdown to India (B C/S)
Lieut L. T. Shawcross from Colchester to India (Peshawar D/S)
Lieut W. G. R. Elliott from Colchester to Bulford (3rd D/S)
2/Lieut P. G. Docker from Bulford to India (B C/S)
2/Lieut W. B. Rowett from Colchester to India (Kohat D/S)
2/Lieut H. Worrall from Aldershot to India (Kohat D/S)
2/Lieut S. G. Humphrys from Bulford to India (Wazir D/S)
2/Lieut W. A. Purser from Catterick to India (S.T.C.)

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 12/12/30

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt L. D. Goddard is seconded for service with the T.A. 17/11/30, vice Capt E. H. du Cros, restored to establishment

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—F. J. Baldwin to be 2/Lieut. 13/12/30

War Office, 16/12/30

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains:—H. H. Anthony, 17/12/30; W. A. Peachell, 17/12/30

War Office, 19/12/30

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut L. A. E. Tozer to be Captain, 18/12/30, and remains seconded.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

43rd (W.) Divl Signals—Lieut V. E. Bailey resigns his commission, 20/12/30

56th (1st London) Divl Signals—Lieutenant R. C. Hutton to be Captain, 1/11/30

War Office, 23/12/30

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt G. St. J. Martin is restored to establishment, 22/12/30

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt B. L. Bastin to be Major, 4/11/30

War Office, 30/12/30

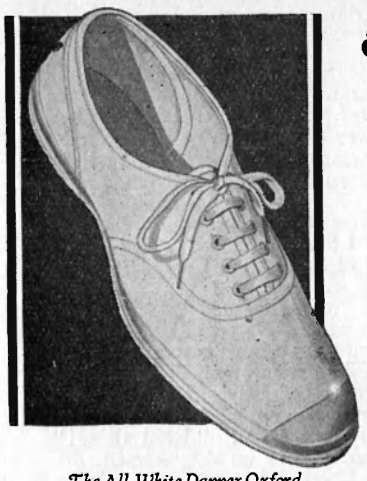
REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt W. O. Bowen is seconded for service with Burma Military Police, 22/10/30

ESTABLISHMENTS—

Lieutenant L. A. E. Tozer, R.Signals, relinquishes his grading (Cl. GG) on promotion to Captain, 18/12/30

FORGET YOUR FEET and WIN!



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REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned Lieuts from Supplementary Reserve of Officers to be Lieutenants, with seniority from the dates stated: S. A. W. Philcox, 28/3/25; W. L. Gartland, 29/7/25

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—Lieut S. A. W. Philcox, Res. of Officers, to be Lieut. 31/12/30, with seniority 28/3/25
Lieut W. L. Gartland, Res. of Officers, to be Lieut. 31/12/30 with seniority 29/7/25

War Office, 2/1/31

REGULAR ARMY—

Capt A. J. Harris, O.B.E., R.Signals, to be Brevet-Major, 1/1/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt J. P. Appleby to be Major, 12/10/30

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

46th (N.M.) Divl Signals—Capt (Adjutant) J. C. Bray, O.B.E., to be Brevet-Major, 1/1/31

47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—2/Lieut G. E. Forward to be Lieut. 17/12/30

48th (S.M.) Divl Signals—Capt J. L. Totterdell, M.C. (Adjt.) to be Brevet-Major, 1/1/31

54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—Capt F. A. Manley to be Brevet-Major, 1/1/31

War Office, 13/1/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt M. F. Allan to be Major, 12/10/30

Correction.—The rank of Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Ozanne, M.C., R.Signals (R. of O. and T.A.) should read as shown here, and not as published in the January WIRE under "Extracts from *The London Gazette.*"

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

- Plain Tales -

Seeing 'em off.—Ah, well! I suppose I had better tell you all about it. It was Bill's fault, anyway. He shouldn't drag me down to stations to see people off. I'll admit that the voyager was an old friend of ours, in a way ; yet, when he shook me by the hand, he confessed that I was a total stranger to him, he didn't know my name, was not particularly interested, and so firth—I mean, forth.

Now, I always think it is a crime to leave people in ignorance over such important matters, so I procured a brick, tied a note to it, and as the train pulled out of the station, I threw it. No, you fathead! The brick, of course.

Bill and I are agreed that the trouble seemed to start about then. A perfectly respectable Parsee lady stopped the message with her face. Her teeth flew out on to the platform, and she pulled the communication cord. The train stopped, and during the few moments it took to recover the lady's molars, a band of Pathans raided the mail van, tore up all the letters and scattered them on the station-master's table. "Read those!" they cried, as they galloped down the line on their camels.

The station-master was inconsolable, and wept violently on a new batch of bills of lading that had just arrived. Never been on a man's back, some of them.

A couple of Canadian mounted policemen, who had come along to get rackets put on their tennis strings, made a grab at me, but I eluded them quite easily. With a wild shout, I swung myself up on to the "down" signal. The signalman was not on my side, however, and pulled his lever so vigorously that I was shot on to the roof of the station. To a merry chorus of breaking glass, I landed in the ticket office.

Always quick to snatch opportunities, I booked two first singles to Hong Kong and one to Goodge Street, punched the ticket collector on the nose, and slid down the parcels chute into the street.

Inside the station, pandemonium reigned. The train crept out quietly in the confusion, and left the guard to follow on his bicycle.

Arrived in the street, I began to wonder what had happened to Bill, but a crash of bent glass and a string of oaths indicated that William was not far distant. When I reached him, he was sitting on a military policeman's head.

"Come on, Bill!" I urged. "Business first, pleasure afterwards."

"Wassertime?" he asked.

"Wednesday."

"Well, I've got to biff the other copper."

After some little argument, I got him into our car and we drove happily away.

"Bill," I said, "they've gone!"

Bill glared at me with his remaining serviceable eye, and nursed a large bump on the back of his head. "Tips," he said.

* * * *

Conversation.—"Oh! ah! Mrs. Gobberwosh. How perfectly charming of you to come along. Wretched weather, what?"

"Yeah."

"And did you really walk here?"

"Yeah."

"Oh! how wonderfully brave of you! But, let me see, you live next door, don't you?"

"Yeah."

"Simply splendid. Oh! there's Mrs. Jibnicks—yarp yarp—."

* * * *

The Optimist.—I have just been reading about a native who took a hatchet and converted a fellow-countryman into a particularly nasty piece of work. He placed the hatchet in the dead man's hand, and endeavoured, with no success whatever, to convince the police that he had discovered a case of suicide!

* * * *

Dress Notes.—Evening frocks may be worn longer, especially if you are posted to a new station where they haven't seen the one you are wearing now.

To cut away the collar of your guard-mounting jacket and sew it on a green silk cape, whether embroidered or not, is sheer folly. Hardly anyone is doing this now.

I am pleased to note that full evening dress for the elite is coming into favour again. Even at quite informal "hops," this dress is gaining predominance. The black bow on an elastic band is definitely taboo in respectable clubs ; and, anyway, it was always beastly embarrassing when your dance partner insisted on pulling the elastic just for the pleasure of hearing it slap on your collar.

Q.: "I have several spare skeins of wool. Could you tell me how I could use them to knit my husband a silk Trilby hat?"

A.: "Yes. Grate carefully the juice of two bananas into a glass frying pan and "—oh, blow! that's not your answer. Go away!

* * * *

Society Chat.—Tripping gaily into the grocery bar last Friday, who should I meet but the Hon. Mrs. Fysch-Whelk (her mother, of course, was a Crabbe). As usual, she looked charming in a beige hat, Martin Henri skirt, blue tennis socks, and muslin earrings, and was buying a tin of sausages with that gay abandon which has endeared her to her friends. She told me that her "affaire" with young Claude Artichoke was making splendid progress. (Her first husband was a Bake.)

One of the smartest of our young set is Miss Jane McAdam. (I need hardly remind you, her mother was a Rhode.) Straight Jane's merry laughter may often be heard near the gas-works, especially when her fiance, the popular Lord Angus McTarmac, gets slightly oiled. (His mother, as you know, was a Screeme.)

Lady Elpha Leather had an interesting gathering the other day —on the back of her neck. She is keeping an eye on it.

* * * *

Literary Note.—We read, with interest, the account of the finding of the original manuscript of the "Headquarters Gazette" in the G Branch cupboards. If Messrs. Christie's or Sotheby's should happen to make enquiries respecting this manuscript, I should like them to know that no great value can be put upon it, because the actual No. 1 copy happens to be in the possession of our Mr. Brooks, of Waziristan—the blighter!

BARLEUX.

General Considerations of Radio Reception

BY Q.M.S. (F-of-S) C. S. ROBERTS, M.B.E.

Some ten or twelve years ago the science of radio-communication, or what was then known as wireless telegraphy and telephony, was understood by comparatively few skilled electrical engineers ; whereas, nowadays, one often hears the schoolboy discussing the relative merits of transformer and resistance coupled amplifiers and similar technical topics.

In submitting to readers of THE WIRE a series of articles dealing with the radio receiver, it is hoped that they will afford interest to the skilled operator, as well as to the everyday "listener-in" who derives pleasure from the reception of broadcast programmes.

A radio receiver may be subdivided into five portions:—

1. The input circuit, or pick-up.
2. The radio (or high) frequency amplifier.
3. The detector.
4. The audio (or low) frequency amplifier.
5. The output circuit.

The input circuit (or pick-up) comprises the aerial system, tuning arrangements, and coupling to the grid and cathode (*1) of the first valve. It is the collector of energy radiated by a transmitter.

---

*1—The cathode is the emitter of electrons in the valve. In battery-heated valves and valves with thick filaments especially designed to be heated with alternating current, the filament is the cathode. In "indirectly heated" valves, the filament or heater raises the temperature of the cathode so that an emission of electrons occurs.

If the amount of energy picked up is insufficient to operate the detector, then it becomes necessary to amplify the energy (in terms of voltage) at the received radio frequency to a value which may be effectively detected.

There is a definite minimum value of input voltage (or signal strength) to the detector for its efficient operation, and the amount of radio frequency amplification that is necessary to produce the gain (*2) will therefore depend upon the amount of energy (voltage, or signal strength) picked up by the aerial system.

The detected energy is seldom sufficiently large, except under certain conditions which will be considered later, to operate the output load, i.e. loud speaker or televisor, etc.

It is, therefore, necessary to again amplify the received signal ; but now, because it has been detected, at audio (or low) frequency.

Here, again, there will be a definite desired gain between the detector and the output circuit, which will depend entirely upon the amount of energy required to operate the output load.

It will be seen, then, that the overall gain between the energy picked up and that required to operate the output circuit may be calculated and produced, the amount of aerial pick-up being the only indefinite quantity.

How many would-be owners of a radio receiver have purchased an instrument with which some relative has had wonderful results, let the wife buy a loud speaker because she liked the beautiful fretted picture, slung a piece of D.3 to his neighbour's chimney, and then spent much more money, before the relative can be asked to come along and stay the week-end.

Perhaps it is because the aerial is outdoors that it gets the least consideration. This often means the difference between good and inferior reception. The aerial certainly deserves more care and thought in its construction than it gets.

*2—" Gain " is the term applied to the degree of amplification obtained between one circuit and another.

Reviewing the general functions of the various portions of a receiver leads to the conclusion that the first decision should be the type of loudspeaker, etc., and the amount of energy required for its operation ; secondly, the stations to be received ; and thirdly, the estimated input signal voltage—due regard being given to the direction of the aerial to receive best the stations decided upon. (It is hoped, in a later article, to show the method of approximately determining a signal input.)

An instrument which gives the necessary overall gain may then be constructed or acquired. Example:—

Loud speaker: Cone (medium type) requiring 1 watt output.
Input signal: 100 micro-volts per metre at a wave-length of, say, 1000 metres.

$$\text{Total signal strength} = \frac{10^2 \times 10^3}{10^6} = 0.1 \text{ volt}$$

Detector valve: For efficient detection requires, say, 1 volt input.
Output valve: For 1 watt output requires, say, 20 volts input.

$$\text{Pre-detector gain} = \frac{\text{Required detector input}}{\text{Total signal strength}} = \frac{1}{.1} = 10$$

$$\text{Audio frequency gain} = \frac{\text{Last valve input}}{\text{Detector valve input}} = \frac{20}{1} = 20$$

From this example, four valves are suggested, with an overall gain of $10 \times 20 = 200$, as follows:—

(*a*) Radio frequency valve gaining 10
(*b*) Detector valve gaining 5
(*c*) First audio frequency valve gaining 4
(*d*) Output valve gaining nil, or very little (*3).

*3—The function of the output valve is not so much to amplify as to adequately handle the input voltage without causing distortion in the anode circuit. There is a definite gain, however, which may most conveniently be employed in conjunction with a volume control.

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SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Christmas having gone, we are settling down to work again. However, those who were left behind " bucked in " right royally and things ran smoothly.

Snow came on Boxing Day—a day late, the reporters said, but opinions differ. Our Christmas day was spent quite happily without it ; and, of course, reporters don't have to handle the snow plough, etc.

On Christmas Day the dining room looked very gay with its decorations, which came into being under the supervision of L/Sergt Ramsden. Some artistic work was executed by Sigmn Angel I., chiefly with cotton wool. In the centre were greetings to the commanding officer and Mrs. Walsh, and on either side greetings to the Mounted and Dismounted Wings.

Dinner was served at 12.30, and about 240 n.c.o.s and men (including some un-uniformed recruits) sat down to a sumptuous dinner. The arrangements were admirable: a plate travelled from one cook to another, each adding his contribution, until it was laden and snatched up by the waiters.

The waiters on this occasion were the C.O., the adjutant (Capt Walford), and all the members of the Sergeants' Mess who could possibly attend—and not a plate was dropped! though some of us managed to wring a cupful of gravy out of our " blues " afterwards.

Whilst the duff was being slaughtered, the C.O. (on behalf of the officers) wished us all the compliments of the season. A suitable response was made by L/Corpl Greatorex, who did not forget to mention the cooks, who had done the lion's share that day and prepared such excellent fare.

Generally speaking, there was not much accommodation for the fruit, etc., after the main dinner had been conquered with the aid of a glass or two of beer, but it was most acceptable in the evening in the canteen with the final " hops."

Only forty-seven minutes elapsed from the time the first plate of turkey was served until the last plate of duff was carried in.

Christmas Tree.—On December 18th the married families of the Depot Battalion were entertained to a tea, followed by a Christmas tree, by the officers, warrant officers and n.c.o.s of the Battalion, in the Newbigging Hall.

The families were received by Mrs. Walsh on arrival, and they then distributed themselves around tables excellently prepared by the N.A.A.F.I. and tea began about 4 o'clock. At the commencement, candles were lighted on three large Christmas cakes in the middle of the hall. The children (who were not too excited to eat!) made short work of the tea, though I'm sure some wished they " had more room." About 190 were seated, including the officers and their wives.

Among the officers were the Colonel-Commandant (Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O.), the commanding officer (Lieut.-Col. C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C.), Major G. Kent, and the C. of E., R.C. and Wesleyan padres. The G.O.C.'s wife (Mrs. Kirk) who takes an intense interest in events of this kind, honoured us with her presence.

The Band (eighteen strong, under Sergt McMahon) played some light music.

Corpl Quigley, dressed up as a chef à la mode, and somewhat padded, canvassed everybody to guess his weight. After being prodded here and there to see how " solid " he was, picked up and put down again, and coaxed, etc. (all with a view to gaining an inkling as to his avoirdupois) all we could extract from him was that he weighed 6½ lbs. at birth.

After tea, the children were divided into two parties—the younger ones to be amused at one end with Puss-in-Boots (Driver Vann) and Little Red Riding Hood (Miss Oliver), whilst the elder girls played games at the other end, started off by Mrs. Walsh and the Director of Ceremonies, Captain M. F. M. Parkes. Later, all manner of noisy toys, balloons, etc., showered from the roof, where they had been carefully hidden.

On the stage, a really first-class fireplace had been erected by R.S.M. Shave and his craftsmen, and longing eyes were continually cast in that direction by children who were anxious to see how Father Christmas was going to arrive.

After the games, all lights were put out and only the red glow in the fireplace could be seen. Then Father Christmas (Sergeant Cranham) climbed down the chimney. How he avoided burning himself or getting sooty was a poser! After he had wished everybody the compliments of the season, up went the lights, and there stood revealed to us a splendid Christmas tree (which, during the preceding portion of the evening, had been neatly partitioned off).

The tree, which had been most artistically decorated by Mrs. Walsh, was lit up with fairy lights and covered with fairy toys and tinsel, whilst looking down on us from the very top was the fairy doll. Around the tree was spread the most excellent collection of toys I have ever seen! Dolls dressed by officers' wives, mechanical toys, motor cars with electric headlights, fire engines similarly equipped, aeroplanes, doll's prams and cradles, etc.—in fact, all the most modern toys which the children of to-day enjoy were there. To say they were happy was to put it mildly. Some of the " pa's " couldn't resist the temptation to " see how they ran "!

When every child had received a present, Father Christmas presented Mrs. Phillp with a lovely Christmas hamper for being the nearest in the weight guessing competition—her guess being only half an ounce out. Miss Oliver was presented with a 6 ft. wooden spoon, tied with the Corps colours, for the " wildest " guess.

Then the lights were " doused," and Father Christmas climbed up the chimney after wishing us good luck until next year.

Colonel Walsh, on behalf of the officers, w.o.s and n.c.o.s, wished all the children a happy Christmas, and thanked Captain Parkes and his committee for the excellent manner in which everything had been prepared and run for the enjoyment of everybody present. It was, indeed, a most carefully organised and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Sigmn Dellor then expressed the thanks of the children, who gave three hearty cheers.

Before leaving, each lady was presented with a nice souvenir, and the children were loaded up with oranges and sweets.

Promotions.—F/Corpl Welch to that rank. Congratulations! Good service and hard work have brought some recognition. Keep it up!

Departures.—We are very sorry to lose the following men from the cadre: Signalmen Bryant S., Hull R. J., and Paine H. E., Drivers Borrows E., Etheridge, Ward W. and Coulson F. We hope they will be happy in their new stations. They are undoubtedly a loss to us. Drivers Etheridge and Borrows, who have been on the regimental police, will always be remembered by us as two of our stalwarts. Both at work and in sport they were always willing to give of their best, and Driver Etheridge's boxing activities will ever be remembered by us. Similarly, Sigmn Hull R. J. (our sprinter) and Sigmn Bryant (our hooker)

will be badly missed in our teams, and their loss to us will be difficult to replace.

Recruiting.—Recruits are coming in so fast now that we have difficulty in accommodating them. This seems a good omen for the New Year, and we hope that they will make history for the Corps later on. The batons will, in time, be passed on to them. Grasp them as they come! That is our wish as we see you gradually being moulded each day. There is a tradition behind you, which will be handed on. See that you are able to hand on something equally as good!

Sergeants' Mess.

On December 19th we held the annual Christmas draw in the mess. Nobby Nobes did the purchasing and produced a very creditable array of prizes. The actual draw did not take long, and to everybody's satisfaction all numbers worked all correctly. There was a really plausible reason for being out after nine that night!

The draw was followed by a dance—the first held for a long time; and although there were a number of members away, we were quite a happy family and there was ample room. Altogether a most pleasant evening was spent, and we hope to hold more dances before the season is over.

Guest Night was held on January 9th, and being the first of the New Year, it was a great success. The menu is still as excellent as ever. Among the guests present were Mr. Morgan, Mr. Sandiford, Sergt Moss, Mr. Foster, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Lunn. Music was again produced from Sigmn Phillips' repertoire.

After dinner the R.S.M., in his speech, mentioned that this was his thirteenth guest night in the Depot Battalion. He thanked everybody for their loyal support during his period as R.S.M. of the Depot Battalion; and in reference to what the commanding officer regards as his "team," he felt sure that whilst that team continued to work together, their united efforts must inevitably in the long run produce a telling score. He extended a hearty welcome to our guests, and thanked the caterer, cooks and pianist for their individual efforts to make these functions such a success.

He then drew our attention to a beautiful solid bronze horse, mounted on an oak plinth, which had recently been presented by the commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel Walsh, D.S.O. M.C.) for an inter-stable competition for horsemastership. This was the first time it had been competed for, and he congratulated No. 5 Stable on being the first winners, and in particular Sergt J. S. Cranham on being the first n.c.o. to have his name engraved on the bronze plate. He did not forget the Farriers, who contributed their share towards winning the trophy.

We then indulged in a little community singing, just to open up our lungs, the favourite being "On Ilkley Moor, 'bart at." We really let it rip!

C.S.M. Payne came to the fore with several songs and gave "The girl I kissed on the stairs" by request. Sergt Lord had his broom in trim for this occasion, and played some tunes with wonderful results on his home-made instrument.

This was followed by more community singing, when it was suddenly realised that in the next room there was an opposition in being. On investigation it was found we had a shy musician in the Company—Sergt Bennett (with his banjo) and a few supporters were serenading the caterer. He was not allowed to hide his light under a bushel, so in he came and played and sang "Little Red Riding Hood" (with actions) and remained near the piano *pour la nuit*.

Sergt Cranham unearthed some drawing-room stories from his diary, and then followed a non-stop vaudeville by C.S.M. Payne, better than any show ever yet put acoss the ether: songs and step dances galore, and his imitations of a Frenchman were so lifelike that he kept us in fits of laughter for about an hour without a pause. One could feel the wrinkles dropping away each minute—a rattling good show!

Fortunately, no stage managers were present to whirl him away to the halls with tempting offers. If other guest nights are as full of fun and spontaneous wit and talent, we shall be lucky. Let's hope they will.

S'trewth!—Scene: Sergeants' Mess. Enter visitor in mufti, who hangs up his hat and rubs his hands.

Caterer (affably): "Good evening!"

Visitor: "Good evening! Give us a small one and a packet of Players, old man."

C: "Here you are!"
V.: "Not too bad!"

C.: "No. The best. Cold this evening, eh?"
V.: "Yes, but not so cold as it is down south, old chap."

C.: "No? Just up on leave?"
V.: "Lord, no! I enlisted in the Corps this morning!"
—*Collapse of caterer.*

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Arrivals and Departures.—Our O.C., Major R. E. Vyvyan, M.B.E., M.C., has, we understand, received orders to depart for India in the near future. Major R. A. Bagnold is our new O.C. Captain R. Jee has also joined us from overseas. Every good wish is extended to these officers on their respective departure or arrival.

L/Sergt Palmer and Corpl Cook T. have received orders that they will be required for service in India. We wish them the best of luck.

L/Corporals Mortimer, Taylor, Brassfield and Jennings have joined the drill and musketry staff, to help us with the overflowing arrivals of recruits. During the last month our average has kept well up to twelve per day. DIS-WING.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

Christmas festivities having finished, we return once more to the dreary round.

Among the many activities of the festive season, we must mention the children's Christmas party, kindly given by Lieut.-Col. E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., and the officers of the Battalion. After the young guests had been regaled with tea and other good things, they were treated to a very successful cinema show by Major St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler. In addition to a film of Mickey Mouse, the performance included a special Christmas feature which he had himself made with the kind assistance of the R.A.F. The evening finished with the distribution of gifts from the tree, at which Captain Firth presided wtih great success.

The Christmas arrangements were carried out with the usual success, and all concerned deserve great credit.

The Battalion has recently been denuded by large drafts for overseas, all of whom carry with them our best wishes.

On Sunday, January 11th, the Corps Band gave a very popular concert in the Newbigging Hall. Mr. Ricketts is to be congratulated on their very fine performance.

On Wednesday, the 14th, the Vimy Lines N.A.A.F.I. was packed to capacity on the occasion of a concert by the Imperial Players (Blue) Company. Everyone present enjoyed himself most heartily.

We draw the attention of D Company correspondent to the fact that "physics (E. and M.)" is only *one* subject in the special examination. (This is at the request of the educational staff.)

The said staff also send their very best wishes to W.O.i. Instructor F. Lambert, A.E.C., who is now on his way to India. He had long been a prominent feature of the S.T.C.

Recent additions to the educational staff include A/Sergeant-Instructor (on probation) Barker. Cavalry Signals should know him of old!

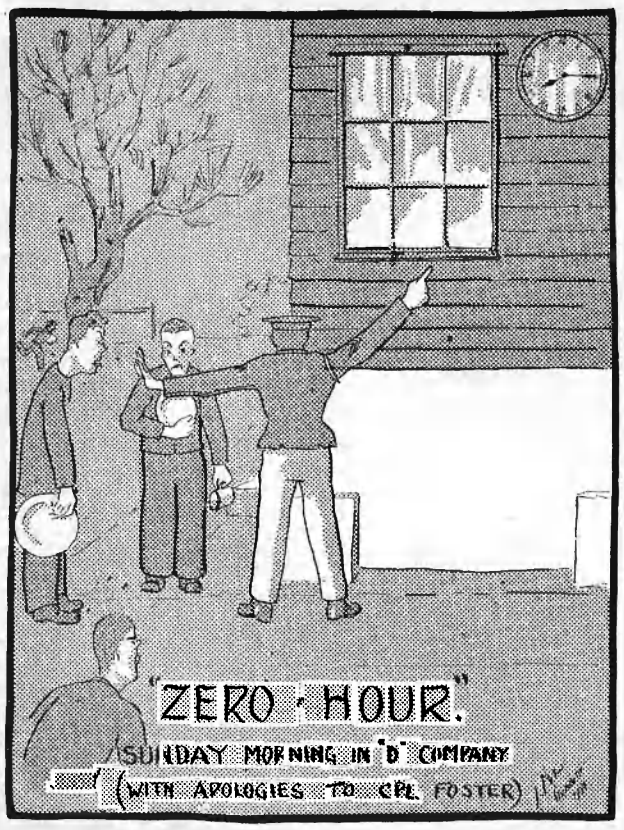
After twelve months of wandering in the far south, our old friend Marie has returned to the fold. He has been on probation to the A.E.C. attached to the Guards' Depot. We gather from his occasional lurid utterances that, at Caterham, he was told quite a lot about soldiers and foreign service.

Heartiest congratulations to Sergeant-Instructor H. T. Geary, A.E.C., on his marriage to Miss E. A. Pateman, at Hipswell, on December 31st last.

D Company, Training Battalion.

Well, here we are again, still trying to think of something original, and still a trifle "pushed." Let's have a bang at the Editor before we go any farther!

The New Cover Design.—As a gentleman of no particular importance, I really don't consider the new design an improvement to the cover of THE WIRE. "Jimmy" seems to be out of training, or something, and the scroll at the bottom is ——. I'm



blowed if I know! . . . I prefer the old design myself. The new one is " alta," as the troops say.

Promotion.—After a lapse of many moons, we have at last a Promotion Order: Corpl Haines, affectionately known as Sailor, has been appointed L/Sergeant. He is at present away on a P.O. course, but the celebrations can wait.

Apology.—L/Corpl (Darky) Broadhead bids me make known to the world that the report of his wedding in the December WIRE was grossly exaggerated. His courage failed at the last moment, and the wedding presents are being returned. Darky says that a soldier married is a soldier marred, and I must say that I heartily—very well, dear!—disagree. (A.M.S., please note.)

Births.—Congratulations and " happy returns " to Corpl and Mrs. Michael Collins on the arrival of a daughter (now, don't tell me *that* has been cancelled, Mike) and to Sigmn and Mrs. Dyke on a like happening.

Re-appearance.—We welcome Corpl Lloyd back to the fold, he apparently having decided that teaching Signals is preferable to teaching Guards, and that the Corps beats the A.E.C.

Marriages (official).—Congratulations and " no check parades" to the following (and may they never be quartered in Richmond Barracks!): Sergt Geary (A.E.C.). L/Corporal Hibbitt to Miss Margaret Elizabeth Longstaff (Trimulgherry papers, please copy). Sigmn Gair to Miss Winifred Maud Lillico.

Band Concert.—We take this opportunity of thanking the Band for yet another excellent performance at the Newbigging Hall on Sunday, January 11th. I should be tempted to go around with the hat, were I a bandsman!

Recruiting Posters.—There has been some talk of getting the troops to design posters as aids to recruiting for the Corps, and I understand that a small remuneration may be given. Our tame artist has submitted some sketches, and with great generosity he has asked me to inform the Editor that all the money so earned is to be given to charity!

JOSOPE.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

The weather did its best to dampen the feeling of good cheer which prevails amongst us during the festive season. However, judging by the atmosphere of contentment which surrounded the merry diners who were gathered together in the regimental dining hall on Christmas Day, there was no lack of festive enjoyment. The fare was scrumptious, and of spirit—both liquid and otherwise—there was plenty. We record here and now our great appreciation of the arrangements so efficiently organised by Major Dallison and the messing staff.

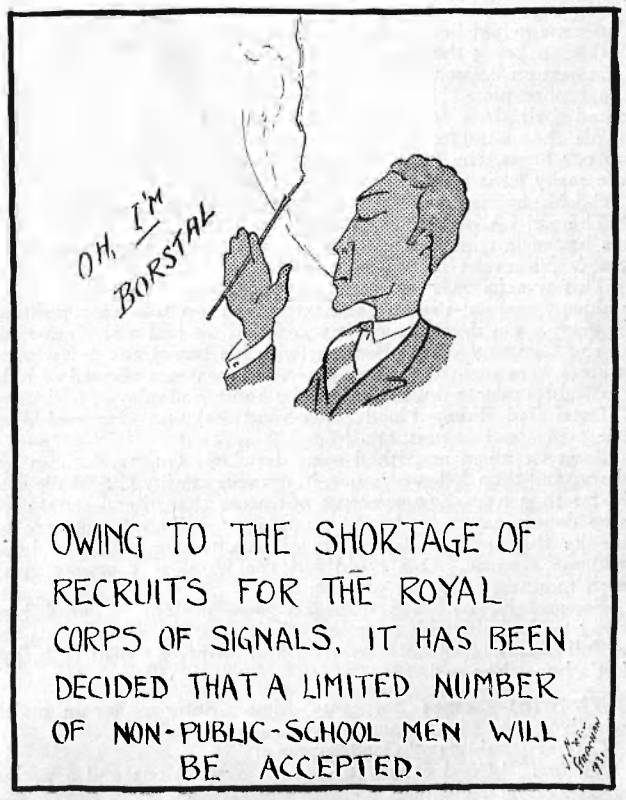
Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, acting Chief Signal Officer, and other officers of the Corps visited the mess room, and on behalf of the officers Colonel Worlledge wished the diners all merriment and the best of luck. The toast was responded to with musical honours and lusty cheers.

A concert in the Regimental Institute followed the dinner, and a happy and contented audience voted it a complete success. Families of all ranks had been cordially invited to the concert.

We hope that all who spent Christmas out of barracks, on leave or otherwise, had a pleasant time.

The second period of winter leave has just concluded, and during the next few days we shall be settling down to the trade courses and other individual training organised for the second half of the season. Congratulations to all who were successful in passing the tests which followed the courses of the first half of the season. To the unsuccessful, we say, " Don't worry! have another try!"

The annual Christmas tree festival for families of Royal Signals in Aldershot was held in Mons Barracks on January 2nd. One of the mess rooms had been delightfully decorated for the occasion, and some five hundred parents and children sat down to a sumptuous and most inviting tea. The children looked fit and well, and were in merry mood.



After tea, an amusing cinema show was given to the guests in the Regimental Institute. Then, suddenly, the sound of a reindeer's hoofs were heard along the roof of the building, and next we saw Santa Claus descend from out of the ceiling, laden with toys. His juvenile friends greeted him with delight, and he was soon surrounded. He was charmed to find that Boy Tate, an old friend of his, had grown so!

A beautifully decorated Christmas tree was next presented to the guests, and from beneath the myriad twinkling lights which shone from its branches Father Christmas presented his gifts to eager but patient friends. Nor did he forget the fair staff who had taken so much trouble to make this gigantic tea party the success it was!

We, too, on behalf of the guests, would like to record our appreciation of the services rendered by all concerned in organising so delightful a Christmas tree party.

Old Comrades.—Ex-L/Corpl Clarke, late of No. 1 Company, writes to say that he is now settled in a good situation on a poultry farm near Hereford. The work is hard but most interesting, and he has good prospects. He expressed himself as very keen to remain a member of the Corps Association, and looks forward to reading the Corps Journal each month. We are indeed glad to get such good news from him, and wish him and his family the best of luck in the future.

On the discharge to civil life of Sergt Hayes, the unit has lost a good friend indeed and the Corps a good soldier. Sergt Hayes has been messing n.c.o. ever since Signals units moved into Mons Barracks, and the many complimentary reports received in connection with messing testify to the efficient way in which he has carried out his share of the work. We wish him the very best of luck, and hope that he will soon find a position worthy of his good ability. We shall always be glad to get news from him.

Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich joined us on January 5th on posting to the home establishment. We extend to him a hearty welcome, and trust that his stay with us will be a long and pleasant one. He has been posted to No. 1 Company.

We much regret the departure of Capt H. V. V. S. Thorne, who leaves us shortly to take up duty as Assistant to the Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command. We trust that he will continue to give us his able support in the field of sport, where his activities have been many. His long-faced friends will always be glad of a visit.

Hearty Congratulations.—To Captain J. L. Totterdell, M.C., on receiving brevet promotion. Brevet-Major Totterdell left this unit to take up a Territorial Army commission, and is at present serving as adjutant to the 48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals T.A.

To Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Ozanne, M.C., on his promotion and on getting command of the 56th (1st London) Divl Signals T.A.

To Major B. L. Bastin, R.Signals S.R., on his promotion.

To Major R. A. Bagnold and his party on their enterprising and successful adventure in the Libyan Desert. We hope that Major Bagnold will be able to contribute an account of his experiences for record in the Corps Journal.

To L/Sergt Church on obtaining a " distinguished " certificate at the School of Education, Shorncliffe.

The following messages passed between the unit and Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer, Egypt Signals:—

To the unit from Colonel Powell: " Best wishes to all ranks for Christmas and the New Year."

To Colonel Powell from the unit: " All ranks very much appreciate your kind message. Good wishes heartily reciprocated."

Colonel Powell commanded A Corps Signals prior to his promotion to Colonel and his appointment as Chief Signal Officer in Egypt.

Arrivals.—From S.T.C., Corpl Johnson and Sigmn Doblan. From overseas, L/Corpl Wright (for V.T.C. course at Hounslow) and C.S.M. Brown (for discharge on December 25th).

Attachments.—C.S.M. A. Rhodes, A.E.C., and Sergt-Instr. Mitchell, A.E.C., as instructors for centralised educational training in Mons Barracks.

Departures.—To S.T.C., after an all too brief stay with us, Sgt Spong and Corpl Wright. Overseas, Corpl Gerrish, L/Sergeant Brewer, L/Corporals Catt and Alexander, Signalmen Starmore, Drake, Arnold, Davies A. E., Trewhitt, Tyrrell, Gridley, Barker, Potts, Fisher, Lumber, Towler and Wilson, and Driver Uwins. On discharge, C.S.M. Brown. To the Reserve, Corpl Peuleve and Sigmn Gill. The best of good luck to you all, wherever you are!

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(late R.Q.M.S. Royal Corps of Signals)

Appointments.—L/Corpls Jarvis and Rawlins to paid appointment of their rank. Congratulations!

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Heard, a son (George Robert) on December 6th.

Marriages.—At Birmingham, on December 13th, Sigmn J. H. Rabone to Miss B. M. Rodgers. At Farnham, on January 12th, Sigmn W. Cleverley to Miss F. M. Harrison. Our best wishes to them for the future!

Service.—L/Corporal Felis extended his service to complete twelve years with the Colours. L/Sergt Parsons re-engaged to complete twenty-one years service.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

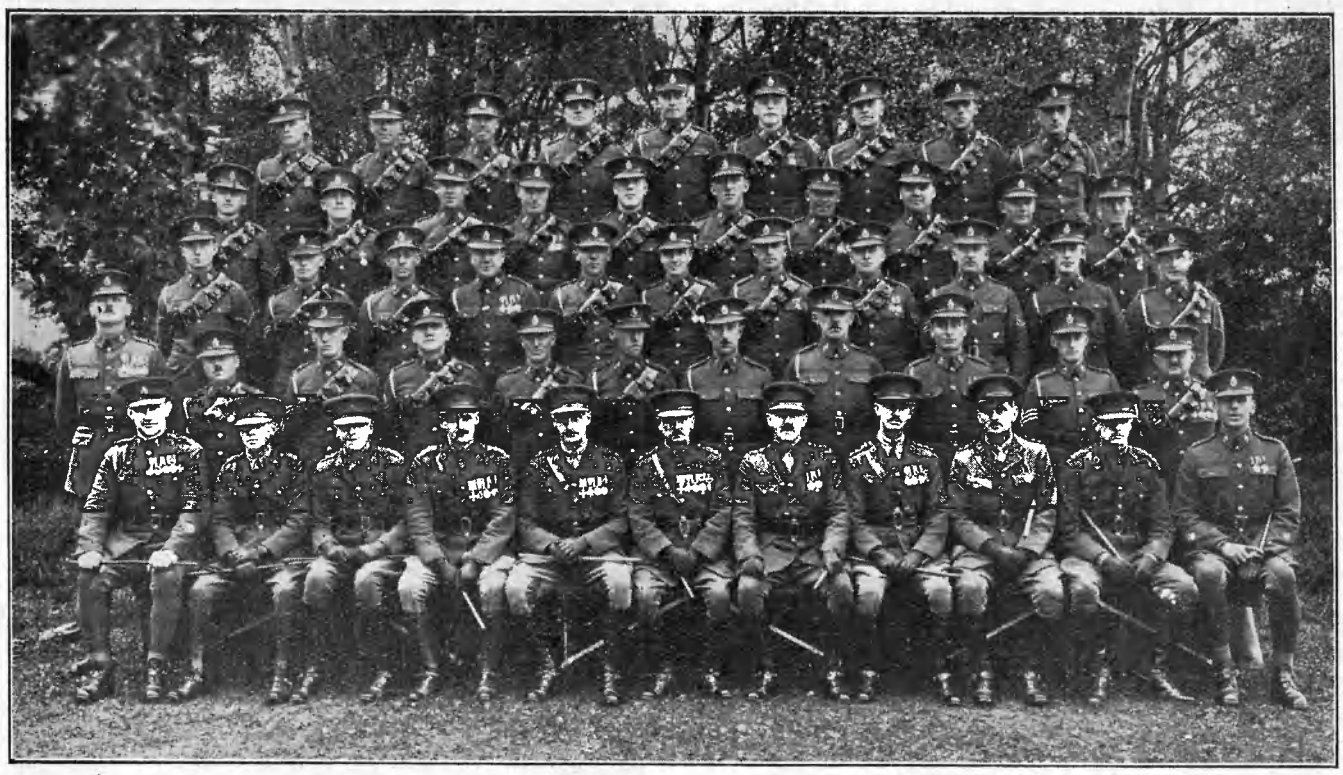
General.—The Construction Section is still managing to exist—most of the personnel being on leave, and the remainder helping to get things " all square " for the Cable Sections. By the time these notes appear, I hope the Section will be back at its own job, as there is a lot to be done.

Now that the festive season is over—and everyone, I believe, is quite satisfied with his share of it—one and all can settle down and make 1931 a successful year for A Corps Signals. Anyway, the Construction Section will carry on the good work!

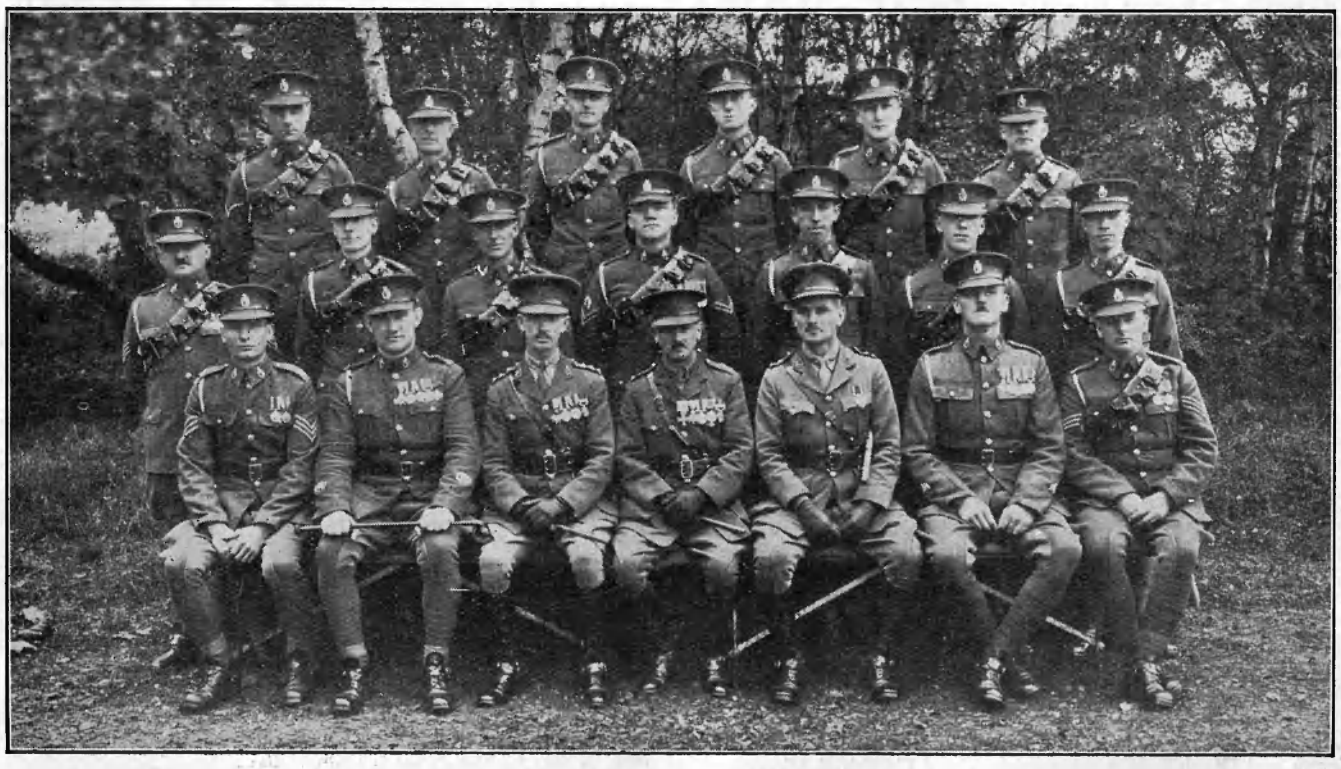
All ranks of the Section extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant F. I. N. McOstrich, who takes over the Company shortly—but whom, *we* hope, will eventually take command of No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

An old member of the Section, to wit " old man Pullen," is at present at the A.V.T.C., learning something useful for civil life. We trust he learns all there is to know to keep him off the dole in civvy street. Good luck, John!

Departures.—Sigmn Skidmore to India. Sigmn Cleverley to Egypt.



Officers, Warrant Officers, and N.C.O.s., A Corps Signals, Aldershot.



Unit Headquarters, A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

[Photos of No. 1 Company and No. 3's Rugby Team are unavoidably held over until next month.—Ed.]

Arrivals.—Although late, the " mitt " is extended to Sigmn Nicols on posting to the Cotton-Wool Section. Sigmn Grant from " A " cycle course.

Here and There.—Our sympathy is extended to Rook on the downfall of Derby County. Now, perhaps, we will enjoy the remainder of the football season in peace. Oh, those Rams! Exeter—exit Rams.

L/Sergt Tunnicliffe has returned from his furlough at Longmoor, and has gone on light duty in the officers' stables. Well, some people are born good-looking, and others—?

Toc H. is at present doing his stuff in B Cable Section. We certainly notice the cavalry walk these days, and would suggest a farmer's career for old Jay.

Appy has managed to slip away and has taken refuge in the unit office. You are certainly having a go all round, Appy!

Agony.—Trying to get " matter " for WIRE notes.

Sergt Bowler sends his best wishes to Corpl and Mrs. S. Purcell, 4th Divl Signals.

Till next month, cheerio! DANGLER.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Now that the happy season of festivities has passed, we are all looking forward to the commencement of technical training and of another training season.

In this Company, particularly, nearly everyone was able to spend the Christmas period at home, so that Christmas Day in the barracks was very quiet. An excellent dinner was arranged, followed by a splendid concert, and a dance was held in the evening of Boxing Day.

Arrivals.—We welcome to the Company a few O.R.s from India and elsewhere: C.Q.M.S. McGregor, Corpl Walker, L/Cpl Crawford and Sigmn Henderson. From Catterick, on December 12th, Corpl Johnson (an old No. 1 Company hockey player) and Sigmn Donlon on January 8th.

Other " Arrivals."—Congratulations to the Company on signing on another goal-keeper (only it's the wrong sex this time). To Tubby Parsons (ex-K Company, note) a daughter, Eileen Alice, on November 27th. Long may she " rain." Also, to Corpl E. H. Frampton, a son, Eric Leslie (heir to the Frampton millions (!) and another aspirant to cross-typewriters, or possibly someone for the high jump in 1948).

Departures.—To Catterick, on December 9th, Sigmn Fox W., and on the 17th, Corpl (Tich) Wright. Got a " tar-sprayer " yet, Tich?

Other " Departures."—From single bliss to married—? what (no prize offered for the answer): Sigmn Wilson married to Miss Lumley, at Darlington, on October 18th. All the best to both!

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations, at long last, to Ernie Chipps on obtaining his second " yard of tripe " and also to Sigmn (U/L/Corpl) Jarvis on getting paid for his trouble. All the best to both!

Courses.—After a happy holiday at Shorncliffe, L/Sergeant Church W. rejoins the Company to act as unit instructor and to instill (or install?) knowledge into those who seek it. Signalman Botting from a course of cycle repair at Woolwich.

Drafts.—On December 16th we lost quite a number from our already far too small Company when " C " draft left for India. We say good-bye to Corpl Gerrish, L/Corpl Alexander, Signalmen Arnold, Trewhitt, Gridley, Potts, Davies A., Tyrrell, Barker and Fisher, and we wish them bon voyage and good luck in their new jobs.

On Saturday, January 10th, five others departed—likewise for India. We wish them all happiness wherever they land; and may the sun keep cool for them!

L/Sergt Brewer A. should have gone to Palestine, but didn't. L/Corpl Catt wanted to go to Brighton, but didn't. Sigmn Towler would like to have gone to Piccadilly, but didn't. Sigmn Lumber would rather have stayed in bed, but couldn't—so didn't. And then Sigmn Wilson wanted to go—and *did!*

Last Minute Efforts.—To all ex-No. 3 Company A Corps wallahs, and those who used to think that No. 3 Company was a back number: " What about the Hitchins rugby cup?"—and all on our own, too!

Members abroad will no doubt derive great interest from the news items re the " educated Signals " in the columns of *The Daily Mail*.

How's this? A messing sergeant walked into No. 17 room this morning and asked all the men if they had had their breakfast. Yes—'sa fact! awfully kind of him, what! But then, of course, there is a catch in it—though that's a secret.

To Gramophone Bowie, late of No. 3 Company A Corps Signals: Memories of Sadie R.2., but of Thursley and " cold fourpenny " ; strengthening daily.—Topper.

I can't think of any " good ones " for this month's issue—at least, not for publicity.

In closing, I wish one and all a happy and prosperous New Year, and plenty of WIRE notes. E.H.F.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section

General.—At present, training is at a standstill as the members of the Company are away on annual furlough. The telegraph lines into North Camp are being blocked by applications for extensions, one man going to the extent of two telegrams. We understand he missed his boat for Canada!

Training.—The officer commanding and n.c.o.s are preparing an Instruction School, comprising all the equipment for training operator signals, class 1. Whether they become such remains to be seen. Query: Can " Hec " repair a test panel?

Postings.—Corpl Mortimer to the Depot Battalion (our loss is someone else's " Cr.") Sigmn Mawson to Egypt Signals (No. 1 Company football team, please note).

To Whom it may Concern.—Movements, unofficial, destination unknown: 500 " Black Cat " coupons, three lamps (inspection, portable, complete) etc.

Returns.—A pocket wallet from Lyons' Corner House. The owner denies all knowledge of being associated with this leading establishment. He further states that the wallet in question was last seen floating, less the contents, in a certain cistern.

Visits.—It will be of interest to some that on Sunday, January 11th, we received a visit from ex-Corpl Jumbo Collier, who is at present working on the Tote (but under different control from that on the Sarafand racecourse). He wishes to be remembered to ex-Baghdad and Sarafand comrades, and informs us that he still wears the same familiar breeches and sweater.

Owing to the absence of our local scribe, " Sunshine Sketches" (No. 2) will be published next month.

The continued absence of notes from No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand, is causing some anxiety and many varied speculations amongst the Yehoudis residing in Aldershot. Is the Lewis gun mightier than the pen?

1st Divisional Signals.

Unit Headquarters.

Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., R.Signals, having recovered from injuries received in a hunting accident, has now returned to duty.

By the time these notes appear, Major F. R. Cobb, M.C., will have left us to join the 4th Divl Signals at Colchester. During his short stay with this unit he had done much to improve the standard of sport in " A " Group. I am sure that 4th Div. will find him an ardent supporter in that line, and we hope his efforts will be crowned with more success for a unit of Signals that already holds such a good position in sporting circles.

Sergt Tucker, having handed over the duties of orderly room sergeant, has gone on duty in Three Company. He could not be enticed to take over B Cable Section, although strongly advised that the Section was just his mark!

L/Sergt Napier, having taken over the duties of orderly room sergeant, seems to be planting his feet under the table for a long stay with this unit..

Corpl Dennis A. G. is now well on his way to India. We hope he will safely arrive there.

Congratulations to Corpl Arnell W. G. on his choice of a Christmas present. A daughter (Julia) was born to him at Chichester on Christmas Day.

For the information of the Company clerk in Three Company, he is again reminded that Sigmn Jennings (Emile) has completed two years strenuous service this month, and he is not to forget the G.C. badge return.

Corpl Evans E. C. C. would like all his old friends to know that whilst these notes are being typed, he is resting his weary body in the guard room as guard commander (times have changed). Now, please, no cheers! A.F.D.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Well, that's another Christmas towards a pontoon! I wonder why it does not come quarterly instead of annually—or, better still, monthly. I am sure no one would mind sacrificing duty week in the interests of Christmas! We had a few *good* soldiers who sacrificed Christmas in the interest of duty week, but as one of them remarked, " You couldn't do that in civvy street."

Trade Boards.—The results of the recent Trade Boards have appeared in Orders, causing much elation throughout the Company. 'Twas a most touching sight to see Garibaldi wishing his bandolier and rifle good-bye. Remember, there is still time for a few more names to appear before the training ends.

Drafts.—Our best wishes go with those who leave us this month for warmer climes. We shall miss a lot of old familiar faces. Don't forget the tips I have given you, Charlie: " Never carry liquid refreshment in your topi, and change your socks every day."

Postings.—L/Corpl McConnell, late of this Company and now of the Depot, has evidently gone to stay. Good luck, Mac!

Promotions.—The usual congratulations are extended to L/Sgt Joyce and Corpl Whitehead on attaining their respective anks.

Re-Engagements.—Corpl Millan and L/Corpl Watts to go all the way, and L/Corpl Wellock for the level dozen. You wouldn't be thrown out, would you?

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Timson, a son (Charles Edward). Sailor or soldier, Timmo?

Stables.—Everyone who cannot wangle out of them. But don't mention horses to the quarter-bloke. ONECOY.

No. 2 Company.

The holidays being over, we are now settled down to work again. In these Company notes, this month, I am afraid we are rather at a loss for news, so they will be rather brief.

Arrivals.—We welcome to the Company our new O.C., Capt B. D. Willoughby, from India's sunny clime. We wish him a happy stay with the Company, and hope he will soon settle down. We are about to lose Captain Levett, who has had a good stay with us, and we hope he will have a happy time in his new work. We also hope he will continue to be " attached " to the Company, as we cannot afford at this stage to lose his services on the range.

Tubby Borrows has at last arrived, but he was rather disappointed because the band didn't meet him at the station!

Departures.—We have to record the departure of Signalmen Clayton, Fish and Hill for India, and L/Corporal McCreeth and Sigmn Hughes for Egypt. We wish them all the best of luck and health in their new stations.

Shooting.—Practice has commenced on the miniature range, and some decent scores have been recorded. We hope to gradually improve until the competition for the Powell cup commences, and then, well—who knows?

General.—A certain lance-corporal from No. 3 Company came into the office a few days ago and asked if he might look at the trophies held by the Company. Well, sure, we didn't mind! We hope he will walk in again very soon to see *another* one on the board! LULU.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Regrets.—No notes for past few months! Reason: no scribe—it's just a case of cause and effect. However, I know that writing notes is no joke, and I trust that readers will sympathise with one whose fevered brow is even now calling for a bran mash poultice.

Events.—Much has happened since the last appearance of this Company's notes, and we are left with sadly depleted ranks.

This Week's Fairy Story.—" You're not needed in the stables this morning; come another day."

Military Definitions.—A series of interesting and educating solutions to the problems that beset us all. Cut these out each month and place them in your pay-book for future reference:

KEW WEMM (or Q.M.)—As the name implies, a bird of strange words, feathered with indents and returns, which utters the plaintive cry of " Got none."

SERGEANT-MAJOR—A man of remarkable patience, who wears a crown and talks backwards.

BARRACKS—The places where soldiers and old sweats congregate for purposes known only to themselves.

PICQUETS—Spare-time amusement for bright young sparks addicted to late nights.

LANCE-CORPORAL—An amphibian of peculiar habits, whose weird talents are being discovered by careful research, and distinguished from his fellow workers by a stripe.

And that, my dear collectors, is the last of this month's profound pen pictures. Look out for another frightful five next time.

Things We Want to Know.—Who collects the free gift coupons from the " one-o-one " cartons? Who makes a terrible row on a trumpet at six ack emma? The price of a cheap second-hand warming-pan with a 5 ft. handle?

The Company Gazette (an entirely new feature).—I am pleased to state that since the last appearance of our notes several changes have occurred. Marriages are at a discount, discharges at a premium, and hair-cuts at the barber's.

To India, on December 16th, L/Corpl Dymond and Signalmen Edmonds and Blyth; and on January 10th, Corporal Edgar and family, L/Corpl Francis, Signalmen Lawrence and Lineham.

To be U/L/Corporal, Sigmn Underwood. To be Feed-Major, Sigmn Hogan. To be High Sheriff of the Guardians of the Peace, Sigmn Wood. To be Chief Sheik of the Ancient Order of the Winkle Eaters, L/Corpl " Banger " King (ex India).

Winner of the Section cough drop: He who misinterpreted the phrase " What's yours?"

(Several notices are unavoidably held over owing to lack of space.)

Answers to Correspondents and Correspondence.—Grateful Reader: Am pleased you like the paper. Yours is only one of the countless barracks to which we have brought a little ray of sunshine.

Anxious Enquirer: No; your question is irrelevant. Safety razors cannot be hired except at a prohibitive cost.

Mack: Don't worry. Inferiority complex, simplex and duplex. That's all.

" Sir—As one of the oldest and most established inhabitants of our model village, may I protest against the deposits of mud that encircle our stables? Surely it is time they were removed! —Yours, etc., M. Oaner." [Have engaged the services of T.O.P. Hole, the investigator, and he is now looking for the Weather Clerk—F.]

Lack of space necessitates that numberless correspondents shall remain unanswerd.

Tail Piece.—No tick! FUTURIST.

No. 2 Company.

Life has been rather humdrum here except for the excitement of finding men for duty and having to " chalk one out " owing to shortage. Hospital, leave, and aspirations to a higher standard of learning are responsible for this. Still, we rub along.

After seeing the rope tackle required to clip a protesting dumb animal, the thought struck me that this entertaining task ought to be performed by the Foremen-of-Signals. Their training at Chatham just fits them for this mechanical operation. Now, Foremen, what about it? Some nice problems of stresses and strains could be worked out on the four foot, lbs., seconds stunt, and I believe that the horse-power factor would be amazing.

Arrivals.—We welcome to our fold C.Q.M.S. Harris and his family, from Hong Kong, as a New Year gift. The C.Q.M.S. arrived in Aldershot on January 1st, and has now gone on leave to get over the shock. We hope that he enjoys his tour in the Company and solves all our Chinese puzzles for us.

Departures.—Sergt Lyon, attached to us for the mere necessities of life (pay and rations) left us for civvy street early this month. We wish him the best of luck.

Corpl Barron A. departed for India on December 10th, and was followed as far as Egypt by L/Corpl Paxton and Sigmn Webb on the 17th. All good lads, and we can ill afford to lose them—but needs must, I suppose.

Sergt-Major Wensley is now out of hospital, and dashing around counting all that are left of them. He looks fine after his rest.

In conclusion, I must report that no snow has yet fallen.

V. DOG.

No. 3 Company.

Since last month the Company has decreased by nine stalwarts: Signalmen Rudd, Spencer, Cox, Launders, Stones and "Bandy" Taylor to India, and L/Corpl MacKinnon and Signalmen Jordan and "Connie" to Egypt. Good luck to them all! We envy their warmer climes.

Our skating rink (the canal) provided great sport for several of the experts, Crusher being well in the fore.

A few "howlers" from training which missed last month's issue. Question: "Explain the correct method of rendering a primary cell active?" Answer: "Fill the canvas bag with carbon granules, add dilate sulphuric acid for eight hours, then leave it to become active. Never add the cell to the acid. After this has been done, a test should be made to see if the granules are eating the zinc."

"Hetrodgning.—This is the selectively, chosen between two or more waves that appear on your receiving circuit. We get, say, two waves of a different frequency coming into our phones. One is high velocity and the other is lower. Hetrodgning is to set the mean velocity of them, so therefore we need a different wave altogether."

Football.—H Section played the A.F.A. Section last month and were beaten by 7—3. But they played an extra good game, although the "Welsh International goalkeeper" was missing. He was training for future events.

Promotion.—Sergt Harris F. C. V. to be C.Q.M.S. w.e.f. 6/11/30. Congratulations, Quarter!

Hints from our Beauty Expert.—"When rising in the morning, be sure to cover the face with coal dust so as to protect the skin from the early morning dew." "When getting back to bed, be sure to see that 'blanket dressing' is kept up to date."

This Month's Great Thought:—

"Every day, and in every way,
Old soldiers get older and older."

Agony.—Will Sigmn Smith H. (George Street) please communicate with J. Weir.

Sigmn O'Donovan, somewhere in India: What about a line, Paddy, to Chirgwin?

Corpl Douglas R. J. of this Company would like to hear from Sergt J. A. Gilmour, late of A Corps Signals, India. CHIR.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

As Emerson once remarked, "Thought is the seed of action." Seed is abundant at the moment in the lecture rooms, as technical and educational training claims the attention of the greater part of the unit. Judging by the very intelligent appearance of our enthusiastic swotters, we conclude that the seeds are being sown to advantage, and a bumper harvest in the shape of higher ratings and educational certificates is expected. The instructors, of course, are not so sanguine as to their candidates' chances, but one hears so many high-falutin' expressions of late that their opinion can be safely vetoed! Now, then, you fellows, don't let me down, or else I'll resign this job! (Who said "Thank goodness"?)

Service overseas is still claiming our fellows, and many gaps are left in the unit. Lieut E. C. Thompson has sailed for India, and our good wishes go with him. To L/Corpl Dewhurst our good wishes, also. He left for India on January 10th. Our notes last month extolled his praises in some measure, but in any case what more can one say than that he is a dashed good fellow? It is not the Army way to eulogise—it is not expected, but the simple words "dashed good fellow" convey more true feeling than would a highly-coloured account of his virtues.

Sigmn Tomes G. leaves on the 17th for Egypt Signals, and we all wish him well in his new station. As an I.M. he has been of considerable assistance to our very young but nevertheless well-meaning D.R.s. As a result the M/C.s are in first-rate condition!

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Sigmn Danson F.—one of the old stagers of the unit—will be leaving us next month for Aden Signal Section. We would advise the office wallahs to leave him alone. He may be a lineman, but don't forget he also holds a clerk's rating as well—and what these clerks can do at times is common knowledge!

Our congratulations to L/Corpl Wing J. on taking the fatal step into matrimony. The joyful union took place at Farnham during the early part of December. You kept that one dark, John! What did Messrs. Drage do that you should coldly reject them at the last moment? There is considerable speculation over this. Won't you set our fears at rest?

Sergt French has completed his Gas course at the Chemical Warfare School. He must have been utilised as one of those "voluntary experimentals" we read about; he came back tastefully decorated with the most beautiful little burns—so chic, don't you know!

Talking of courses, the chief office wallah is just on the verge of completing his shorthand course. Weird and wonderful hieroglyphics may be seen in various parts of the unit office on application to the deputy assistant clerk to the chief clerk. Talking of clerks makes me feel faint, so I'd better go for a run.

B.A.E.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

Christmas.—The festive season has come and gone once more, and all are beginning to settle down, having apparently forgotten the after effects—if any.

Between thirty and forty sat down to dinner here on December 25th. The dinner was excellently cooked and was a credit to the small but willing band of cooks and organisers. Our officers present in the station turned up en bloc and drank the lads' health, whilst many seasonable remarks were passed. During his speech our C.O., Major J. R. Carter, O.B.E., stated that he would soon be leaving us. We were all very sorry to hear that, sir!

The afternoon and evening were spent in the usual jolly manner, and all eventually retired, having spent an enjoyable day.

Leave.—The second party have now returned from their annual furlough, so we have their help on the duty question. Many are the tales told in the barrack-rooms just now as to what so-and-so saw and did. Of course, they are all now looking forward to Easter and counting the weeks. Some people are born optimists, I think.

Training.—Individual training is the order of the day, and many puckered brows are now to be seen meandering over the square. Wireless, M.T. and Fitters' courses are in process. I hear, quite unofficially, that a jew's course has been started for budding Hebrews.

We understand that the instructors on one of the courses are boosting the sale of a certain type of throat pastille. In fact, one of them seems to have an unlimited supply. It is understood that these small pastilles enable one to cultivate that "talkie" huskiness. If that is correct, it explains why the small black pill is so popular. There is no truth in the rumour that a certain section of the community obtain their little black pills from the M.O.

Education (?)—One of our education instructors, the other evening, asked his class: "What is a graph?" The class pondered well, and at long last one youth replied: "An animal with a long neck." Both instructor and scholar are doing well, thank you!

Arrivals.—We welcome C.Q.M.S. Hopkins and family, who arrived in our midst on December 18th from Palestine. May their stay in Tidworth be both long and pleasant!

Promotion.—Our congratulations are extended to C.S.M. Hopkins on his promotion to that rank on December 24th—a prize for which it was certainly worth coming to the home establishment.

Departures.—Corpl Savage and L/Corpl Malvern proceeded to Catterick on December 31st, to attend a wireless course. Sigmn Honeybourne to Catterick, to attend an upgrading course. They are all coming back—at least, we hope so—so they are hardly departures! H.Q.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

January 12th.

General.—After a lapse of several months, we once more get into print—and intend to make it a habit in future. I wonder why it is that so many people fight shy of writing WIRE notes! Is it modesty? I think it is rather a good way of having a few sly digs at others. In any case, I'll "take the can back."

The Troop had an excellent report on the Brigadier's inspection, and everyone can pat himself on the back for doing his bit towards making the show such a red-hot success. We are all looking forward (?) to the next one.

Individual training is progressing. Come to think of it, I have not seen anyone burning the midnight oil. Still, I suppose that memory is a fine thing. We also have several lads preparing to give Hoot Gibson the "once over"—I presume they mean once over without a horse.

The photo shown below does not do justice to our local sheiks, but no complaints have yet been heard. Al Capone in the third row is at present unaccounted for.

Arrivals.—From the Training Battalion: Signalmen Belton A., Bradshaw B., Craddock D., Robertson D. and Rymer F. I think they are all settled down by now.

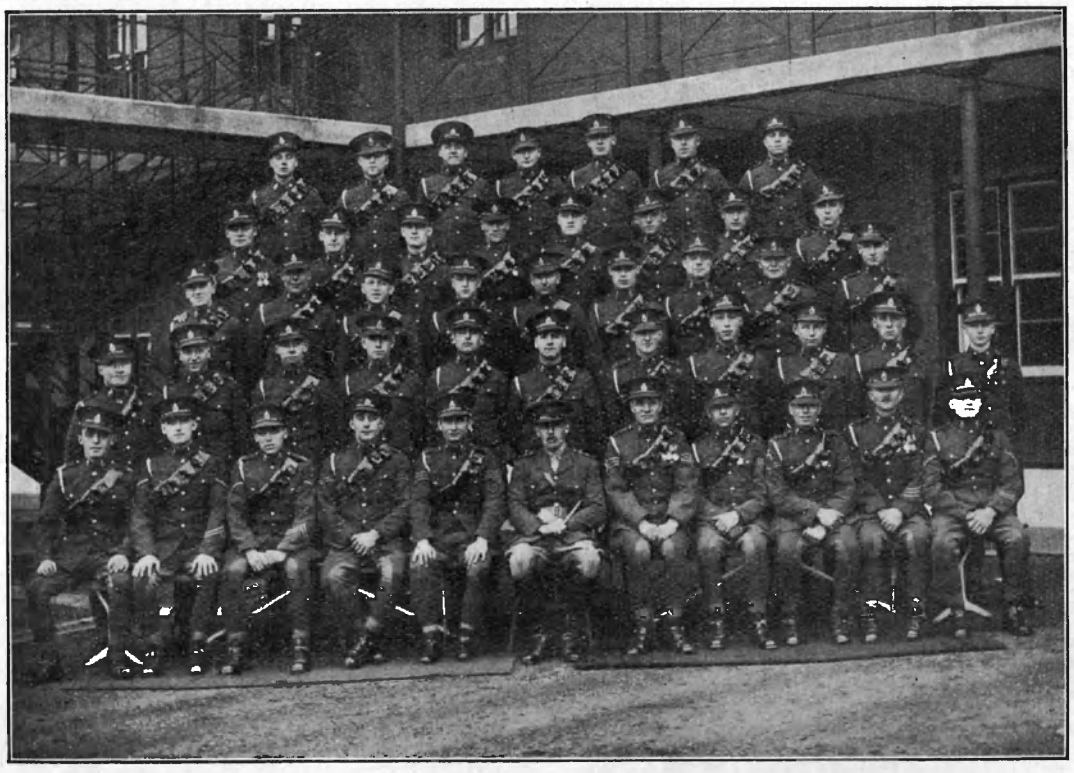
Departures.—Signalmen Cliff E. T. and Rhodes T. G. have heard the call of the dole—a doleful call, indeed—and are now amongst the plutocrats. At least, we all hope so! We wish them every success.

Sigmn Bean E. went to the Corps of Military Police on 8th December on the termination of his period of probation. I wonder if we shall ever see him wearing out the platform at Waterloo Station?

L/Corpl Hudson H. and Signalmen Bowsher G., Costen A. and Wattle W. started their trek to India on January 10th. There are rougher places than the Bay. Still, they have one consolation: they will be warmer than us next summer.

On January 17th we say "Auf weidersehen" to Sigmn McLeod P.—a whole Scottish draft for Egypt! I sincerely hope he is not troubled by warts by the time the boat reaches Port Said.

VON.



Southern Command Signal Company, Salisbury.

General.—Once again we record the end of our Christmas festivities, and I hope that everyone, far and near, spent a really enjoyable time. We look forward with confidence to the New Year, and also express the hope that it will prove a happy and prosperous one for all WIRE readers.

The 9th January found us once more surrounded by many old pals in an atmosphere of smoke and mild excitement, when we held an Old Comrades smoking concert which resulted in a most enjoyable evening. The 3rd Divl Signals very kindly assisted by sending a merry band of fellows, who provided us with a rattling good entertainment—particularly the lad who gave us his impressions of " Spooning up to date ": not that particular brand of spooning which suggests country lanes and so forth on a frosty night. Oh, no! This artiste demonstrated with two inoffensive table spoons, and he certainly achieved remarkable results. It looked so wretchedly simple that I ventured to try my hand on something similar (brand new, and of the stainless variety) when I reached my home. Unfortunately my domestic audience failed to appreciate the entertainment, and she demonstrated her displeasure so forcibly and in such a manner that I was forced to seek refuge in the coal cellar, dislocating the electric light installation in my hurry to get there. There's no pleasing some people!

A Wise Step.—C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Thorpe J. F., of this unit, has re-engaged to complete twenty-one years Colour service.

Old Comrades, Please Note.—If anyone would like to get in touch with " Pedler " Palmer, of Waziristan fame (the ex-D.R.L.S. wallah who used to do the daily run from Bannu to Perzu Pass) he can be found by writing to Mr. Palmer, c/o Mrs. Edmunds, Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts. He sends his greetings to all old pals, and I am pleased to say he is a prospective member of the Salisbury and District Signals O.C.A.

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—Things were generally quiet during December, a goodly number being on furlough and a fair number also taking advantage of Christmas and New Year leave. However, we managed to keep our end up in games on the new sports ground (the " Big Dig ") and at the Christmas dinner.

The New Year finds us all back from furlough, with drafts going abroad, individual training in full swing, and things in general having a polish up.

Christmas Dinner.—About a hundred junior n.c.o.s and men sat down to a splendid dinner in the Regimental Institute on Christmas Day. The restaurant was very tastefully decorated, and the tables looked very tempting. The w.o.s and senior n.c.o.s were present in force and performed the duties of assistant waiters.

During the dinner a very welcome visit was paid by the commanding officer and the officers of the unit. The R.S.M. proposed the toast of " The C.O. and Officers," and I'm sure they appreciated the manner in which it was received, for in a short speech the C.O. mentioned that even if he got the officers to sing, it would only be a puny attempt compared with the volume he had just heard.

After having a chat with several of the men, the officers took their leave, but not before Corpl Tennant and Sigmn Backshall had paid compliments on behalf of the junior n.c.o.s and men.

The dinner proceeded fairly quietly until the R.S.M. was persuaded to say a few words. This was the signal for a good deal of uproarious conviviality which continued until we had to put the weak ones to bed and send off the remainder to digest all the good things they had consumed.

Our thanks are due to the N.A.A.F.I. staff for the provision of such excellent fare and service, and to the w.o.s and senior n.c.o.s for their very good chain of service in the liquor department.

Christmas Tree Party.—The commanding officer and officers very kindly entertained the married families of the unit, and those attached, to the annual Christmas tree party in the Garrison Hall on January 14th.

We began to assemble at 3.30 p.m., and by 4 o'clock all were present. The officers and their ladies got the kiddies on to games as soon as they arrived, to the accompaniment of Capt Solly on the piano. The kiddies seemed so interested in the games that when " Cookhouse " was played as the call for tea they didn't hear it! They eventually settled down to a very nice tea, laid out most invitingly, and which was enjoyed by everybody. I thought tea took rather a long time—I suppose, on account of everybody meeting everybody else. Anyway, there was nothing silent about it!

Tea over, we were entertained for about half an hour by a conjuror, and this was much enjoyed by all.

Then came *the* event of the afternoon: the Christmas tree. All the kiddies were quietly seated, waiting for the great man to arrive, when the curtain swung aside to reveal him, loaded with presents and supporting a beautifully lighted and decorated tree. The excitement of the kiddies grew as name after name was called, some of those at the end of the alphabet getting very restive. However, they all got a very nice present and were thoroughly satisfied.

Another half hour of games and dancing for both children and adults brought the evening to a close.

The R.S.M. thanked the C.O. and officers and their ladies for a most enjoyable time, saying how much we appreciated the party, their presence there, and also the presence of Colonel and Mrs. Willan.

In reply, the C.O. said he and the officers and ladies had enjoyed it as much as we had, and it gave them great pleasure to be able to give such a show. He much regretted the unavoidable absence of Colonel Osborne.

To conclude our party, each child was given a nice bag of sweets, an apple and an orange on departure.

Arrivals.—Sergt Garroni and family from India on December 9th; Sigmn Paine from the Depot Battalion on the 20th; and Signalmen Austen, Cloke, Sawyer, Cunningham, Marco, Barron, Lucas, Boatman, Cox and Worsfold from the Training Battalion on the 31st. Cpl Barraclough from Ceylon and Signalmen Addis and McCann from Malaya Signal Section, on January 6th; Sigmn Hull from Training Battalion on the 8th; and Signalmen Dawes, Cresswell, Kelly, Sanderson, Goodwin and Simm from Training Battalion on the 14th.

Departures.—Sigmn Wolsey to Depot Battalion on December 27th. Nineteen Signalmen to Southampton, en route for India, on January 10th. To Army Reserve: Sigmn Crump on December 30th, and Driver Hilton on the 31st; C.Q.M.S. Sweeting on January 2nd, and Sigmn Weller on the 20th.

Appointments.—Sigmn Green F. appointed U/L/Corporal, w.e.f. 1/1/31. U/L/Corpl Callaghan paid L/Corporal on Corps roster w.e.f. 13/10/30. U/L/Corpls Woods and Bedford w.e.f. 23/10/30, and U/L/Corpl Lea w.e.f. 24/11/30.

Marriages.—Sigmn Carter H. to Miss Emily Lilian Grey, at Salisbury, on December 13th; Sigmn Chambers W. G. to Miss Winifred Annie Sheppard, also at Salisbury, on the same day; and Sigmn Oldham W. to Miss Mary Lyons, at Amesbury, on the 18th.

Extension of Service.—Driver Hawthorne W. to complete twelve years, on January 8th.

Birth.—David Allen, to L/Cpl and Mrs. Turner, at Tidworth.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Christmas Festivities.—About eighty n.c.o.s and men of the unit sat down to dinner for Christmas. L/Corpl Henshall and his staff had produced a dinner worthy of the occasion, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed himself. Lieut.-Col. G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., commanding officer, and the officers made the usual Christmas rounds.

Annual Christmas Tree.—The children's annual Christmas tree party took place on December 19th. Tea, at which eighty-five children and seventy parents sat down, was served in the Men's Institute, Colonel and Mrs. Sampson and the officers of the unit being present.

The Christmas tree, brilliantly illuminated and surrounded by gifts, was disclosed by the parting of large flags upon the entry of Father Christmas, who made his " journey " in an illuminated six-wheeler. The long-looked-forward-to hour had now arrived, and every child of the unit received a handsome present!

A pleasant afternoon concluded by Father Christmas showering oranges and bags of sweets amongst the youngsters before taking his departure for the next " port of call." The duties of the " man of the moment " were effectively carried out by Sergeant Baker.

Sergeants' Mess.—The Christmas draw took place on 22nd December. A fine array of eats, drinks and smokes was displayed on the billiard table. The first prize, a fine turkey of 20 lbs., went to R.Q.M.S. Butcher. The draw was conducted on Dublin Sweepstake principles, revolving drums for the tickets being used. Epitaphs written on the " blanks " by the worthy Jock Terrell were read out after each numbered ticket was drawn and the holder's name announced—proving very amusing and appropriate in many cases.

Mr. A. Broomfield.—Many old friends in Royal Signals and the football world at Maresfield will be sorry to hear that Mr. Broomfield is very seriously ill in Essex County Hospital, suffering from pleurisy contracted on the football field. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Departures.—Since writing my last notes, thirty-six men have left for India. We wish them all the best of luck.

C.Q.M.S. Bevan R. has left for 5th Divl Signals, Scarborough. We hope to hear soon that he has become the leading light on the Q side.

Arrival.—L/Corpl Sowles S. J. arrived from Egypt Signals.

Re-Engagements.—The following have re-engaged to complete twenty-one years service: Corpl Ball T., L/Corpl Colwell H., and Sigmn Jardine R.

Promotions.—L/Corporals Andrews W. and Anderson G. to be Corporals.

Marriages.—Sigmn A. W. Dopson to Lucy Helena Hurley, at Cheltenham, on December 27th, and L/Corpl P. Conroy to Rhoda Wytcherley, at Darlington, on the 31st.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

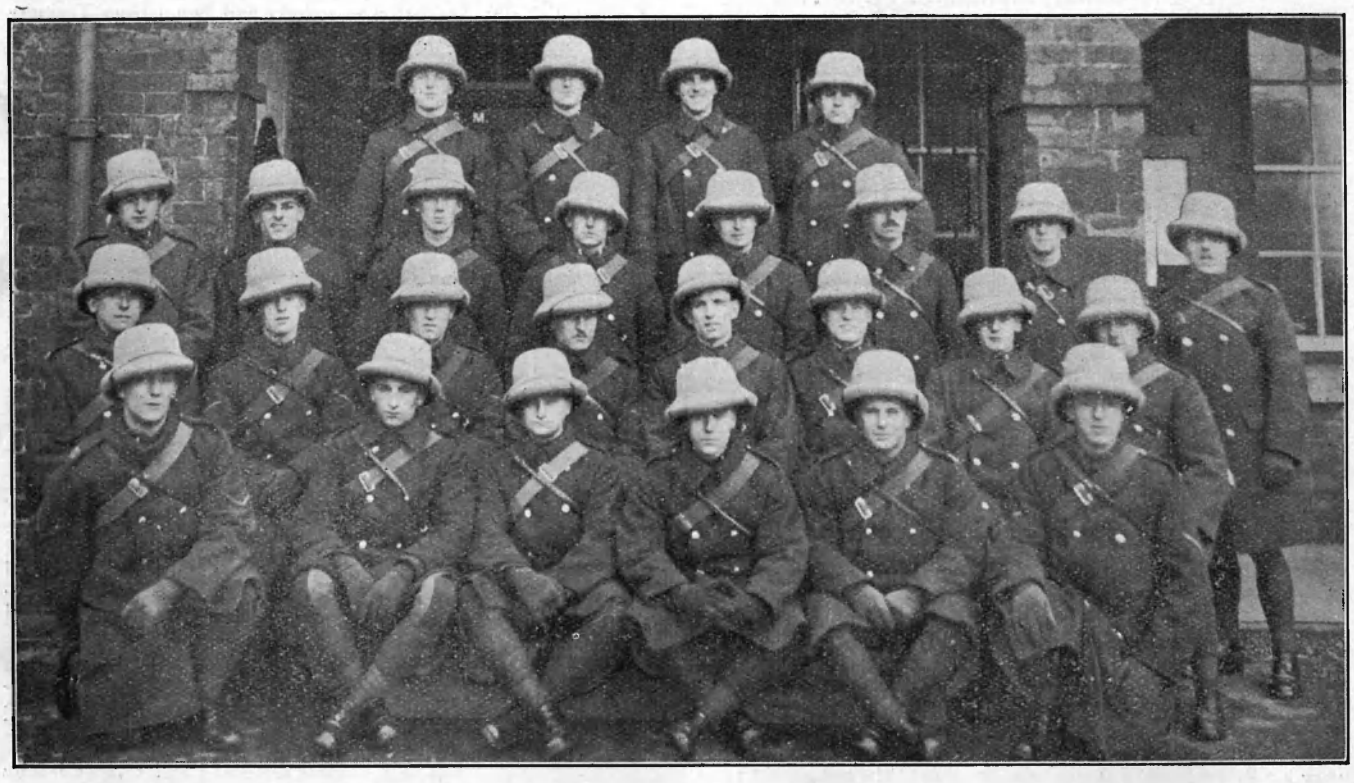
Christmas Festivities.—The annual Christmas dinner, as laid down for barracks, etc., took place in the unit dance hall. At 12.30 the junior n.c.o.s and men sat down " a la Savoy " to a great feast, attended by officers and senior n.c.o.s. Cries of " More dark!" filled the air throughout the eating operations. After the duff had disappeared, cheers were given for the C.O., the O.C.s Companies, and the P.R.I. At 2.30 the company were entertained by a local concert party. The official festivities ended in barracks about 5 p.m.

On Boxing Day a football match took place between Officers and O.R.s (top hats) v. W.O.s and Sergeants (beards). The weather, unfortunately, was too severe to play full time, so the whistle went with the score at 2—2 after forty minutes play.

New Year Eve Dance.—This took place in the unit dance hall. Up to midnight masks were worn. At midnight all eyes were on the clock. Almost immediately the clock face was broken, and out popped two pierrots, followed by a dainty fairy. In a pretty speech the fairy (Miss Dorothy McIntosh) welcomed the New Year, then took her seat on the carriage (barrow, drum, universal) and proceeded to distribute white heather to the dancers present. Hands were then crossed and " Auld Lang Syne " was sung lustily. Dancing terminated at one o'clock.

Christmas Party.—An excellent Christmas tree party was given by the officers, n.c.o.s and staff sergeants, and the sergeants mess, to the families of the unit and T.A.P.S.I.s, in the gymnasium on January 10th, with Waller's jazz band in attendance.

On arriving, we had a walk round the " smelling competition," the " hidden treasure," and the " dartz fairy," and a butler showed you the intricacies of " sight testing " ; the children had a fish for treasure in the magnetic " fishing pond," or tailed the " tailless donkey " with Molly o' Morgan ; while an old witch sat in her cottage complete with parrot " oo-oo," cat and fire, telling the fortune of those who dared to enter. The query is, who was the witch which switched the parrot off?



The 5th Divisional Signals Draft for India.

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen McVey, Golding, Brown E. C. and Kent (waiting man)
Third row—Signalmen Randall, Eccleshall, Machin, Spriggs, Alderman, Missen, Hudson and Mappleback
Second row—Sigmn Lines, L/Corpls Teal, Kelly and Harbury, Signalmen Jamieson, Armstrong, Williams and White
Front row—L/Corpl Mundy, Signalmen O'Malley W. M., Wright, Irving and Johns, and L/Corpl Stringfellow

All sat down to a delightful tea, which was ably supplied by the N.A.A.F.I., about 150 guests having arrived by this time.

After tea a giant Christmas cracker was pulled and exploded, and a pile of small crackers was eagerly gathered by the kiddies.

A Punch and Judy show came on next and amused everybody, terminating in roars of laughter.

Father Christmas arrived down the chimney from "Greenland's icy mountains," his whiskers covered in ice, and immediately accused the old witch of purloining his presents and keeping them in the cottage. After threatening the witch with burning at the stake if she refused to give him the presents, Father Christmas gave each child a gorgeous present.

While the kiddies were playing with their new toys, the ladies filed past and dipped in a bran tub for novelties. "Look what I've got, daddy!"

Fairy, 1931: *Miss Dorothy McIntosh.*
(Daughter of Q.M.S. (F-of-S) McIntosh)

Balloons started floating in the air, and the prize-winners in the various competitions were announced. The lucky ones are here named. Hidden treasure—ladies, Mrs. Stockdale; gentlemen, L/Sergt Devey; girls, Joyce Penfold; boys, Phillip Harding. Smelling competition—ladies, Mrs. Crockford; gentlemen, R.S.M. Hughes. Dartz—Mrs. Schneider and C.Q.M.S. Sheale (Yorkie). Sight testing—Mrs. Vickers and Sergt Brown. Tailless donkey—girls, Joan McIntosh; boys, Jimmy Lowings.

At the conclusion R.S.M. Hughes, on behalf of the families, proposed a vote of thanks and called for three cheers for the hard working committee.

Our very best thanks are extended to Capt L. W. Schneider (P.R.I.) who organised the entertainments.

Promotions and Appointments.—Corpl Pope F. and L/Cpls Hargreaves J. and Bourne C. V.

Special Parade.—On Sunday, January 11th, a special parade was held (commanded by Lieut.-Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C.) for presenting Mr. C. Standing (ex-Troop Sergeant-Major, 14th Yorkshire Hussars) with the Meritorious Service medal, and C.S.M. Tremain T. and Sergeant Cooper V. J. with L.S.G.C. medals.

Our commanding officer said: "I have a very pleasant duty to perform in presenting the M.S.M. to Mr. C. Standing. This medal is only presented for devotion to duty over a long period of years." Mr. Standing enlisted in 1876 and served at the same time as Lord Wolseley, Earl Roberts and Earl Kitchener in Egypt and India. He gained the long service and good conduct medal in 1894, and retired on pension in 1897. Not satisfied with this service, he enlisted with the 14th Yorkshire Hussars as a musketry instructor in the Great War. A grandfather of our present-day Army, he still has the smart military step of a soldier.

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The C.O. called for three cheers, which were heartily given to our "old 'uns." One of our youthful C.Q.M.S.s asked grandad if he remembered "when bread was twopence a pint."

Draft.—Departures have been numerous in the past few weeks. These include a draft for India, of which a photograph is sent with these notes (with the exception of Corpl Pearsall, who had left with his family on an earlier train). The band of the Green Howards (T.A.) played the draft to the station, and as the train steamed out "Auld Lang Syne" was played, and "Good luck!" was the draft's send-off by the wives and girls they left behind.

General.—Congratulations to the following on the occasion of their marriage. Corpl Betty to Maud Lyon, at Scalby, Yorks, on December 6th. Sigmn Wheeler L. to Isabella Ann Croft, at Chorley Wood, Herts, on the 13th. Corpl Pope F. to Gladys Dorothy White, at Portsea, Portsmouth, on the 27th. Sigmn Oates C. V. to Doris Cooper, at Scarborough, on January 3rd.

A hearty welcome is extended to the following: C.S.M. Bevan B. from Colchester. L/Sergt Sibley T. E. from No. 4 Artillery Brigade Section, Edinburgh. Sigmn Johnson P. from Catterick.

As a result of a Trade Board held in December, the undermentioned were successful: Sergt Brandon J., clerk, group C, class i.; Signalmen Brown W. and Elliott A. S., clerk, group C, class ii.; Sergt Crockford A. S., operator line, B.1.; L/Corporal Falkner L. V. and Sigmn France S., operator visual, C class ii.; Sigmn Ratcliffe E. K., operator signals, B class ii. Signalmen Bell W. A. and Jones F. passed group C class iii. and await mustering.

Successful candidates in the December 2nd class education examination were Signalmen Bryan J., Crouch L. W., Smith S. and Wilson C. W.

Individual training commenced on January 5th, and classes were formed for operators, I.C. drivers, D.R.s and linemen, and everybody is getting fit.

A very successful dance was given by the corporals of the unit on January 7th, and as a number of the corporals were proceeding on draft on the following day, it was an opportunity for them to bid au revoir to their numerous friends.

A great loss is felt in the departure of L/Corpl Mundy J., who was the unit's and the corporals' mess right-hand man.

UNITS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

December 24th, 1930.

Christmas is with us, and many varied items are being provided for our amusement during the festive season.

The Corporals' Room opened up the ball with their annual dinner on Saturday, December 20th. This, as usual, passed off in the approved style—a very enjoyable dinner, followed by a musical smoker for which reinforcements arrived from the Sergeants' Mess.

The kiddies were provided for at a Christmas tree in the Sergeants' Mess this afternoon, and many radiant faces were seen when Father Christmas had departed. "Pop's" face was perhaps the best!

Details of *the Day* will be given in our next issue of notes.

Owing to the spasmodic appearance of notes from this unit during the past few months, apologies to all readers are tendered herewith. A short resume of happenings since October will, no doubt, prove welcome.

A fete organised by Major E. L. Hill, M.C., D.C.M., was held in the Institute grounds on November 28th, the proceeds of which were donated to the Ex-Services Association. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent by all who attended, the attractions of hoop-la, midget golf, etc., proving irresistible, and they cheerfully contributed to the cause. The gratifying sum of Rs.323/8/0 was realised and duly forwarded to the proper quarter.

Departures.—On Saturday, December 13th, the unit reluctantly bade farewell to Lieut.-Colonel C. Firth, M.C., on the eve of his departure to U.K. on completion of his tour. Our loss is Scotland's gain. Good luck to you, sir!

Arrivals: Officers.—Major A. W. Roberts, M.C., reported from six months U.K. leave on the 20th inst. The "inventory board" is now complete to everybody's satisfaction.

Arrivals: Other Ranks.—These have been fairly numerous of late (in spite of the fact that Records have left us in peace until next month) with drafts from U.K. We welcome R.Q.M.S. Saunders and family, Sergts Goodyear and Angell complete with appurtenances, and lastly the families of R.S.M. McGregor, R.Q.M.S. Harrison and Corpl Diggins from the U.K. Our whist drives and dances will now begin to assume a cheerful aspect—"the more the merrier."

U.K. Leave and Marriages.—The wording of the heading to this paragraph is not as a rule connected, but I think it is merited as far as we are concerned. Of the seven single members who left for U.K. leave in April, four returned married and two engaged (the seventh one is jealous!) The benedicts are Sergts Pronger, Dilworth, Wooldridge (do not gasp!) and Corporal Lee. Congratulations and usual wishes to you all! The first two are now nicely settled down in India with their wives. The last two, being due to return to the U.K. next trooper (lucky beggars!) are in training for a second honeymoon. Who initiated you into the "secrets," Johnny? Were you thinking of check parades in Blighty? How attractive English girls must be!

Finale.—Ere we close, may we ask why the tame humorist of December notes is allowed to live in peace? Can we be advised whether there is any danger of his coming to India, as maybe we can find something for him to be really funny about.

SIGTRAIN.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

December 15th, 1930.

Obituary.—It is with much regret that we announce the death of Sigmn R. H. McNair on November 1st, after a short and severe attack of malaria. It was a great shock to all of us, and to his wife and dependants we tender our sincerest condolences.

General.—Our popular commanding officer, Major P. A. Hitchcock, O.B.E., has returned to us again, and we hope that his stay will be a long and happy one.

Arrivals.—From leave, Capt Smitheman, Lieut/Quartermaster Capel, Sergts Mills and Williams, and L/Sergt Knox. From S.T.C. (India) L/Corpl Hoole.

Departures.—To Western Command, Corpl Robinson G. W. and Sigmn Ware. To U.K., C.Q.M.S.s Hales and McGregor, Sergt Rolfe, Corporals Farmer, McKenzie, Morris and Walker, L/Corpls Button, Goodfellow, Hutchison, King F. and Waite, Signalmen Beard, Brown, Clark S., Cox, Craggs, Hand, Jones A. C., Lewis, Lovell, Morrison, Perkins, Richards, Simpson, Slade L. and Smith T.

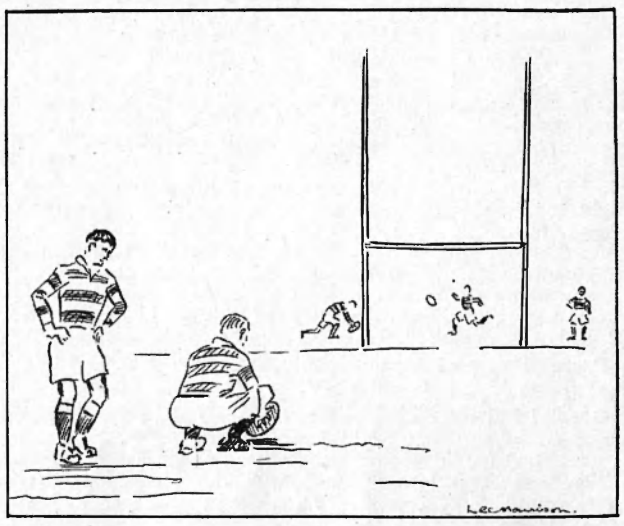
Everyone hates to lose old friends, and we have said goodbye to a great number—perhaps, never to see them again.

Corpl Farmer will no longer be able to entertain us with his series of poems over the nom-de-plume of "Equus"—the last of which is published herewith.

C.Q.M.S. McGregor will not be able to lead the cricket team into the field next year and give us the benefit of his many years experience in Karachi.

Corpl Robinson G. W., another worker, has gone, too. He has been invaluable, and we hope that he will be as much appreciated in his new job as he was here.

To name and eulogise each man would occupy too much space, and we can only say "Good luck!" to them all.



Onlooker (to man making careful preparations): "Come on, Bill! What yer goin' to 'ave on it—a pint?"
Disinterested place kicker: "Naow. Top spin!"

Promotion.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Rice on his promotion to Sergeant w.e.f. 7/9/30.

Annual Charity Dance.—On Nov. 11th the annual charity dance was held at the G.P.A. Hall and was voted an unqualified success, large sums of money being extracted from the pockets of our soft-hearted patrons for two charities, the Signals Associa-

tion and the Ex-Services Association. The entrance tickets (500) were sold out shortly after ten o'clock, and still crowds came.

The success of the show was due to the untiring efforts of the hon. secretary, Lieut W. R. Smijth-Windham, his assistant (Sergt Mills) and the various sub-committees, who were indefatigable. The lighting effects by Corpl Green and Sigmn Dannatt were almost professional, and the catering under C.S.M. Hope and Sigmn Knight was excellent.

Of course, one had difficulty in getting to the bar (so they tell me!) owing to most of the crew of H.M.S. *Effingham* attending; but Sergt Bishop, L/Sergt Bosworth, and their assistants worked themselves to shadows from 9.30 p.m. until 3 a.m., trying (and apparently failing) to satisfy their thirsty customers.

This dance entails too much work to hold it more frequently than once a year, but all of us regretted when it came to a close and anticipate next year's affair will be an equal success.

Corporals' Mess.—Two very successful smokers were held recently—the first where largesse was showered on the crew of H.M.T. *Somertsetshire*, which brought its reward in the form of staff jobs for our fellows on the first boat, and the second to the R.A.F. Corporals. Our talent does not compare with that of the R.A.F., but with the aid of Captain R. M. Lunt (whose songs are very popular) and L/Corpl Hockley, we managed to do our bit.

There have been troublous times in the Mess of late, and no arrangements have yet been made for Christmas.

My Old Briar Pipe.

My friends have often said to me, in manner most distinct,
That with antediluvian past my baccy pipe is linked,
And then go on to tell me that they think the time is ripe
For me to sever partnership with my old briar pipe.

"Oh, fools!" I say, in kindly way the path of truth to show;
"What know they of tobacco-joy who only gaspers know?
Just have a try, and go and buy a briar of this type,
And you will see that you will be an addict to your pipe."

'Tis father, mother, brother, counsellor and friend;
No problem is so mighty stiff but it my pipe can bend;
My troubles all, both great and small, I from my mind can wipe
By sitting down and lighting up my ancient briar pipe.

At times my life is filled with strife, and evil days draw nigh,
For man is born to trouble as the sparks do upward fly;
I then no comforter of Job nor preacher sad require,
For all my bitterness I burn with baccy in my briar.

I would read you a moral from this ancient pipe of mine.
When first I started smoking it, 'twas bitterer than brine,
But passing years have mellowed it: 'tis sweeter than a nut,
For 'tis well soaked in nicotine and charred from rim to butt.

As it is with my ancient pipe, so is it with us all:
When young, our souls are bitterer than wormwood or than gall—
But passing years will mellow us, and we'll become more bland
As in experience we're soaked and carry sorrow's brand.

And with this shining moral I conclude my pipe's defence.
Will you be strict, and yet convict against this evidence?
Unto each thing a season is, and now the time is ripe
For me to cease, depart in peace, and light up my old pipe.

EQUUS.

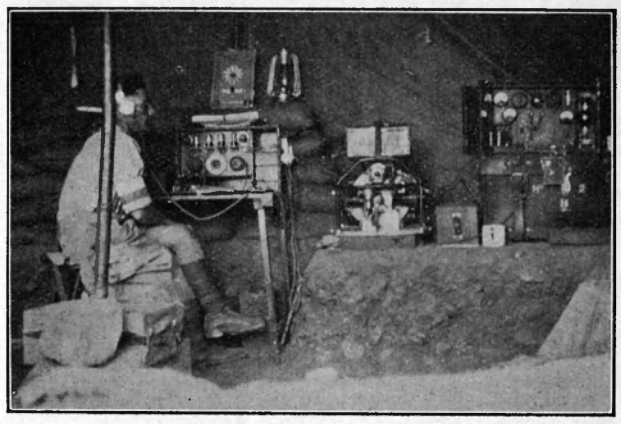
Agony.—Will Nobby, Sergeants' Mess, Meerut, please tell an old pal whether Sergt Murray has his right wrist still in plaster of paris, or moonlight and roses? ACORPZ.

Peshawar District Signals.

Peshawar, 17th December, 1930.

The festive season is upon us, and although by the time these notes appear Christmas will be but a memory, they will serve as a pleasant reminder of the good time we are hoping to have.

There is no doubt that this Christmas should be a bumper one. The preparation of the dinner—always the most important item—is in very capable hands. Not only are we catering for those who are in Peshawar but also for all who are "holdin' 'em back" on the Kajuri Plain. All the Christmas puddings have been made by our inimitable Smudger, who is also responsible for the majority of the dinner arrangements; and I hope we shall all be able to give him a hearty vote of thanks when we have sampled the results of his labours.



The Better 'Ole: in touch with the World.

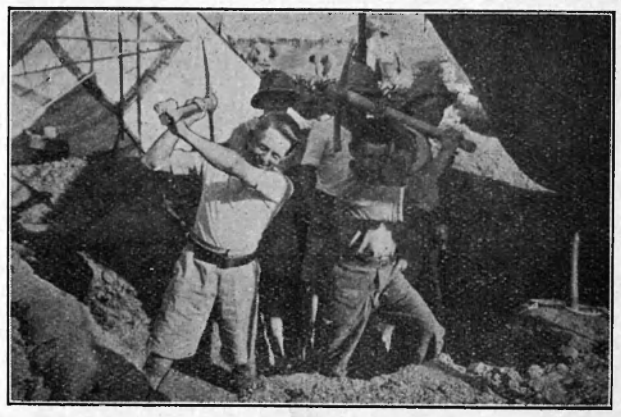
Brighter Peshawar.—At last a "Brighter Peshawar" movement is afoot, and it is with pleasure that I record the first effort in this direction. It took the form of a Carnival and Dog Show, the proceeds of which were given to the hospitals.

The event was held last Friday afternoon on the Garrison football ground. There were attractions of all kinds—some of a very original character, including a real casino in which one lost real money. The "Wizard of Shagai" was there to entertain us with his magic, and "MacMunn's Marionettes" scored a great success. The latter was very well executed by 2/Lieut G. A. MacMunn of this unit.

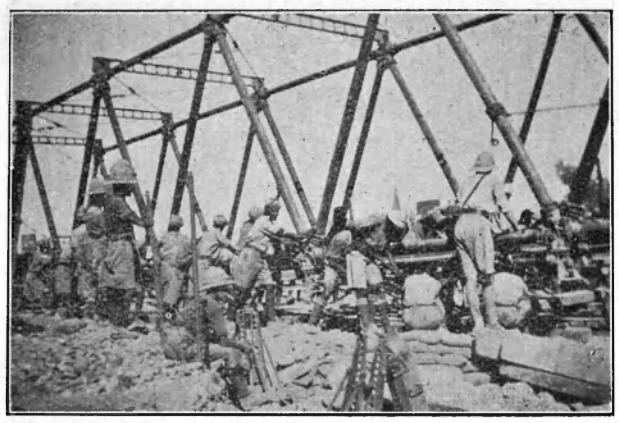
Signals also brought their technical knowledge to the fore in arranging a gadget for both giving and taking money. It looked quite simple, but when it came to taking, one experienced rather a shock. All one had to do was to pay three annas and then take a rupee out of a bucket of water. Simple as this sounds, it became rather a difficult matter to secure the "chip" when one's hand had reached the water; as I said previously, one got rather a nasty shock! The nett result was that only one individual succeeded in obtaining the rupee.

The Dog Show was a great success, and all classes were well represented. There were big dogs and small dogs, long dogs and short dogs, dogs with names and dogs without—in fact, every conceivable sort of dog was there. An exciting few minutes were experienced when a Great Dane took a sudden dislike to two performers masquerading as "Greater Danes" and chased them around the arena. Corpl Gould of this unit was successful in obtaining the first prize for Airedales.

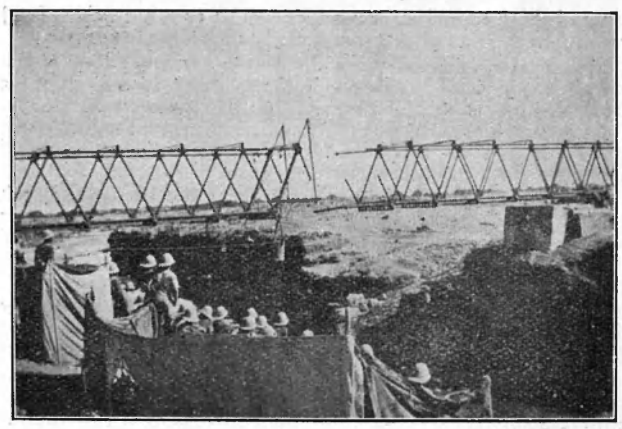
The whole afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and it is to be hoped that the movement will continue and that we shall



Going to Earth.



Bridge Builders



Bridge Building on the Bara River.

have several more of these fetes before the close of the present cold season.

Lights o' Peshawar (with apologies to "X Ray" of the Lincolnshire Chronicle and Leader).—The latest precautionary order in Peshawar is to the effect that all who are out after dusk must be in possession of a continuous light, i.e. a hurricane lamp. This, perhaps, is also to be included in the "Brighter Peshawar" movement; at any rate, it is a cheap and economical method of street lighting. A remark was passed the other day to the effect that we were getting more like Blackpool every day, in that there were such a lot of little lights about. It has its disadvantages, of course. Imagine Colonel Blank walking down the Mall, carrying a hurricane lamp—he doesn't; or again, as Tommy says, there are times when a light is a nuisance.

The unit dances are progressing very favourably this year. Each Friday night we hold a dance for all ranks, and it is, without doubt, one of the most popular items in the station. On the 23rd inst. we are to have a first-rate carnival and fancy dress dance.

This, I think, is all of a general nature I have to record for this month.

Departures.—Sergt Goodyear W. and family to the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore on reposting. We extend to them our very best wishes for all good fortune in their new station.

Promotion.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Coles H. on his appointment as paid L/Corporal. One year and seven months was a long wait, Emma, but better late than never!

Whilst on the subject of promotion, we also desire to congratulate Subedar-Major Randhir Singh on his promotion to that rank. During the years that have passed since he joined the unit (then H Divisional Signals) as a Jemadar, he has been deservedly popular with all ranks, both British and Indian, and no doubt all of his old friends will be pleased to hear of his advancement. We hope that he may continue to preside over the treasure chest for a long time yet.

SIGS PESHDIST.

W/T Detachment, Peshawar District Signals.

With the Fighting Packs on the N.W. Frontier, 1930.

Hullo, everybody! Having taken it upon myself to enlighten the rest of the Corps as to the "goings on" on this portion of the Frontier, I am solely responsible for the above heading.

Up to the present I must admit that "Fighting" has hardly been our true name; but, still, we are ready, and as one never knows just what is coming along next, I do not see why I should alter our title.

At present we are located about thirteen miles from Peshawar, on the Kajuri Plain. We did not march straight out here at the commencement of operations, but had the doubtful pleasure of capturing—or at least, occupying—a neighbouring hill called Bachcha for a few hours on quite a number of occasions before we finally arrived to settle down.

Acting as 2nd Brigade Signals, under Lieut P. R. Hyde, we are a composite Section—the Brigade Section hailing from 1st Indian Divl Signals, Rawalpindi, with Sergt Draper in charge, whilst the W/T Detachment from Peshawar District Signals is under L/Sergeant Holt.

Our work consists of the usual internal communications, inter-Brigade communications, and the communication with Divisional Headquarters. The Wireless are carrying out continuous watch.

We are now more or less settled down in camp, having burrowed into the ground about three feet, and one of the accompanying snaps gives some idea of this arrangement.

The snaps of the Bara Bridge are interesting inasmuch as we have seen this piece of work actually carried out. For the sake of those who have never had the pleasure of watching the Sappers and Miners at work, I will attempt to outline the building of this bridge.

The work commenced with the laying of the foundations on either bank. The bridge itself was then built up in two sections, one on each side of the river. In assembling each section, sufficient material was laid down in order that when one half of a section was standing out over the river, there would be an equal amount on land. The wheels seen in the photo acted as a fulcrum on which the entire section was balanced. The extreme end of each section from the river was then weighted down. When all was set, the operation of moving the bridge into position began. This was carried out by "man-power, as illustrated, the rear end of the section being lifted slightly and the whole moved forward a few inches at a time. The whole operation of moving this structure into position occupied about three hours, and the Sappers and Miners are to be congratulated on a very fine piece of work.

We are all now eagerly looking forward to Christmas dinner in our mess tent; and if any Brigade Section ever did better for a mess room than we have done, with only a 160 lb. tent and a few sandbags, they have my congratulations.

The weather here is all that could be desired, and I feel sure that just so long as it remains so we will all be o.k.

Visual Sections will in future have to look to their laurels, as we recently established communication with Cherat—a distance of thirty miles. This, mark you, without previous arrangements.

I really think that WIRE notes are hardly complete without some reference to a "howler," and the following, which took place a few days ago, is quite good.

Supt.: "Please repeat your last 'out' message."
Operator: "Harassing fire was carried out.....," etc.
Supt.: "Oh, that's it, is it! I've got down here, 'Hari Singh's fire was carried out.....'"

And that, I think, is all for this month.

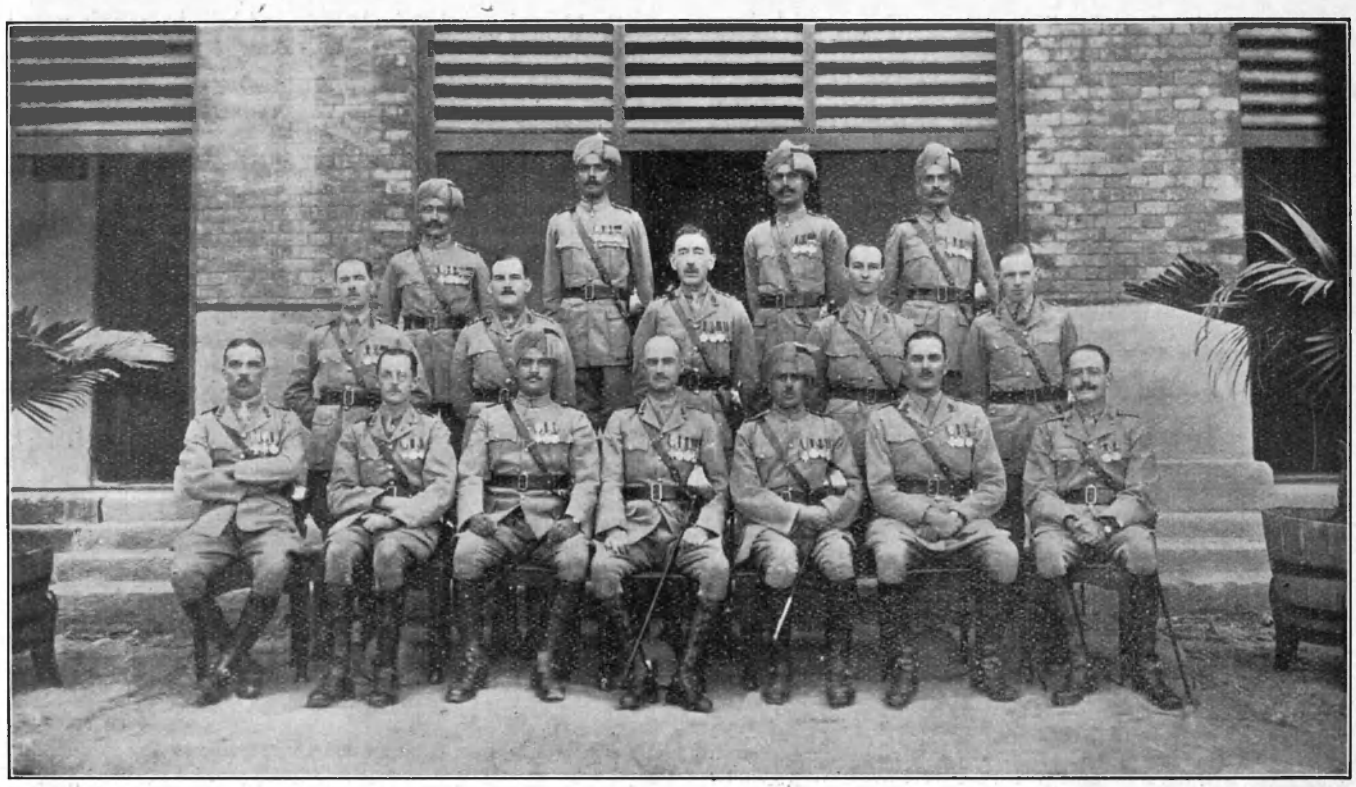
BACHCHA FEET.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

December 19th, 1930.

We extend a hearty welcome to Capt B. A. Browne, M.C., who has recently joined the unit from B Corps Signals.

Capt J. H. Lander, A.I.R.O. (Signals) has gone on leave in the United Kingdom pending retirement. Everyone in the unit will regret the loss sustained by the retirement of this popular officer.



The Officers of the 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

A photograph with these notes shows the officers of the unit, taken just before the departure of Major C. H. H. Vulliamy to the United Kingdom.

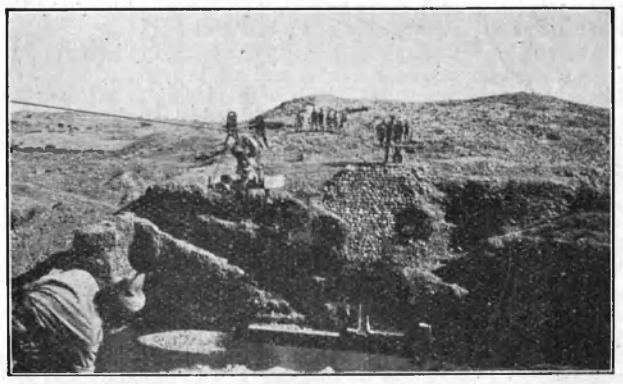
Training.—The collective training season has drawn to a close. It wound up with a seven-day scheme which included a march from Rawalpindi to Hassan Abdul and back. In spite of the depleted numbers of the unit, due to so many Sections being away on the Frontier and other places "holding 'em back," the scheme was a great success and passed off according to plan.

On the evening prior to the return from Hassan Abdul, an impromptu smoking concert was held around a bonfire in the open. The commanding officer provided cigarettes and hot rum and coffee for all, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

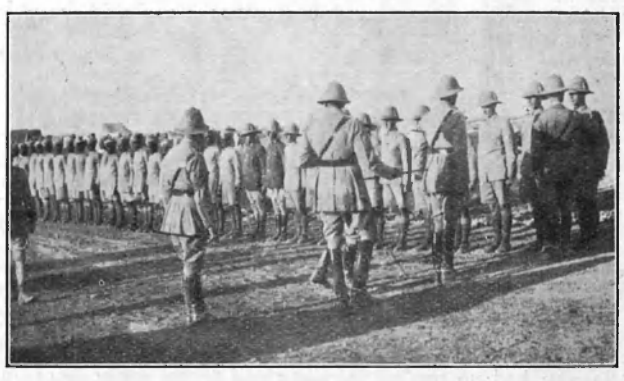
Location.—E Signal Section have joined the 4th Field Brigade R.A. and are with them at Margalla Barracks, Rawalpindi. The other Signal Sections away from the unit are K Section at Bara Fort, A Section at Mira Khel, J and G Sections at Abbottabad, and more than half of H Section scattered about in various parts of the Frontier. Perhaps one day someone will pluck up courage and send in notes from some of these places to tell us what they are doing out there.

Sport.—The unit office staff have dug up a cricket team and have actually played one or two matches. The first, against the Quartermaster's staff, is worthy of note even if only on account of the weird and wonderful types of head-dress worn by the latter team. These ranged from the Australian pattern cap in a light grey shade to the common or garden blue patrol cap, and added considerable brightness and gaiety to the game. Another bright feature of the game was the bowling and fielding of the Indian ranks who happened to find their way on to the field. The game concluded with a very excellent tea, provided by the Quartermaster's staff.

Social.—The weekly whist drive and dance has turned out an unqualified success, and all records have been broken as regards the attendance. The number of tables at whist has now reached twenty-five and is steadily on the increase. At last we



The Brigade Commander crossing the Bara River on a Cradle Bridge.



H.E. Sir William Birdwood (C.-in-C.) inspecting the Section on his farewell visit.

seem to have found a " live " committee. They certainly have worked wonders as regards social entertainment in the unit.

Vocational Training.—L/Corpl Barron to Peshawar for a course of switchboard operatmg. L/Corpl King to Rawalpindi Electric Power Company for a course as power-house attendant.

Education.—Congratulations to Signalmen Hill, Jarratt and Midgley on obtaining 2nd class certificates of education.

Arrival.—Sigmn Appleton from Jubbulpore.

Oh, those D.R.s!—The D.R. Section has started a natty style in mascots. Instead of the usual " Jimmy " carried on the front of a bicycle or car as a mascot, a " Jack in the Box " appears. If you want to know the origin of this new craze, ask Tommy or Fairy.

Overheard in the Office.—Sergeant (with shikari tendencies) to an Indian rank: " Is there any big game near your home?" I.R. (after much thought): " Yes, sahib ; plenty of hockey."

K Signal Section.—On August 10th, shortly after midnight, the Section received orders to entrain at 3 a.m. for a destination unknown. After considerable hustling the whole Section, including animals, was entrained at the appointed time and moved off.

In the morning the train stopped at Nowshera, and we heard we had reached our destination. Our luck was in, for the R.A. Signal Section, Peshawar, was with the 25th Field Brigade and we were able to occupy their barracks and horse lines. There we met the Pack W.T. Section, waiting to proceed on the Chitral Relief. A signal office was opened, which took over all traffic for and from the 2nd Brigade, including the W/T traffic.

At the time little was known about the situation, and the Section started to make itself fit for war by numerous route marches and tactical exercises and schemes. After a fortnight we began to settle down, and prepared for an indefinite stay in Nowshera. In the meantime (when we were not having quinine or innoculation parades) it was possible to carry out Section training under very favourable circumstances. No call for duty had to be met apart from three men daily for the signal office, and they were putting in some good work in counter clerk and signal office duties.

In the afternoons we produced cricket, tennis, hockey and football teams, and met with a good measure of success. At cricket, we beat a team from the Border Regiment ; at tennis, we drew with a team of six from the 25th Field Brigade R.A. ; and we succeeded in beating the R.A.M.C. and Nowshera Brigade Staff at hockey.

After a very pleasant stay of two months in Nowshera, we were ordered to march with the 2nd Brigade to Peshawar on October 13th. The first day we covered sixteen miles and camped at Taru with half of the Brigade, the other half of the Brigade camping at Pabbi, two miles behind. The next day the Brigade joined up and marched into Peshawar to camp at Abdara.

The first day's march was a hard one along a most uninteresting road, and the heat was unwelcome. The route marches in Nowshera proved of value, for not one man fell out and no mule had a gall, although some of the men discovered where the bumps in their feet lay.

According to the original programme we should have left Peshawar on October 15th, but on the evening of the 14th, " Z " day was postponed until the 17th. The next two days proved a welcome rest.

On " Z " day we left Peshawar, and after a short march of eight miles we arrived at Bara. The Brigade encamped about half a mile from Bara Fort.

During the first week at Bara the Section was kept very busy in providing communications while the Brigade carried out operations, and also in laying lines to permanent road picquets. Five such picquets were established along the seven-and-a-half miles of rough track to the 9th (Jhansi) Brigade camp at Mira Khel. The two furthest picquets—the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and the Rajputs—were connected by means of a cable wagon borrowed from Peshawar District Signals, but the remainder and all the lines to units in camp were laid by the Section. Eventually there were eighteen subscribers on the Brigade exchange, and the linemen had no rest in patrolling and repairing the lines until all lines in camp were buried, when they were able to concentrate on the road picquet lines.

On November 17th Brigade H.Q. and half the Brigade moved into a new camp at Karawal, eight miles further into the Kajuri Plain. The other half followed a week later.

During the first night at Karawal we were visited by some Afridis, who sniped the camp. Again, the first week contained no spare moments, for apart from laying and burying lines to units in camp and six permanent picquets, precautions had to be taken against sniping. The floors of all the tents, including the signal office, were dug down at least 3 ft. with incredible speed, and walls were erected around them.

Brigade operations are carried out on three days a week. The remaining days are employed in road making. Road protection duties are a daily occurrence.

On December 4th Major H. G. Henderson, our C.O., visited the Section. TONY RED.

[We regret that a number of other photos have been unavoidably held over until next month.—ED.]

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

No. 1 Company.

November, 1930.

General.—We arrived back in Meerut from our stay in the hills during the last week of October, and now we are hard at work again in preparing for manœuvres. This year we all hope to suffer from petrol feet—that is, if the Q.M. is willing.

Many are the faces that scan unit orders these days looking for news of the boat. I have had my share of seeing boats this year, especially the *California* (groans!)

Camera Club.—As has been previously reported, we have a Camera Club. I have been trying to get some news of its activities whilst the members were in the hills, but I should imagine it is one of " them there Mason Clubs," for all the information I can get is nil. Perhaps one of these days I shall be able to glean some items of interest—say, after Christmas dinner, " when the wine is in," etc.

Arrivals.—We have had a huge slice of luck. Captain F. K. Wilson has been posted to No. 1 Company. Greetings, sir! may you stay with us a long time!

There is no doubt that the unit is becoming more like Catterick every day. Corpl Abrahams and Sigmn Irvine have returned to the fold after six months leave in the U.K. We hear rumours of other impending arrivals, but of these one cannot talk. Dame Rumour is often a lying jade!

Departures.—These have been of a local nature. H.3 office (Sergt Strickland) has departed for Tughlakabad Camp. If the communications depend on a knowledge of stamps and shikar, you may bet that they will certainly be " Certa cito."

Bereavement.—I am very sorry to report the death of one of our old D.R.s, Sigmn Gray J. He was posted from us to Rawalpindi, and succumbed to an attack of enteric fever. Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to his parents. ONECOY.

October-November, 1930.

General—If I should say that I am sorry that I did not send any notes last month, some nice kind person will surely say that I am a fool to be sorry, because no one else is!

The unit is once more together. No. 1 Company have returned from that haven of rest Ranikhet and are busy on schemes, etc. No. 2 Company soon got fed up with playing at schemes and thought they would sooner be at Tughlakabad, so they have sent E, G and J Sections to that happy hunting ground. Apparently Sergt Griffen needed some moral (?) support, so he asked for Sergt Strickland to accompany him. I wonder who took the wrong Tele 110!

We welcome to our happy fold Captain F. K. Wilson from U.K. He has been posted to No. 1 Company. Lucky One! I hope that Captain Wilson's stay in the unit will be a long and enjoyable one.

I am very sorry to report the loss of one of the landmarks of the unit—I mean, celebrities—Sergt 'Ohn 'Arroni has departed for the U.K. I wonder where he will settle! No doubt he will be sent to Brighton or Blackpool: his strong forte is sand models. *The Daily Mail* will perhaps offer him the job as sand castle judge in the 'iddies 'ompetition.

I forget whether I mentioned the following promotions in my last notes. Anyway, there is no harm in repeating them here (it may mean an extra burra top). Sergt Jim Dillon now wears a crown above his three, and Sergt Daddy Eyres has also got his, but he (Daddy) wears it downstairs. Good luck, and may more follow! I am still sweating for the cross-batons. NOBBY.

Sergeants' Mess.

October-November, 1930.

General.—I must apologise to all the old members of the Mess for not sending a few notes last month, but what with Younger's and Scissors' travellers coming to see one, life is just one weary round of pl—sorry! big 'uns. We are still going strong and have our usual monthly jazzes and socials. Sergt Nappy Barber is still doing the entertainment part of the show, and having said that, it needs no more.

During the last few weeks we have been welcoming our new friends to the station, the 10th Royal Hussars from Egypt, and the Black Watch from somewhere on the Frontier. If things carry on as they started, we should all be receiving shares in William Younger's Brewery Company.

The members who were at Ranikhet for the last half of the season have returned to work. The Mess seems quite full now that Sergt Joe Lynch has come back. His yarns are still the same: I mean the quality and quantity.

I might add here that the mess itself is looking up, thanks to R.S.M. Ryder. It is quite cosy, and I believe that a movement is on foot to make more improvements.

The spare plot of ground at the rear of the mess has been in turn a tennis court, a badminton court, and a miniature golf course (on paper!) It is rather a pity that Sergt J. Garroni has been transferred to the home establishment. Perhaps, if he had remained at Meerut, we might have had a sand model here.

Our congratulations are handed to Sergt Daddy Eyres on his double promotion to C.Q.M.S. and C.S.M.; also to Sergt Jim Dillon on his pulling the crown. If I hadn't read the letter in THE WIRE, I might have had a moan myself.

En Passant.—The Super-Optimist: The n.c.o. who went to Bombay to meet his wife. NOBBY.

Kohat District Signals.

[*Received in December, too late for the January number.*]

To one and all the best for Christmas and all prosperity in 1931! That's that! Now for news from Kohat.

I know some will think the Afridis have pinched us, but we are very much alive and kicking, even if we don't have much to say!

Since the return of the families from their summer resorts (how they love their "long vacation"!)—which event generally coincides with the return to cold weather conditions—the unit has settled down to Section training. Prior to this, the delayed Trade Testing Board was held. Musketry by Sections is now in swing, with excellent results so far.

During November the Commander-in-Chief visited Kohat in his farewell tour of India. He paid a brief visit to the lines (and the sergeant-major!)

We must tender our thanks to Sergt "Tricky" (I've heard him called other names) Lewis for his remembrances of Kohat and the Thrift Club. It still flourishes, as the following figures show. (But does Tricky know who really started the idea in Signals?)

Total deposited since July, 1926, Rs.45,000; total withdrawn and transferred to the United Kingdom, Rs.31,100—realising £2310. (Keep this from the Labour Government, everybody, or down goes the pay!)

Out of the last batch of twelve to the U.K., seven were depositors, with a total of £385/14/10 to their credit on arrival in the U.K. A very worthy effort! With the greater number of "new rates" men, the figures are of course bound to come down.

Departures.—The batch of twelve referred to above were: L/Corpl Mills D., Signalmen Keyes A., White S., Pybus R., Beck E., Burton A., Whiting J., Woodstock E., Taylor A., Beaumont W. and Bennett J.—all to Reserve, and Sigmn Cosgrave G. to pension. Good luck to all! In Sigmn Bennett the band lost a leader, for Bennett and his violin have been a feature in the unit and the station for several seasons.

We have also lost our renowned artist and lampshade maker, L/Sergt Crichton J., who left us for B Corps Signals. Good luck, Jack! Leave some paste and paper for some of us in Pindi.

Another celebrity, Sigmn Hicks, has left us for Poona. How some of us will miss his wireless concerts! Those awful moments while Jix tuned-in to the Derby or the Test Match will not readily be forgotten. Beware, Signal School! if you hear anything weird that you have never heard before, it's some of Sigmn Jix Hicks' tricks (that's a twister!) The cricket team also will miss him—he has been one of the best all-round players the unit has had for some time.

We ought also to be saying our farewells to Sergt Wall W., but as his move is postponed we will postpone the weeping as well.

Signalmen Holley R. and James C., both old-timers in this unit, left us for Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur, on Frontier relief. May they find rest and quietness among the gee-gees!

Arrivals.—We have to welcome 2/Lieut Webb on temporary attachment from B Corps Signals. His stay won't be long, which is rather unfortunate, as we were beginning to look on him as one of us. May he come again—and for a longer spell next time!

Sigmn Dart, in relief of Sigmn Hicks, from Army School, Poona. Signalmen Ashwood and Baxter from Risalpur, in relief of Signalmen Holley and James.

From U.K. leave: L/Sergts Wagg W. and Sprunt R., Corpl Tant H. and L/Corpl Bilsby V.—all looking merry and bright, and so glad to be back, don't you know!

An all ranks dance was held on Armistice Eve in the S. and D. Club, and apart from a scarcity of ladies it went off with a swing. An energetic committee in the unit are organising further dances for the winter season.

The Corporals' Mess gave a dance in the unit theatre on 14th November. Again, a scarcity of ladies was the only drawback to a successful evening. Come along, fair maidens and memsahibs—what about it? Remember the lads who have waited all these long lonely months for your return from your summer domains!

Sergeants' Mess.—The cold weather season commenced with a carnival dance on November 1st. This was also the first dance of the season in the Station and was a great success. Unlike many dances since, the fair sex turned up in strong numbers, and one-way traffic had to be resorted to in the region of the bar!

We have lost an energetic worker for the Mess in L/Sergeant Crichton this month. The sale of milk, Force, Vitamin V. and monkey nuts, and "Health and Strength," has dropped 50 per cent. since his departure! We all wish him a good time in Pindi. May his mobile vouchers never jam his short-wave requirements and unearth that old charging engine!

Thal W/T Detachment, Thal Fort.—Salaams to all old Thalites. Yes! Thal is still in the same place, but you wouldn't know it now—all lovely bricks and no mutty huts!

Big Fisheries Ramp.—An effort to boost Empire trade was recently made at Thal when the Detachment formed The Thal Fisheries, Ltd. (proprietor, "Ham"). After a mass meeting (the whole four of us!) the company proceeded with due pomp, ceremony, mossy poles and borrowed hooks, to the Kurram River, to catch the stock. After many unfruitful efforts to catch anything, the proprietor began to grow restless and decided to catch 'em in bulk (at least, I think he did!) Striding gingerly across the river, he placed his foot on a stone that wasn't there—and the only thing that we could see of him was *nothing* (to what depths some people will sink, even for a fish!) Decency prevents me from telling you his views on fishing!

Thal Pigeon Fanciers' Association.—Undaunted by the failure of the Thal Fisheries, the proprietor started the above-named association. The first race of the season resulted in a win by a short beak, after much bumping and boring at the trap, for Barnacle Bill, temporarily owned by "Deep Waters" (the nom-de-plume of the proprietor of the Fisheries). It's a swindle, Ham!

Agony.—Keenlyside (late of E Company): Are pen and paper running short?

Brown Spencer (2nd Div., Aldershot): Has the writing fist gone dis?

Tich Stansfield (Jubbulpore): What about it?—Gasson.

Sigmn Garbutt (D.R., late of E Company): Can your credits stand one stamp?

Things We Want to Know in Kohat.—Who is Charlie? How to get rid of a trombone? Is Nippy Joe still driving his taxi? What Uncle John did to Ginger?

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

December 11th, 1930.

General.—Since our last contribution appeared in these pages, quite a number of things have happened. November is ever a busy month with us—we are then in the toils of collective training—and this year the whole unit spent five days at camp, so we have been extra busy; hence the absence of our November notes.

The unit camp was all right as far as it went—but it went a little bit *too* far; or, at least, we had to go a little too far to get there. I did not really mind when I was told that I was going to camp, but when I heard that I had to march seventeen miles to get there, my heart failed me (incidentally, my feet nearly failed as well during the march); but, still, it is all over now and I can smile again, even though I still put my feet to the ground very gingerly.

Moves.—Captain W. O. Bowen, our late adjutant, has been seconded for duty with the Burma Military Police, and Captain A. J. Harris, O.B.E., has joined us from Quetta. The hockey team loses, but the cricket team gains. We wish both officers the best of luck in their new spheres.

Sigmn Brookes R. has been posted to Peshawar District Signals, and Sigmn Frith A. J. has joined us from the S.T.C. (India). Good luck, and welcome!

Births.—To C.S.M. and Mrs. Mayes, a son, Eric. To Sergt and Mrs. Littlefield, a son, Lawrence Michael.

Courses.—Congratulations to L/Corporal Nix L. C. on being selected to attend a Foreman-of-Signals course at Catterick Camp. The good wishes of all members of the Div. go with him. (I wish I had thought of trying to get home that way!)

Queries.—Who was the Signalman who endorsed his pass for a dance "With permission to wear trousers"? What did he think he was going to wear? At any rate, it was not a fancy dress affair, because I made enquiries.

Appointments.—U/L/Corpl Nix L. C. to be L/Corpl (paid). Sigmn Macdonald P. C. to be U/L/Corporal. We wish them the usual!

Employment.—C.Q.M.S. Smith A. E., late of this unit, has obtained employment in the Labour Exchange—just the sort of berth to suit an ex-Q.M.! I wonder if it is as hard to get the dole out of him as it was to get any stores when he was with us.

Overheard.—Voice from the tent: "Yes, I think we shall have to give Headquarters Section a few more route marches—especially the office staff" (and a Littlefield shall lead them). I hope the owner of the voice was only joking, because this touches a very raw spot.

The Band.—Who was the bright youth who said that the Signophonists dance band was a washout? Never mind! he may learn to play an instrument himself one of these days, and then he will also be able to say "Nothing this week, please!" to the pay bloke.

Mechanisation.—There was a rumour going round the unit to the effect that we were going to be mechanised. Of course, it was untrue! I believe that it originated with someone who saw a Tank on the ranges—or, at least, it acted very much like a Tank; it took ditches and all obstacles in a manner worthy of the traditions of the Tank Corps. I wonder what the country is like at Ahmednagar?

Gems of Verse.—I managed to obtain this contribution before our local poet was posted to Peshawar.

ON A W/T SECTION BEING FORMED.

In a little jungle clearing,
  Miles and miles from anywhere,
Was a sight that made folk query
  "How the deuce did that get there?"

For the object of their gazing
  Was a set called C mark ii.,
And the story of its coming
  I will now unfold to you.

Four sets had we, but lorries two
  Were all that we could wangle;
And one set had a "status quo"—
  Leaving three the work to handle.

Two sets are for the lorries;
  With the third, what shall we do?
Quoth the experts, altogether:
  "Make it Pack—so simple, too."

Then they went unto the saddler:
  Of their wants he must be told.
Made he saddles of new pattern,
  The engine and the set to hold.

Then packed we into Yakdhans
  Set and spares and aerial frame,
Loaded up, and (like the poet)
  Softly through the dawn we came.

Marched we over hill and valley,
  Marched we off the beaten track,
Roads we neither knew nor wanted—
  Were we not the Wireless Pack?

Came we to a jungle clearing,
  Miles and miles from anywhere;
And, in answer to folks' queries,
  That is how the set got there.

W.F.K.

K Signal Section, Ahmednagar.

General.—The Section, under the command of Lieut Longfield, left Secunderabad on 20th November, arriving at Ahmednagar the next day. A good programme was carried out, which gave the boys a variety of work each day. (The Fort wall comes in handy for map reading, does not it, K?)

Before coming to 'Nagar, I heard quite a lot of its history, and I must say it appears to be a fine old place. The Fort itself has a history quite as interesting as any I know.

On 10th December the Section moved off to Moshi, near Poona, for ten days camp with the Poona Brigade. During their stay the Section got through (in more ways than one) a heap of work. The period included three nights out, and we certainly worked during those nights; and during the whole of the camp the Section earned the respect and good will of those in authority.

Returning to 'Nagar, the Section settled down for a general clean-up and overhauling of instruments, etc., and then came the Christmas holidays.

The population of the Fort being small in number—two dozen, all told—no elaborate preparations were made for the festivities. Nevertheless, we commenced the day with something different from gun fire, and when dinner-time came the mess room began to look something like Christmas time—thanks to Basher and his colleagues of the D. of W. Regiment. The Staff Captain came and wished us the compliments of the season, and then we got busy on "the feed of the year," which was enjoyed by all.

You may not believe it, but the Section was *sober* on Christmas Day; yes, even the D.R.s!

Questions.—What did Jim get in his sock this year? Why are so many people signing on for two years or so, when all along the line we have heard the cry "Roll on," etc? The Army is o.k. after all, is it not?

Heard on Camp.—This is true! Non-com. to officer: "There's the cavalry over there, sir." Officer: "What cavalry?" Non com.: "Horse cavalry, sir." (Collapse of officer.)

D.H.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

December 15th, 1930.

General.—Our jazz band made its debut at a public gathering on Saturday, 6th December, by rendering the music for a Sergeants' Mess dance. The whole show was a success, and the members of the band are to be congratulated. They are now playing regularly at the local branch of the Y.M.C.A.—

which goes to prove that their merits are appreciated by others as well as by ourselves. What we really need to attain the height of perfection is a player of a wind instrument and/or a violinist, and we are living in hope of having one such posted to us with the next batch of arrivals.

The sudden inexplicable death of a number of our Christmas poultry (less violent than that in store for others!) has caused many an anxious eye to turn towards the remainder.

Inspections.—The despatch riders were again successful in winning the competition clock and glass for the cleanest room in barracks, the left-half Troop being a very close second (who *did* put that topee in the chimney?)

Departures.—Our list of departures for January 17th has now been officially published. We lose five n.c.o.s and men—not six, as stated last month, L/Corpl Mulholland having decided to prolong his stay until next October. The number of "detained civilians" in the unit is increasing daily; we will have six of them by the time these notes appear.

Agony.—L/Corpl Nother of this unit would like to hear from Sigmn Pope G. A., last heard of in Jubbulpore. LINK.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

December 10th, 1930.

Christmas Day in Polygon Camp.—We had a real start off for Christmas (no one being in the guard room) by having rum and coffee in bed. No! no one got merry on this, but the rum could be distinctly tasted. Unfortunately, our mess orderlies would not condescend to bring our breakfast to us, so those who felt well enough (quite a few didn't, owing to a hectic previous night) got up and enjoyed pork chops, sausages and coffee. It may be added that a few laid out their kits for inspection afterwards.

After breakfast the majority wended their way towards the square, where a comic football match was arranged between teams from Nos. 1 and 3 Companies. It was, indeed, a sight for sore eyes, and Sailor (speaking of a certain warrant officer dressed as a modern young woman) was heard to remark "Isn't she wonderful!" A real dog fight was the outcome of this battle royal, and so interested was everyone that the result of the match was forgotten. Please don't take this to mean that we had all had "one too many."

The dining hall, decorated by Corpl Gratwicke and party, was indeed pretty when, at 12.30 p.m., we all sat down to dinner. All officers were present, including Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., our Chief Signal Officer, who in a few words before dinner commenced wished everyone the compliments of the season, and remarked on the excellent show the Corps have made in all Command sporting events for the last year. He added that he hoped it would lead up to our winning the best all-round unit trophy for the third time in all and the second year in succession.

A toast was then drunk to Colonel Powell and all officers, and during this a certain driver was observed holding a glass in one hand and half a turkey in the other!

We then started to "eat, drink and be merry," and thanks to Ginger and his accomplices Paddy, Tibben and Busty, we had a gorgeous "gorge." Afternoon was made short by "snore" or "wampo"—mainly the latter—and our mess orderlies had a lively time chasing after tea buckets. "Massa conked" once again. Never mind! it's the last time in Egypt.

In the canteen, afterwards, the lads were entertained by Professors Forde and Blackette, and at "chucking out" time many were seen creeping away stealthily into dark corners with—what?—I'll leave you to surmise.

Signals Association.—The Cairo Branch held a very successful dance at the Slade Ground Soldiers' Club on 12th December. The club was hired for the occasion, and even then the accommodation was totally inadequate. Dancing was continued until the small hours, and it was generally agreed that it was the best dance that had been held in the Garrison for some time. We look forward to more of these functions.

The net result was that a cheque to the value of nearly £14 was forwarded to the Signals Benevolent Fund at home: a very creditable achievement on the part of those responsible for the organisation of the function.

Annual Concert.—The concert party gave their annual performance on December 22nd. The producer of a military show who nowadays, and at short notice, sets out to amuse some two hundred people for four hours with a handful of amateurs, and gets away with it, deserves the heartiest congratulations. The most fastidious must have been satisfied with the show, which was versatile, bright, tuneful and kept going.

The first half was given over to selected items, and the second to the Christmas revue "Reminiscences." It is always a foregone conclusion that among a crowd of amateur showmen someone is going to do the unexpected; but this party, to their credit, went through their acts at a pace and with a calmness that reminded one of the professional war-time shows.

The quartette "Beware," Captain Giblin's "Hymn of Hate," Sergt Kendall's "Murders," and Sergt Norcross' "Mummy's Goldfish," were first rate performances. The chorus and accompanists knew their job, and it was a pleasure to listen to their efforts. The show ended in great style.

Despite difficulties, the organisation all round was good, and everybody from Biddy to the Colonel's lady enjoyed themselves. The talent is available, and we hope the good work will be carried on. A "musical" show would fit the cast of the revue like a glove.

Agony.—Haggis Junior, of Egypt Signals, would like to hear from Haggis Senior, now somewhere in Shanghai. What about it?

Our Untamed Poet's Reply to Mr. James Dunn.—

ALDERSHOT.

A new ambition I have got:
I want to go to Aldershot,
To sleep upon a cambric sheet,
Have flowers round me while I eat,
A suitcase stored behind my cot—
It must be nice in Aldershot!

Advantages there are, a lot,
In being sent to Aldershot:
There's window curtains—oh, so sweet!
And when you go to wash your feet,
There's bath salts; and when the water's hot,
It's very nice in Aldershot!

Like a lounge upon a private yacht
Is the Sergeants' Mess at Aldershot;
They've carpets laid upon the floor,
A spittoon stands by every door,
And they say "Bar Jove! old chappie, what!"—
They're awfully choice in Aldershot!

At radio and such like rot,
They're rather warm at Aldershot.
Outsiders—common folk, like you—
Are not shown half the things they do;
They just keep sending dash and dot
From "hush-hush" vans at Aldershot.

And now, it seems to me, they've got
A humorist at Aldershot:
The gentleman upon the *Mail*
Who wrote so wonderful a tale
Can say with truth, "There's quite a lot
Of leg-pulling at Aldershot."

—BLACK.

Christmas Tree.—The annual Christmas tree to all the Royal Signals families was given by the officers and their ladies at the King George's Soldiers' Home on December 17th.

All families, on arrival, were welcomed by Colonel R. M. and Mrs. Powell, and a grand spectacle greeted one on entry, as the tables were literally creaking with Christmas fare; and to give the finishing touches to the table decorations, the silver challenge cups had been brought into service.

It was not long ere tea was well on the way, with the joyous laughter of kiddies and the cracking of innumerable bonbons. After everyone had done full justice to the tea and the officers had acquitted themselves admirably as waiters, a loud knocking announced the arrival of Father Christmas, who conducted the cheering throng of children to an adjacent room, where the tree was in readiness. The lighting effects of the tree and room had been splendidly catered for by our electricians.

After the distribution of presents, everyone fell wholeheartedly into the games, and as participants the old could not be separated from the young.

About seven o'clock the party wound up, and the children went away tired, but happy, and with the assistance of several daddies to unravel the mysteries of the various toys.

To all the officers and their ladies we are truly grateful for such a splendid party, and regret that Christmas only comes but once a year.

Promotions.—This month we have to congratulate L/Sergt Brooke J. on his appointment to that rank, with effect from November 27th.

Departures.—C.S.M. Brown P. and family left us on the 17th December, per s.s. *Narkunda* from Port Said, for repatriation on completion of his twenty-one years service. As a souvenir of his services with Egypt Signals, he was presented with a small canteen of cutlery from the mess members. A bus was chartered to take all the mess members to the station to give him a rousing send-off, which was done in the time-honoured way. We wish him the best of luck on his return to civvy street, and hope that his " pub " will be the success he anticipates.

Signalmen Poole, Simms and Brice left us on December 26th, per H.M.T. *Neuralia* from Port Said, for repatriation for transfer to the Army Reserve. We wish them the best of luck, and hope that Don will not forget to tune in to S.A.a when he has the opportunity.

And last, but not least, Kennie Kendall (son of Sergt A. G. Kendall) who enlisted in the Corps as an electrician-fitter on December 23rd for a period of eight years with the Colours and four in the Reserve, has proceeded to Catterick for training.

Sergeants' Mess.—It will no doubt be of interest to late members of the Mess, and possibly members under orders, to know that we have greatly improved our domicile. The mess has been entirely redecorated throughout and refurnished, and we now have a veritable " home from home," resplendent with various colour schemes. After herculean efforts, the renovation was completed just in time for the Christmas festivities.

The Mess dinner was held on December 26th, when all single and married members enjoyed a thoroughly good spread. The dance orchestra of the 17th/21st Lancers was engaged for the evening, and played selections during the dinner and anything by request afterwards, including serenades in B flat on the trombone when the occasion demanded.

The dinner and entertainment were voted a great success, reflecting great credit on those responsible. I cannot remember what time we all retired, but leave it to conjecture. However, we were all present and correct (or otherwise!) the following morning.

The Mess gave their annual Christmas tree to all families on New Year's Eve, on similar lines to the officers' function. This, again, was voted a great success, and after the children had been put to bed, a social evening was held which continued until the arrival of 1931—with the assistance of the 17th/21st Lancers orchestra.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

December 31st, 1930.

General.—This is our first appearance in print, and as we are too late to wish all Signal units a happy Christmas, we wish them the best of luck in 1931. We are very grateful to A.F.V. Signals for the excellent time we had at Tidworth, and for their good wishes in the last number. We were all sorry to leave.

Our Voyage.—" Oh, this life of toil and trouble!" I think we all forgot that expression when we sailed from England two months ago for service in the land of the Pharaohs. We had a very enjoyable voyage indeed, except that one or two of us, led by our Troop Sergeant, seemed to have a passion for " feeding the fishes " for the first few days. Really, there was no excuse, as the sea was dead calm almost the whole way.

For ship's sports we combined with our 11th Hussar drivers and the 12th Royal Lancers, but unfortunately the Guards were too strong for us.

We were all glad to set foot on solid ground at Alexandria on November 26th, and on arriving at Helmieh we had a great welcome from the 12th Royal Lancers, who have done everything they can since we have been here to make us feel at home.

Nor have we been forgotten by Egypt Signals, who have gone out of their way to help us in settling down. They very kindly entertained us during the Christmas week.

Work and Play.—The only work we have done, so far, has been the re-assembling of our wireless sets—which is taking up all our time. We wonder what desert training will be like! In the afternoons we have no difficulty in getting games (see under " Sport ") ; and in the evenings—we'll let you know more about Cairo later!

Christmas Day.—" Roll on, my Christmas dinner!" This was the main topic of conversation during the week before Christmas. Our Christmas dinner had been fattening up for a month under our very eyes, and at last we had the satisfaction of seeing " poor old turkey " on the table, after having watched him taking his daily walk for so long, little knowing what was in store for him. Still, turkeys don't care!

Boxing Day.—It seems odd, but nobody remembers anything about it! However, none of us is any the worse, and in time we shall get settled down to normal conditions once more.

Agony.—If Sergt Stevenson no longer contemplates joining the Navy, will he very kindly return Sergt Guile's Admiralty handbook to him (book post, please!) c/o 12th Royal Lancers, Cairo.

YATIM.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

This unit either has very little to report on its doings, or else a lot. October and November came under the former ; December, most certainly, under the latter. I think everyone must have been lying low, waiting for the advent of Christmas, because they certainly went off with a bang! The after-effects of Christmas are still upon me, but with great concentration and much effort I will try to take my mind back over the last two months.

In October we had another visit from the Torpedo Section of H.M.S. *Ramillies*. They were at Haifa and managed to get thirty-six hours leave. As they were all old friends from last year, great rejoicings ensued on both sides. (The effects of Christmas being still upon me, I shudder when I think of those days with the *Ramillies*. Thank goodness for New Year resolutions!) The Torpedonians presented us with a framed picture of the *Ramillies* off Malta, and we were all delighted and honoured to receive a top-hole cup a week before Christmas—in appreciation, they said! Well, if they enjoyed coming here as much as we did entertaining them, everything is o.k. Things quietened down considerably after the departure of our guests (they had to!)

Of Christmas, what can I say?—what can anyone say? We had a thoroughly enjoyable time in every way. The festivities commenced on Christmas Eve and finished on Sunday, the 28th. If I commented upon different individuals' behaviour I should fill a book, but if anyone ever meets a chap named " Ledg," they should ask him about his famous (?) cocktails.

Pearce and Foster gave a rather wonderful lecture upon liquids and solids and how to break the atom, most ably demonstrated with various drinks (consumed during the lecture) and some few tons of nuts. Others are too numerous to mention, and I don't suppose they would believe me if I told them what antics they performed—I certainly don't believe half I am supposed to have done myself.

Before leaving Christmas notes, everyone's thanks are extended to all who had charge of the arrangements and catering. We were left rather in the lurch by our cook departing on the Tuesday before Christmas, and only by a few people stepping into the breach were we able to so very much enjoy Christmas. A jolly good show!

Sigmn Barnes went to Cairo on November 11th, and Sigmn Hammond arrived from there. Good luck and a pleasant stay in their respective units.

On the 27th November L/Sergt Napier, Signalmen Baines and Madden left us for U.K.—three really old stagers. Baines and Madden went to civvy street, and we send them every good wish for their success. L/Sergt Napier was posted to 1st Divl Signals, and we wish him good luck!

On December 7th C.Q.M.S. Hopkins and family departed per civvy boat, also for U.K. Yet another old-timer gone! Someone else will certainly gain by our loss. Jolly good luck for the future in every way!

Congratulations to U/L/Corpls Carruthers and Smith F. A. on being appointed as such.

The Officers' Mess gave a dance in December, which was very well attended and appeared to be greatly enjoyed by all present.

Just before Christmas they gave a party to the children here, and much fun and humour was enjoyed by the kiddies *and* the grown-ups.

We have just learnt that C.Q.M.S. Hopkins has been promoted C.S.M. at Tidworth. Congratulations! Now, what about that much-talked-of baton?

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.—A very successful and enjoyable whist drive and dance was held in the mess on Christmas Eve. The fun was carried on well into Christmas morning, the band making an excellent show. On Boxing Day the members gave a party to the children here, and again a most enjoyable time was spent. Christmas was voted a great success by the members, but for all that, the majority say, "Thank goodness, it only comes once a year!"

Agony.—To C.E.H.: Just bursting with excuses! What about it?—T.

TUG.

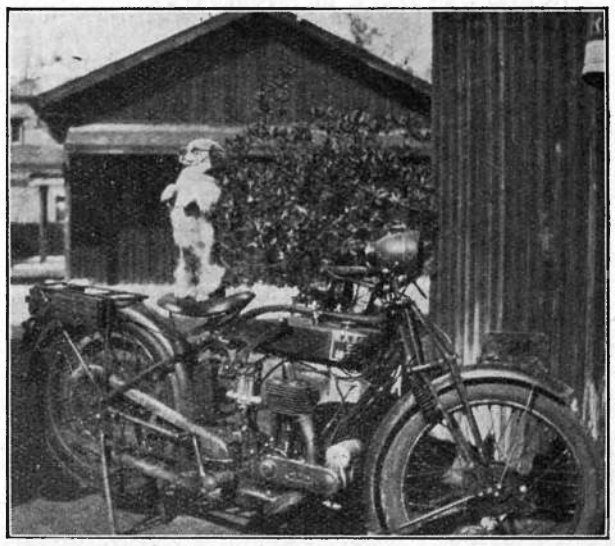
Shanghai Signal Section.

December 29th, 1930.

General.—We have very little to talk about this month; in fact, we're all too full for words. To cut a long story short, everyone enjoyed a jolly Christmas, and as it only the 29th now, there is some excuse for the shortage of notes. Well, as we have said before, Christmas 1930 was a great success in Shanghai. Everything went swimmingly, and except for a few husky voices we have no casualties to report.

Extensions.—Corporal Sims and L/Corpl Somers to complete eight years with the Colours. A Corps and 2nd Div. please note; ripe tomatoes, if you please.

Photograph.—The snap this month is of the Section mascot, Floss. She is quite an old stager now, having signed on for her third year with the Section.



A TEN-CENT THRILL.

I boarded a bus the other day,
With a ten-cent journey ahead;
'Twas a number —— bus, by the way,
In the rear of an XYZ.

The XYZ was a "pirate" bold
And won in the get-away;
"Oh boy, here's fun!" myself I told,
As the conductor I did pay.

Our driver hoisted a broom at his mast
And with a roar commenced the chase;
The pirate, he went just as fast—
And onward went the race.

The pirate had to stop just here,
And past him flashed the foe—
Roaring on in topmost gear,
Rocking to and fro.

We stopped with a jerk a few yards more;
By roared old XYZ;
A slight delay, then on we tore—
The pirate just ahead.

So we went, the journey long—
The passer passed; and so
I smiled and hummed a lively song
Of pirates of long ago.

At last the goal before us rose—
The pirate leading fine;
A ring! he stopped! my blood, it froze:
We passed him on the line.

A gallant race, a joyful hate;
I smiled, and stepped my way,
Meaning to tell some future date
Of a thrill of present-day.

DEBROY.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

British H.Q., December 24th, 1930.

Arrivals.—Welcome to C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) West and family, who joined us on November 29th. Bill displayed wisdom in selecting the *Lancashire* as his troopship, for the boat stopped at Hong Kong—the journey being completed per the *Kueichow*, a typical coaster. Chinese coasters may be small boats, but the chow is good and the cabins are comfortable. These amenities are particularly appreciated after life on a troop-deck.

C.Q.M.S. West and family are settled in Mimosa Court, and we gather that these quarters compare very favourably indeed with many in England. Stand back, all ye married men, and take your turn in the queue!

Political Situation.—This promises to be our quietest Christmas for many years. Apart from the operations of a few bandit gangs, everything looks peaceful, and our staffs at Tientsin and Peking anticipate attacking their respective Christmas dinners in almost full force. There will, of course, be a few inevitable "martyrs to duty," but this is a *privilege* of Signals in Tientsin Area.

Climate.—Our weather has so far been extremely mild, and to-day we are donning our fur caps for the first time. This is about a month later than usual. The Clerk of the Weather will doubtless show us what he can do presently!

Sport.—The Departmentals soccer team are doing quite well this season. Several of the Corps have played at various times, L/Corporal Ralph and Sigmn Sherwood being the most regular performers. Many of the league teams, drawn from the foreign garrisons and communities, are very enthusiastic, and minor accidents are only to be expected. At the time of writing, Dusters is wearing a patch over his left eye—the result of a collision with the boot of the champion high-kicker of the French team.

His Last Bow.—With the arrival of his relief, the writer rattles this typing machine for the last time. He thanks the Editor for publishing his many moans, and offers his apologies to readers who may have been bored stiff. That the next scribe will continue to sing the praises of Tientsin Area Signals, though in a more entertaining manner, is the closing wish of HSING-HAI.

Aden Signal Section.

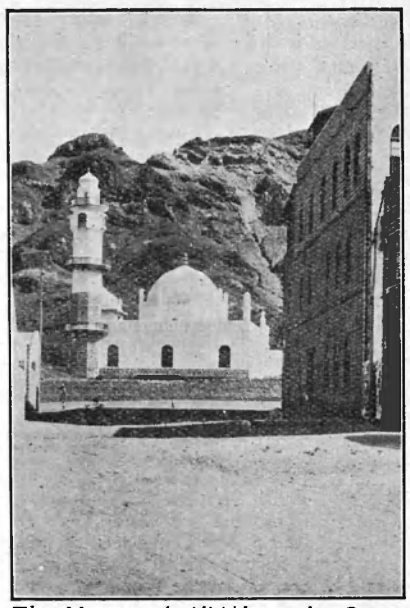
December 31st, 1930.

General.—After a very "wet" week, we have started work once more. As it will be a month or so before these notes appear, we will pass over Christmas festivities with few remarks. We enjoyed a rattling good dinner amidst surroundings guaranteed to gladden any sad heart. It was a very good show, and the committee deserve the highest praise for their untiring work. We have no more celebrations in view at present, but can safely trust some bright soul to think of an excuse very soon. At any rate, a week or two of recovery from the last bout seems fairly certain.

Paint pots and whitewash are finding their way from nowhere, in preparation for the Group Captain's annual inspection in

Entrance to the Tunnels at the Crater.

A Somali and an Arab Maiden.



The Mosque of Al'Aidrus, the Crater.

February. We have to start early because the painters at present working on Barrack Hill will soon remove their materials. With purloined paint and vulgar varnish, we should show something worthy of Crystal Palace!

Education.—Our congratulations are extended to the following on attaining that lofty pinnacle of knowledge, the 1st class certificate: Sergt Beverley, L/Corpl Bartley, Signalmen Nash, Green, Young ("D" in maths) and Jaggard. They deserve it for the tortures they bore in walking up Aden's khuds every morning to learn a little more. One third of the Section have now their 1st class certificate, so Aden seems to be of some use after all!

Disposals.—Geoffrey has an English-French dictionary he does not want. As he gets his lessons from a fully qualified teacher, he is willing to exchange the said dictionary for a Fairey motor-cycle.

Percy's pumpkin, together with a vote of thanks, will be forwarded to the first applicant willing to take the risk.

We have also one clerk, in poor working order, for exchange. Can answer telephones (you *can*, can't you, Haggis?) : speaks a mixture of Scotch and Arabic when excited, but otherwise bearable. Would consider exchanging for a football team or a few instrument makers.

Photographs.—A few are shown herewith for the benefit of those who hope to see the actual places shortly.

An Aden Alphabet.—By kind (?) permission—that is, permission of the author and the anticipated permission of the Editor—we are going to give readers a " birthday party " in the form of scores of verses (see below). These are good, once you get going ; but take my advice and keep going—without the verses! Bear up, and remember there might have been more of them.

SEASHORE.

AN ADEN ALPHABET.

A is for Aden, the place where we dwell—
Referred to by some as the " Portals of Hell."
It's hard to believe it, but some people tell
That there are hotter places than Aden.

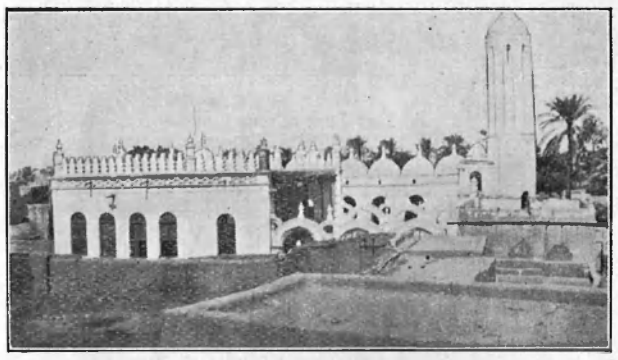
B, though it's full of the right vitamins,
Is nothing but sawdust in ormolu tins:
The P.M.O. gives it us for our sins,
And wrecks the digestions of Aden.

C is your character, though I much fear—
After the cats have discussed it, my dear—
There won't be much left at the end of a year
In a tropical climate like Aden.

D——all the dogs that abound by the score!
Each litter more mixed than the litter before,
As Heinz is their mother—their father? Oh, lor!
The breed is peculiar to Aden.

Entomological experts, I vow,
Are causing a lot of amusement just now,
Waving their nets as they pant up the brow
Of the mountains that overlook Aden.

The Palace of the Sultan of Lahej.



The Mosque and Praying Tower, Lahej.

F are the Faireys that ruin our sleep.
Curses are hurled at them—long, loud and deep—
When in the morning they noisily leap
In the air and cavort over Aden.

G is Gold Mohur, where we bathe in the sea.
When a mail-boat's in harbour, the females (see P)
Wear costumes so slight that my wife says to me:
"You mustn't go bathing in Aden."

H is for Hell, which no horrors hath here,
For after the heat of Arabia we're
Inclined to consider that Hades is beer
And skittles by contrast with Aden.

I—the Intelligence Officer's brain,
I very much fear, has succumbed to the strain,
For he's just put in a request to remain
Another two seasons in Aden.

J is our Judge. There are rumours that he's
Down on very fast driving and crimes such as these,
And intends to begin on the Chief of Police,
Who exceeds all the limits in Aden.

K is the King of the Kamaran Coast.
When, years ago, he accepted the post,
He thought it was China—then gave up the ghost
When he found it was quite close to Aden.

L are the Liners that ply to and fro,
From the fisherman's smack to the smug P. and O.;
And also the lunch we can get if we know
That the Agent is busy in Aden.

M is the M.O., who comes when you're sick,
Who looks at your tongue and remarks "Soda. bic.
Three times a day will, I think, do the trick:
It's my cure for most ailments in Aden."

N is the N.A.A.F.I., our up-to-date stores,
Supplying all wants as a matter of course,
Equipped with cold storage enough for our force. . .
And then I awoke, still in Aden.

O is the Oil which the A.P.O.C.
Delivers, unknown to its shareholders, free
To the sharks and the fish, who are tickled to be
So nicely oiled, thank you, in Aden.

P are the Peris—pink, purple or pale—
Who land every week from the P. and O. mail,
And, if they are pretty, are snapped without fail
By unscrupulous persons in Aden.

Q for the questions on everyone's lip:
"When do we leave? in what month? in what ship?
Is it the first or a subsequent trip
Of the trooper that takes us from Aden?"

R is the Resident's late A.D.C.—
A wizard at cocktails and handing round tea—
Who said that he never had leisure to be
Bored with his duties in Aden.

S is the Squadron, who scarce realise
How lucky they are to be able to rise
And cool themselves daily, high up in the skies,
While the rest of us swelter in Aden.

T are the Taxis which thoughtfully hie,
Obedient to laws of demand and supply,
Fully equipped for the beaches near by
Of Maarla, a suburb of Aden.

U is the Union Club-house so nice,
East End in comfort and West End in price:
The haunt of all forms of iniquitous vice
(Such as beer, bridge and cocktails) in Aden.

V are the Verses (though I'd call 'em crimes,
For the metre is rotten, and so are the rhymes)
An anonymous author emits at odd times
For the so-called amusement of Aden.

W is sunburned a colour so dark
That he'd pass for a Wog. He's so tough that a shark
Which bit him out swimming, by way of a lark,
Had to go to the dentist in Aden.

X is a difficult letter for me:
Xenophon, Xerxes and eke Xanthippe
All start with an X, though but one of the three
Has any connection with Aden,

A Bedouin Fisherman.

Y is the Yacht Club. Its members have got
All sorts of boats, from a pukka small yacht
To a home-made contraption built out of a cot
That's been pinched from some baby in Aden.

Z are the Zeidis, who always declare
That Aden belongs to the Imam; and they're
Emphatically welcome to all of my share—
And the shares of most people in Aden.

ANON.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, January 10th.

General.—Christmas comes but once a year, and THE WIRE comes but once a month. Well, it's a jolly good job that they don't come oftener!

Referring to the former, Christmas was spent in the good old way as regards the troops in barracks, but the atmosphere of Gibraltar does not give one that real spirited Christmas feeling.

The Christmas dinner in barracks was a real success, thanks being due to L/Corpl Cook and Signalmen Morris and Tavender, who formed the Christmas messing committee.

During Christmas morning the commanding officer and Mrs. House visited the married quarters, and after wishing everybody the compliments of the season they gave all the children a present—for which we thank them most heartily.

At 12.30 p.m. the married n.c.o.s served the dinner, and oh my! the pleasant faces when plates of roast turkey, roast pork, baked and boiled potatoes, brussel sprouts, etc., were handed round—it put the Bisto kids in the shade. Order was then called whilst the commanding officer wished all ranks the compliments of the season on behalf of himself and Mrs. House, adding that he had that morning received a message from His Excellency the Governor and C.-in-C., wishing us seasonal greetings and thanking us for the good work that we had done during the past year.

After dinner the troops followed various pursuits of their own, and finished the Christmas by having an impromptu concert in the canteen on Boxing Night.

Things are very quiet here at present, but we are hoping that they will be brighter next week, when the Fleet comes in for three months. Casualties are very few, so notes are very short.

Arrivals.—We welcome the arrival of the following from various units in Blighty, and hope that their tour in Gibraltar will be a happy one:—Signalmen Carr H., Goodanew A., Langham E., Rawlinson W. and Waller R., and Driver Uwins W.

Trade Tests.—Corpl Hardy passed his trade test for clerk, class i,, on January 2nd.

R.D.H.

- - THE "TERRIERS." - -

26th and 27th (London) Companies, Air Defence Brigade Signals.

56 Regency Street, S.W.1.

Title.—In law, title is everything. You need not pay me for my legal opinion, but I can assure you that in the Territorial Army we think quite a lot of title. You will observe that we have changed ours (that is, if the printer can squeeze it all in) and now we're the same—only different. Mr. Boggis concurs with me in this.

The Social Era.—Under the inspiriting guidance of Major Wickins, this golden age has now definitely dawned. No longer are the younger members (or shall we say, in deference to my own fast greying hairs, the junior members) of the Officers' Mess allowed to snatch a few moments well-earned rest to look at periodicals and whatnots. No! rather do we gather ourselves under the wings of our teacher and fly to the lecture room, there to ponder on the mysteries of Mr. Ohm and Mr. Mho—two poor gentlemen in a state of darkness, into whose mysteries I for one (and possibly Mr. Grover) seek admittance. Well, well! I am sure it's all very kindly meant, and I can't think how I managed to fill in an evening before I met Major Wickins. I must have frittered away an awful lot of time. [See page 73.]

Work.—On the work side there has been tremendous activity. Since I wrote last, we have had the Christmas party for the young of all ranks, and a dance in aid of the same charity. Both were a great success.

At the former, *our* Captain Hemsley (as they say in drapery circles) affected his annual disguise and played as Harlequin to Sergeant Powell's Father Christmas. The disguise was complete.

At both functions we had record numbers ; and were I wearing a hat at the moment of writing, I should certainly take it off to the members of the entertainment committee for their successful work and organisation.

And that, my children, is all for this month! J.F.T.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

As we have only just started training again after Christmas, there is very little to report. The drill hall is as cold as ever, and we have yet to find a lecturer who can keep its occupants warm with mere words. But we have not yet given up hope! For a change, we had the hall filled with nice thick fog last week, but as we lost too many people the Weather Clerk kindly removed it on being told that the experiment was not a success.

"Oh, Morse, where is thy sting?" Do you know, I really believe some people wish that it *had* a sting, for then at least we could force some learners to sit on it until they knew something about it. But until it can be provided with a nice large sting, I suppose it must be learned in the same old way—and just learned, and learned, and learned (dash it! don't you know more than the first six letters, even now?) JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

Now that Christmas and all its celebrations are over, and we have a few moments for reflection, we realise what a whirl it has been. Still, we all agree that it has been well worth while.

This Company seems to get into it with both feet. The following events took place in and around Christmas:—Miniature rifle shoot, the draw, children's party, and the Company social. It is satisfactory to feel that each has been very successful and extremely well organised by the various people concerned. We aren't a "one-man band," by any means, and our activities are fairly well distributed.

Special mention must be made of the children's party, which is held to have beaten all previous efforts of the unit—thanks largely to the work of the ladies under the guidance of Mrs. Western (wife of our O.C.)

On the 2nd January we had the great pleasure of entertaining "our family" to tea, Christmas tree, games, cinema, etc. Seventy-five children of members of the Company, with their mothers, were our guests, and a real bonny crowd they were. Our C.O. (Lieut.-Col. Lord Basing) came with Lady Basing, and their attendance was greatly appreciated, especially as they had undertaken such a long and tiresome journey for the particular purpose of being with the youngsters. It was a wonderfully merry and bright time, and R.S.M. West (first as a policeman, and then as Father Christmas) was a real good "turn." Sergt Standley (our P.S.I.) was a very comical Joey and took his bumps like a man! Lack of space prevents our mentioning all the individual helpers, but our thanks are heartily accorded them.

The Company social, on the following Friday, was a nice evening, too, and all enjoyed it immensely. The ladies, the R.S.M. and the P.S.I. again came boldly into the picture, with Mr. W. O. Tomlinson as a capable M.C.

To 3rd Signals: Many thanks for your kind and flattering reference to us in last month's WIRE. A "kiss" from our parents (mummy and daddy all in one!) is ever so sweet!

The "children" hope you'll come again next year. You will, won't you? OLD SPARK.

No. 225 F.A. Signal Section.

Mr. W. O. Tomlinson has now taken over the reins (or, rather, the wheel, as the Section is now *petrol drawn*) in succession to the old war-horse Lieut J. M. Molland, M.M., retired.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

News in this quarter seems a bit scarce this month, but we really must make an effort to produce something—just to please Old Spark!

A week-end camp was held on January 10th/11th, when the attendance numbered sixty. It was a very good show, and many useful lessons were learned. We were very grateful for the valuable assistance afforded us by our commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel Lord Basing) and the adjutant (Capt G. W. Odell) during the training.

A very successful dance was held at Totton on January 10th, and it was voted the best we have yet held.

A busy time is in front of us this training year, as we have to provide three F.A. Sections for Artillery Practice Camps—so that nearly all our men will make a trip to Devon. I hope the "cream and zyder" will not turn them into Devonians! (You never know, Pip! the famous commodity is very potent and has laid low many a hero from "vurrin" parts—O.S.).

We are all glad to learn that our C.S.M. is better after his trying illness. He certainly has lost weight—in fact (I whisper this to my friends) he is now quite slim! PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

We seem to be just recovering from a round of Christmas festivities.

The Topsham Section held their annual Christmas ball on December 29th, when a large number were present—although not so many as in previous years.

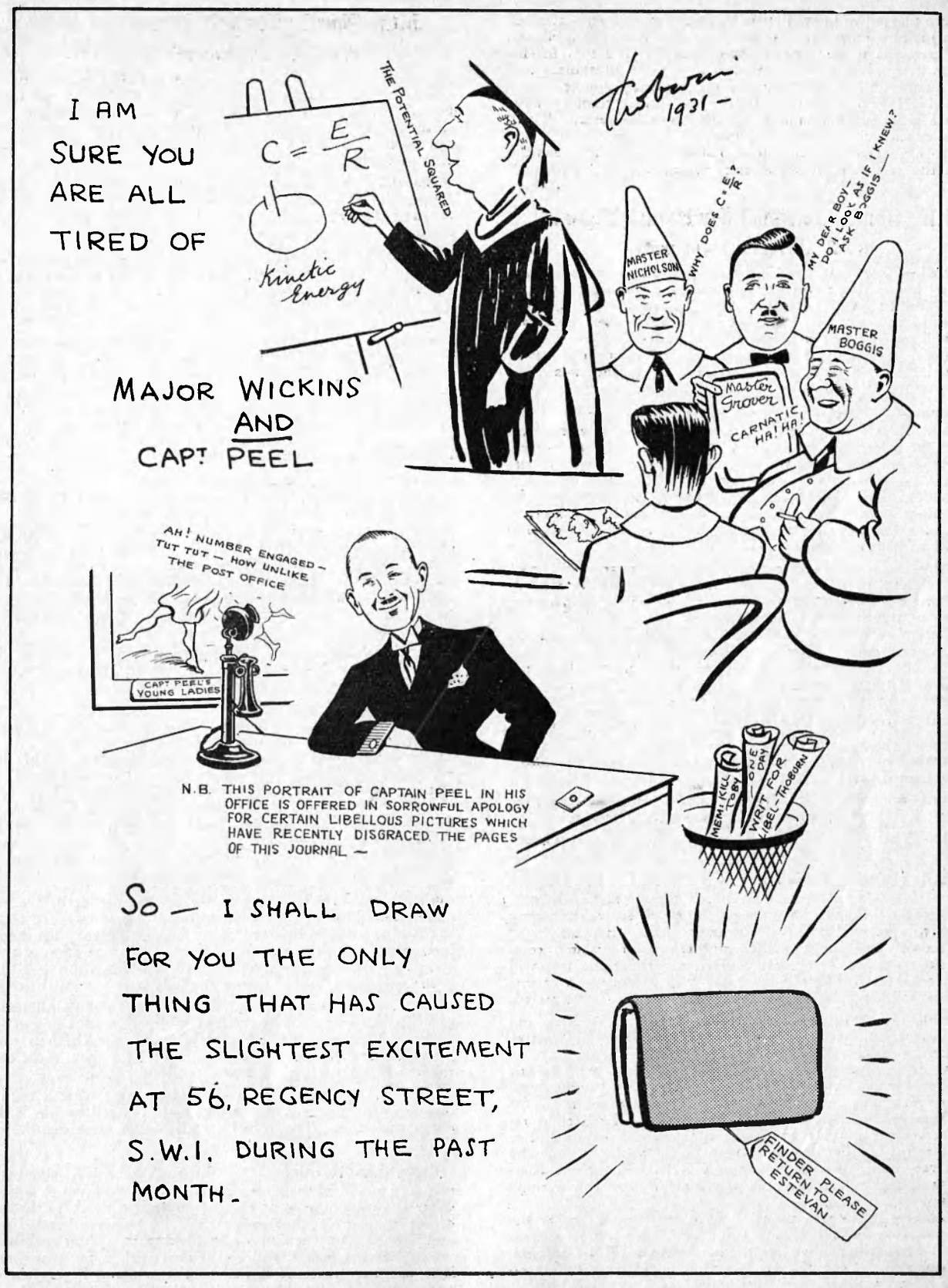
On the next night over four hundred local children attended the annual children's party. Great credit is due to C.S.M. Harrison C. (Father Christmas), Sergt Howard W. and all ranks of the Section, for the whole-hearted way in which they helped to entertain the children.

On January 9th a party of fifteen n.c.o.s and men from Topsham attended No. 1 Company's social at the Priory, Exeter, thanks to the very kind invitation of No. 1's O.C., Major J. W. Western, T.D. A most enjoyable evening was spent and many friendships made ; and a Topsham lad managed to bring back a prize for whist. Well done, Topsham!

The Plymouth Sections held their annual Christmas draw, and over fifty prizes were distributed.

A few recruits are coming along, and our new Pack A sets at Plymouth have given general satisfaction. THREECOY.

General.—Our warmest thanks to all our friends at home and abroad for their remembrances in the shape of Christmas cards, some of which were extremely interesting.



[See 26th and 27th (London) Companies' Notes on page 72.]

We are pleased to know that Mrs. Odell (wife of our esteemed adjutant) is now on the road to recovery after a very long illness.

Our greetings to our hon. colonel, Col. R. G. Earle, for his kindness in sending his good wishes in a most substantial and useful manner. This, we assure him, is greatly appreciated.

Capt Noel Ford's canteen profits at annual training have created a great surprise, and each Company's "overdraft" will now be considerably lessened by the fruits of his labours. He seems to have made up, in a most handsome way, the reported loss on the sale of Kiwi! Our hats remain at the "Present" to him. O.S.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—Now that the Christmas festivities are over, the Company has settled down to real business. Training has now started, and this will be considerably helped by the monthly week-end schemes which have been arranged. The result, we hope, will put the unit into fine trim for camp.

Technical training is really a pleasure, now, in our newly garnished drill hall, brightly lit, warmed by roaring fires, and properly wired all round for Brigade signal work.

Schemes.—On January 11th we held a signal exercise in the drill hall. Everyone appreciated that working in a warm drill hall was far better than being out on the bleak wastes of Falmer. The attendance on this occasion was about 50 per cent. of the Company. The work comprised buzzer practice, flag drill, lectures, and working a small Brigade scheme. The interest of the men in their work was clearly shown by the results on Sunday. By the time the annual camp arrives, they will be able to take the field with confidence.

Social.—Our social and recreational activities are still continuing. These are proving a great help to the Company, both in maintaining the esprit de corps for which the unit is well known and also in the enlistment of recruits.

On December 18th we were again entertained by the Legion Lights concert party. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their performance. Several members of the Company have asked me when we are having them again, which goes to show that Mr. Strickland and his party are indeed very popular.

Annual Dinner.—This is being held on January 17th, and we will report on it next month.

Silence!—Sh-sh! not a word! At last we know that Nos. 1 and 3 Companies have a scribe of their own.

Agony.—What about it, George? Have waited a long time for a letter. C.S.M. Trower would welcome a few lines.

Finale.—That's all for this month. A.R. NIMROD.

48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals.

Great Brook Street, Birmingham.

The 48th Divl Signals have started to dig in for 1931, hoping to make this year, if possible, a greater success than last.

Just recently the junior n.c.o.s and selected signalmen completed their six-week technical course, and the trade test will take place shortly. This course was well attended, everyone being keen and interested—therefore, good results are expected.

Training.—The officers have had a series of lectures and riding instruction, which no doubt has proved very instructive and beneficial to all taking part.

Riding drill is held twice a week for other ranks, with recruit training on Mondays and Wednesdays, and boys on Wednesdays.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess had an excellent show for the kiddies on Saturday evening, January 3rd. Each child received a nice present: seventy-eight in all were distributed after a very nice tea had been served, thanks to C.Q.M.S. Austin, who worked very hard. The commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel Martineau) and the adjutant visited the mess during the evening with their families.

The officers held their annual Benevolent Fund dance at the Grand Hotel on Friday, January 16th, and it was a great success as usual: arrangements being in the hands of Capt F. E. B. Jones.

In conclusion, we congratulate our adjutant, Major J. L. Totterdell, on his appointment as Brevet-Major. E.H.W.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

Headquarters, Lytton Street.

We must first of all apologise for the absence of our notes in last month's issue of our Magazine, the reason being that all our Christmas festivities took place either a day or two before or after WIRE day—but we have made up for it this time by having extra notes.

Recruits.—We have to extend a hearty welcome to Signalman Butterfield on his attestation, and take this opportunity of warning him that we expect quite a lot from him when he goes to camp.

Sergeants' Ball.—The sergeants held their first annual ball in the drill hall on Friday, December 12th, when they had the pleasure of entertaining Major T. T. J. Sheffield (our Company commander), Capt Middleton, M.C. (O.C. No. 3 Company), and other officers of the unit. Our Regular comrades of the 4th Battalion Tank Corps, stationed at Catterick, sprang us a Christmas surprise and honoured us with the presence of a party of six, which we can assure them was very much appreciated. Although our sergeant cook rather neglected the staff by forgetting to save them anything to eat, we think a word of praise is due to him for the manner in which he looked after the guests. At 2 a.m., when the dancing finished, all we could hear was "Can't we have an extension until 3 o'clock?"

Company Annual Dinner.—On Saturday, December 13th, we held our second Company annual dinner in the Grand Hotel, Middlesbrough. One may imagine how proud we felt to look round upon such distinguished guests as His Worship the Mayor of Middlesbrough, the Town Clerk, our late C.O. and adjutant (Brevet-Colonel Macleod and Capt Jennings, M.C.), our present C.O. and adjutant (Lieut.-Colonel Walton and Captain W. H. N. Dent, M.B.E.), Capt Seargant, R.N., Squadron Leader Davies from the R.A.F. at Thornaby, and various officers, with our old friend Mr. G. Dove.

The usual toasts were proposed, and speeches were made by Major T. T. J. Sheffield, His Worship the Mayor, Captain P. Jennings, Brevet-Colonel Macleod, Captain Hopkins, Captain W. H. N. Dent, and Lieut.-Colonel Walton.

The general efficiency cup was presented to Sigmn Purvis, a recruit who has only been in the Company a year, and the musketry cup to L/Corpl Lawton. Congratulations to both. Prizes were also distributed to the winners of the sports events held whilst in camp at Catterick, the majority of which were carried of by Driver Burton, thus keeping up his fine performance of last year. Well done, Clive, and good luck for this year!

The evening finished up with a concert, the music being supplied by Mr. R. Bell's dance orchestra, and everybody went home perfectly satisfied and wishing that time did not fly so quickly.

Children's Treat.—On Monday, December 29th, we entertained something in the neighbourhood of two hundred children to tea in the drill hall. This is done every year, and it is looked forward to by all the kiddies. During the preparation of tea the children were treated to free rides up and down the drill hall on a Shetland pony, and of course the lads were just in their glory!

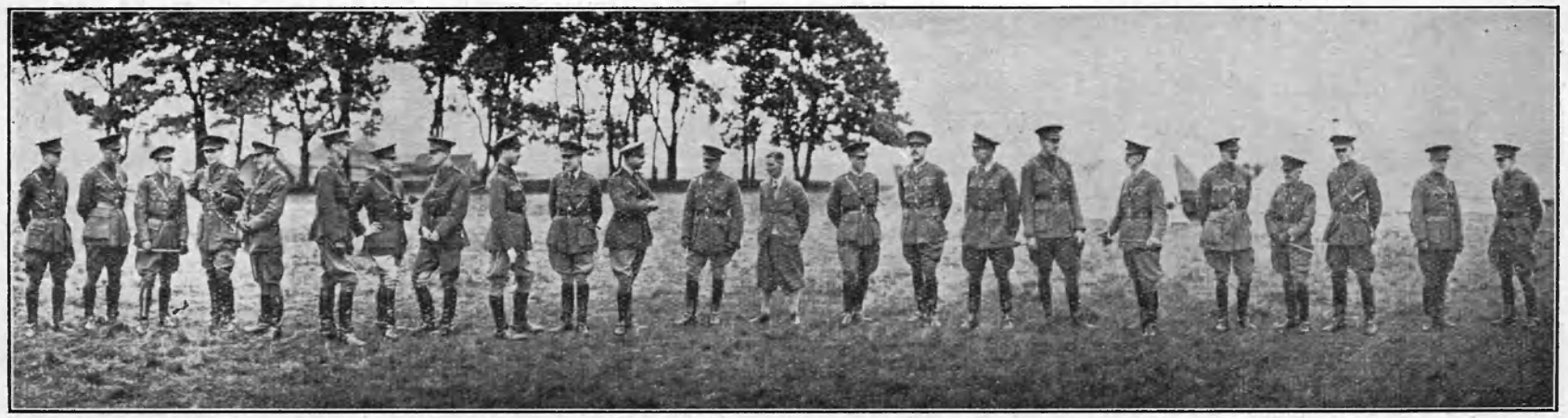
After tea Father Christmas paid a visit to the drill hall and presented to every child a toy, an apple, an orange and a bag of sweets. Various games were played, and the children romped about the drill hall until they were tired, and about eight o'clock they were all packed off home until next year.

After the treat we held a dance from nine o'clock until two o'clock in the morning, the music being supplied by Mr. R. Bell's dance orchestra. The prizes for the raffle were distributed to the lucky ones by Mr. G. Dove and his wife.

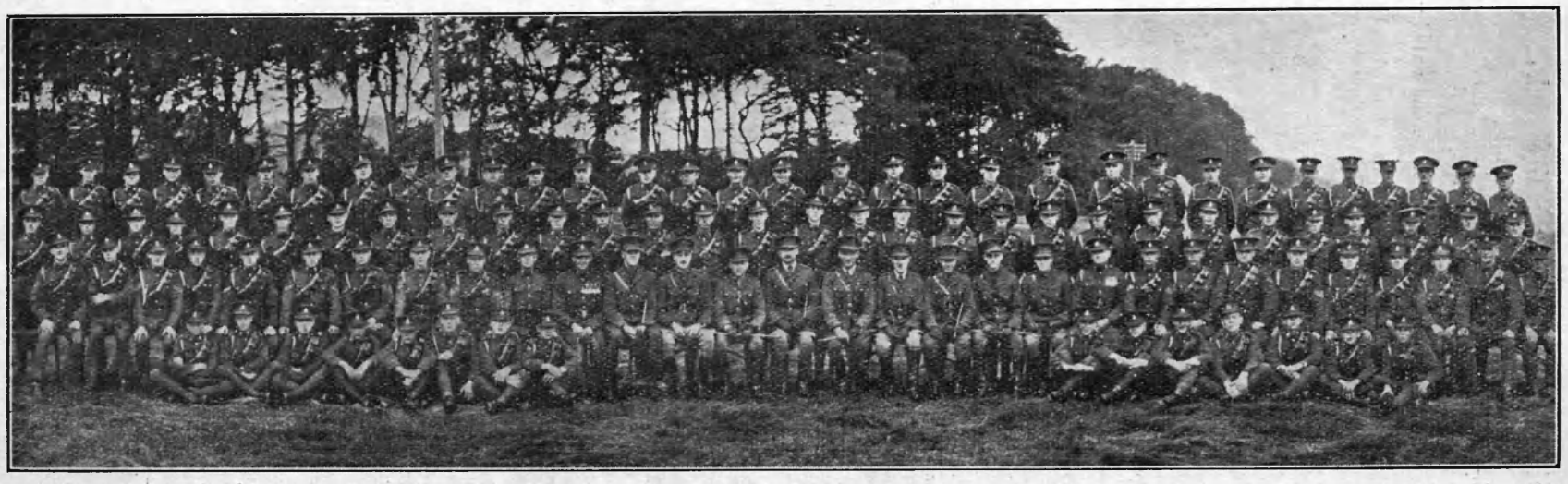
Christmas Morning.—On Christmas morning, about thirty men and n.c.o.s of the Company met in the drill hall to wish each other the compliments of the season and to drink to the health of the Company. Christmas cake and wine were handed round, and after various toasts Major Sheffield made a short speech, after which he went round and had a chat with every man present. The company then adjourned to the mess, a happy sing-song ending up with "Auld Lang Syne." ESPRIT DE CORPS.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals, T.A.

Annual Camp, 1930



The Officers of the Unit



No 1 Company

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

General.—News is very scarce this month, and the Company scribes find difficulty in reporting on the doings of their respective units.

Each Company has now commenced on its second sixty-hour winter course for operators.

With regard to entertainments, the main item from Aberdeen is the annual children's party that took place at Fonthill Barracks on Saturday, Decmber 20th, commencing at 5 p.m.

The party was conducted on similar lines to that of last year, and it was entirely successful. Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E., again undertook the pleasing duties of Santa Claus and greatly amused the kiddies when distributing the Christmas gifts.

We were all very pleased to have our commanding officer (Lieut-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E.) and the adjutant (Capt J. H. Brown, M.M.) with us on this occasion. Captain T. P. E. Murray and the officers of No. 1 Company and No. 207 (Medium) Artillery Signal Section attended in force.

All arrangements were carried out by R.S.M. Cooper H. R. and C.S.M. Quick P. S., the gifts being most carefully chosen by the wives of these warrant officers.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow, January 13th.

General.—The belated appearance of these notes is regretted, but as the weeks before Christmas were very quiet, notes would have been "much ado about nothing."

Since our last appearance in print, a change has taken place in the permanent staff instructors in the unit. Sergts Cooper V. and Atkinson F. have returned to the fold, and are located with the 5th Divl Signals at Scarborough. Their places have been filled by Sergts Knox and Savage.

Prior to their departure, Sergts Cooper and Atkinson were the guests of the Sergeants' Mess at a pleasant little function, during which they were each presented with a memento of their stay in Scotland. On presenting the souvenirs, Major E. F. Smith, the adjutant, had some very happy remarks to make to both, and at the conclusion of his speech they must have felt that their past five years had been spent in doing work which was appreciated to the fullest extent. Judging from their replies and their faces at the station next morning, the sergeants were genuinely sorry to leave their "ain folk."

Christmas Festivities.—The annual all ranks dinner of the 52nd Divl Signals took place in the drill hall at Jardine Street on December 12th. A large gathering sat down to a "feed" which was a credit to the major-domo and his staff. The commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel F. L. Robertson, and a number of officers were present, and the dinner was followed by a musical evening.

During the evening the C.O. took the opportunity of telling the unit how pleased he was with the loyal support given him during annual training in carrying out what he described as rather an ambitious programme. The cheers which followed the conclusion of his speech must have seemed to him an omen of an even more successful year in 1931.

In the following week the Supplementary Reserve units sat down to an equally satisfying repast, and during the evening the C.O. paid a graceful tribute to the work done by the S.R. and their O.C., Major J. W. Robertson, D.C.M. During the concert that followed, the efforts of Major E. F. Smith and Capt Barclay at the piano were greatly appreciated, also C.S.M. Tracy's "Bedtime stories for little children." Uncle Alec will have to look after his job, Jim!

Recruiting.—The unit trumpeter, taking a serious view of the shortage of recruits, has joined the Cavalry. LOWSIGS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Park Street, Cardiff, January 15th.

General.—Individual training on intensive lines has now commenced, and the attendance is being well maintained. All trades are being well catered for under a squad of instructors. By the end of March some good results should have been obtained, and we hope to see a Trade Board busy dealing out extra ratings.

Social.—Our social doings seem to take up a good deal of our spare time. The first item during the festive season was the Christmas draw run by the N.C.O.s' Mess. Like every other undertaking in that quarter, this has proved so popular that more accommodation had to be sought. Previously the draw has been held in the mess, but this year we had to resort to the drill hall to lay out the good things offered, there being well over a hundred prizes. Sergt Frederickson walked (or, more correctly, staggered) away under the first prize, which comprised a bumper hamper sufficient for four persons, this being presented by the Mess. The committee carried out the arrangements in the usual praiseworthy manner.

The New Year ball was well attended, and proved one of the most successful functions of that class.

The children's Christmas tree party was held on January 3rd, when three hundred children and their parents were entertained. This is another popular function—a concrete proof being that only ten children out of the whole unit were absent, and most of those were through illness. The entertainment part of the proceedings was greatly enjoyed, and when tea was over Santa Claus (Sergt Doyle) arrived on his sledge and distributed presents from his commodious sack to all the children present. The committee, I think, sighed with thankfulness when eight o'clock came. Our best thanks are due to them, and to those who contributed to the programme and assisted in making such a success. Major F. N. Fawcett and Capt. Trice looked in during the fun.

A very successful whist drive and dance was held on January 7th for No. 1 Company. There was a good number present, among the officers being Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Seel, M.C. (commanding officer), Capt G. Tayleur (adjutant), and Major F. N. Fawcett (O.C. No. 1 Company). The prizes for those who cheated without being caught were presented by Mrs. F. N. Fawcett. During a lull in the proceedings, the Major welcomed the new P.S.I. of No. 1 Company (C.S.M. Ellerbeck).

Shooting.—The unit individual championship is being decided on Friday next, January 17th.

The air rifle team are still maintaining their high place in the Cardiff and District League. The Penylan team head the list with twelve wins and 24 points. Ninians and Royal Signals tie for second place, each team having eleven wins and 22 points to their credit. THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

No. 1 Company's annual dinner has "been and gone," and everyone voted it the very best of any such functions that have been previously held. Mr. "Battleship" and his gallant crew are to be congratulated on the very fine organisation of this affair. Great praise must also be given to A/C.S.M. Simpson for the very able assistance he rendered. Capt J. Tweedie-Smith, O.C. Company, gathered around him some very notable guests, including Colonel Sir Robert Firth, K.B.E., C.B., Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Bowling (our commanding officer), Alderman Tweedie-Smith, Captain L. Tweedie-Smith, Mr. W. Firth, Mr. Rawlings, Mr. Dowsett, Capt Nicholson, Commanders Milton-Bull and Craft, R.N., and several other distinguished gentlemen. The usual after-dinner speeches were made, and an interesting discourse on Mercury and Hermes was given by Colonel Sir Robert Firth. Later the company were entertained by the Nomads concert party. We shall look forward to a repetition of this night next year.

The children's Christmas party was held on January 3rd and proved the usual enormous attraction. C.S.M. Hooper and his wife and her committee deserve the highest praise and thanks for their untiring energy. It is rather difficult to please everybody in an affair of this sort, but it *was* done this time.

Training, at the moment, is at a standstill, except for a few enthusiastic wireless operators who come up to work the 120-watt and C sets. Normal traffic is now passed between these headquarters, Southend and Bedford. Southend and Bedford are also in touch with 2nd Cav. Divl Signals on Mondays and Fridays.

A few "stout fellas" are in strict training for the Essex young soldiers' boxing championships. We shall be looking to them to bring back a few pots from Brentwood.

We have just heard that annual camp is to be held at Shorncliffe this year, from 26th July to 9th August. Presumably, married quarters will be moved to the line Folkestone-Sandgate-Hythe. On the last occasion we were booked for Shorncliffe the advance party, after nearly completing the camp, were suddenly shot off to Dover owing to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease near Cheriton. We hope for better times this year. Y.E.D.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Boxing.—Our optimistic views regarding the result of the match with E Company were fully justified, this leaving us undefeated winners of the Inter-Company League, with the Mounted Wing as worthy runners-up.

Garrison Novices Competition.—We entered two of our recruits in this contest, held on the 1st, 2nd and 5th December in the Hipswell Gymnasium.

Sigmn Warburton (No. 12 Squad) was our representative in the feathers, and Sigmn Walker (No. 14) in the lights. Both men met some really good opponents from the various infantry regiments stationed in the Garrison, but proved their sterling worth by bringing home to the Wing two winner's cups. Well done! Two entries: two champions!

Sigmn Warburton knocked-out his way through the feathers, and Sigmn Walker did the same through the lights until the final, when he met one of the toughest men we have ever had the pleasure of seeing in an Army ring. Without exaggeration, we can say that we have never seen a better fight in a novices competition—or otherwise, for that matter. Sigmn Walker simply tore through his man from the start to the finish with a rapid succession of lefts and right hooks and crosses.

The way the infantryman stood up to this tremendous battering was marvellous, and the troops showed their appreciation of a wonderful fight by cheering, yelling and stamping for nearly ten minutes. Congratulations to both of them! Keep it up!

"A" Group, Royal Signals, Aldershot.

Rugby.—During the last month all rugger players have been on leave, and no matches have been played. However, practice games will take place during the next two weeks, to get the team ready for our replay in the Command cup v. the Cameron Highlanders on January 26th.

During Christmas leave L/Corpl Sadler played for the Army v. the Harlequins at Portsmouth, in which match he was the outstanding forward; he seems certain of an Army cap. He also played for Hampshire v. Sussex on January 14th. We wish him the best of luck, and hope that we shall see him playing v. the Navy and v. the R.A.F. at Twickenham.

Sigmn Hull and Dvr Borrow have arrived, and their weight and pace should be very useful to our "A" Group XV.

Boxing.—Our team have already started training for our match v. 11th Field Brigade R.A., on January 30th, in the first round of the Command cup. We have unfortunately lost Signalman Stuart, Lieut Morris and L/Corpl McCreeth, but the team is a good one, and we very definitely hope to win the Command and the Army championships.

L/Corpl Hutchison (bantam-weight champion of India, 1928) and several other very useful boxers have arrived.

We wish Sigmn Stuart the very best of luck in civil life, and are very sorry he has left us.

E Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth.

Football.—On December 2nd we paid a visit to D Troop, Aldershot, to play off our annual duel. The result of 4—2 in our favour was pleasing to us all, as we usually have had to give D Troop best at this game. I believe we are to entertain them in a return game at Tidworth early in February, when we hope the result will again be in our favour.

Here are a few results of matches played during the last two months: v. A.F.V. Signals, drew at 1—1 and 0—0; v. K.D.G.s (2nd team), lost by 1—3 and drew at 2—2; v. R.A.M.C., won by 4—1 and drew at 1—1; v. Mental Hospital, Devizes, drew at 2—2; v. C Squadron Queen's Bays, won by 10—1; v. Recruits, Queen's Bays, lost by 0—1; v. R.A.O.C., lost by 3—7 and 2—4.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Soccer.—Since writing the last notes, the team has continued to justify its promotion to senior rank. Results are as follows:

Second round Essex senior cup, lost to Leytonstone (away) by 2—4
Replay, second round Army cup, beat 3rd Carabiniers by 3—0
Border League, beat Brantham (away) by 5—3
Third round Army cup, drew with Coldstream Guards (in London), at 4—4
Border League, drew with Bury Town (away) at 1—1
Border League, beat Northants Regt. (home) by 4—1
Replay, third round Army cup, beat Coldstreams by 3—0
Border League, beat Clacton Town (away) by 4—2

The fourth round of the Army cup v. 17th Field Brigade R.A. will be played on January 22nd. Both teams (on paper) are of equal strength, and the match has been the cause of much local controversy. Readers of these notes will no doubt have noticed that up to now, in the Army cup, this unit has been drawn second out of the hat on every occasion—in each case winning after a replay. We are naturally hopeful that the process will be repeated in the fourth round.

Rugby.—On January 8th we started the New Year well by beating Colchester "A" XV. by 5—3 points. The game was played on the Grammar School ground, which some people found a little hard after the frost. Our try was scored by a brilliant follow-up and run by Sergt Golder, and was converted by Driver Briggs. The following composed our team: Lieut H. N. Crawford, Sergts Golder and Kilford, L/Corpls Baker and Gourlay, Signalmen Reid, Snowball, Hurrell, Pope, Walton and Roake, Drivers Brookes, Newman and Briggs.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Football.—Our Wednesday League team are going great guns. They now lead the League with the same number of points as the Alliance, but we have a match in hand. During January four games have been arranged (we have won the first of them: 8—1 against the Corinthians).

Unfortunately we shall miss L/Corpl Mundy and Sigmn Jamieson, who are for draft on January 9th, but with plenty of applicants for places in the side, we hope to go on winning and even to win the League championship.

Our Saturday League team have only two matches to play during January. The first one (against Filey) we lost by 2—3 goals after a very hard fought game. We again meet Filey Town (in the third round of the challenge bowl) during February, when we hope to reverse the league game result.

The comic football match between officers and other ranks v. w.o.s and sergeants, held on Boxing Day, was a scream. We had our selection committee present, and several "likelies" were noted. Get that weight down, big 'un!

Rugger.—Drafts and furlough having left us with a skeleton crew, it was only a favoured few who were able to get any rugger during December. Lieut Usher, Sergt Fegan, Sigmn Anthony

and others have played for Scarborough 1st XV. However, January looks bright. We have sent most of our players to India, but we have at least been able to scrounge a few fixtures and the grounds to play them on.

Hockey.—Since our exit from the Army hockey tournament, and owing to the majority of the unit team players being on annual furlough, very few games of interest have taken place during the month. The weather, too, has played havoc with grounds in this locality, and the only two matches played have been contested under adverse conditions.

Our return game with Scarborough's first team, on December 20th, again saw us defeated—by three goals to nil.

We opened up the New Year on January 3rd with a draw of one goal each against Scarborough "A."

Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

By the time these notes appear, two of the most important members of our sports teams will have gone overseas.

With the departure of Corpl Gandey we have lost our best all-round sportsman, which is saying a good bit. His combined excellence at soccer and cricket had made him the mainstay of our teams, while there is not much he does not know about hockey. We hope to see reports of his future performances at cricket abroad published in THE WIRE.

L/Corpl Harries, who like Gandey has been with us about six years, is another stalwart of our teams. He is not only a player, however, but also secretary. His keenness in arranging fixtures and his ability to keep everyone up to the mark have, I think, been rewarded by the success of our teams in the last year. We shall all miss him very much, and also Mrs. Harries, who has provided so many excellent cricket teas.

To Corpl Gandey, L/Corpl Harries, Sigmn Wood—another of our all-rounders—and the others who are leaving us, we wish the best of luck ; and we hope to read of their successes abroad.

Association.—The Company soccer team is to be heartily congratulated on their performance in the league. We have completed our programme of six matches with five wins and one draw. Many congratulations!

We take this opportunity of congratulating 4th Divl Signals on their successes in the Army cup. It is a long time since a Corps team have done so well (I believe the T.B., beaten in the fourth round by the Sherwood Foresters in 1926-27, were the best in recent years). Good luck, 4th Divs., against the Gunners!

Rugger.—We congratulate Sigmn Moore on getting into the Corps team. He played well against the R.E. and the R.M.A.

Hockey.—We hope shortly to be getting ready for the N.I.D. cup match.

Recently we played the Royal Ulster Rifles and were beaten by 0—4 ; but as we were not at full strength, and this was our first match on grass, it was not too bad.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Hockey.—As this unit has recently figured very prominently in Karachi and District hockey circles, both civil and military, it is meet that particulars be circulated throughout the Corps.

The following is a short resume of our hockey doings of late. Enthusiasm has been great enough to field two elevens.

Our first eleven has, in some respects, been rather unlucky, especially in the District League. Probably the scarcity of spectators has something to do with it, but one cannot expect many to turn up when there are two hockey teams, two football and one rugger playing on the same evening. Another reason is our lack of a really good scoring forward. Both our wing pairs can manœuvre the ball into their opponents' territory, but when the resulting centre flashes in, there is no one to put the finishing touch to a fine move.

Our defence, as of yore, is quite sound. They clear the ball in fine style, feeding both wings easily and surely. They clear—and back comes the ball for them to clear again! So the game continues. Eventually our defence, in its eagerness to show the forwards "how not to mess it up," advance *too* far forward and leave the goalkeeper a hopeless task. He, by the way, is the best in Karachi, and often the score would have amounted to double figures but for him.

Now a word about the second eleven. As may be expected in reserve games, some of the would-be stars are lacking in finesse ; but they more than make up for this in eagerness and a continual essaying to give of their best, so that some really fine set-to's have resulted. In addition, the umpires have been lenient, and what might have involved a continual whistling has after all been a sparkling affair. Keep it up, A Corps! This is the nursery of the future talent for the first eleven. Although the reserves have a debit account so far, it is to be borne in mind that they have in most cases been playing against what are (judging by our own) almost first eleven teams. Herewith results up to 14th December, 1930.

SIND HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, 1ST DIVISION.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts
Karachi Port Trust Sports Club...	7	5	0	2	15—5	12
St. Pat's Gymkhana	7	5	1	1	13—7	11
Telegraphs	7	4	1	2	18—7	10
R.A.F. Depot	7	2	1	4	12—10	8
Sind Police	5	2	1	2	9—7	6
G.P.A.	6	1	1	4	10—9	6
A Corps Signals	6	2	3	1	10—12	5
Y.M.C.A.	6	1	2	3	6—9	5
Ralli Bros.	6	1	3	2	8—14	4
Sea Horses	6	0	3	3	5—16	3
N.W. Railway	5	1	4	0	6—8	2
Rangers	6	1	5	0	5—16	2

First team friendlies, November-December, 1930.—Played 6, won 5, lost 1. Goals—for 19, against 8.

Second team ditto—Played 4, drawn 1, lost 3. Goals—7 to 20.

Cricket.—Our first season as members of the Sind Cricket Association concluded with quite a satisfactory record, which would have shown a larger percentage of victories had we not been deprived of the services of Gordon and Wills for the whole of the season, and Lieuts Harrison and Lewis, Tubby Ward and Ashford for a large part of it.

Amongst our opponents were the Karachi Gymkhana, Hindu, Muslim and Borah Gymkhanas, Railway, G.P.A. and our old friends the Sind Police. Forty-three players represented the Corps, in addition to which Corpls Fisher and Baker and L/Corpl Wilcox rendered yeoman service to the Brigade Headquarters team when not on duty with the Corps. Corpl Fisher on one occasion amassed a vigorous 99 not out.

Two new individual records for the Corps were established—Corpl McKenzie being the first bowler to take a hundred wickets in one season, and Lieut Worrall easily beating the previous highest aggregate of runs.

The loss of our captain, C.Q.M.S. McGregor—who returns to England this year—will be a sad blow to the cricket team and to the sporting fraternity of the Corps in general. His cheerful optimism in the face of adversity and his shrewd captaincy were invaluable to the players, and his vacant place will be very hard to fill. We wish him a reluctant " bon voyage " and a speedy settling down to the more pleasant playing conditions in England.

Results of the season—Played 43, won 19, drawn 9, lost 15.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	Innings	Not out	Runs	Highest	Aver.
Lieut Worrall	31	3	947	83*	33.8
Lieut Harrison	20	3	487	94	28.6
Corpl Ward	21	1	387	100*	19.35
L/Corpl Jones A. C. ...	37	1	664	57	18.4
Corpl Ashford	17	5	190	39	15.8
C.Q.M.S McGregor ...	31	3	390	67	13.9
L/Sergt Bosworth ...	29	4	345	48*	13.8
Lieut Lewis	12	1	152	51*	13.8
Corpl Curtis	30	1	356	44	12.3
Sigmn Dalton	27	3	283	38	11.8
Sigmn Thomas	32	7	168	23	6.7
Corpl Fisher	11	3	48	13*	6.0
Corpl Baker	11	1	59	20*	5.9
Corpl McKenzie	31	10	73	9*	3.5

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Aver.
Corpl McKenzie	419.2	78	1152	121	9.5
C.Q.M.S. McGregor ...	211	33	639	56	11.4
Lieut Harrison	121	6	439	36	12.1
L/Sergt Bosworth	203.4	23	657	49	13.4
Lieut Worrall	191	21	720	39	18.4
Sigmn Thomas	142.2	20	447	20	22.3

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Swimming.—We have all been reading the reports of Egypt Signals regarding their swimming, and we thought we would just show our mettle. We challenged the 10th Royal Hussars to a swimming contest on October 30th. Owing to a last minute arrangement we had to alter the programme, and this must have put us off our stroke (rather good, that one!) Well, we swam and swam, but we lost. The only event we won was the diving. I agree with Egypt Signals that to have won the swimming against such good men as the 10th Royal Hussars is really worthy of note. Unfortunately the baths in Meerut are not large enough to play polo. I might add here that the Hussars are full of praise for the swimmers of the Corps in Egypt.

Sergeants' Mess.

On Wednesday, October 29th, we held a Mess sports tourney with the 10th Royal Hussars. After lots of talk as to which had the best hockey, darts and billiards team, a challenge was given and the battle took place on the aforementioned date.

The hockey was a fast and furious game and well worth watching, though slightly spoilt by the bad light. After a very fine clean game we managed to win, thanks to a fine partnership between Barber and Gudgeon. Gudgeon scored the only goal.

We played the darts and billiards during the evening, and we lost both. Sergts Swaine and Barber both played good games in the billiards. The latter only just missed pulling off the game, but he had too much deficiency to make up, although he won his individual game. The darts was a walk-over for the Hussars. We are now awaiting our revenge.

Owing to the training season having commenced, we have been unable to give the Black Watch a sports day, but this will be remedied as soon as time permits.

Egypt Signals.

Command Hockey Championship.—The final of this competition took place on the Wembley ground, Abbassia, on 13th December, between the Royal Signals and the 12th Royal Lancers (A.C. Regiment). A large number of spectators attended, including all the senior officers of the Garrison and Field-Marshal Sir William R. Birdwood, BART., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., LL.D.—the Colonel of the 12th Lancers, who had broken his voyage on the way home from India in order to spend a few days with them.

As this was the first appearance of the Corps in the final of this competition, we fervently hoped that we should make further history by winning the cup.

The game opened at a fast pace, and it was not long ere we realised that we were up against a dour defence who were giving nothing away, and with a lively set of forwards who kept our defence on the qui vive. After a great struggle we had to admit defeat to the tune of 1—4 goals.

This was rather a disappointment, but, still, we have the 16 points towards the best all-round unit trophy—which is a great consolation—and we are indebted to the team for helping us along so well. We must now hope for better luck next year.

After the match Field-Marshal Birdwood presented the cup and medals to the winners, and medals to the losers, congratulating the captains on the exhibition their teams had given.

Command Rugby Championship.—The final of this competition took place on the ground of the E.S.R.I. at Gezeret Badran, on Dec. 15th, between the Royal Signals and the 1st Battn Gloster Regiment (the cup holders). This match was also attended by a large crowd of spectators, including the G.O.C. (Lieut.-General Sir E. Peter Strickland, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O.) and His Excellency Sir P. L. Loraine, BART., K.C.M.G., the High Commissioner in Egypt. The band of the 12th Royal Lancers played selections during the afternoon.

In this match we were also creating history by being in the final for the first time.

The Corps kicked off amidst great excitement, and during the first half we held our own fairly well, as the interval arrived with the score of 8 points (one goal, one try) to nil in the Glosters' favour. After the interval the superiority of the Glosters became obvious—their pack wearing ours down, with the result that they had things much their own way, and when " no side " arrived they had piled up 28 points (two goals, 6 tries) to nil.

After the match the cup was presented by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

It can be realised how disappointing it was to take part in the final of two Command competitions in a period of three days and to lose in each case. But, of course, here again we have our consolation—firstly in the award of the 16 points towards the best all-round unit, for which every credit is due to the team; and secondly, in the fact that, on the Glosters leaving the Command in January for service in Shanghai, we shall as runners-up hold the cup until next year's competition. We promise the Corps we shall make every endeavour to hold it *next* season.

Command Cross-Country Team Championship—The annual Command cross-country team championship was held on 23rd December over a course of approximately five and a half miles round the desert to the east of Abbassia. The cup at stake this time was the one kindly purchased by the Royal Signals Officers' Games Club, as we had won the old cup outright.

Excitement ran very high during the race, and a large crowd assembled at the finishing point. It was a ding-dong struggle between the Corps and the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment, who were second last year. This time, however, they managed to reverse the positions, but it was a very close thing, as will be observed from the placings of the first twelve home in each team. We heartily congratulate the King's on their victory, but assure them that we will leave no stone unturned to reverse the positions next season.

ORDER OF FINISHING.

	Royal Signals.		King's
1 Driver Hammond	3	...	4
2 Sigmn Chambers	7	...	5
3 Corpl Collins	8	...	9
4 L/Corpl Shepherd	11	...	10
5 Sigmn Donaghy	17	...	13
6 Sigmn Hillier	20	...	14
7 Sigmn Mursell	22	...	15
8 Corpl Ayres	23	...	18
9 Sigmn Woolley	25	...	19
10 L/Corpl Chambers	26	...	21
11 Sigmn Turton	29	...	27
12 Sigmn Taylor	37	...	32
Total points	228	...	187

The Team Placings were as follows:—

1—1st Battalion The King's Regiment	187	points
2—Royal Signals, Egypt	228	,,
3—1st Battalion Gloster Regiment	465	,,
4—R.T.C., Egypt	678	,,
5—1st Battalion The Cameronians	753	,,
6—1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment	828	,,
7—12th Royal Lancers	957	,,
8—1st Battalion Grenadier Guards	1187	,,

The individual winners were as follows: 1st, L/Cpl Warmington (12th Royal Lancers); 2nd, L/Corpl Hopkins (1st Battalion Glosters); 3rd, Driver Hammond (Royal Signals).

After the race the cup and medals were presented to the winning team, and medals to the runners-up and the individual winners, by Brigadier G. M. Lindsay, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C.

It would be futile to say that we were not disappointed with the result, but in this competition we have done extremely well, as the Corps in Egypt won the cross-country championship in 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928 and 1929, and were runners-up in 1926 and 1930—a record of which we can justly be proud.

The team of the 1st King's were attached to Egypt Signals for the race, so during the evening the event was celebrated in the time-honoured fashion. The O.C. of the King's filled the cup with champagne in our canteen, and we toasted them right royally; and although we lost the cup, we now have the empty champagne bottles as souvenirs to spur us on next year.

Cairo Military Football League.—It will be recalled that the table of the Abbassia Section of the Cairo Military League was published last month, showing the Royal Signals as winners.

The winners of the Cairo Section of this League were the 2nd Battalion South Staffords.

For the second year in succession, we therefore appeared in the final of the League championship. Last year we met the

1st Glosters and were defeated by 2—4 goals, but this year we made amends.

Before a large crowd of spectators we lost the toss, but were the first to attack, and soon settled down to avenge our defeat of last year. Good football was spoilt by the offside tactics of the Staffords backs, but even that did not prevent us from running out as winners by 3—1 goals.

After the match Mrs. W. W. Roche, wife of the O.C. 2nd Battn South Staffords, presented the cup and medals to the winners and medals to the runners-up.

Well done, the Corps! History has been made yet once more, as this is the first occasion on which the Royal Signals have won this competition, although it was won in the 1918/19 season by Cairo Signals—prior, of course, to the birth of the Corps.

Sports Championship Challenge Cup Competition, 1930-1931.—This is more familiarly known as the best all-round unit competition, as the designation was changed in 1927.

Six events which carry points towards the competition have been decided, and the up-to-date table is given below. It will be observed that no points have been included for football or boxing, although we have won 8 for each item; but we cannot include points under these headings until all units have completed their fixtures.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Royal Signals	12	8	6	16	9	16	67
12th Royal Lancers	4	—	20	20	3	12	59
1st Battn. Gloster Regiment	—	8	—	8	7	20	43
R.A.S.C.	—	12	7	8	—	8	35
2nd Brigade R.H.A.	6	—	11	8	—	8	33
1st Battn. King's Regiment	—	—	9	—	12	8	29
R.T.C.	—	—	8	—	6	12	26
R.E.	6	—	—	8	—	—	14
R.A.M.C.	4	8	—	—	—	—	12
R.A.O.C.	—	12	—	—	—	—	12
13th/18th Hussars	—	—	—	12	—	—	12
1st Battn Wiltshire Regt.	—	—	—	—	4	8	12
R.A.P.C.	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
1st Battn The Cameronians	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
1st Battn Grenadier Guards	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Military Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2nd Light Brigade R.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1 Lawn Tennis; 2 Cricket; 3 Swimming; 4 Hockey; 5 Cross-Country; 6 Rugby

We heartily congratulate all teams on this splendid achievement. We have collected points in every event, which shows the determination to keep up the name of the Corps in spite of all opposition; and it is interesting to note that there was but one rugger man who plays soccer (Corpl Murphy) and two soccer exponents who play hockey (Signalmen Hawkes and Poole). This shows how self-contained each team has been.

We assure the units at home that we are extremely pleased to read of their successes in the Army football and hockey cups, and wish them every success.

Command Challenge Football Cup.—In the first round of this competition we were drawn to meet the R.T.C. Egypt at home. The match was played on our ground on January 7th, when we experienced very bad luck.

Our team as a whole played good football, but the forwards seemed to have bad luck with all their shots, and although dominating the play for fully three parts of the game, they were unable to find the net as they should have done. But I suppose we must not be too greedy, as we ran out winners to the tune of 2—1 goals. That margin of one goal was quite sufficient to give us 8 points towards the best all-round unit trophy, and for that we must be grateful.

We are now awaiting the draw for the second round.

Command Team Boxing Championships.—In the first round of this competition we were drawn to meet the 2nd Battn South Stafford Regiment, but as they were unable to raise a team they scratched, which automatically placed us in the second round—thereby giving us a further 8 points towards the coveted best all-round unit cup, for which we are truly thankful.

In the second round we are due to meet the 2nd Brigade R.H.A. in our own ring. This takes place on January 10th, just too late for these notes, but details will be included next month.

G Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, Cairo.

Sport.—Being a small unit attached to a regiment, it seemed that there might be some difficulty in getting enough games here, but the 12th Royal Lancers have very kindly allowed us to play with the Squadron which has a Section away permanently at Alexandria. This year it is B Squadron, and already four of the Troop have been selected to represent them at football in the annual inter-Squadron competition, which has only just begun. We hope, before long, to have representatives in other games. Here's to B Squadron's success! and may we all help them to gain the coveted trophy—the Bongo beaker.

For Command competitions, of course, those of us who are good enough will represent the Royal Signals, Egypt, and not the 12th Royal Lancers.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

When the *Ramillies* folk were here we played them at football, and after a really good hard fast game we managed to draw at 1—1. The following day we played them at hockey, and considering that they were all football players, they did very well; though beaten, they were not disgraced.

On Christmas Day the annual match for the Johnny Walker shield was played: Officers and senior n.c.o.s v. junior n.c.o.s and men. The latter side won by 5—1. Mention must be made of one glorious goal scored by the "war horse," the famous Badge Cooper. He was playing back for the men, and on getting the ball about the half-way line he dashed down the field, got into position, steadied himself, and shot into the right-hand corner of the net. Goal! Oh, Badge, why didn't you look first?—it was a good shot, but into *your own* goal!

Golf.—The final of the first of the season's handicaps was played in November between L/Sergt Good and Haydn Buttle, the former winning. Several interesting and close rounds were played. Haydn Buttle is to be congratulated on getting into the final. Being only nine and a half years old, and this his first attempt at golf (his handicap was not the highest) he did exceptionally well. Well done! I send a snap showing him driving.

Tournaments are being played with the R.A.F. at Ramleh, and very many enjoyable games have been experienced. Golf has certainly come into its own here. Paddy Weir, please note!

The House games have re-commenced, and the first half of the league is nearly finished. It looks like being quite a close finish this year.

Football and hockey matches have been played against various Service teams here, with varying luck. The majority of sport has been played amongst ourselves this season.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

CERTA CITO

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VOL. XII.—No. 133 MARCH, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

Corps Promotion Roster, Pocket Edition.—It is notified for general information that the compilation of the 1931 revised edition of the Corps Promotion Roster is nearing completion, and that copies will be available for sale at an early date.

Will those Unit Representatives who have not yet submitted their orders kindly do so as quickly as possible, so that we may be in a position to estimate bulk requirements. No warrant or non-commissioned officer should fail to secure a copy of this publication. Price 1/0 per copy, post free.

❀ ❀ ❀

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a communication from No. 2318662 Trooper M. L. Diffey, Regimental Headquarters, 17th/21st Lancers, Abdul Moneim Barracks, Abbassia, Cairo, in which the writer states that having just digested a recent edition of THE WIRE, he desires to congratulate his old Corps on their many and continued successes in the world of sport. Trooper Diffey recalls with pleasure the good times he spent with Royal Signals, and wishes to convey his best wishes to those of his old friends who still remember him and with whom he would be glad to correspond.

❀ ❀ ❀

The following is published for general information:—

Corps Cricket Matches, 1931.

May 26th and 27th, v. Royal Military Academy, at Woolwich
June 3rd and 4th, v. Royal Tank Corps, at Aldershot
June 5th and 6th, v. Royal Engineers, at Aldershot
June 8th and 9th, v. Royal Army Service Corps, at Aldershot
June 18th and 19th, v. Royal Army Ordnance Corps, at the Oval, London.

Corps Dinner, 1931.—The annual Corps Dinner will take place on Friday, May 29th, at the Junior United Services Club, Charles Street, London, S.W.1.

❀ ❀ ❀

The Irregularity of Unit Notes from Stations Abroad.—Numerous letters are being received on this subject from WIRE readers, now discharged or transferred to the Army Reserve, but who still continue to interest themselves in their old Corps' associations and activities.

One writer particularly wishes us to comment upon the fact that, having spent the whole of his service in India (22 years) and retaining pleasant memories of his association with Royal Signals, he still continues to purchase THE WIRE regularly, and each month optimistically turns to that page of the Magazine which *should* chronicle the activities of the unit from which he was recently discharged and in which he left many friends. His keen disappointment at finding that particular unit unrepresented month after month may be better imagined than described!

It is the Committee's earnest desire to keep in close and constant touch with all ranks after they leave the Service, and with that end in view they appeal to all Unit Representatives to favour us regularly with a brief but concise record of their unit activities each month.

THE WIRE already has the largest circulation of any regimental publication of its kind, and with the co-operation and assistance of Unit Representatives, there is no reason why we should not further increase its popularity by making it equally as interesting for the ex-Service subscribers as for those still serving.

❀ ❀ ❀

We acknowledge the receipt of an interesting communication from ex-Signalman Douglas B. Jarvis, written from Quebec, Canada, but regret that lack of space prevents us from publishing it in this issue. Every effort will be made to reserve sufficient space for it in the April number. EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes.

The Army Vocational Training Centre.—Some notes of interest on the Woodworking Trades, by Major B. H. D. Hurst, D.C.M., Commandant, A.V.T.C., Aldershot, are appended.

To the majority of individuals, the Woodworking Trades are the most interesting and attractive of the constructional trades, and generally are considered the most important.

In modern industry the general term " Carpentry and Joinery " is commonly used to cover all the woodworking operations connected with the building trade, and Cabinet Making is the general term applied to the making of furniture.

In the country districts, Carpentry and Joinery frequently go hand in hand, a craftsman often being able to work as either a carpenter or joiner ; but in most large towns, men generally keep to one section or the other.

Although carpentry is akin to joinery, there is a great deal of difference between the two. The carpenter works on the construction of a building, and moves from building to building as required, while the joiner is employed in the workshop at the builder's works or the joinery factory and prepares the various fittings which the carpenter fixes.

A joiner's work consists mainly of making all the wooden fittings required in the construction and fitting up of buildings, houses, shops, etc. These consist of such items as doors, door frames, sashes, sash frames, dressers, cupboards, mantel-pieces, show cases, staircases, and fixtures of all kinds.

The carpenter fixes these in the buildings after he has assisted with his part of the construction. His work on the building lasts almost from start to finish. As the building goes up, he puts in the joists, partitions, roof timbers, etc., and then, when the roof is on, he fixes the stairs, floors, doors, sashes, cupboards, dressers, skirting, etc.

Whereas the work of the joiner calls for greater neatness and skill in finishing than that of the carpenter, the latter's work requires a sound knowledge of construction. Each class of work is highly skilled, and the young man in training should see that he gets experience of both carpentry and joinery, as this will enable him to discover which of the two he is most fitted for. The work entails the skilful use of tools and familiarity with timbers.

A Cabinet Maker has a somewhat similar job to that of the Joiner. He also does most of his work in the workshop, and it consists almost entirely of furniture making, but on occasions he goes into large houses and shops to fix the hard-wood panelling and shop fittings made by him.

Cabinet making demands skill with tools, and a man must possess the ability to work cleanly and neatly in hard wood. The methods of construction differ from joinery, but the skill required is very much the same. Machinery has lowered the general standard of craftsmanship in the present day, but some firms are again developing hand-made work along the traditional lines.

One who possesses the aptitude for wood work and the use of keen-edged tools soon makes progress at the woodworking trades, but the difference between them should be realised. A man may make a first-rate carpenter but a very poor joiner or cabinet maker, and vice versa.

Nowadays, much of the work hitherto done patiently by hand is produced by machinery—notably, we have machine-made doors, windows and furniture—so that, in many joinery and cabinet-making works, the bench hands are little more than assemblers. It follows that apprentices in such works are often robbed by the machine of good and necessary practice.

At the Vocational Training Centres, things are different. Productiveness is given second place to training, and although machinery is in use, it is used only to save unnecessary labour. Most of the work is hand-wrought by the student, so that by gaining skill with his tools and co-ordinating hand and brain, he can later use the machine as a servant rather than slave under its mastery.

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	Garage Cleaner
Ex-Signalman	Car Washer
Ex-Signalman	Motor Driver
Ex-Signalman	Waiter
Ex-Signalman	Lineman
Ex-Signalman and wife	Married Couple
Ex-N.C.O.	Wireless Electrician

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from Capt R. C. Instrall, 2/Lieuts D. Goldsmith, A. R. Reeder, C. H. Stonelev, M. A. Lloyd and J. N. Barker.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from A Corps Signals, Karachi, India.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, Brighton. Domestic difficulties and unemployment. £1/5/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

2—Ex-Signalman, Gloucester. Recently deceased. £2 allocated as a grant to his dependants from Association funds.

3—Ex-Signalman, Brighton. Temporary difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds for the purchase of tools.

4—Ex-Signalman, Ireland. Domestic difficulties. £2/10/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

5—Ex-Signalman, Ipswich. Domestic difficulties. Employment secured and £2/10/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

6—Ex-Signalman, Southampton. In need of clothing for new employment. £4/10/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

7—Ex-N.C.O., Woolwich. Domestic difficulties. Accommodated with employment and £5 allocated as a loan from Association funds.

8—Ex-Signalman, Leeds. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

9—Ex-Signalman, Glasgow. Domestic difficulties. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds to provide necessaries for his family of young children.

10—Ex-Signalman, Brighton. Domestic difficulties. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

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

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be C.Q.M.S.

2307755 Goodman L. 26/10/30

To be Sergeant

*1413241 Sneddon H. 24/7/30
*2310544 Gardner J. 30/9/30
2312799 Marchant E. 21/10/30
*1042634 Madeley T. 26/10/30
2314379 Hayden G. 6/11/30
1406518 Ryan R. 6/11/30
*2310659 Shiner A. 8/11/30
2310939 Crowhurst H. 28/12/30

** Special Roster, India*

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

*5610360 Collins R. 1/9/30
2307290 Halls E. 7/9/30
1857185 Cockings P. 26/9/30
2315371 Luck W. 13/10/30
*6449448 Cooper H. 21/10/30
2314491 Macdonald H. 26/10/30
2314376 Gould A. 8/11/30
2309252 Longwill J. 14/11/30
2314097 Brooke J. 27/11/30

To be Corporal

2316597 Badham A. 26/9/30
2315170 Hampton P. 14/11/30
2317256 McKowin G. 23/12/30

To be Farrier-Staff-Sergeant—

2308340 Garnett C. 22/1/31

Discharges.

2307473 C.S.M. Brown P. 13/1/31
1850377 C.Q.M.S. Sweeting J. 2/1/31
2306237 C.Q.M.S. Smith E. 23/1/31
2306385 Sergt Whittle G. 18/1/31
2306670 Sergt Hayes J. 27/1/31
2316896 Corpe Rowe C. 29/1/31

To Army Reserve.

2316789 Corpl Peuleve J. 11/1/31
4605343 Corpl Hirst W. 25/1/31

With apologies to "Shell-Mex" Advertisement.

Corps News—Officers

Field-Marshal Sir Claud W. Jacob, G.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., who was appointed Commander-in-Chief in India in 1925, after having previously held several high commands, has accepted the position of President and Chairman of the Junior Naval and Military Club, 96 Piccadilly. Many years ago the Club used to be known as the "Incubator," and more recently by the simple title of "96." It has always been a popular meeting place for officers home on leave from different parts of the world. No less than 552 members' names appear on the Club Memorial to those who were killed in the Great War.

MOVES—

Lieut.-Colonel C. J. S. Le Cornu from Bulford to India (C.S.O. Eastern Command).
Lieut.-Col. R. V. Montgomery from Catterick to India (S.T.C.)
Lieut.-Colonel C. W. M. Firth from India to C.S.O. Scottish Command
Major W. R. C. Penney from War Office to Shanghai (Staff).
Major R. H. R. Neale from Bulford to Catterick
Major J. G. Deedes from Aldershot to Woolwich
Major P. B. D. H. Foot from Woolwich to Scarborough (5th D/S)
Major J. S. Yule from Woolwich to India (B C/S)
Major J. R. Carter from Tidworth to Woolwich (S.E.E.)
Major R. E. Vyvyan from Aldershot to India (3rd D/S)
Major R. P. A. Helps from London to India (A C/S)
Major P. C. Snatt from Colchester to London Dist. (C.S.O.)
Capt P. Jennings from Catterick to Aden
Capt G. P. Pavey from Catterick to India (1st D/S)
Lieut A. S. Milner from Colchester to India (A C/S)
2/Lieut W. B. Rowett from Colchester to India (Kohat)
2/Lieut F. J. G. Lyle from Scarborough to India (4th D/S)
2/Lieut C. H. Barker from Catterick to Aldershot (A C/S)
2/Lt C. L. Ommanney from Catterick to Aldershot (1st D/S)
2/Lt A. M. W. Whistler from Catterick to Aldershot (2nd D/S)
2/Lieut E. H. Clarke from Catterick to Aldershot (2nd D/S)
2/Lieut A. Powys-Lybbe from Catterick to Bulford (3rd D/S)
2/Lieut T. H. Winterborn from Catterick to Bulford (3rd D/S)
2/Lieut R. C. Yule from Catterick to Bulford (3rd D/S)
2/Lieut N. M. Hay from Catterick to Colchester (4th D/S)
2/Lieut M. J. Conway from Catterick to Scarborough (5th D/S)
2/Lieut A. B. Whatman from Catterick to Tidworth (A.F.V. Signals)
2/Lieut T. E. Dobson from Catterick to Tidworth (A.F.V. Signals)

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 16/1/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—Private A. C. Campbell, from 14th London Regiment (late Cadet Harrow School Contingent, J.D., O.T.C.) to be 2/Lieutenant, 17/1/31.

War Office, 20/1/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt F. C. Curtis is seconded whilst a student at the Staff College, 21/1/31.

War Office, 23/1/31.

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF

Major A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.Signals, relinquishes his appointment as D.A.A.G., War Office, 21/1/31.

The undermentioned appointments are made:—

Major W. R. C. Penney, M.C., R.Signals, from G.S.O. 3rd Grade, War Office, to be Brigade-Major, Shanghai Area (temp.) 16/1/31.

Capt J. C. McDonald, M.C., R.Signals, to be D.A.A.G., War Office, 21/1/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The promotion of Capt J. Wynn is antedated to 24/4/29, with regimental seniority 30/8/23 (such seniority not to count for pay and allowances or increase of pay).

War Office, 27/1/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ESTABLISHMENTS

The undermentioned appointment is made:—

Capt D. A. L. Wade, M.C., R.Signals, to be Second Military Member (Cl. CC) R.E. Board, 24/12/30.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Capt W. A. Dodd to have seniority, 16/2/20.

War Office, 30/1/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned Cadets, from the Royal Military Academy, to be 2/Lieutenants, 29/1/31:—E. C. Nicholls, A. R. Reeder, C. H. Stoneley, D. J. Goldsmith, D. H. Prissick, R. Pearce, A. J. Hamilton, G. M. de M. Blum, M. A. Lloyd.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—R. J. Hayes to be 2/Lieut. 31/1/31.
56th (1st London) Divl Signals—Lieut A. J. Skinner, M.C., to be Captain, 13/1/31.

War Office, 3/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt J. L. Collings retires on retired pay, 1/2/31.
The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 2/2/31:
P. J. Palmer, C. D. Gardiner, N. E. I. Pocock, R. G. Yolland, J. E. S. Sanders, N. J. H. Minshall, R. Webb, G. Grayrigge, G. S. Knox, G. H. S. Balmain, G. A. MacMunn, N. de-la P. Tate, D. A. L. Dwyer, A. B. Ruck, N. I. Bower.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Lincoln, M.C., from Supplementary Reserve of Officers, R.Signals, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 3/2/31, with seniority 13/5/25.

War Office, 6/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt J. C. McDonald is seconded for service on the Staff, 21/1/31.

ESTABLISHMENTS—

Capt E. G. W. Pearse, R.Signals, to be Officer of a Company of Gentlemen Cadets at the R.M.A., 29/1/31.

War Office, 10/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut H. M. Longden is placed on the h.p. list on account of ill health, 11/2/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

46th (N.M.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut H. Richardson to be Lieutenant, 11/2/31.

War Office, 13/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF

Major C. H. H. Vulliamy to be G.S.O. 3rd Grade, War Office, 4/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut.-Col. L. Griffith is placed on the h.p. list (employed) 14/2/31.
Major A. G. I. Copeland to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 14/2/31.
Major C. H. H. Vulliamy is seconded for service on the Staff, 4/2/31.
Major A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E., is restored to the Establishment, 4/2/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—J. R. Watson to be 2/Lieut. 14/2/31.
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—Lieut C. C. Atkinson, from T.A. Reserve of Officers, General List, to be Captain, 14/2/31.

Royal Signals Golf Meeting

(Spring, 1931).

The Meeting will be held on the Aldershot Command golf course on 18th and 19th April, when the following events will take place:—

1 The Corps Open Championship Challenge Cup.—Open only to Regular serving officers of the Corps or members of the Corps Golfing Society. Conditions: Play to be over 36 holes. The Cup will be awarded to the player returning the best scratch score.

2 The Corps Handicap Challenge Cup.—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Play to be over 18 holes, which may be concurrent with play for the Open Championship Cup. The Cup will be awarded to the player returning the best nett score under lowest Club handicap.

3 The Turner Foursomes Challenge Cup.—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Play to be over 18 holes. The Cup will be awarded to the pair returning the best score under handicap against bogey.

4 A Singles Handicap Sweepstake.—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Entrance fee 2/6. Play to be over 18 holes, which may be concurrent with play for the Open Championship Cup. The winner will be the player returning the best nett score under handicap. Prizes: winner, 80% of entrance fees; runner-up, 20%.

5 A Foursomes Handicap Sweepstake.—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Entrance fee, 5/- per pair. Play to be over 18 holes. The winners will be the pair returning the best score under handicap against bogey. Prizes: winners, 80% of entrance fees; runners-up, 20%.

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association ?

If not, join now !

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in finding civil employment. See how the Association helps its Members in that direction, as shown on page 82. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

PROGRAMME OF PLAY.

Open Championship Cup (36 holes)—18 holes on the morning of April 18th, and 18 on the following morning.
Handicap Challenge Cup (18 holes)—April 18th (morning).
Turner Foursomes (18 holes)—April 18th (afternoon).
Singles Handicap Sweepstake (18 holes)—April 19th (morning).
Foursomes Handicap Sweepstake (18 holes)—April 19th (afternoon).

Play in the mornngs will start at 10 a.m.

Entries should be sent to Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Meredith, M.C., A Corps Signals, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, before 18th April, with a certificate of handicap.

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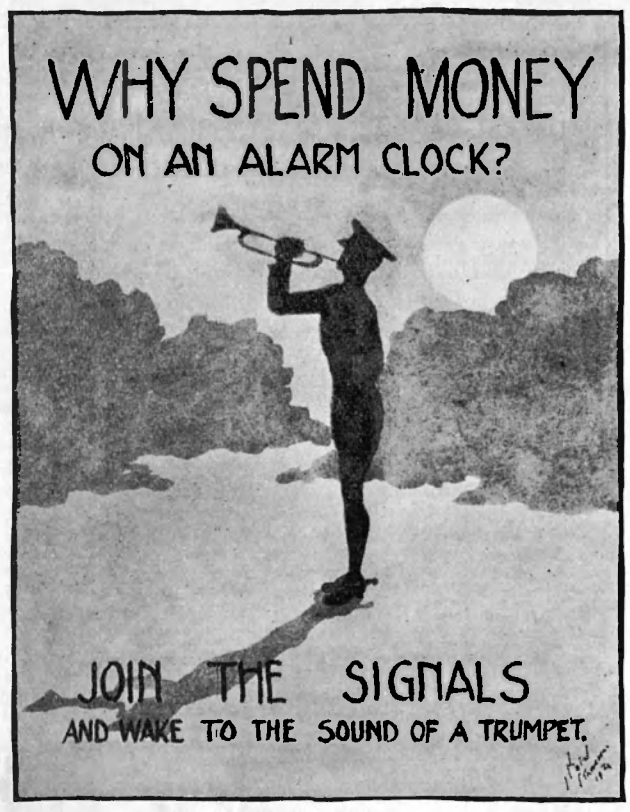


- Plain Tales -

—**as- off a bit.**—I was talking to a man a f-w days ago who is v-ry fond of compiling statistics and working out av-rag-s. H- t-lls m- that th- l-tt-r " - " is us-d mor- tim-s than any oth-r l-tt-r in th- —nglish lainguag-. I am not an -xp-rt on this subj-ct, strang- to say, so I m-r-ly nodd-d a tim- or two. H- also said that it was a l-tt-r that w- couldn't do without. Now, th-r- I disagr-- with him. Who wants th- b-astly littl- thing, anyway?

Th-r- is a v-ry annoying dull plop on this typ-writ-r -v-ry now and th-n. S--ms as though som-thing is missing. Gu-ss I'll us- my p-n. W- shall n--v-r g-t anything don- at this rat-.

* * * *

Flowers and Things.—I am thinking of taking up gardening again (sensation).

The fact is, I have had some little success with one of my numerous experiments. I planted a small tree just outside my quarters. The soil was pure sand and quite unwatered. The tree, having come from rich black earth, flourished mightily for a couple of days, butt within three weeks it was stone dead. I was told that I was lucky to have had it so long, since it was in the full glare of the sun all day and was never watered. I thought, afterwards, that I might have planted a bigger tree in front of it. It would then have been in the shade.

However, I am turning my attention to roses now. Roses are like little cabbages, only they don't smell so nice, and you can't eat them with roast beef and Yorkshire pudding because of the thorns.

They say "Roses for Remembrance." Quite so. When I was up in Razmak, I tried to snaffle a couple of young rose trees. I found that a silk shirt was particularly unsuitable for this work. Being night time, I barged into the chicken run, wound a rose tree (complete with thorns) round my neck, and then trod on the pot. The tree was ripped off my neck like a boy spinning a peg top, all the chickens got out, and every dog in the district started barking. I lost my hat, but managed to get away with parts of the rose tree—chiefly the thorns. After some little thought I decided that I wouldn't go back for my hat. Mind you, I don't say that I am frightfully keen on roses!

* * * *

Big Game.— A tiger measuring 9 feet 6¼ inches (don't forget the fractions!) was killed by Captain J. F. Maxwell, assisted by Lieut. Wise, both of the S.T.C. (India) at Singrampur on 15th January. The tigress also came through the "beat," but managed to get away. Where be that tigress to?

On January 19th our Commandant, Colonel E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., shot a magnificent 9 ft. tiger (well played, sir!) In the same "beat" were two more tigers, and Major H. Golden wounded one of these. Both got away.

Other aspirants to the "big thrill" include Major A. W. Roberts, M.C., and Lieut. G. Burgess-Winn. When the time comes, I hope to be able to supply the details, together with an estimate of the size of those that "got away."

* * * *

Correspondence.—Mirabel (Tooting) writes: Following the advice in a ladies' paper, I have polished, perfumed and trimmed my nails. They are just over seven inches long. What shall I do now?

Dear Mirabel: Hold your arms and hands out straight, fingers extended, to the front. Run as hard as you can until you come to a brick wall. Don't bother to stop.

* * * *

"All the Rest have Thirty-One."—A good old saying, but unless I have a calendar right where I can see it, I never know whether the second Friday in the month is Bonfire Night or Springtime in the Rockies. It was, therefore, comma, a delightful surprise to me when I received one of those dinky little framed calendars from the N.A.A.F.I.

What memories those five letters bring! Does a N.A.A.F.I. van pull up at our door and deliver the groceries here? Does Mr. Smith or Mr. Jones call for orders, gulp a cup of tea, and fade quietly away before your husband comes home, in India? The answer is No!—to the first question, at any rate.

Well do I remember the sweet N.A.A.F.I. girl who brought me a plate of soup. "Excuse me, miss," I said; "you've got your thumb in the soup." "S'all right," she replied; "it isn't hot."

Actions for libel will be dealt with in strict rotation.

* * * *

Maresfield.—Billy Nicks came right up to scratch, as I guessed he would, when he produced those excellent photographs of the present-day Maresfield Park. Those views must have been studied with interest by the members of the old brigade.

We must not lose sight of the fact that Maresfield Park was the cradle of the Corps (I wish someone would tell me the actual date of its birth).

It was on the Maresfield village recreation ground that we discovered many of our famous athletes (sob, sob). The "Chequers" Inn is quite near to the recreation ground!

* * * *

Local Review.—The continued absence of notes from the S.T.C. (India), Jubbulpore, fills me with apprehension. I'm sure somebody is going to burst a blood-vessel about this before long. The queer thing is that the authorised correspondents declare that they have sent up yards of "copy." Perhaps they addressed it to the "Pink 'Un" or the "Auctioneers' Gazette." However, let us step into the breach and furnish some 100% accurate information.

First and foremost comes my birthday, which fell on a Friday. So did I.

Then comes the annual mounted sports. This (or these) took place at Khamaria, as usual, on the something of January. In addition to the excellent horsemanship, we saw a very clever display by the motor-cyclists of the S.T.C. This was followed by a screamingly funny display by members of the "S" Course on push cycles, led by Pothole Pete. The gymkhana event, where the ladies had to jump a two-foot fence, was intensely

interesting. At least one lady "came a purler" at the jump; and, speaking as a writer of fashion notes, I should like to say—(you can shut up—ED.).

Dances and concerts have died down a little now, this being the close season for saxophonists. An all ranks dance and a corporals' dance brought the Christmas period to a close. There was nothing very special about either of them.

The annual Signal Conference will last from 26th to 31st January, but I cannot risk holding over these notes until they have decided whether pigeons will wear armbands or have painted wings, or whatever it is they discuss.

A draft of one hundred and forty-eight B.O.R.s arrived at 3 a.m. in January. At 4.45 p.m., a few days later, some of them took part in a cross-country race of about four miles. L/Corpl Strickson of the draft was first man home without any trouble, and Sigmn Davies W. of A Company was second. Both are old 3rd Divl Signals men (Capt L. W. Schneider, please note; and Bulford papers to copy).

Something else happened in January, but I'm blowed if I remember what it was. Goodnight!

BARLEUX.

10th Divisional Signal Company, 1914-1919.

The eleventh annual re-union dinner of the above-named unit was held on Saturday, 17th January, at the Grand Hotel, Manchester. A very representative party of all ranks attended, including Lieut.-Col. H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C., R.Signals, from Catterick, who commanded the unit in 1916-17. Other members present journeyed from London, Brighton, Chatham, Farnham and Biggleswade, as well as from many places in Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

A brief account of the history and arrangements of this re-union may prove interesting to Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., and Lieut.-Col. G. G. Rawson, O.B.E., M.C., who were Signal Officers of the Corps of which the 10th Division formed part, and to Captains Murray and Darling, who also served with the unit.

A number of officers of the Royal Engineers, including Majors H. M. Cadell, F. B. Barker, J. F. M. Whiteley, M.C., and C. C. S. White, served with the Company during the war, and may be interested should this account come to their notice.

The first dinner, held in London in December, 1920, proved so successful that it was decided to make it an annual affair. As the unit was not recruited from any particular city or county, but included members from every county in the British Isles, it was realised that, to give as many as possible an opportunity of attending the annual dinner, it was desirable to hold the function in turn at London, Manchester and Leeds.

Arrangements were also made to make the dinner self supporting financially, and the procedure subsequently has been for each member attending to pay 10/0. This amount covers the cost of the dinner, hire of room, postage and printing, and other incidentals.

A number of the old Company have been fortunate enough to be able to attend each re-union. These, together with others who are only able to attend at one of the centres nearer their home, make very representative gatherings.

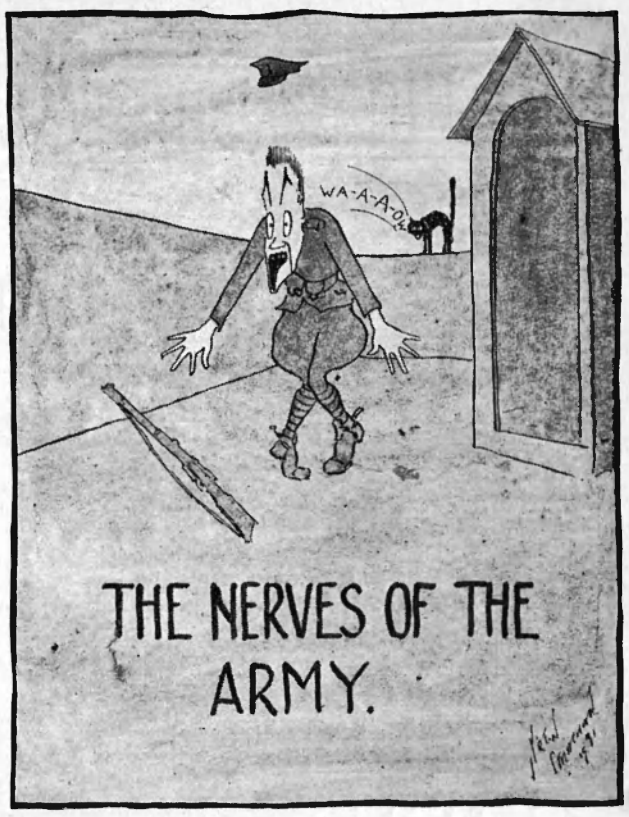
Considering the distance most members have to travel on each occasion, the trade depression, and the strength of a Divisional Signal Company during the war period (approximately 220), it is considered that such successful re-unions, so many years after the Company was disbanded, speak well for the corporate spirit which prevailed in the Company during the war. The writer is pleased to observe, from occasional attachments to Signal units during the past five or six years, that a similar spirit is fostered and that happier units than Signals will be difficult to find in the Service.

J. J. G.

Brighton Breezes.

Dear Mr. Editor—Could you kindly spare a small corner of the March edition of our Corps Journal to introduce Corporal Stone, L/Corpl Brett, and Signalmen Bisby and Dewar, who are at present undergoing a course of instruction at the G.P.O., Brighton?

The course itself comprises practical experience in Wheatstone and ordinary Morse working (punching and slip-reading included).



Thanks to our instructor, Joe Birch, we are all making rapid progress and trickle along now in the "thirty" stages. Incidentally, most of the punchers have seized up and all pencils are air cooled.

I should like to take this opportunity to clear up a small point over which there are frequent discussions amongst operators in serving units of the Corps: the question of civilian employment as P.O. telegraphists on leaving the Service.

No matter what one's qualifications may be as an operator, there is no such thing to-day as obtaining registration for civilian employment in that capacity on completion of a course of P.O. instruction.

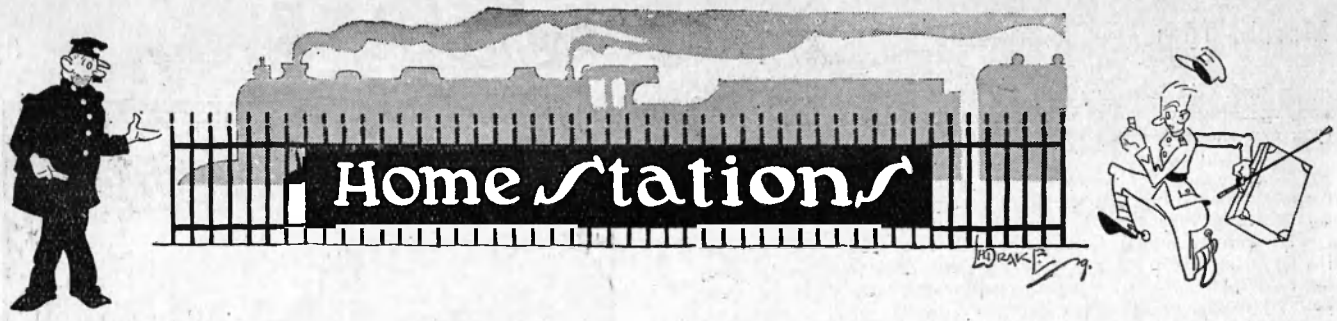
The TELEPRINTER has apparently come to stay, and will eventually replace all Morse circuits. What, you ask, will become of telegraphists and our G.P.O. courses then? Will Royal Signals be recruiting typists only? Perhaps Woolwich can enlighten us!

By special desire, I am asked to convey kindly greetings from the following to all "old timers" who may (or may not) have pleasant recollections of K Company in the old days:—Harry Mascall (ex-Signals), still relating "How he joined up"; Tim Street (ex-R.E.) getting younger *and* "Younger" every day; Sandy Campbell (ex-R.E.), still unable to reach the floor with any degree of comfort; Mr. Bunny (ex-R.E.), still smiling; Mr. Gilder, the peacemaker; Miss Dennett, who continues to keep a watchful eye on her charges; and last, but not least, Mr. Humphreys (Sam)—same man, different specs, the Jonah of all check girls and boy messengers. (How much of the foregoing paragraph has been inspired by Messrs. Street and Bunny?—ED.)

In conclusion, our time is now unfortunately drawing to a close; but to all future aspirants for P.O. courses, we unhesitatingly recommend Brighton as an ideal spot in which to recuperate after strenuous weeks of "manœuvres." It may be a little monotonous at times, perhaps, but one can invariably rely on Jock to break the spell "for a tour round the world with the Second Mate and Chief Engineer." Can a sailor sing? I should smile!

All the best from Sergeant and Mrs. Savage, of 17 St. Luke's Road.

ENOTS.



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Here we are again! There have not been many changes during the preceding month, and we are maintaining our steady arrivals of recruits.

Mr. " Flu " has accounted for a number of hospital cases, but we are pleased to say that the greater number are back to duty again.

Many old faces are back with us (but only for a few days) from India. They are for transfer to the Army Reserve, and we wish them all the best of luck and an early settlement in good civilian jobs.

L/Corpl Roderick and Signalmen Cleveland and Jennings have left us for Aldershot. DIS. WING.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

Hullo, everybody! Greenland calling. As you were—I mean Catterick. The error is perhaps pardonable, for since our last notes we have sampled specimens of all types of weather known to the northern hemisphere. In fact, it has been seriously suggested that we should rename the days " Snowday," " Rainday," " Frostday," etc.

At present we are indulging in a wave of 'flu, and the resultant gargling parades have produced some weird and wonderful symphonies. The epidemic is now well in hand, and the " Company hospitals " have been disbanded.

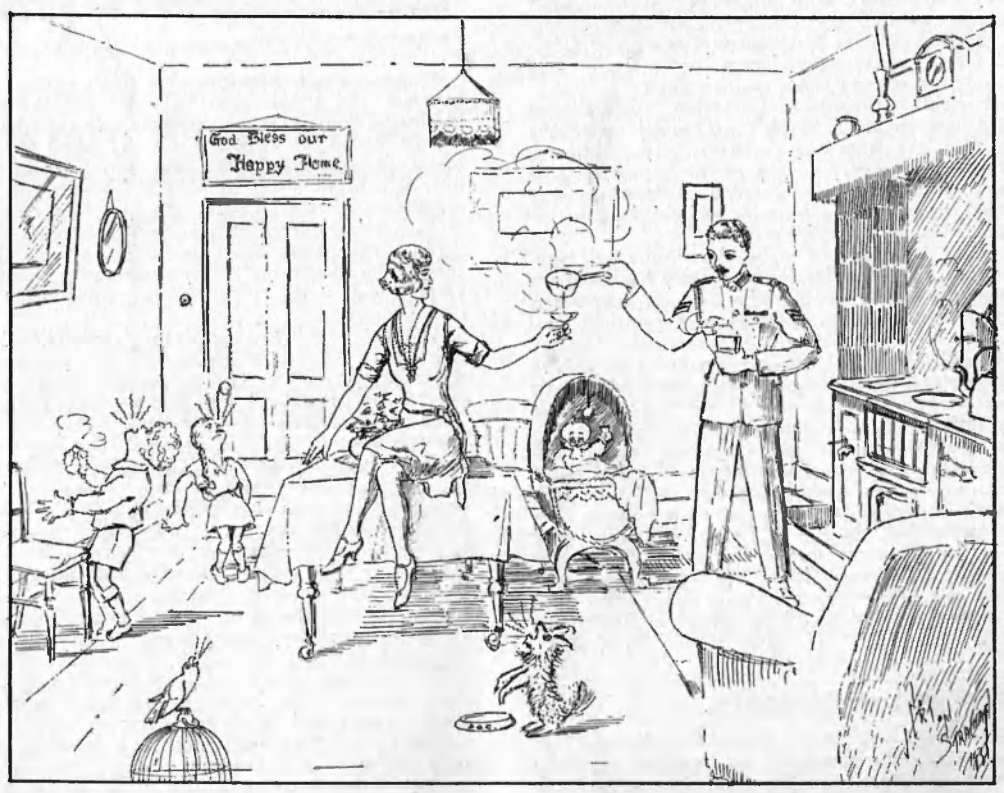
The abnormal influx of recruits has led to the Depot Battalion's encroachment upon our preserves, and we are at our wit's end to accommodate them: we don't know yet whether we shall have to sling hammocks in Scotton Covert. Another result has been the departure of large numbers to field units.

We have also lost a number of people in the form of drafts to the ends of the earth, including India, Egypt and Sarafand. They all carry with them our best wishes.

We congratulate L/Sergt Page upon the recent addition of a daughter to his family.

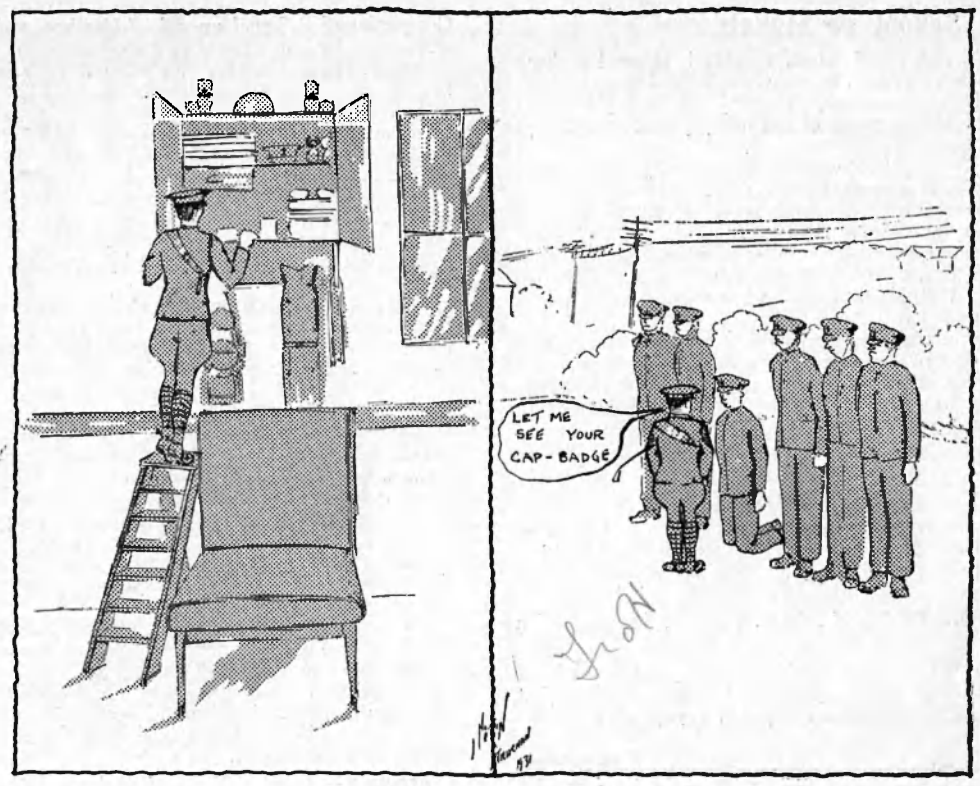
We regret to announce the death of ex-Corpl Obee (late of this Battalion) who, it will be remembered, was invalided from the Service some fifteen months ago.

The Catterick Camp Beagles are becoming increasingly popular, and have recently had some enjoyable runs which we have been permitted to attend.



" Have another, my dear?"

Extract from Orders: " Married n.c.o.s and men . . . . will ensure that they and their families gargle at least twice a day."



" They are little—but they're wise ;
They are marvels for their size."

(Can Dismounted Wing tell us who they are?)

Corporals' Mess.—On January 24th, we entertained the members of the Harrowgate Institute (Darlington) at an indoor gymkhana in the mess, and everyone spent an enjoyable evening.

The construction of our new mess proceeds apace, and we shall soon be despatching invitations to our house-warming ceremony.

D Company, Training Battalion.

Well, I'll have to get a move on, or there will be no notes this month. There doesn't seem to be a great deal to write about. We have had a 'flu outbreak and a few blizzards, but no inspiration.

Births.—Hearty congratulations to Corpl (Darky) and Mrs. Rowe on the arrival of a daughter (Jacqueline Emily).

Dole Dodgers.—The following have re-engaged to complete twenty-one years with the Colours:—A/Sergt Barnard, L/Sergts Page and McMillan, and Corpl Phillips.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Signalmen Curtis and Shipman on their appointment as U/L/Corporal.

Departures.—Sigmn Dicky Dyke to A Corps Signals. Corpl (Dick) Henshaw has been posted to 5th Divl Signals (won't the P.S. be pleased to meet him again!)

To Sigtrain, S.T.C. (India).—The tame humorist of the December WIRE hopes there is no danger of his being sent back to India.

Before You " Nipped."—New arrival from India (to inoffensive Signalman): " The likes of you ought to be sent to Jubbulpore." Inoffensive Sigmn: " Yes, I'd like to see Jubbulpore ; the Signals Depot was at Wellington when I left India."

Answers to Correspondents.—Worried: No ; the S.T.C. Headquarters personnel do not do Company or regimental duties.

Mason: Go sick.

Dracula ; You still head the league ; Curly is a good second.

JOSOPE.

F Company, Training Battalion.

Oh, no! nothing of real importance to report. The Company are carrying on in the old sweet way, all having survived the rigours of Christmas leave.

By the time these notes appear, we shall have quite a good number hard at it swotting for that elusive 1st class certificate. The preliminary examination takes place during the week ending February 7th.

Technical and other training is now in full swing again, and we expect to be in amongst the league leaders at the close of the season.

We are all more or less suffering from the shivers, having been presented from above with the orthodox white blanket. Result: " Quarter, can I sign for a window pane?"

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Sgt E. F. Wheeler and family (late of Eastern Command Signals), and trust their stay will be a happy one ; also our latest recruit squad (from remarks overheard, the weather is not to their liking, but still the sun does shine sometimes).

Departures.—Sergt F. S. Buhlmann has left us for Eastern Command Signals, and our best wishes go with him. The Life Guards must look to their laurels now. What say you, Fred?

Agony.—Arthur: We have heard that damp rot has set in. What about it? You know that date.

Winter Games.—Tobogganing seems to be in full swing on all adjacent hills, with a snow battle here and there.

Boys' Club.—The new premises will shortly be ready for occupation, and it would be a fitting occasion, on the date of opening (should the prophets be kind to us) to celebrate the presentation of the Mackworth trophy. Now, I wonder?

A.O.K.

School of Signals.

General.—As several people have observed, there has been a noticeable absence of literature from the School for the past month or two. This, of course, is entirely due to my inability to cope with the highbrow tastes of the many public school boys we have in the unit.

The "Brighter School" movement is gradually progressing, and there is every indication that the wonderful array of dandelion blooms—to see which one must travel to Catterick—will this year be brighter and bigger than ever.

The usual winter weather is at present with us, together with its associate, influenza. Although the 'flu has not been so severe as the initial outbreak suggested, considerable numbers have been down with it.

The monthly concert by the Corps Band appears to have met with every appreciation, considering the number of moans one hears in consequence of no concert being given on 1st February. We hope this is not an indication that they are being discontinued.

Departures.—Signalmen Batchelor and Crozier to Army Reserve, taking with them the best wishes of the Company for a successful re-entrance into civil life.

Marriage.—By the time these notes appear in print, Corpl Wright will have taken the fatal plunge with Miss B. Creighton at Manchester. Getting married is bad enough, but getting married in Manchester—well! Still, every good wish for the future, Tich.

Congratulations.—To Capt L. A. E. Tozer on his promotion to that rank.

Foreign Service.—Our draft for India is at present on leave pending embarkation on February 25th. We are very sorry to lose R.S.M. Manley, and hope he enjoys his voyage out.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

I have not yet seen the records of the rainfall for January, 1931, but I shall be surprised if the figures for Hampshire do not create a record! A depression, having centred itself over Aldershot, refused to move on, and most of the days have been miserably wet.

An epidemic of 'flu necessitated the opening of a local ward to cope with the number of victims. As we go to press, I am glad to say that the malady is on the wane and most of the patients are up and about again.

We are glad to hear that the Corps is attracting so many recruits. We in field units look forward to the time when, having concluded their initial training at the Signal Training Centre, they will join us and help to make up the numbers required for both work and play. We extend to them a hearty welcome to the Corps. For those who are willing to work and make the most of their opportunities, the Corps offers a splendid future.

I hope all readers—and especially those in this unit—noted the advice given by Colonel French under "Benevolent Fund Notes" in the February number of THE WIRE. Let me repeat the two facts which the president of the Benevolent Fund has asked all who contemplate an early discharge from the Service to consider:

(1) For a man with ordinary qualifications, employment is almost impossible, as there is not nearly enough to go round. (N.B.—The situation is worse now than in last February.)

(2) Unless a soldier is an insured man and has paid a certain number of contributions under the Unemployment Insurance Act *before enlistment*, he cannot draw the dole if he obtains a *compassionate* discharge from the Service, as it is held to be his own fault that he is no longer employed in the Army.

We offer a hearty welcome to 2/Lieut C. H. Barker on his being posted to the unit for duty.

Hearty Congratulations.—To No. 1 Company cross-country running team on winning the inter-Company shield, open to all Companies of R.Signal units in Aldershot, and thus contributing an honourable share towards the credit of the unit. We lookers-on much appreciate this fine effort. Also to the Air Defence Brigade Signals on being runners-up.

To Air Defence Brigade Signals and No. 1 Company teams on being seventh and eleventh respectively in the Command inter-Company cross-country running competition.

To the junior n.c.o.s, R.Signals, Aldershot, on their charming and well-organised annual ball. Their choice of the R.E. theatre for the occasion was a happy one. Judging by the number of guests who stayed the course, there is little doubt that the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who had the good fortune to be invited.

To 1st Divl Signals on winning the inter-Company competition for the Willan novices boxing trophy, season 1930-31. Nor do we forget the creditable efforts made by our own Company teams to qualify. It was, indeed, most unfortunate that the influenza epidemic should have depleted our teams so—especially No. 1 Company's—after the good training which had been organised. We accord the warmest praise to those who filled the gaps at the eleventh hour and fought so well—particularly Signalman Bowen, who had not fully recovered from an attack of 'flu and was hardly fit. I certainly must not forget to mention those who did so much between the rounds to encourage the boxers with their vocal support.

To the 4th Divl Signals on qualifying for the semi-finals of the Army Association football competition. Best of luck to you in the competition!

To Egypt Signals on their fine performance to date in the best all-round unit competition. We are out-and-out advocates of "games for the majority," and the self-contained teams produced by Egypt Signals provide a great example of what can be done to foster and achieve all-round success in support.

To our hockey team on qualifying for the semi-finals of the Command tournament.

Arrivals.—From S.T.C., Signalmen Mortimer and Dyke. From overseas, C.S.M. Hope, Sergeants Handley and Thomas, and L/Corpl Church. A hearty welcome to you all!

Attachments.—Sergt Simmonds, R.A. Pay Corps, as n.c.o. cost accountant. Corporal Reen to 10th Railway Company, R.E., Longmoor, in replacement of Corpl Minchin, rejoined. Corporal Roberts to Depot Battalion, S.T.C., for temporary duty.

Departures.—To S.T.C., Corpl Humphrey. Overseas, Signalmen Aveling, Malley, Mawson, Cleverley, Fish and Parnell. On discharge, Sergt Hayes and Sigmn Nicoll. To the Army Reserve, L/Corpl Legg and Signalmen Brentnall and Walton. The best of luck to you all! Any news of yourselves or other old comrades in the future will always be welcome.

Courses.—L/Sergt Church, School of Education, awarded a "distinguished" certificate. L/Sergt Hayles obtained a Q.1 certificate at the Anti-Gas Wing, Small Arms School. L/Corpls McKowin and Harris qualified at Feltham as special instructors in driving and maintenance of M.T. vehicles.

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Corpl McKowin to be Corporal, 23/12/30; Sigmn Swinson to be A/L/Corpl, 1/2/31. Congratulations!

Education.—Signalmen Wall, Watson and Williams were awarded 2nd class certificates of education in November.

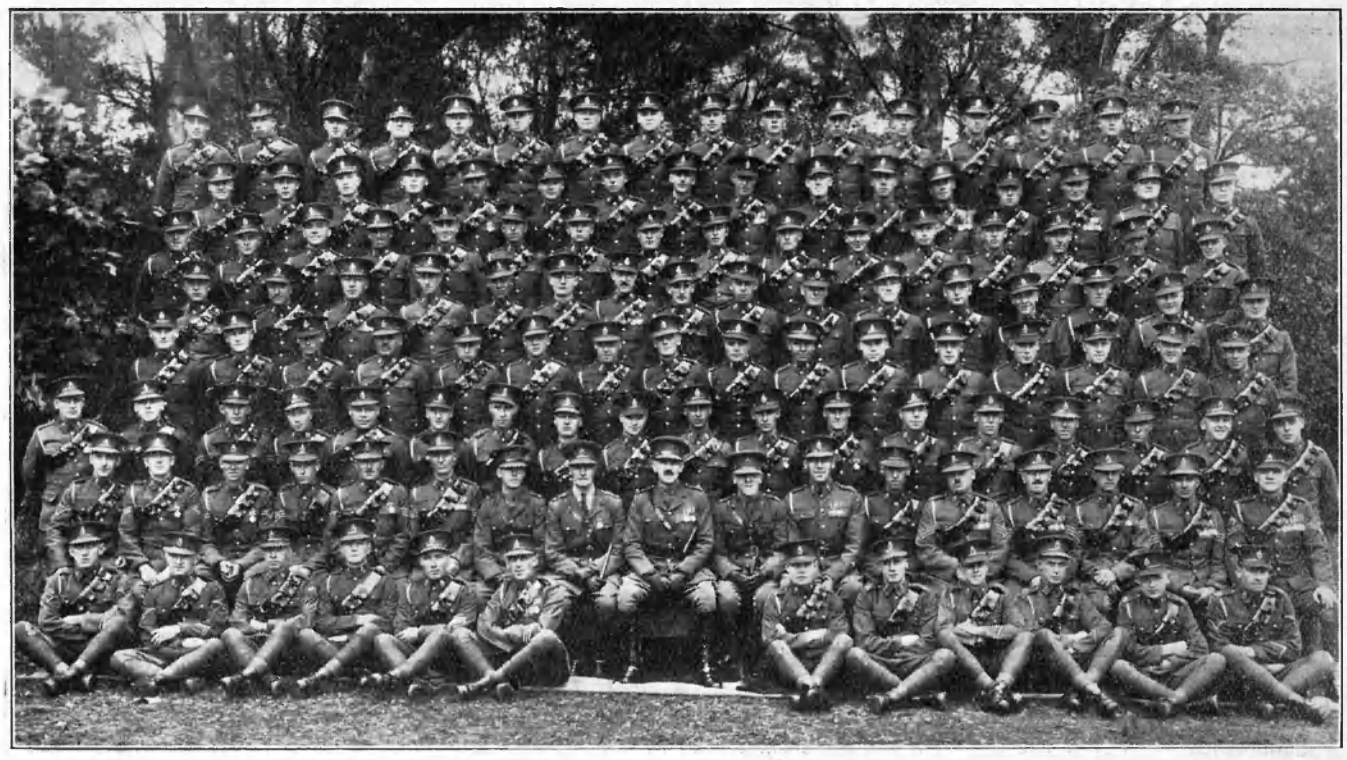
Service.—Corpl Stibbs extended his service to complete twelve years with the Colours.

C.S.M. Hailes, C.Q.M.S. Hore, and Sergeants Francis and Withers, are permitted to continue in the Service beyond twenty-one years to complete twenty-one years Colour service as from attaining the age of 18 years.

Corporals Tunnicliffe and Wheeler, and Signalmen Ranken and Edwards, re-engaged to complete twenty-one years with the Colours.

Sigmn Garratt extends his service to complete eight years with the Colours and four with the Reserve.

Trade Tests.—L/Corpl Catt (now in India) to op. sigs B.ii. L/Corpl Green, L/Corpl Rawlins, Signalmen Allum, Atkinson, Connachie, Dennett, Hogg, Hurditch, Revill, Yacomine, Delicate, Fowler, Mills, Meeson and Pearson to lineman C.ii. L/Corpl Denyer, Signalmen Hymus, Kirtley, Rutter, Ward and Woodhams to lineman C.iii.



No. 1 Company, A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

Musterings.—Drivers Woodhams and Ward remustered as signalmen; L/Corpl Rawlins and Sigmn Mills as linemen C.ii.; Signalmen Jones, Cartwright, Burge and Murrell as linemen C.iii. —all on February 1st.

Marriages.—At Widnes, on December 20th, Driver Mowbray to Miss P. Morant. At Farnham, on December 30th, Sigmn Mills to Miss E. Stacey. At Farnborough, Hants, on February 7th, L/Corpl Cook to Miss M. M. E. Fry. Our very best wishes to them all for their happiness in the future!

Obituary.—Our deepest sympathy is extended to Corporal and Mrs. Johnson in the loss of their son Victor Leslie, who died at Aldershot on January 23rd after a brief illness.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 Construction Section.

General.—Although the furlough season is ended and everybody duly returned, the Construction Section still carries on with a handful of men. The remainder have disappeared "somewhere," but they always appear on pay parade. Strange the faces one sees on this occasion!

Work in the Section at present consists of running through wire, and generally cleaning up those stores "that we never use" —as I heard one person say yesterday.

Work on the re-construction of the Tattoo routes commences shortly, and it is hoped that this will be the last of A Corps Signals' yearly tasks. The communications will be of a permanent nature, and will only require testing out yearly, thus allowing Section training to be carried out as it should be.

The second upgrading course ends this week, and we wish the candidates the best of luck for the Trade Boards. The undermentioned were successful at the last Board as shown:— L/Corpl Denyer, B.iii.; Signalmen Allum and O'Donnell, B.ii.; Signalmen Atkinson, Dennett, Delicate, Fowler, Mills, Pearson and Yacomine, C.ii.

All ranks of the Section extend their sympathy to Signalman Murrell in the great loss sustained by the death of his mother; also to ex-Sergt Morgan (Molly) late of D Troop, who has lost his wife.

No. 4 Company's note ref. bowls, in the January number, is noted. It *may* have been an ill wind that took the bowls, but it certainly *was* an ill wind that blew No. 4 Company into Hamilton Camp. Hush-hush vans, eh? Ah, well! Hush! hush!

Congratulations.—To the Company cross-country team on winning the Royal Signals Inter-Company Cross-Country League shield. The hard work put in by L/Sergt Jones and his men, together with the help given by Captain Thorn and the C.S.M., has had its reward, and we trust the shield has come to stay.

To Sandy McKowin on promotion to Corporal. Keep going, Mac!

To No. 1 Company boxing team on the fine show put up against No. 2 Company 1st Divl Signals in the inter-Company boxing for the Willan trophy. Influenza had taken three of our team at the last moment, and the volunteers (all from No 1 Construction Section) did admirably in their stead. It was sheer bad luck that we lost by just one point—10 to 11.

Departures.—Corpl Reen to Longmoor. Corpls Appleby and Tunnicliffe, and Sigmn Reeves, to India. Sigmn Fish to Aden. Good luck to you all!

Arrivals.—Corpl McKowin from an M.T. course at Feltham (another member of the already unpopular "smash and grab" raiders). Sigmn Donlan from No. 3 Company.

Conclusion.—What about a few notes from the Brains Department and the Cable Sections? Never say die! let's have something!

Till next month, cheerio! DANGLER.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Before going into the minor details of news (such as they are) I must, on behalf of No. 3 Company, offer the heartiest congratulations to our No. 1 Company on winning the inter-Company cross-country championship—due to excellent team work, the right spirit, and a succession of good runs. Well done! keep it up!

As so little has occurred during the past month, there seems to be nothing to write about. Education has, however, provided us with a few items which I think are worth mentioning. In

an examination held in Aldershot recently, the following were noted:—

Q.: What do you know of the battle of Bunker's Hill? A.: The battle of Bunker's Hill was fought during the Great War and was nicknamed "Hill 60."

Q.: Who was Cecil Rhodes? A.: Cecil Rhodes was a great South African statesman; an island off the south coast of Africa is named after him.

Q.: The battle of Mons? A.: The battle of Mons was fought at Ypres (!—?)

Further to this, and in view of the fact that the above are extracted from candidates for 2nd class, comes a letter from a candidate for 1st class as follows: "Sir—I submit this my application for a cancel(?)ation of my 1st class of education canditure" (!!—??)

Now, what more can one expect from this so-called educated Army?

Drafts.—On January 17th we lost three more other ranks: Signalmen Malley, Aveling and Mawson. Sigmn Mawson left No. 4 W/T Company, but was an old No. 3 Company-ite. Sigmn Malley will be missed as cook at this year's camp. Sigmn Aveling will be missed for a good pair of bandy legs. What ho, Jerry!

Arrivals.—From India, C.S.M. Hope C. and Sergt Robertson W. V. From Catterick, Signalmen Dyke W., Greaves and Reid R.

Departures.—To Catterick, Corpl Humphrey, posted (a tip to the mess room staff: watch your grub). Also to Catterick, but only on loan until May, Corpl Roberts.

Press Photograph.—On January 31st the Company got "done up" in their Sunday best to demonstrate to the Press the wonders of modern W.T. vehicles, etc.—but, alas! the Press did not turn up.

Condolences.—To Corpl Johnson in the loss of his son at the Louise Margaret Hospital.

Other Obituary.—To-morrow (February 14th) we say good-bye to a noted landmark, to wit Sigmn Parnell C. This well-known figure in Sing Sing society leaves for Aden, whither we wish him bon voyage, with a reminder that he is gone but *not* forgotten. E.H.F.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section

General.—We are in the throes of individual training. Nothing could be more terse than this announcement, but oh! the agony, bitterness, pathos and utter helplessness underlying those few bald words. Speech fails me—see sketch.

(Plan of an Aberdonian undertaker's coffin for a one-legged man)

Anyhow, to get back to this training. It's pretty ghastly. What I mean is, if inductance does cause a current to "lag," why not give the darned thing a start? It would simplify matters enormously, besides having the thrill of a handicap to brighten up a lecture.

Movement.—Corpl Roberts S. W. to the Depot Battalion on temporary attachment.

Coming Publications.—After an extensive and exhaustive preparation, I have pleasure in announcing the early publication of my new War book. This is written in an entirely new vein, being a collection of the best known reminiscences of such inimitable artistes as Fagin Cooper, Robert K. Fox, Sammy Kerr, Baldy Waters, etc. Strikingly illustrated, the whole is exceedingly well bound, whilst a free art plate of "the belt" is given away with each volume. Entitled "Plain Tales from the Gills," the price is 7/6 nett (obtainable from all booksellers).

Sunshine Sketches of our Community.—No. 2: "Sammy Kerr" (by Slung out of Ireland). A well-built and tried colt. A dear old lady of Ash once described his features as being "just too benign," but a rapid census of opinion from the stable in general confirms the thought that "four by eleven" would be a more exact estimate. Owned by Mr, Friary, he has already carried the popular colours of claret and black to victory, and should do so again before long. Is the possessor of a fine "barrow tone" voice, his rendering of the well-known "Raspberries in G Minor" being an extremely capable performance. Can also render this song in A, C, F sharp, and profusion—thus showing his remarkable command over tone.

No. 3: "Fagin Cooper" (by Never out of Debt). Nature patterned him, and when she had done she just threw away the copyright—and we don't blame her!

The remarkable feature of this heavily built animal is his abnormal cunning, especially when racing. Ran second to "George Washington" in last year's Truth Stakes, and inspired several critics by his performance. Is the composer of "Little White Lies" and other well-known successes.

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Well, we are still here, and not doing too badly. With reference to No. 2 Company's notes of last month, we regret that they do not see another one on the board, and we advise them to keep a weather eye on the trophies they already hold. This also applies to No. 3 Company. We are still in training.

The Willan Trophy.—This was received with great enthusiasm by us, and we must admit that Charlie bucked us up with his war-cry "Come on, the married men!" Our team consisted of Signalmen Gower, Payne, Philpott, Stilwell, Hull, Rawlinson and Timson, and they were presented with silver medals by Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge. No. 3 Company received bronze medals. Anyone wishing to see the trophy may enquire at No. 1 Company office, and we shall be pleased to explain just how and why we won it. We still have room for a few more.

Course.—Congratulations are extended to L/Corpl Roberts I. and L/Corpl Turner on passing their respective courses. Perhaps we shall see the A.E.C. doing a steady 50 m.p.h. again.

Arrivals.—Sigmn Friday arrived here on Tuesday (this is not a joke, by the way). He is a D.R., and we still have a few "pips" left.

Birth.—To L/Corpl and Mrs. Hardy, a son. Another lad for the Signals, eh, Charlie?

Revolver Training.—This being the open season for cowboys, it is no uncommon thing to meet fierce-looking gentlemen armed to the teeth and with an Al Capone expression on their features.

By the Way.—Heard in the C.Q.M.S. stores. C.Q.M.S.: "What the —— do you want?" Signalman: "I've come to pay my ammunition money, Quarter." C.Q.M.S.: "Oh! Sit down by the fire. Have a cigarette, mate? Now, in 1909, I remember ——" (ad lib.). Exit Signalman, forgetting to pay!

No. 2 Company.

We welcome back to the fold Snag Taylor and Driver Bamber after a short vacation at Catterick. We hope they have come back to stay.

Badgie Walsh has forsaken his trumpet for a topee and is now on his way to Aden. Good luck, Badgie! W.H.W.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Observations.—So few! The Company vanishes like morning dew, and yet we carry on and duty weeks are always done. "Roll on, my twelve!" the old sweats say, although they keep on signing on to do their twenty-one. But to my tale: the Company notes.

My vision floats to India's coral strand, whence we are sending two lance-corporals and a C.S.M. To them we wish good luck, and trust that they will oft remember a pleasant day spent here and some real good times in Aldershot.

Notification.—For the good of those it concerns, and more, a note is to be posted on our garage door, telling the world and other blighters that he who lends tools is on leave with the feller of the petrol lighter.

Meditations.—The journey's end. The barracks again, the haircuts, the guards, the picquets. Yes, the leave party are back to the fold, you bet; but now once again—with hearts all aflame, and thinking of a chat with nice Mr. Drage—they count up their best weekly wage.

Qualifications.—Now, some of our chaps, on new ratings bent, are keen on a rise, and with bright eyes intent they swot up their books, develop strange looks, and repair to the Trade Board, where, if all goes well, they'll answer cute questions on the sweet primary cell. Some money in sight will give them might to pass through condensers large and small; buzzers and sounders, they go through them all; and when, at last, the test is o'er and they've passed, they'll gently creep down to the pay office door and, like Oliver Twist, ask for some more. "More what?" says the corporal, looking blue. "More pay," says the bright lad; "I've got my B.ii."

Education.—Some more of our lads, not yet undergrads, are sitting for 2nds, and nightly they pore over figures and tomes. The area of circles, rectangles and domes is simple to them, for slyly they say that three times your pay, less double the number you thought of, is fourpence—which gives me the pip; some horses have more sense. However, we wish them good luck; we cannot do more. Like them, we'll be glad when the examination is over and the results appear on our neat Order board: our lads at the top with the best of awards.

Recreations.—On a bright day last month, when the rain kept away, an A Section team sallied forth to the fray. Their opponents, J Section, were ready to battle, and the ball was kicked off with a thunderous rattle. The referee smiled; the spectators roared as the first goal we netted went up on the board; and later that day, when full time drew nigh, we'd eight goals to our credit and nil to our debit—a smack in the eye for the critics who said we would lose, and not a bad score for a team that had never played soccer before.

A second encounter—and this time, H Section were playing a team fully trained to perfection (a daily performance on the large western square had brought forth the talent ne'er known to be there). Their play had improved; their defence was unmoved by charges that came in its direction. The forwards were sticking, the halves were just kicking, and the wings needed little correction. At the close of the match, the referee totalled the bill and found that we'd beaten H Section by ten—nil.

The Company Gazette.—To Aden, on February 14th, Sigmn Cunningham. To India, on the 26th, C.S.M. Adcock, L/Corpls Fraser and Cooper, Signalmen Clutton and Scrivener.

Personal.—Waten and Woodgate (Wag): What about it? Chippy.

Tug Jolly Jug wishes to hear from old pals, and sends congratulations to Daddy.

L/Corpl Salkeld (Brixton) would like to hear from Sigmn Hillier (Brixton), believed to be somewhere in Egypt.

The Last Word.—

And now, at last, I must finish my prose,
For slowly my eyes are beginning to close,
And Aldershot sleeps as it sinks in the mist.
My version is ended. I'm yours, FUTURIST.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

General.—The leave period has terminated, leaving one individual to continue his well-earned rest, and he happens to be the brainy chap who is usually responsible for these notes. Ours not being a gathering of habitual correspondents, it is hard to find a substitute. Still, if I keep in the dark, I'm sure no one will associate me with these results.

The situation in the unit remains unchanged, everyone being deeply engrossed in technical training and endeavouring to solve the problems set by the elusive person Mr. Ohms. Judging by the intelligent expression seen on some faces, these mysteries are gradually being solved. I would still like to ask J.S. whether a helio works D.C. or A.C.? (no prize is offered for the answer).

I don't know whether a rumour is in the air that the present trade depression is deepening, but I have noticed a sudden rush of the old 'uns to re-engage for twenty-one years. At any rate, that's another steady job for nine years.

Arrivals.—C.Q.M.S. Hart from Gibraltar, and L/Corpl Webb from Hong Kong. We haven't seen them yet, as they were granted leave from the boat, but we welcome them, and refuse to say anything about the merits of Blackdown. They will, no doubt, find out for themselves.

Departures.—Sigmn Tomes G., after getting his feet well in, has been pushed off to Egypt. I always said that it was a fine thing for these young lads to travel and see the world. I'm surprised that more of you don't volunteer!

Sigmn Danson has also left us, for Aden—the "promised land," from what I can make out on reading the notes from there. I would ask the Adenites to keep an eye on him and see that he doesn't get rash, because there's a certain young maid in Watchet who's eagerly waiting for his return and a bridal veil.

Sigmn Tebby has gone to Scarborough. We all wish *we* could!

Cruelty to Dumb Friends.—The following extract from a report submitted by a "coming" D.R. will, no doubt, be of interest to motor-cycle manufacturers and the authorities for the prevention of cruelty to dumb animals:—"Whilst proceeding to Aldershot, I noticed my bike to be pulling very badly, and it also had a very bad knock on. After delivering a letter at H.Q. I kicked over my bike and found that the knock had increased so much that I could not ride it, so I phoned up the office and reported it."

The Usual.—No. 3593339 is anxious to hear from Arthur Boyd. Pen and paper are cheap, Arturio; get down to it!

X.Y.Z.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

February 15th.

Arrivals.—L/Corpl Dirs J. H. from India, ex the *Somersetshire*, on 11th February. We did not see much of him, as he went on leave the following day. We shall make his acquaintance on his return.

Departures.—L/Corpl Wood J. and Signalmen Roberts J. and Soloman W. are due to leave for India on the 26th of this month, so by the time these notes appear in print they will be enjoying a pleasant voyage somewhere east of Suez. L/Corpl Wood has spent about eight years down here, so it is time he was found out. How some people creep away with it is beyond me! We wish them the best of luck in their new units. I can recommend them all to Peshawar.

Corpl Cooper E. went on fourteen days leave, pending transfer to the Army Reserve, on February 3rd. We now expect to see the promised boom in the motor trade (M.I.M.).

General.—A moan! Still, a soldier must have his grouch—or words to that effect. Now that the wireless set has been installed in the easy room, many more faces are to be seen there in the evenings. I hope the person who gave the raspberry to a certain item from London Regional derived some satisfaction therefrom. I can understand its being given in a real show, but to give the "bird" to someone a hundred miles away is the limit!

The ride was passed out on 30th January, and the order of merit was: 1, Sigmn Wright; 2, Sigmn Hodgson; 3, Sigmn Bradshaw. The turn-out was excellent, and the surprise packet was Hodgson, who confounded the critics. VON.

Southern Command Signal Company, Salisbury.

Foremen-of-Signals, Please Note.—All Foremen-of-Signals who have not already obtained a copy of their "Gazette" are asked to communicate with Q.M.S. (F-of-S) C. S. Roberts, M.B.E., at Government House, Portsmouth, Hants. The first issue is now on sale at 2/6 per copy; and all subsequent issues will be reduced to 1/0. Do not miss this publication, which is full of useful information to all Foremen and which has been compiled solely for their use and benefit.

Shocks.—Great excitement recently arose in the Salisbury Area. Last week Mr. C. S. Deall, of this Company, was detailed to accompany the C.O. on a motor tour for the purpose of checking stores at Devonport, Weymouth, Portsmouth, etc.

Mr. Deall occupied the rear seat! They had not proceeded far on their journey, however, before the car was brought to an abrupt halt by various minions of the law stationed at intervals along the roadside, who—eyeing the passenger with obvious suspicion—proceeded to make closer investigation, devoutly hoping (no doubt) that they had at last discovered the escaped convict for whom they were hunting.

We have it on good authority that Mr. Deall's replies to their interrogations were entirely satisfactory, and that the car and its occupants were finally allowed to proceed on their legitimate business. Precisely how many times they were held up in this undignified manner, I am not prepared to say, but we can only sympathise with Mr. Deall in the aspersions cast upon his respectability, and at the same time congratulate him upon the obvious bona-fides of his travelling companion—who, with "Jimmy" well to the foreground as a cap badge, undoubtedly prevented the situation from becoming really embarrassing. The moral is obvious!

Incidentally, Mr. Deall wishes to thank all his friends in the Wessex Area for their kind hospitality, and hopes to meet them again in the near future, either at Salisbury or at their respective Stations.

Men's Mixed Doubles.—Dame Rumour has been very busy again, and despite her reputation as a lying jade, we venture to extend our cordial congratulations to C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) B. T. Sherman and very best wishes for his future happiness.

Esprit de Corps.—We were well represented at the 3rd Divl Signals Sergeants' Mess annual dinner by C.S.M. Smart A. E., C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Aslett J., and Sergt Gibbs J., and the hearty welcome they received was much appreciated. The Smart—Gibbs vocal effort in "Jolly good fellows" earned well-merited applause.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of our members—Mr. H. R. Grant, a lineman employed by this Company at Devonport, who passed away on January 30th. We offer our deepest sympathy to his relatives and friends in their sad bereavement. COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—The unit has been fully occupied, since my last notes, on individual training, and I hope all who have started the first period will improve in ability, even if they do not succeed in gaining monetary benefit. With large drafts leaving for abroad, to the tune of about 120 n.c.o.s and men, we must have someone to take the place of the old hands.

Training was interrupted from February 2nd to 7th, so that all hands could assemble at the "Big Dig," i.e. the new sports ground—something very necessary in this Garrison. I hope all the lads who have helped in its making will have the pleasure of playing on it, or of watching in comfort (without the weary drag to Amesbury Road ground) those who do play. For the benefit of old Bulfordites, I must mention that the "Big Dig" is not the celebrated "Pimple," but a new sports ground on the west side of the Tidworth road and just to the north of Sandes' Home. It is intended that some day it shall become a most up-to-date sports ground, on the lines of the Command ground, Aldershot.

Building has now started on the officers' new quarters to the south of their new mess, and the garden has been fenced in. We shall soon be quite modern in that part of the lines, but I regret to say the modernising has not extended further north—for I always feel a bit touchy when I am in one of the old huts and one of our frequent Bulford breezes blows a little stronger than usual. However, the huts still stand, but for how much longer I am not prepared to say. Sufficient for me to say that the bed-cots seem to get pushed nearer to the centre of the room each night.

Thanks to Capt R. J. N. Solly, we are now able to enjoy a gramophone concert each Wednesday evening, in the beer bar—which we appreciate for the occasion. Capt Solly has so far conducted the concerts himself and has had crowded houses, which shows how much they are appreciated. We shall have to move to a larger room if the attendance grows any larger.

We were entertained in the restaurant by the N.A.A.F.I. "Fawn" concert party on February 6th, and an extraordinarily good show it was, too. The place was crowded, and the roof trembled at times—such was the applause. The best party we have had here!

It was with very real regret that we said goodbye to our C.O., Lieut.-Colonel C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., on February 9th. He embarks for India on the 12th. Our loss is India's gam. We wish you and Mrs. Le Cornu bon voyage, sir, and the best of good luck in the future. We trust the *Macedonia* will behave itself in the Bay.

Major E. W. J. Hobkirk has taken over command, pending the arrival of Lieut.-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C.

May I be so impertinent as to ask what the little book marked "K.R.R." (on the right of the table) in Lee's drawing in the February WIRE represents? We military men think it should be King's Regulations ("K.R.").

Sergeants' Mess.—Not a lot of water has passed under the bridge since you last heard of us, and we are still going strong.

The usual fortnightly whist drives and dances have been well attended, especially the last one, when we were glad to have with us a large party from A.F.V. Signals, Tidworth. I shall not mention the prize winners, or we should get the reputation of not being able to play whist in 3rd Divl Signals!

A billiards tournament is being held in the Garrison, and at the moment we head the table, with three matches to play. More of this, and names of the team, when it is over.

A handicap is being run in the mess, for which all members entered. One or two of the leading lights have fallen by the way, but Tich is still in, the other fellow only getting 99—a very near thing.

The annual dinner was held in the mess on January 31st, when fifty members and guests sat down. Our guests included ex-C.S.M. W. Johnson, D.C.M., ex-C.Q.M.S. Sweeting, M.M. (our Joe), ex-Staff-Sergt.-Farriers Styles and Doughty, ex-Sergeant C. Wyatt, C.S.M. Smart A. E. (S.C. Signal Company) C.S.M. Hopkins (A.F.V. Signals) and Sergeants Standley and Wright from the 43rd (T.A.) Divl Signals.

The R.S.M., in welcoming the guests, said we were delighted to have so many with us, and expressed regret that one or two particular old friends were unable to be present. In a brief resume of the work and play of the year, he congratulated the

old-timers on the foundations they had helped to lay, pointed to the numerous pots we had won in the field of sport, and commented on the fact that the unit had received nothing but praise for its work throughout the year.

He thanked the w.o.s and n.c.o.s of the unit for their co-operation and the good spirit that existed, and said that it was only by that good spirit and co-operation that anything could be well done, either in the Service or out of it.

Mention was made of our assistance to T.A. units during the year, and the R.S.M. said that if our assistance was as valuable as had been reported, he hoped we should be able to send somebody every year. He could assure the T.A. units that there would be no lack of volunteers in that direction, owing to the splendid treatment our lads had received at their hands.

The toast was then given, with musical honours. Replies were made by Mr. Johnson, C.S.M. Smart, C.S.M. Hopkins and Sergt Studley (P.S.I.). Each had something very apt to say, and all agreed that an annual dinner was a very-much-looked-for occasion.

After dinner the "Local Lads" concert party entertained us for a while, and chorus singing and yarns went on till midnight, when a very merry party regretfully broke up.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Pipe H., West E. R. and Crawford from S.T.C., on 24th and 26th January, and Signalmen Cowen H. and Curran W., from Training Battalion, on the 30th. Sigmn Rushmere from Training Battalion on February 3rd, and L/Corporals Shorrock and Hipwood and five Signalmen from India on the 10th.

Marriage.—Sigmn Richardson S. to Jessie Lavinia Buttifant, at Minster, Ramsgate, on December 26th.

Births.—To C.S.M. and Mrs. Rowe a son (Gerald Anthony Butler) at Tidworth, on January 19th. To Sigmn and Mrs. F. White a son (Derek John) at Tidworth, on September 29th, 1930.

Re-Engagements.—Sergt Vignaux, Corpl Tennant and L/Sgt Pack, to complete twenty-one years.

Courses.—Sergt Tinsley obtained Q.i. at the School of Education, Shorncliffe. Corpl McKenzie obtained Q at a fire fighting course, Aldershot.

Education.—Signalmen Richardson, Cloke and Marston were awarded 2nd class certificates on December 22nd.

Promotions and Appointments.—F/Sergeant Garnett to be F/S/Sergeant, w.e.f. 22/1/31.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

No. 2 Company.

The furlough season ended abruptly with the New Year, and in spite of a great shortage of men, individual training began in earnest. An operator signals course under the guidance of Corpl Freemantle, a recruits ride under L/Corpl Rosie, and later an n.c.o.s ride, were started.

The inclement weather provided mixed blessings. It impeded the instruction of the ride, but made falling off a pleasure—as the ground was so beautifully soft!

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

General.—It is with regret that we have to report a serious accident to our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., in the hunting field. A restless horse kicked the colonel on the leg, causing a compound fracture. It is the wish of the whole unit to see him recover quickly and return to us again.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Sergt Fegan C. P. in the death of his father. Mr. Fegan was an old R.E., and it was only last year that he paid a visit to the Depot Mess of the Royal Signals at Catterick.

The weekly all ranks dances are still being held, and every effort is being made to make each succeeding dance outbid its predecessor in popularity. A series of waltzing competitions is now being held each week, the winners and runners-up receiving a prize. They will also compete in a grand finale during March. A professional dancer gives lessons each week, so now is your opportunity to learn!

The N.A.A.F.I. concert party paid us a visit, and an excellent show was witnessed in the gymnasium. "We would like another visit soon," said we to the P.R.I. Granted!

Congratulations to the 4th Divl Signals on their splendid efforts in the Army football cup competition.

Arrivals and departures have been numerous. A hearty welcome is extended to the former, and au revoir to the latter. We are very pleased to see Lieut Wintle with us again, and hope he will soon be fit to help us once more in the sporting world.

The first period of individual training is nearing its close, and we hope for a 100% pass from all squads. We shall be busy in the second period, as we have a squad of S.A.s from the T.B. for an operator signals course.

Congratulations to Sigmn Elliott A. S. on his marriage to Miss Ellen Sedden Sanderson, at Scarborough, on January 24th.

Our Budding Recruits.—The following answers appeared in the E. and M. papers of recent S.A. squads.

(a) A conductor is anything that will attract.

(b) The reason why the earth is a good conductor is because it is a good magnet.

(c) It is said that if you liken a magnet to a stream, and a man is swimming away from you in that stream, his head is pointing to the north pole.

(d) To find which is the N. pole of a magnet:—"Get a piece of iron and an old file and keep rubbing the iron in a straight direction from left to right one way until you have got all the atoms running in one direction."

(e) The E.M.F. for an S cell is that it is always ready for use.

Heard in the Stables.—A: "You know, corporal, you should clip two horses a day." B.: "Can only manage one, sir." A.: "Look here! you've only clipped half one to-day." B.: "Yes, sir; it's half a day to-day."

We would like to know.—Whether the horse with the green tail has died yet? Whether our last draft to India were sea-sick, Leslie? Who burnt out the valve filaments in the Corporals' Mess wireless set?

Sergeants' Mess.—The second whist drive and dance was held on Wednesday, February 4th, and was voted a success, although very few turned up for the whist.

The monthly dinner followed the Mess meeting, and Mr. Jiggs provided tripe and onions. I didn't hear the remarks of Mr. Dinty Moore, but we notice Jiggs has lost his poodle.

Apres dinner the final of the billiards sealed handicap was played, and C.S.M. Sharpley W. O. R. beat Sergt Penfold A. in a 200-up game.

"Now for the next one," said George to the break-timers. More sugar, please. R.O.B.

Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

Victoria Barracks, February 14th.

The year 1931 looks like being a very busy one, with its additional complications of a Tattoo, combined operations with the Navy, and extra lines to be laid across Belfast Lough for the benefit of reclamation workers labouring in the danger zone of Kinnegar ranges. However, when our numbers are up to strength, I have no doubt we shall successfully cope with this. At present we are very short and anxiously await posting orders.

Arrivals.—The following have arrived recently:—Corporal Tilling from Aldershot, L/Corpl Salmon from China, Sigmn Pirie from F Company, T.B., and Signalmen Roy and Barker from Catterick. We hope to have Sergt Handley from India and Sigmn Simmonds from Spike Island with us shortly. We welcome them all, and hope their stay will be a long and enjoyable one.

Departures.—The following have left us for abroad via Catterick:—Cpl Gandey, L/Corporals Bartlett, Harries and Wilkin, Signalmen Gibbon, Simmonds, Crompton, Carville, Mullin, Milligan, Paul, Burton and Davis. We are very sorry to lose them, and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Birth.—We congratulate L/Corpl and Mrs. Mills on the arrival of a son.

Influenza.—A general epidemic of 'flu has not hit us very hard, except for the senior ranks families. The C.O.s family have all been in bed, as have Sergeants Reade's and Huggett's. However, they are now recovered or very nearly so, and we hope there will be no further cases. We all gargle carefully every morning with the usual noxious-looking red fluid.

UNITS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

19th January.

General.—Now that everybody has got rid of the Christmas and New Year feeling, we are gradually settling down to our normal routine of looking after drafts, speeding a few (a very few!) of the old hands to the land of the talkies and motor-coaches, and generally justifying our existence.

Christmas.—December 30th saw the last of the annual festivities in the form of a dance held by the junior n.c.o.s and men of the Centre. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all who attended, and judging by the way the refreshments (liquid and solid) disappeared, I am certain that there are a few who will very vividly remember their first Christmas in India! Corporal Way and his committee are to be congratulated on their efforts—they did us well.

Proclamation Parade.—This hardy annual took place on the local racecourse on January 1st. Two Battalions were furnished by this Centre—one British and three Indian Companies to each—and, headed by our Commandant, Colonel E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., we acquitted ourselves in a manner befitting Signals, receiving a " good " chit from the Brigade Commander.

Education.—The results of the October examination have just come to hand, and we are justly proud of the following, who have assisted us to keep up " the 100% pass " standard. Congratulations to those who have won, and good luck to those who have to fight another day.

For the special certificate, U/L/Corpl Dean satisfied the examiners in English " C " and obtained a " D " in maths " B " and physics E. & M. L/Corpl Carter E. A. passed in English " C " and maths " B." Sergt McIntosh A. and L/Sergt Ellis J. passed in English " C." Sigmn Cassidy passed in maths " B."

The 1st class candidates present a formidable roll. Sergeants King, Moult, Barlow and Galtress, U/L/Corpl Lane, and Sigmn Kells were presented with certificates. Sergeants Galtress and Barlow obtained a " D " in map-reading, and Sergt Moult a " D " in mathematics.

The following were successful in passing in the subjects shown:—Sergt Watford, English and maths; Sergt Bramwell, English; U/L/Corpl Barker, geography and map reading; Sigmn Coker, English, maths and map reading; Sigmn Payne, English and map reading; Sigmn Storrie, map reading.

Marriages.—This is a somewhat unusual heading under these notes, but the following casualties have taken place amongst our members during the past year. Belated, but none the less sincere, are our congratulations to you all. May all your troubles be little ones!

Sergt W. G. Pronger to Miss Annie Nicholson Blaylock, at Darlington, on April 28th. Corpl N. S. Lee to Miss Mary Cornick, at Darlington, on June 14th. Sergt A. H. G. Wooldridge to Miss Alice Norman Greening, at Portsmouth, on August 27th. Sergt W. Dilworth to Miss Ernestine Map Chapman, at Bushey, Herts, on September 2nd. Sergt A. J. P. Shiner to Miss Beatrice Eva Florence Udale, at Sialkot, on December 26th. Sergt E. A. T. Marchant to Miss Dora Aliwaline Emma Gittins, at Jubbulpore, on December 31st.

Mounted Sports.—The meeting was held on the Khamaria landing ground, some seven miles outside Jubbulpore, on the afternoon of January 10th, amidst sylvan surroundings and in an agreeable temperature. Spectators were treated to a versatile display of horsemanship and all that goes to make a " signaller."

Great credit is due to all who were responsible for making the afternoon the most enjoyable spent in Jubbulpore for some considerable time. Notes on the various events can be read by turning to our Sports reports.

The appreciation of our guests is best shown by the following extract from a letter received from the Brigade Commander on the 11th:—" . . . . . It was a splendid show and (like all good shows) one realises what it has entailed to prepare and produce. Everyone enjoyed it enormously, and personally I haven't the slightest doubt that it will prove to be the best entertainment of the Jubbulpore festivities. I congratulate you most heartily, and also all your officers and n.c.o.s, who made wonderful hosts. You can lean back now and whisper ' Through.' "

Jubbulpore Week.—One of the most interesting events during this week was the Jubbulpore Horse Show, organised by the Nerbudda Vale Hunt and held on Tuesday, 13th January. Signals were there in force and obtained better results than in previous years.

During the preliminary heats, two of our horses qualified for the finals of the other ranks jumping, and five qualified to run in the last stage of the handy hunter competition.

Capt D. D. Bannerman's " Dorowin " and Lieut E. D. Good's " Hill Hog " and " St. Razine " were among the twelve left in for the final of the open jumping.

On the morning of the actual show day, the ball was set rolling by Jemadar Mir Alum Khan getting second place with No. 48 in the Indian officers' charger class.

Naik Dorai Swamy, with No. 35 (the same horse that secured him first place last year) was placed third in the Troop horse in drill order competition.

Lieut. E. D. Good pleased all by securing the red rosette in the hunter class with " Hill Hog."

D Company's team of mules, as usual, secured the cup and medals for the best team of three pack mules.

Sergt W. Dilworth, on " Jerry," tied (after three runs and a total of 8½ faults) with Company Havildar-Major Ganpat Rao (also of D Company, S.T. Battalion) on " Kangaroo Baby," for first place in the other ranks jumping. A further run decided the final result in favour of Sergeant Dilworth.

Capt W. F. H. Herdon's " Molly " captured first place in the ladies' hack (astride) class.

And, finally, a most successful day was brought to a close by Sergt Gregory's " Tatters " and Lieut. E. D. Good's " Hill Hog " obtaining second and third places respectively in the handy hunter competition.

Summing up, we see that the S.T.C. (India) secured four firsts, three seconds, and two thirds. This is an extremely gratifying result—more particularly so when one considers how soon this show followed after the mounted sports; and we hope that next year will see similar or even better results.

The above successes were added to at the race meeting on Saturday, January 17th, when Lieut. E. D. Good's " Silvo " won the Governor's 'chase, and Sergt Gregory's " Flash Alf " was placed first in the Kiwi 'chase.

Drafts.—Units at home will be pleased to note that the draft which sailed on H.M.T. *Dorsetshire* from Southampton on December 16th was safely taken into the fold on January 9th, looking very fit and well—although, judging by various comments, the voyage was a tragedy for those who had not followed advice on what to do in case of sea-sickness. Nuff said!

Vocational Training.—On the morning of January 12th no visible signs of tearfulness were observed in the unit, in spite of the fact that L/Corporals Guthrie and Pratt had just departed for transfer to the home establishment, to undergo a course of vocational training in farm work, with a view to eventually

emigrating to Canada. Good luck to you both! Shall we write to the Governor, Geoff?

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

January, 1931.

General.—Line and Wireless Companies have each, in turn, been out on schemes at camp. Few remain in barracks, and little current news is available for publication.

Another boat left Karachi on January 18th, carrying away a few more of our already depleted Corps to dear old rainy England. Most of us left our good-byes until Sunday morning (there being no church parade goes without saying) but owing to a message from the embarkation authorities that no passes to go aboard would be allowed, many were disappointed.

The old school buildings have been demolished, and the old bath-house converted into a mineral water factory. Signs of change. The rumour that the Corps will go to Quetta is gaining strength from mouth to mouth, and if true, the prospect of moving from such a pleasant place as Karachi does not seem very attractive, despite the welcome 2nd Divl will give us.

Christmas.—The festivities were quiet this year, mainly owing to the fact that the P.R.I. had no money to spend, but Corporals Davis and Frost, L/Corpl Hockley, Sigmn Knight, and their few helpers did more than their share in making the holidays enjoyable for those in barracks. (It will be noticed that the same names occur with monotonous regularity when there is any entertainment to cater for. Time for new blood!)

On Boxing Day there was a comic football match and a ladies' hockey match, and the latter event deserves special mention. "Ladies' match," yes; but why "hockey" between those two words, I can't imagine. Possibly because they played with hockey sticks and a hockey ball on the hockey pitch. I felt quite safe on the touchline. The teams shared no goals, which was quite a true reflection of the fracas.

A pagal gymkhana and mounted sports concluded the Christmas programme proper, and on the 29th the annual invitat on carnival dance was held. It was marred only by the inevitable complaint of "Not enough ladies," but apart from that it was a highly successful affair. Perhaps, if and when we do go to Quetta, we may have a respectable hall in which to hold our dances. At present it is very hard work for the committee. Corpl Baker, L/Corpl Hockley, and Signalmen Kettridge, Harwood and Aldridge, to camouflage the place into any semblance of a dance hall.

Arrival.—2/Lieut P. J. Palmer from U.K.

Departures.—Capt C. H. Crouch, M.C., to S.T.C. (India), Jubbulpore. C.S.M.s Cates and Hope, Sergt Mears, L/Corporals Turner and Hipwood, Signalmen Dennison, Raftery, Poole, Burke E. and Callely to U.K. on January 18th. Good luck to all. wherever you are.

More Arrivals.—A daughter was born to Sergeant and Mrs. Bishop on New Year's Day. We congratulate the happy parents, and Sergt Bishop on his "fishing" yarns (you know!) about the weight of his baby.

Education.—Congratulations to the following on attaining their respective certificates:—Special, L/Corpl Davies M. W.; 1st class, Signalmen Knox R. and Anstey.

Promotion.—Corpl Coy B. to be L/Sergeant w.e.f. 28/11/30.

Humorous.—Republished from Part I. Orders:—"Taps will on no account be turned on in the bath-house." A seasonable order at this time of the year!

A certain lady, playing tennis one day, found new balls to play with, and after a game or two she set one chokra the task of bouncing the balls about, as they were too hard to play with. Almost a subject for Bateman! AKORPZ.

Sergeants' Mess.

February 1st.

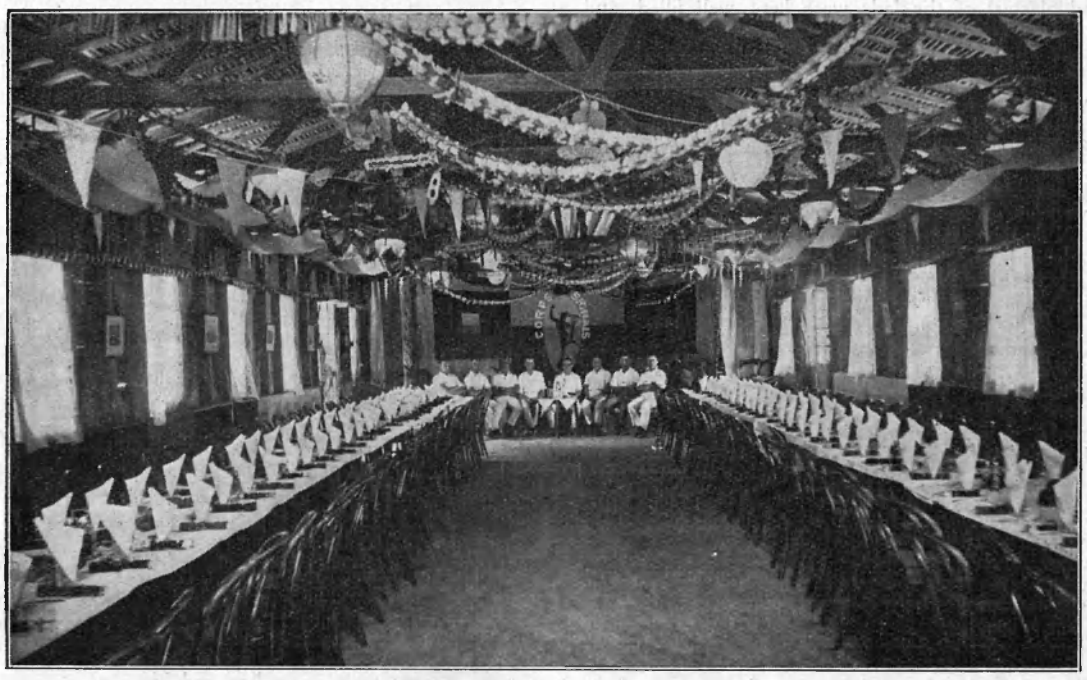
Apologies are due to our readers for the lack of notes during the past three months; but owing to the pressure of work during training, etc., we have been unable to get down to it.

Congratulatory.—We were pleased to welcome back Major P. A. Hitchcock, O.B.E., M.C., from convalescent furlough, in October, and to see him looking so much better.

Socials.—On Monday, October 13th, 1930, we held a farewell dance to C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. McGregor, who left us for home establishment per the *Somersetshire* on the 15th, and to Sergt J. Rolfe, who left us for civilian life by the same boat.

C.Q.M.S. McGregor, who joined this unit in October, 1921, has spent nearly eleven years in India, being one of the first Indian draft which left Crowborough on December 19th, 1919. Sergt Rolfe has completed nearly twenty-two years service, of which sixteen have been spent with the Indian Signal Corps—the last ten years being with A Corps Signals, Karachi.

A very enjoyable evening was spent, during which Sergt Rolfe



Dining Hall and Staff, Christmas, 1930.

was presented with a suitably inscribed gold watch and an illuminated address, in which the whole Mess, whilst expressing regret at losing one who had endeared himself to all ranks during the time he spent with the unit, wished him the best of everything in his new sphere of life.

During November we had our annual visit from H.M.S. *Emerald* of the East Indies Squadron. As this was her third visit, the crew were quite old friends, and some very enjoyable evenings were spent in dances and games tournaments. Unfortunately, they have now gone home to refit, so we shall have all strange faces with us when she returns this year.

We were visited over the Christmas period by H.M.S. *Effingham*, the flag-ship of H.E. the Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Squadron. Although strangers to Karachi, the chief and petty officers quickly made themselves known to the Mess, and several happy evenings were spent, about which more in our Christmas notes.

Christmas.—Our Christmas festivities commenced on Christmas Eve with the children's Christmas tea and tree, held in the Mess, to which all the families of the unit were invited.

After the tea the Mess committee produced a wonderfully decorated tree, much to the admiration and joy of all the kiddies *and* their Uncle Nick, who at the last minute mysteriously turned into Father Christmas. There were toys for all the children, and a lucky dip for the worried ladies who found husbands and children a great responsibility whilst the presents were being distributed. However, everybody had a very enjoyable time and went home about 7 p.m., with the kiddies tired and well fed.

At 10 p.m. we held the annual Christmas draw, followed by a social and dance. The draw did not please all of us ; only two members, who drew all the whisky and port between them and immediately adjourned to a quiet corner of the mess, had the best of it. They were not seen again until late the next day!

The dance and social which followed was very well attended by friends in the Station and by the chief and petty officers of H.M.S. *Effingham*, and it is believed that dawn was breaking on Christmas Day when the last of the weary revellers found their way home.

Christmas Day.—Church parade was as strong as possible. Enough said! However, as this was followed by the junior n.c.o.s and men's dinner at 1 p.m., everyone promptly forgot his sorrows and tucked in to the good fare. The officers and members of the sergeants' mess rolled up in force to see that the plates (and glasses) of the lads were kept well filled, and carried out their duties extraordinarily well. The rest of the day was spent as a holiday, recuperating from the effects of the morning.

Boxing Day.—We commenced the day at 11.30 a.m. with a fancy dress football match between the officers and senior n.c.o.s v. the rest of the unit. The costumes were very bright and, in some cases, very original. Our C.O., Major P. A. Hitchcock, proved a very capable and fair referee, the game ending in a draw after a very exciting and thirsty game.

This was followed by a ladies v. gentlemen hockey match, but owing to the numerous ladies who insisted on taking part in it, the gentlemen got "windy" and backed out ("Stout fellows!) so the ladies shared it between themselves.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess held their annual dinner on Boxing Day, commencing at 8.30 p.m., when nearly seventy members and guests sat down. A very enjoyable menu was produced by the Cafe Grand. A large and varied quantity of liquid refreshment was dispensed by Sergt Loton and his untiring band of assistants, so that by ten o'clock everybody was well tuned up and ready to trip the light fantastic when the band began to play. This was continued until later in the early hours of the next day than it should have been, when those who *could* rode or rolled home.

The dance was also in the nature of a farewell to C.S.M. and Mrs. Hope, who, much to everybody's regret, were departing to Bombay on January 1st en route to U.K. for home establishment. In a short farewell speech, after dinner, R.S.M. Wray wished them bon voyage and a cushy station in England, and at the same time thanked C.S.M. Hope, on behalf of the members, for the untiring work and assistance he had given the Mess both as P.M.C. and as an ordinary member.

During the afternoon of the 29th the mounted events were held, chief of these being the annual jumping competition between officers and senior n.c.o.s.

The teams lined up as follows:—Officers, Captains D. H. Cunynghame, W. M. Clapp, M.B.E. and C. D. Clapp, and Jemadar Ahmed Khan. Senior n.c.o.s, R.S.M. G. Wray, M.M., and Sergeants A. Taylor, J. Williams and J. Anderson.

Some very fine jumping was witnessed, the senior n.c.o.s winning by eleven points. The best rounds were made by R.S.M. Wray and Jemadar Ahmed Khan, who tied with a loss of only 1½ points each. Major P. A. Hitchcock very kindly acted as umpire throughout the afternoon.

On Saturday, January 10th, we held a farewell dance in the mess to C.S.M. and Mrs. Cates, who left for England on the 18th per the *Somersetshire*. C.S.M. Cates, who has completed nearly twenty-two years service, formerly served with the 21st Lancers, and joined the Indian Signal Corps in 1915. After seeing active service in Mesopotamia and Palestine, he eventually came to roost in A Corps Signals in January, 1922, and has remained here ever since.

In presenting him with an illuminated address and a cheque, together with an order on a London firm for two armchairs, R.S.M. Wray said the members were very sorry at having to say farewell to one of their oldest members, who had won the respect of all from the C.O. downwards for the straightforward and able manner in which he had carried out his duties at all times.

On behalf of the unit, Major Hitchcock then thanked C.S.M. Cates for all he had done, not only inside the unit itself but outside on the sports field, where his help had always been unsparingly and cheerfully given, both as a hockey and cricket player and latterly as a hockey umpire.

Arrivals.—Sergeants Williams and Mills and L/Sergt Knox from Blighty furlough. Sergt Nicholson from Quetta. L/Sergt Cheverton from A.H.Q., Delhi.

Departures.—C.S.M. Cates and Sergt Rolfe for civvy life. C.S.M. Hope and family, C.Q.M.S. McGregor and family, and Sergt Mears, to home establishment. L/Sergt Cole to A.H.Q., Delhi. L/Sergt McLaughlan temporarily attached to the Burma Police as an instructor in wireless. Sergt and Mrs. Cowan to Loralai. L/Sergt Knox to Fort Sandeman.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to Sergt Rice and L/Sergeants Coy and MacDonald on their respective advancements. W.G.

Peshawar District Signals.

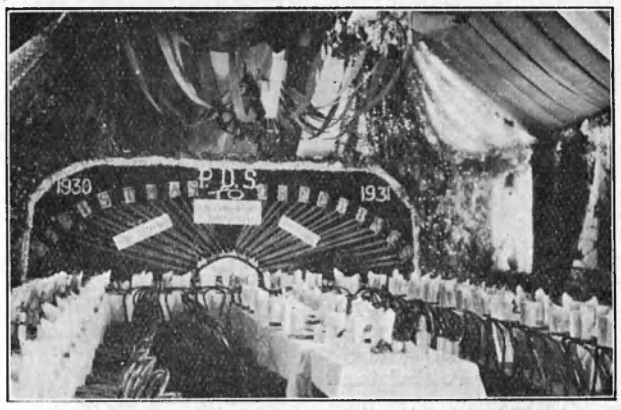
Peshawar, 18th January.

Holidays over, we are now stepping bravely into the New Year, wondering what it may have in store for us. Our wishes to all are that they will find 1931 a year of prosperity and full of good fortune.

Smudger and his Staff.

Christmas festivities were upheld in grand style again this year. The dinner was a great success, and although we had estimated a sitting of only 120, on the actual day there were about 140—this being due to the number of visitors we had in from our brother units in the Concessional Area and from Rawalpindi. It is hoped that they enjoyed their Christmas with us.

There proved to be plenty for all and then some left over. All who sat down to it voted the dinner most excellent, and thanks and appreciation are here extended to L/Corpl Smith W. and his staff, who were responsible for the entire preparation and serving of the dinner.



The Dining Hall, Christmas Day.

The usual toasts were drunk, and cheers given for our Commandant and officers. Capt C. A. Murray, our officiating Commandant, spoke a few words and asked us not to forget our C.O. (Major G. M. H. Henderson, O.B.E., M.C.) who was unfortunately absent. The reply was three resounding cheers that I feel sure he would have been proud to hear.

We all settled down then to enjoy the roast goose and duck, and " Smith's special " Christmas pudding—and we were not disappointed.

After Dinner.

After dinner the liquid refreshment circulated freely, and many remained where they were for the rest of the day, whilst others spent an enjoyable afternoon at the Peshawar races.

Other events during the holiday week included a hockey match, British officers and n.c.o.s v. Indian officers and n.c.o.s. The Indians proved too strong for us and won by 2—1 goals. Capt C. A. Murray played a very strenuous game on the right wing and scored our only goal in grand style.

There was also a football match, officers and n.c.o.s v. the signalmen. Here the signalmen proved their superiority and won the cup, kindly presented by His Benign Benevolence the Bishop of Bottlewottledorf.

After Dinner.

The unit band was in attendance and provided us with some fine renderings of the " Stein Song."

Needless to say, after the match the cup was filled, re-filled, and filled again—and with the constant handling, all the silver paper came off.

The corporals held their annual dinner on the night of December 31st, when we were again indebted to Smudger for a very fine show. C.S.M. Todd D. was in the chair, and the guests of the evening were our neighbours the corporals of No. 20 Squadron R.A.F. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and amongst the vocal contributions, Beefy's rendering of " Sonny Boy " was easily in a class of its own. The night ended in the old old style with the joining of hands and the singing of " Auld Lang Syne " at midnight.

Arrivals.—The following have joined the unit, and a hearty welcome is extended to them from all:—Lieut L. T. Shawcross, 2/Lieut J. R. Beaton, Sergt S. A. Rose and family from Rawalpindi, Corpl J. Swain from Meerut, and L/Corpl L. Melmore and Sigmn G. Williams from the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore.

Departures.—Major G. M. H. Henderson, O.B.E., M.C., to the Senior Officers' School, Belgaum. We all wish him the very best of luck.

The following have left us for the U.K. and they take with them our very best wishes for their future:—Sergt Thomas R. for transfer to the Territorial Staff, and L/Corpl Adams L. and Signalmen Carey A., Merritt W., Phillips W., Sweeney G. and Westgate W. for transfer to the Army Reserve.

Congratulations.—To Capt and Mrs. G. C. Winckley on the arrival of twin daughters. Both mother and children, we are pleased to hear, are progressing very favourably.

Personal.—L.H.S.: Haven't heard how the winkle business is progressing. Should like to see you. Shall be in U.K. this summer. Any chance? Reply. C.R.N. SIGS PESHDIST.

After Dinner.

Waziristan District Signals.

Razmak Brigade Signal Section.

Razmak, January 20th.

Hello! hello!! hello!!!—Yes, this is really Razmak calling at last. Dame Rumour had it that this Section had been washed off the map, but on wandering up here the writer discovered a real he-man Section in being (see Sports Notes).

Issues and Receipts.—To civvy street, on temporary loan (?), one part-worn signalman, Unwin pattern, ten years without a moan. Answers to the name of Percy. Embarked at Karachi en route to U.K. Cheerio, Percy! best wishes go with you from Wazdist.

By the time these notes appear in print, we shall have also drunk up to the following "dear departed." To civvy street, L/Corpl Robert Kenchington, Signalmen Bill Shelley, Freddie Pearce, Bert Vine, Harry Staite, and (last, but by no means least) Brownie Brown. To the home establishment, L/Sergt Lake, L/Corporals Bulley and Wootton, Signalmen Lewis and Pearson; and to a Terri(er)ble scrounge, Sergt Josie Collins. The best of luck to all in their new spheres!

To whom it may concern. Don't let Lewis see a hockey stick in Blighty, or he will eat it; he likes 'em tough.

Receipts to date, nil. However, a few brand-new soldiers are expected almost daily from Ordnance, or wherever it is they spring from. We hope they arrive complete with hockey sticks, etc.; they are needed.

Agony.—Tommy: Did you really do it? Pansy.

Can Anyone Tell Us?—What Barleux said in '21 regarding the sax? Does he still say it? Did Uncle Alfred agree with him?

What, really, is this griff graff groggle? Can D. Ipple still perform?

What has happened to Malaya?

As I Saw It (by our Tame Reporter)—Bashem v. Cosham (Duzal Fin trophy, 131st round).

Before three spectators and five dogs, on the Muddied Ridge ground, a fast and furious game was fought to a close finish. The following is an honest and impartial review of the game.

Jewisham of Cosham seized the bat in his teeth immediately before the game commenced and made a brilliant run round the centre circle. A spanking stroke behind the ear gave Mergle of Bashem possession, and tucking the ball into his right stocking, away he streaked toward the opposition's goal until a splendid three across the shins by Clook brought him down in the circle. Managing to grip half of the ball in his sound tooth, Blinsk of Trippem fame (recently acquired by Coshem for 7½ pie) made a great jump into the Bashem goal as the umpire blew his cornet for time.

A great game resulted in Bashem qualifying to meet the Twilight Twinklers by the odd try in one goal.

Next week's match should not be missed. It is due to be played on the Twinklers' new three-chip ground at 1.11 a.m. Entrance fee 5¾ Scissor coupons (no change given).

Full report in these pages (Editor permitting). OLIVE.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

January 19th.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we have to announce the sudden death of Farrier Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. Willsmore. Mrs. Willsmore died from pneumonia on January 7th after a very brief illness. The same morning her husband was taken to the British Military Hospital, Rawalpindi, also suffering from pneumonia, and he died three days later. All ranks of the unit offer the most sincere condolences to the relatives of the late Farrier Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. Willsmore.

Christmas Festivities.—Christmas has come and gone in the usual manner of Christmases, and has left not a few sadder but wiser men. The general programme was well organised, and everyone spent a very enjoyable five days holiday. The only hitch in the proceedings was the late arrival of the toys for the children's Christmas tree, but this was unavoidable and was in no way due to bad management on the part of the Christmas tree committee. We won't bore our readers with a detailed account of what everyone did and said, but append below a copy of the Christmas programme,

Signal Lines, Karawal Camp.

Showing Signal Office on the left and W/T Office on the right.

Tuesday, 23rd.—First round of six-a-side football tournament, hockey match, whist drive, and dance.

Wednesday, 24th.—Second round of six-a-side football tournament, and hockey match.

Thursday, 25th.—Christmas dinner, final of six-a-side football tournament, concert, and dance.

Friday, 26th.—Officers v. sergeants football match, sergeants' dinner, and mixed hockey match.

Saturday, 27th.—Football matches.

General.—The all ranks whist drives and dances continue to flourish, and are easily the best social entertainments in Rawalpindi. It is rumoured that an outsize in Newbigging Halls will have to be built if the attendance gets any larger.

The second Signals draft for the United Kingdom left Rawalpindi on January 15th. A few of our old hands went with it for transfer to the Army Reserve, and we wish them the best of luck in civil life.

Congratulations.—We offer our heartiest congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. Pope on the birth of a daughter (Eileen Noel) at Rawalpindi on Christmas Day.

To Sergt Madeley on promotion to that rank.

To L/Corporal Fray on obtaining his 1st class certificate of education.

To the R.Signals (Rawalpindi) football team on reaching the final of the Murree Brewery cup.

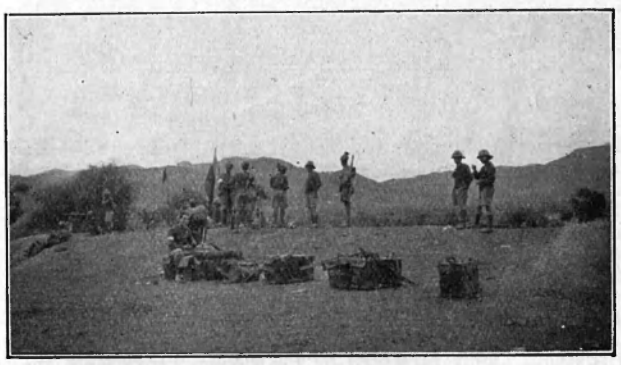
To Patrick Minor on smashing the tennis court purdah boxes after the mistri had taken three months (approx.) to make them (we wonder if that is why he changed his motor-cycle?)

To the n.c.o. who reported on Staff parade "No. 2 Company: two men present, otherwise absent and correct," and then screwed up the late pass roll and threw it away.

To the B.O.R. who succeeded in being placed on the *waiting list* for transfer to another department in India.

To the bearer who had eggs and bacon for breakfast.

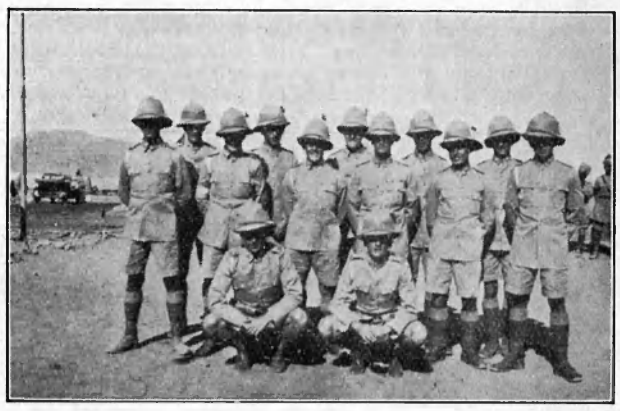
To anyone not mentioned above.



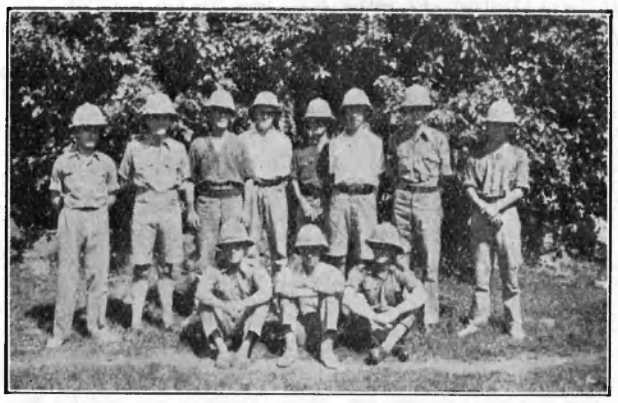
2nd Brigade Operators, Headquarters.

With the 1st Indian Divisional Signals.

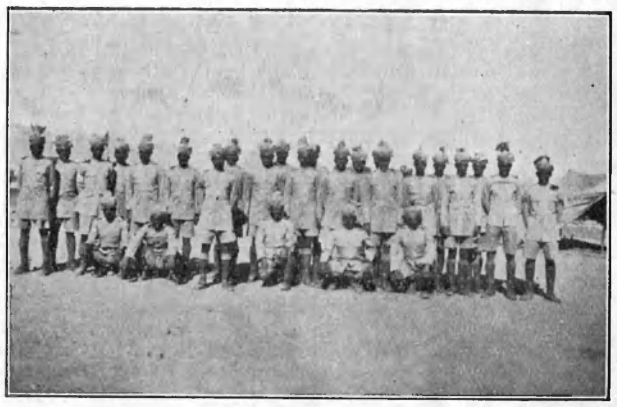
Section Training at Nowshera.



B.O.R.s, Bara Camp, November 11th.

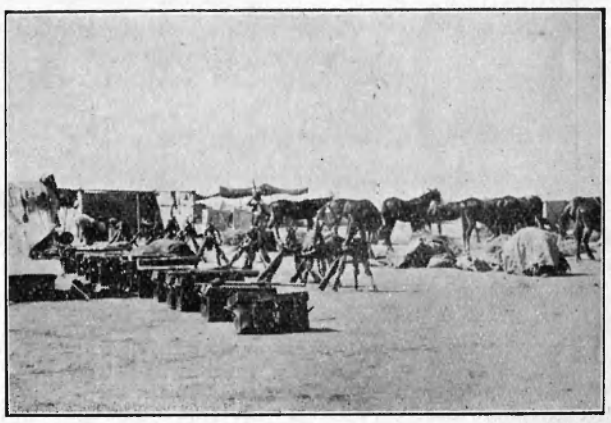


B.O.R.s at Nowshera.



I.O.R.s, Bara Camp, November 11th.

H.Q. Office on a Line Scheme at Nowshera.



Mules Lines, Abdara Camp.

[" **Certa Cito.**"—In the Sports Notes on page 38 of the January issue, B Corps Signals and 1st Indian Divisional Signals each made brief reference to a cricket match between them which had been stopped by bad light. We made comment, then, that the bad light must have troubled the scorers also, as the figures shown by the two reports did not agree in any one instance. We have, however, received a letter from the 1st Indian Divl Signals verifying the figures given by their correspondent, and we therefore give that statement due publicity as requested—ED.]

6-inch Howitzer Section, 15th Medium Battery.
Ready to Fire.

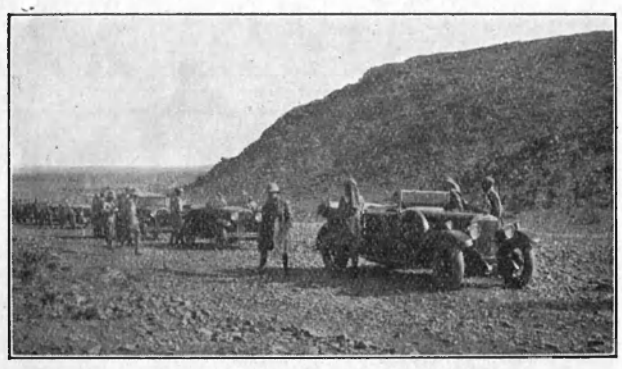
G Signal Section, Nowshera.

After many urgent requests from the higher authorities at the base, we have decided to give the benefit of our varied experiences in Frontier warfare to our hosts of enquirers in the Div.

Probably, after reading this, our contemporary scribes of J and K Sections will sit up and take notice, and perhaps (in the light of their own experiences) rudely question the veracity of some of the statements. But we think they will agree that, after being up here for six months, we should know something about it; and we are positive that they will further agree that since G Section went to the Frontier the trouble has abated considerably. However, all this is beside the point. Now for a few facts.

We were warned for Nowshera on August 11th, 1930, and had about three hours in which to pack up and move; but such was the efficiency of the Section in general that we did it easily. Our commander, by the way, arrived from Uppa Topa in a terrible hurry just as we were about to move off to the station.

After many harrowing adventures—which modesty prevents our putting into print—we arrived at our destination.



Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, C.-in-C. in India, at Samchaki Pass.

In view of the terrific heat at that time of the year, our quarters were hardly what one would call palatial. Mud huts, even when equipped with fans or punkahs, are no joke in a temperature of 115 degrees in the shade, especially with the added drawback of no bath-house. Of course, there was a water tap on the main road, and it was there we performed our ablutions.

One day the owner of the mud huts sold them over our heads, and so we had to do another quick move. This time our quarters were " semi-detached " and equipped with all modern inconveniences, flies, beetles, bats, ants, etc.

After three months of strenuous work, the Section began to look thin and wan, so the powers that be decided that a change would do no harm. On the 3rd November we moved to Abbottabad—a place with which the majority of the Section were acquainted. J Section accompanied us, and, with the personnel of B Corps Signals, who were already there, we formed quite a happy band.

When not engaged in trying to fascinate the female element of the Cantonment, we carried out various stunts with the Brigade. On one occasion we hired the *Town Hall*, and with the help of J Section we ran an all ranks dance which turned out a real success.

However, all good things must come to an end, and on 27th December, amidst the tears and lamentations of the whole population of Abbottabad (both of them) we returned to Nowshera. This time we had to *hoof it*, and on 2nd January we arrived here for the R.A. Practice Camp.

The camp was quite a pleasant affair, though the booming of the guns awakened memories of our former visit to the place when things were not quite so peaceful. The camp is all over now, and our old Brigade has departed for Kohat, whilst we remain in retirement pending the arrival of the 21st Indian Mountain Brigade.

Doubtless we shall see 'Pindi again one day, and in the excitement of the talkies our experiences in the " Great Alone " will be effaced.

Signal Office, Abdara Camp.

J Section, Abbottabad.

Christmas was spent in the usual festive manner by the Nebe boys. A party of carol singers, under the able leadership of " Barrel " Jones, entertained the various messes in Abbottabad on Christmas Eve. The messes we visited showed the greatest hospitality, and in consequence several of the choristers found the greatest difficult in returning home.

The Christmas dinner was a great success, and our thanks are due to Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. Perry, who worked very hard to make it so. Christmas Day wound up with a sing-song.

The holidays being over, individual training is now the order of the day.

The Signals have started a " Brighter Abbottabad " movement. This commenced with a dance which was held in the *Town Hall*. How the movement will end up—well, that remains to be seen.

Quite a lot of hidden talent has been discovered in the Section, and we have turned out a very good football team. Several matches have been played against the various Gurkha Battalions stationed in Abbottabad, and the number of wins up to the present time is in our favour.

Sergeant Crichton has joined us from B Corps Signals, to take charge of the wireless personnel attached to the Section.

Our best wishes are conveyed to L/Corpl Lambert and Sigmn Jackson, who recently left the Section for Rawalpindi en route to the United Kingdom for transfer to the Army Reserve.

K Signal Section.

This month there is not a great deal to write about. At present the main work being carried out is road making—and plenty of it! Thanks to the infantry we now have some roads, of sorts, to march on when we go out on reconnaissances. But, still, a third-class road is better than first-class stones, any day.

We were all sorry that the Section was not in Rawalpindi to join in the unit Christmas festivities, but we managed to enjoy ourselves in a quiet way in spite of the difficult circumstances. Our thanks are due to our O.C. for the splendid donation he made to the Christmas dinner fund, and also to others who subscribed.

There is one good point about being on active service: it encourages us to save. The majority of the Section are "mossing up," and there is a terrible number of "Thriftclubites" amongst the boys since we arrived on the Frontier. There's no doubt that, if we stay here much longer, we shall be able to buy rows of houses on our return to civilisation—that is, of course, *if* we return.

Has anyone ever seen sparks come out of a 7+3? Now, now, don't be alarmed! it was not on account of the pressure of work on the exchange. It happened a few nights ago, when a storm came across charged with so much electricity that the exchange was "clacking" and sending out sparks for about twenty minutes.

Well, after that I think it best to do as the exchange did, and close down.

The photographs published on other pages give the reader some idea of life on the Frontier. TONY RED.

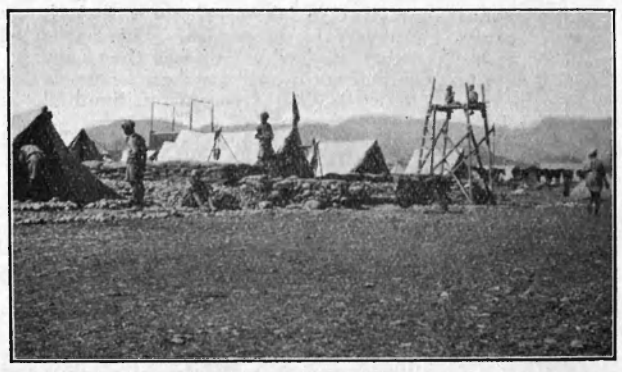
3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Unit Headquarters.

General.—Yes, as I remark, everything is general in Meerut these days and nights. But, generally speaking, the most general item—in which everyone is interested (including the orfiz boy)—is manœuvres. Thanks to the catarrh germs and to the old horses, the Eastern Command camp which was to be held at Delhi in this merry month of December was postponed—I nearly said cancelled (a vast difference, as Mac would say). If only the carburettors of the Morris six-wheelers would cease to "carb" and their magnetos refuse to "mag," then mayhap there would be no more of these jaunts into unknown territory. Oh, to be in England now that Amy is there!

The Meerut Branch of the Signals Association held a carnival dance on 22nd December. It was a very good show, and many are the thanks due to Capt J. E. F. Paton and his staff for their efforts in starting the festive season with a first-class Royal Signals show. The chief event on the programme was some Highland dancing by the pipers of the Black Watch.

On 18th December the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Brigadier H. Clementi Smith) and the Chief Signal Officer (Colonel H. L. Day) paid us a visit to inspect the unit at work and on parade. Everything went off in pure 3rd Divl style, and the Brigadier was very pleased with the parade and the semi-mechanised scheme.



9th Brigade Signal Office Observation Post, Miri Khel Camp.
With R.T. Tender in rear.

Arrivals.—We are very pleased to be able to report the return of Capt J. A. I. Watts to this unit after a well-earned leave in the U.K. Capt Watts joined us last year for a short spell before going to England, and we are very glad he has returned, as shortly the Garrison tournaments start—and with the aid of Capt Watts we hope to become possessors of all the cups and trophies this season! Welcome, sir, and may you stay with us for a very long time!

Departures.—We said goodbye to Capt T. B. Ferriday on December 8th. He was O.C. No. 1 Company, and during his tenure of office he did a great deal of good work for all ranks. The very best of good luck, sir!

The unit lost a very well known character on 9th December when Sergt F. Wickham left for the U.K. on discharge. Wherever one went, one could always find some who knew "old Bob"; from Pindi to Poona he was well known and liked. Goodbye, Bob; please leave me a chota top at Chatfield's.

Christmas.—Christmas comes but once a year, and when it comes it . . . . . I think I have said enough about Christmas. If you are not satisfied, please ask the orderly room sergeant.

Proclamation Day.—All who have been to this sunny land will know what that headline means. "The parade will order arms"—"The parade will fire a 'few days war.'"

Well, on January 1st (New Year's Day in Scotland!) we went to the Brigade parade ground (all except Joe Pallett and the butchers; sorry, Frank!) and having arrived there we really did show what we can do when we are roused. Brigadier Dashwood Strettel took the march past, and when I say he gave us a "plus" you will understand what a pukka good show we made. The remainder of the day was a holiday.

Inspections.—We have been through a very busy time these last few months. Army Headquarters must have been told that, to really see a very smart unit, they must come to Meerut.

On January 16th the General Officer-in-Chief Eastern Command paid us a visit, saw us on parade, and then inspected the workshops, vehicles and barracks. His report was that he had never seen a better turn-out, and as a mark of his appreciation he granted the unit a whole day's holiday, which we had on 19th January.

Congratulations.—We offer our heartiest congratulations to the following.

To C.Q.M.S. Eyres on his promotion to C.S.M.

To Sergt Griffin on being appointed C.Q.M.S. (Grif is just the right build for a quarter-bloke).

To Sergt Harper on being a good boy and being made fool—sorry! I mean, full Sergeant.

To Sergt Crummey and G Section on their absolutely tophole report from the Artillery Brigade for their good work at camp.

To Sergt Hinchley for not being found out for eighteen years. Good shooting, George!

To Sergt Gardner on attaining that rank.

To Sergt (Nobby) Hall on being able to read a map and annexing his 1st.

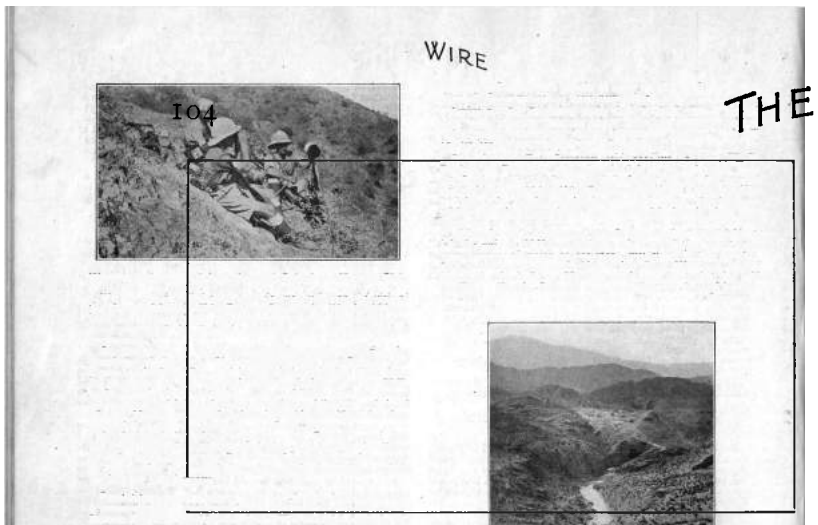
To Corpl Joe Pallett on obtaining his 2nd. I suppose, Joe, that you will be able to count the bricks now. I do hope that you will not "fail to differ." NOBBY.

No. 1 Company.

General.—The Eastern Command manœuvres which were to have been held at Delhi during December were, at the last minute, postponed owing to an outbreak of catarrh among the animals, including Steve's dog. This news was received with much glee, as going on these manœuvres meant coming home about Christmas Eve. And who wants to do that?

We have all settled down to our work under our new O.C., Capt F. K. Wilson, and we hope that his stay will a very long one. We are now wondering what manœuvres we *are* going on. In the meantime our loaned six-wheelers are having many cunning gadgets fitted.

Inspections.—On December 18th we were paid a visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief. We paraded and were inspected, and afterwards were seen at work on a scheme. The S.O.-in-C. was very much impressed with the turn-out and the work, and left us with the knowledge that the unit would always do its utmost in maintaining its good name ("Certa Cito").



Working helio to 2nd Brigade from 9th Brigade on Khajauri Plain

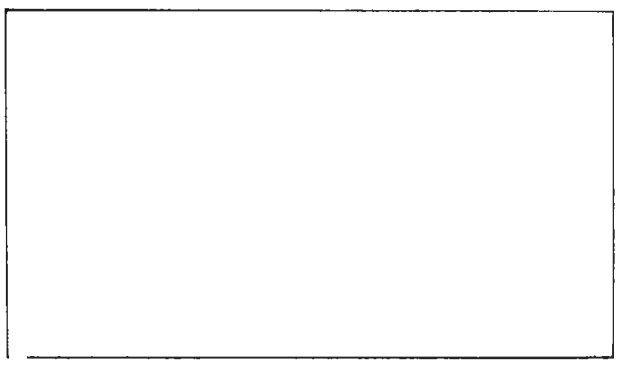
We were again called upon to "do our stuff" on the visit of the General Officer-in-Chief Eastern Command. We should have been inspected at Delhi, but owing to the fact that manœuvres were postponed the General could not carry out his original programme.

On his arrival at 11.00 hrs. we were on parade with the remainder of the unit. The inspection over, the General paid a visit to the horse-lines and inspected the animals. From here he journeyed to the technical stores and thence to the M.T. park. At the latter place he saw our Albions and the loaned six-wheelers which have been converted to mobile W/T and signal offices. Having expressed satisfaction with our ideas, he then proceeded to the barrack rooms and Institute.

At the conclusion of the inspection, the General stated that the alertness of all ranks combined with precision and cleanliness to make the unit the best Signal unit he had met. As a mark of appreciation he granted the unit a whole day holiday, which we had on 19th January.

Festivities.—On December 22nd the Signals Association held a carnival dance, which has been voted the best show seen in Meerut for some considerable time. The financial result is not to hand at the time of going to press, but I feel sure that the Association funds will benefit by a substantial amount. A novelty was given at this dance when, by kind permission of the commanding officer of the Black Watch, the pipers gave several Highland dances, which were received by the happy gathering with much applause and requests for encores. During the interlude, programmes painted with carnival characters by Sigmn Lloyd were auctioned by Capt J. E. F. Paton, and a goodly sum was realised.

Christmas.—Christmas has been and gone, Allah be praised! Everyone in the Company had a most happy time; some do say that it was the Christmas they had last year! The men's dining room was very nicely decorated. During the evening a social and dance was arranged by the committee, to whom many thanks are due, and everyone spent a very enjoyable time. For some of the Company this will be the last Christmas they will have in this country, and those who remain to carry on the good work wish them all the very best in their new sphere.



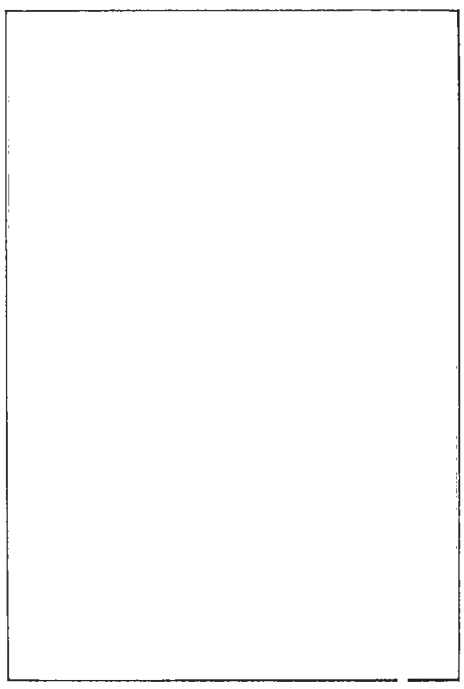
Section Armoured Cars, attached 9th Brigade

Arrivals.—On December 14th, Capt J. A. I. Watts arrived back from England and has taken over the adjutancy of the unit. We extend a very hearty welcome to you, sir, and will do our best to earn many "plus" marks.

Departures.—The Company said goodbye to Capt T. B. Ferriday on December 8th, when he left us on retirement from the Service. He had been our O.C. for the last twelve months and had interested himself in all our undertakings. Mrs. Ferriday had done a lot for the married families of the unit. Our heartiest wishes go with them for a very successful time in their new sphere.

Although not a member of the Company, Sergt F. Wickham left the unit for U.K. on discharge after completing twenty-two years service, of which he has spent twenty-one in this country. It is rather a strange coincidence, but Sergt Wickham started his service in India at Meerut and it was here that he said goodbye. Cheerio, Bob, old man, and the very best of luck!

ONECOY.



Advanced Picquet, Miri Khel Camp

Working to Column

En Passant.—(Brevis esse laboro, obscurus fio.) It was a practice parade for a very big inspection. The Section officer was telling his men that they might be asked their name by the inspecting officer, and to avoid any mistakes, he would have a trial show now. Officer: "What is your name, Smith?" Smith (after a slight pause): "Smith, sir."

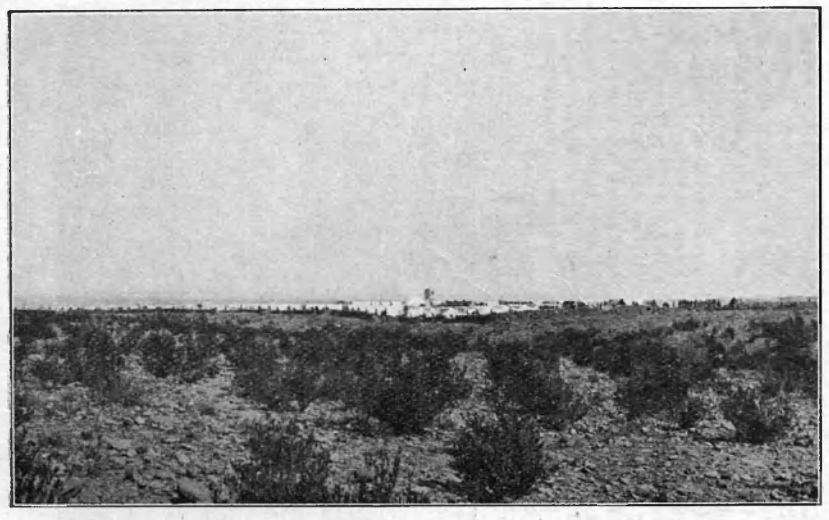
They were discussing certain matters which only they who *know* can discuss. The discussion had turned to Section work. Subaltern: "Of course, you know, I have experienced all this Section work when I was a Section sergeant." I/c Shops: Oh, yes, and when were you a Section sergeant, sir?" Sub.: "Oh, when I was a cadet." (The Shops observed a hartal.)

YBBON.

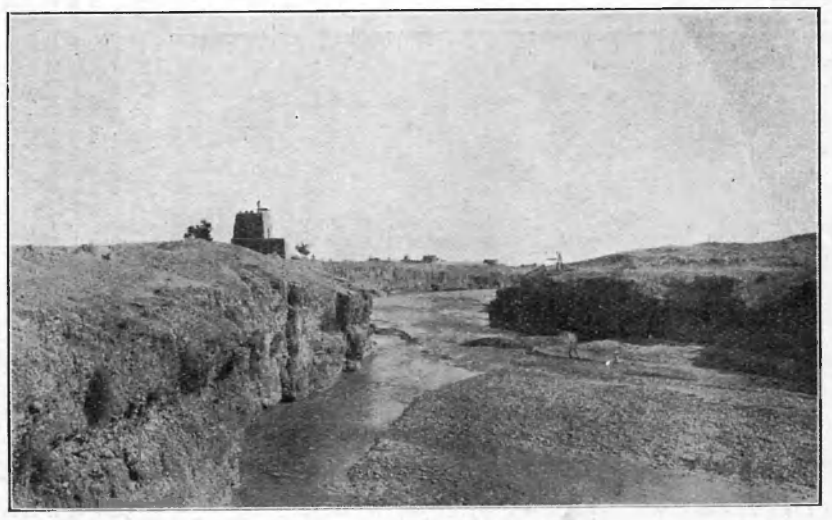
Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals, Meerut.

Potpourri (I do not know what this means).—Now that Christmas has been and gone, perhaps a few notes would not be a bad idea. Personally, I could do with more than a few, and so could a few more (no names, no Geordie).

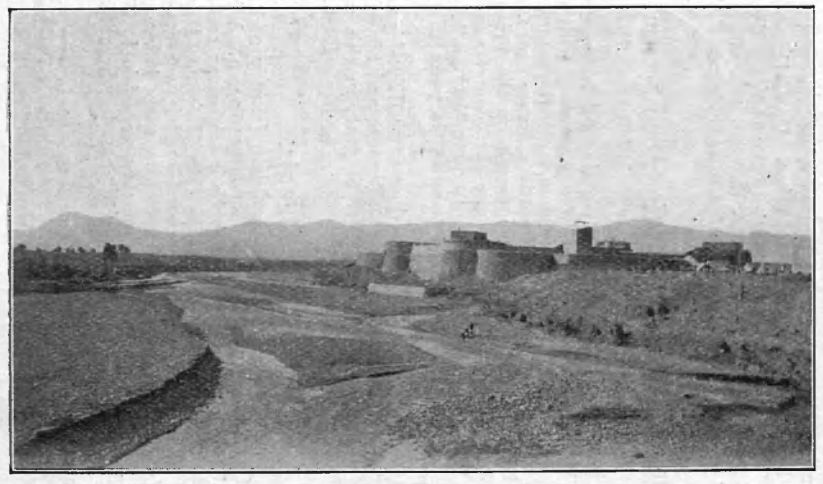
With the 3rd Indian Divisional Signals.



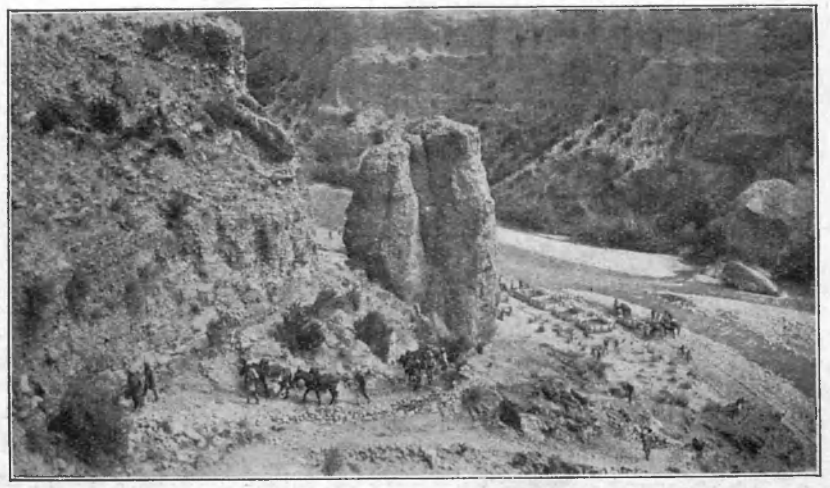
Miri Khel Camp from south end of perimeter.



Watch Tower outside Bara.



Bara Fort from the river.



Water Point, Miri Khel.

When one looks around and sees what an enormous amount of food has been consumed during the few days of Christmas, one is inclined to think that if it were not for Christmas there would be no Boxing Day. I think it would be a good idea if the name Boxing Day were changed to a more suitable one, say No Man's Day. I have never seen a man who *was* a man on our so-called Boxing Day.

As usual, our Christmas Day fell on 25th December, and thanks to Sergt Griffin the mess was a good place to be in. Sergt Harper did his best in providing plenty of good cheer. On December 27th we held our annual Mess dinner, C.Q.M.S. Dillon and Sergeants Griffin and Barber (what is home without a barber?) being responsible for a very good show. About eighty members and friends and Sergt Donaghy sat down to dinner, and a very enjoyable meal was consumed to the strains of the unit dance band.

After everyone had satisfied the inner man, the deck was cleared and the guns blazed—sorry! we carried on the evening with a dance and social. Now, you can stop me in the street and ask me if we had a good time—or, better still, wake me up in the middle of the night and ask me. I tell the world we did! At least, that was what I was told the next morning.

Still, all good things must come to an end, and now we are back again at normal, practising for the big parade on January 1st; and so long as things do not go off as they are practised, we shall still keep the flag flying.

Owing to the fact that Christmas comes somewhere in December there has been very little Mess sport, but we did challenge the Sergeants' Mess of the Black Watch to a billiard match on 23rd December, and we managed to win by a very decent margin. We only await the arrival of Lindrum and the Davis Cup team to pay a visit to Meerut, and then we shall claim the sculling championship.

I fear I am a trifle mixed, but as you all know, Christmas *is* Christmas.

I was speaking to a very well known astronomer the other day, and he told me on the q.t. that he had been making some tests and the result was this: A certain depression at present centred over Meerut is proceeding in a northerly direction, and that it may reach Quetta. On arrival at Quetta the land will be free from moisture.

Scene: Sergeants' Mess. Time 08.15 hrs. Date, December 30th. The breakfast bell rings. A dash is made for the dining room. Voice of the —— "Yes, it is a different tale now. A few days ago it was 'George, any chance of a chota one?'"

NOBBY.

With the 9th (Infantry) Brigade Signal Section on the Frontier.

When the Frontier trouble first started, the 3rd Indian Divl were called upon to supply a Signal Section for duty with the 9th Brigade. We sent them a Signal Section under the command of Lieut Van der Goot, with Sergts Hinchley, Evans and Guy. The Section have done some very good work on the Frontier and have now returned to Meerut, where they will no doubt enjoy a well deserved rest. The accompanying "snaps" will possibly be of some interest to readers in other parts of the Empire (see preceding pages.—ED.)

The unit tender their heartfelt sympathies to 1st Divl Signals, Rawalpindi, in their loss of F/S/Sergt Willsmore and his wife. S/Sergt Willsmore served for a number of years in this unit and was known and liked by all.

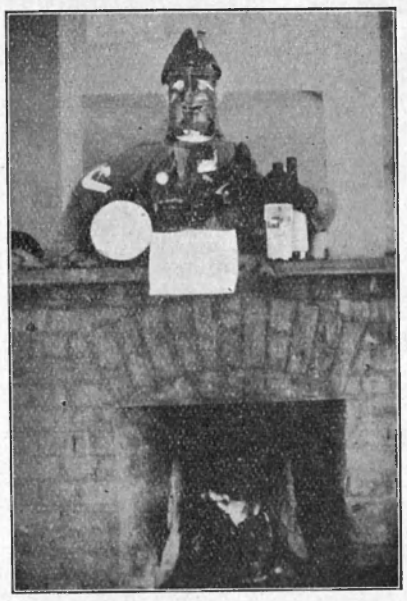
FRED.

Kohat District Signals.

Kohat, January 20th.

General.—Christmas, 1930, has been and gone again. What a dream! At the time everybody thought it a glorious reality. There were so many good things to eat on Christmas Day—thanks to Corpl Jarvis and his merry band—and it was a very enjoyable day. Herewith photos of the dining room *before* the spread. The one taken after is very dim—yes, very faint! The Corporals held their own little bachelors' dinner, but here again the negatives are very thin.

The dog races are commented on elsewhere, so I have only to give the results:—McQueen stakes, "Tony" (Sergt Peerless); Thal 'chase, "Micky" (Sergt Wall); Hangu hurdles, "Tony" (Sergt Peerless); Kohat Grand National, "Limpy" (L/Corpl Coton): Peshawar stakes, "Sambo" (Lieut Hoblyn).

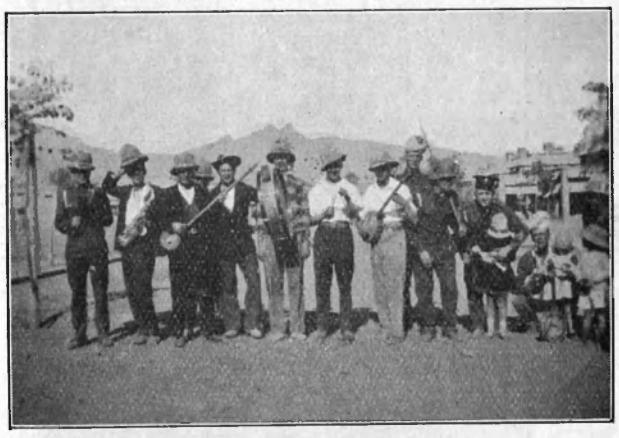


The "Spirit" of Christmas, 1930.

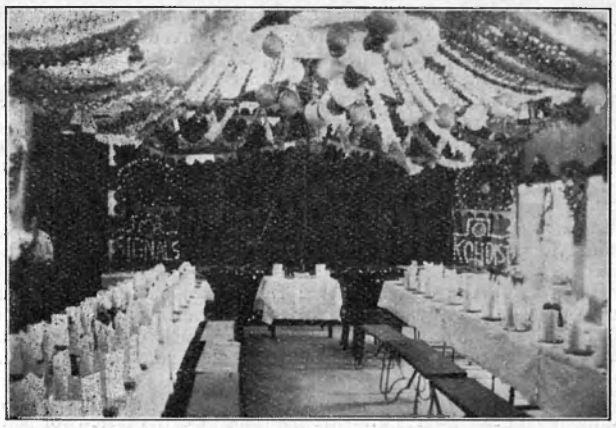
On January 8th, the anniversary of the formation of the unit in 1917, a holiday was observed by all ranks. During the morning an inter-Section tug-of-war and wrestling on mules tournament resulted as follows:—Tug-of-war, J Section; wrestling on mules, K Section. In the afternoon a quadrangular tennis tournament was held, teams representing the officers, sergeants, corporals and men competing. The result was a win for the officers.

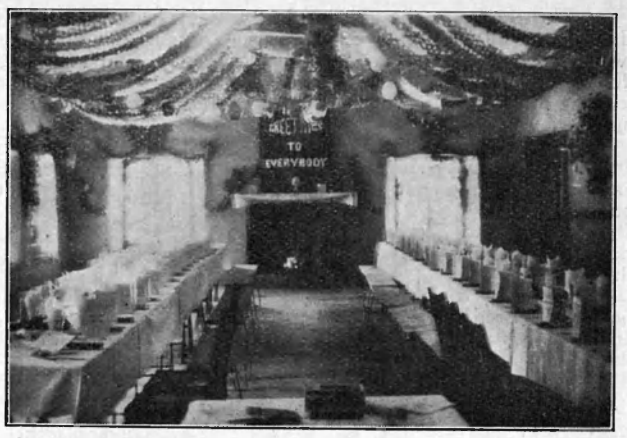
Concerning the lighter side of soldiering, several interesting events have taken place within the unit during the present season. Those of outstanding merit were two carnival dances, and a winter race meeting of the Kohat District Signals Kennel Club.

The dances were a huge success, attributable in a great measure to the liberal attendance of outsiders—principal among whom were our friends the R.A.F. They literally turned up by the three-ton-lorry-load, and they enjoyed themselves so much that it required the combined efforts of the provost sergeant, the barman, the M.C. and the entertainments committee to convince them that the evening had really drawn to a close and all the beer had vanished. However, two really successful and enjoyable evenings were spent, thanks to the untiring efforts of those whose lights we will hide under a convenient bushel.



"Happy Days": Christmas, 1930.





The Dining Room, Christmas Day, 1930.

The dog races, we modestly say, were the attraction of the whole Station, although one really thinks that a ring suitably boarded, roped and resined would be far more suitable than a race-course for some of those highbred animals to " race " in. In fact, so tense was the situation that the Tote clerks were in a quandary as to whether they paid out on heats or rounds. During the afternoon, our officers were " at home " to the officers of the Station, and the scene was gay, bright and racy. Our C.O. and Mrs. Henderson very kindly invited the families and the husbands to tea, which was greatly appreciated.

The sergeants' mess has been the scene of many gay evenings: billiards and phat tournaments, dances, and so on. The dance of outstanding merit was held on Boxing Day, when the whole Station and his wife attended. It was the show of the season. But so many good things were said and done during the Christmas holidays that it would be difficult, and perhaps unfair, to select any one as an object of note.

A " Wail " from Kohat.

INDIA.

India! land of heat and sands,
Crawling insects, clutching hands,
Rags and tatters, fleas and lice,
Grovelling dhobi, insolent syce—
India, my bugbear!

When I first saw your coral strands,
I stood on deck and wrung my hands;
My God, what have I done to Thee?
Is there no solace here for me?
India, my bugbear!

On Bombay's mighty docks I stood
Amidst the wharves of stone and wood;
I gazed around me, stupefied;
" If I had only known," I cried—
India, my bugbear!

Bullock wagons slouching by;
Animals hideous to the eye;
Naked children, hirsute men;
Conjuring fakirs, unknown to pen—
India, my bugbear!

Veils and purdahs, bare feet and heads;
Hindoos and Moslems, charpoys and beds;
Brassware and ebony, teak and deal;
Scavengers looking for something to steal—
India, my bugbear!

Land of sunshine, land of rain,
Land of sorrow, joy or pain;
Countless peoples, tongues and creeds;
Land for which Old England bleeds—
India, my bugbear!

—(I think I shall sign on for a further tour.) BUNNY.

Sergeants' Mess.

After varied experiences as a Mess since we came to Kohat, this winter has seen us pass over the line from a debit to a credit balance (will old members please note—*at last*!) We entered the New Year in the rosiest condition the Mess has known since 1925, and the future, we hope, will be even more so. We tender our grateful thanks to all concerned.

The season opened with a most successful carnival ball, and since then we have continued to uphold our reputation as the best dance organisers in the Station.

Christmas passed most happily, and though the month of toll has arrived, many are sorry that next Christmas is so far away! We would like Christmas oftener—but not too often, 'cause our pay sergeant's name ain't Midas.

We are glad that C.S.M. and Mrs. Barnett were able to be with us at Christmas, but they have since left us for civilian life, with his pontoon carefully folded up and handed back to the Q.M. (vouchers in triplicate, please). While wishing them the best of circumstances, we heartily welcome amongst us C.S.M. and Mrs. Eyres from Meerut. We trust the warmth of our friendship will " meerut " their approval of Kohat in general and this Mess in particular.

Sergt Wall W., on permanent transfer to Trimulgherry, has " gone to prepare a place " for his family, whom he has left under the sheltering wing of our Q.M. staff for health reasons. We lose in Bricky a solid Mess member.

We have enjoyed many pleasant tennis at-homes during a tournament between the R.A.F. Mess and the Departmental Club here; but it *does* seem significant that it was not until after the tournament, and since the arrival of L/Sergt Shreeves from Rawalpindi (we give him a bonny cheerio!) that score boards were erected on the courts.

The officers of the unit accepted a challenge to " cannon off the cush " recently and were just beaten by 40 points. It is not true that the balls were lubricated with gin, or that there was an excess of Tickler's favourite manufacture, as for instance when Sergt Ivey won our last billiard tournament early in the season.

Corporals' Mess.

Hello, everybody! Don't faint; we are still alive, and are just regaining consciousness after Christmas and the New Year. We had some joyful evenings just before Christmas. Several fought old battles again (oh, Jim, why weren't you here?) On Christmas Day the unit toast maker (Hammy) gave a realistic interpretation of " Hit the deck " (the first time shown in India).

The Corporals' bun fight went off with a swing. Our O.C. opened the evening with a few well chosen words of advice, and told us it was his ???th Christmas in the Army (before you nipped). Who was playing " Kiss in the Ring " with the dhobie's donkey? 2nd Div. Quetta may " coton " on to this.

Have you read the latest books?—" The Phantom of the Mess," by Shoey; " Old soldiers never die," by Jimmy Nosebit; " The Dhinghi Germ," by Haggis.

On Christmas Day the unit band gave a few selections around the married quarters (they only knew one tune). The proceeds (which comprised a "chip," a bent "chassie," and a "carab dho anna bit") helped to swell the Christmas funds. Since the forming of a new Fire Squad there have been no more dhurries burnt.

Congratulations to Corporals Leary, Myddleton and Robins on attaining that rank; also to L/Corporals Goodman, Bunce, Reed and Bell on getting one leg over. (Sweat on, Edgeley; it won't be long now.)

Best of luck to Geordie and Hammy, who by the time these notes are in print will be in the Blighty cantonment holding them back.

We are sorry to lose our old president, C.S.M. Barnett, who has now retired. We welcome C.S.M. Eyres in that capacity, and hope his stay with us will be a very pleasant one.

BRAN MASH.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

January 15th.

General.—As I was on leave over the period of the Christmas holidays, I can't say what happened in the unit; but when I arrived back everyone was looking rather glum. This, of course, was only the after-effect of a good Christmas and a reluctance to return to parades, etc.

The dining hall was very well decorated, and the thanks of the unit are due to the decoration committee. They were full of esprit de corps in their colour scheme; the hall was decorated in blue and white and looked quite well.

The following should have appeared in last month's notes, but as the balance sheet was not completed I held it over. The unit gave an Armistice dance in November last on the sergeants' mess courts. The dance was well attended and was voted a great success by everyone who came. The balance sheet showed a profit of Rs. 600, and this was handed over to the Station Armistice committee.

Notes.—I heard someone discussing WIRE Notes the other day, and the remark was passed that one could always tell the mood that a unit was in from the tone of the notes that were published. If that is so, I will try my best to be as cheerful as possible, although labouring under a great handicap.

Promotions.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. L. V. Goodman and to L/Sergt H. Cooper on attaining their respective ranks.

Repatriation.—L/Corpl H. J. Francis and Sigmn R. Edwards left us on the 12th inst. for the U.K. Good luck to both of them when they join the bread line!

Mottoes.—Everyone has heard of the judge who enquired of a juvenile witness, "What is a motto?" and received the answer "One of them things with 'Bless our happy home' written across it, that mother uses to hit dad across the head with." For my own part, I could have used one with far more damaging effect the other day; but, still, I should not *scoff* at mottoes.

Education.—Congratulations to the following on obtaining their 1st class certificates: C.Q.M.S. L. V. Goodman, Corpl F. Cosstick, L/Corpls R. Lauder and D. Watson, and Signalman T. S. Barney. Corpl Cosstick took a "D" in map reading, Sigmn Barney a "D" in maths, and Sergt J. Winkle passed in map reading.

L/Corpl P. C. Macdonald passed in maths "B," and electricity and magnetism, for the special certificate.

The Latest.—A certain Section sergeant sent a Christmas card to the naik in his Section. We wonder if this seasonable thought was really appreciated, as the naik was wandering round the lines on Christmas morning, wondering whether it was an invitation to a wedding or a funeral.

Christmas.—Dash promised to write up a brief review of the Christmas festivities, and they are appended hereunder.

Our Christmas.—Christmas comes but once a year—or, at least, that is what we have been told for some time now by the wise guys; and strange to say, when you work things out, it does come exactly once a year. Why it doesn't come twice a year or more, I cannot say, but perhaps it's because one (or perhaps two or three) must have the full quota of fifty-one weeks to get over it; and so there we are—Christmas comes but once a year.

We started our Christmas in fine style, with the usual "corfee" (with or without our more usual "livener"). We were then entertained by the renowned Pip, who rendered "Christians, awake!" on the piano. The drummer promised to give him a hand, but did not so as he was busy pinching what was left of the "livener."

After breakfast (a real feast, apart from anything else), a game of hockey was organised, and everyone enjoyed the fun and gave loud cheers when a lady scored a goal.

Just before the game started I was surprised to see what I thought was the man from the Prudential, but on closer inspection I found he was one of the hockey players dressed for that part.

Then came the dinner. As a rule, Christmas dinner in any unit is usually a "bake," but we were all wonderfully sober and enjoyed a really wonderful dinner, which did credit to all who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this chief item of interest such a success.

After dinner we just wandered off with our own little "circles," and the clink of glasses and the popping of corks lasted for some considerable time.

I can say without hesitation that everyone enjoyed himself; but quite a number of us say "Roll on, next Christmas," because it will be spent in the land where Christmas really *is* Christmas —Blighty. W.F.K.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

December 30th, 1930.

Apology.—We regret that these notes of last month were too late to catch the mail. Someone evidently slept!

General.—December started well. With visions of camp and plenty of rain, hopes of wangling out of it came into the scheme of things, too. However, owing to sickness amongst our transport system (stables) we did not go—thus leaving the sword of Damocles still hanging over our heads for some future date, we suppose.

The unusual necessity of having to "foot it" does not seem to agree with us in this quarter of the globe—but Christmas being near, and having promised ourselves a good time, we did not mind doing a bit of that sort of thing.

Our festivities started on the 24th with a tennis at home, complete with tin and bottle tournament, all entrance fees being given as prizes. A large gathering attended to see the displays of skill, and we welcomed several visitors from the R.E.s across the way. Prizes were distributed by Mrs. Turland to the following competitors: Miss B. Udale, Signalmen Tovell, Semmence and Smith. The latter, being cook orderly, got most of the grub, including tinned beans, etc.

Christmas Day was one of pleasure for one and all. Our C.O. (Captain R. W. Morgan) accompanied by Lieut R. J. Moberly, paid us a flying visit just before dinner. The C.O. expressed his pleasure at seeing us so fit to do justice to the feast. Toasts were drunk, and before his departure "Mickey the Mouse" was presented to him on behalf of the Troop. After that the poultry was dissected to the full enjoyment of all. A sing-song followed under the able baton of Corpl Murphy. Nearly everyone rendered service (talent tells—no fruit, W/T, please). Activities lasted far into the night. Topees seemed just a trifle too small on the following day!

Boxing Day.—The typical morning after the night before. The most important event of the day was a football match with M.G. Squadron 9th Lancers, which resulted in a win for the Troop by 3—2. The accompanying photo of the team was taken by T.Q.M.S. Austin.

December 27th passed off splendidly, thanks to the efforts of L/Corpl Fell, who organised a smoker to follow our red-letter match with N Battery R.H.A. The game resulted in a draw of 1—1. The visitors were entertained to tea.

Invitations for the smoker were given to the team and a few friends of the Norfolk Regiment and R.A.M.C. Snooker and dart tournaments were organised. The visitors won the snooker by a very small margin. Time did not allow of a finish to the dart tournament, but the Troop was well in the lead.

The evening concluded with songs, recitations, etc., rendered by all and sundry. All the items were excellent. To see was to believe. However, all good things must come to an end, and our friends finally departed in the very best of spirits.

Standing (left to right)—Corpl Redworth, L/Corpl Fell, Signalmen Robertson, Stocks and Grafton, Corpl Healey
Sitting—Sergt Hinds, Signalmen James, Jessop and Felton, L/Corpl Matthews

This concluded our Christmas store of recreation, and we are now back at work again, waiting for the next—and so on, ad infinitum.

We should like to thank all concerned in the organisation of our Christmas fare, for the hard work they put in to make it the success it undoubtedly was.

In Lighter Vein.—Who pinched the Christmas apples for Jimmy? Good job you were caught, Tim!

Will anyone give five coupons for a flying outside right?

Education.—Quite a number of our local lads are now attending school, with decided views on that first. It has been said, however, that the radio-proportion business gets some of them down. Our good wishes will be with them, if that will in any way help towards success—at least, we are hoping.

Marriage.—L/Sergt A. J. P. Shiner (S.T.C., India, and late of this unit) to Miss B. Udale, on December 26th. Congratulations! Our best wishes go out to both.

Agony.—J.E.J.: What price the resolution to get the civvie kit—those kilts and a twisted stick?

To H.K.B., Bekore: Herewith acknowledgment of your perfectly poisonous wishes for Christmas. Thanks all the same!

January 20th, 1931.

General.—With the arrival of 1931, we find our friendly enemy *work* still with us—lots to be done, and all day to do it in, so to speak.

The Proclamation parade went off quite well, despite the fact that we had to march to the parade ground. However, a good show was put up, and the firing of the —hang it!—" few days war " was put over in good infantry style. Needless to say, we had no buckshees going off during loading operations. On our return we were all wished a happy New Year by our C.O. and dismissed for the day—except, of course, for the various light jobs such as feeds, etc., which simply *have* to be done.

Heaps of resolutions were made—many too lurid to put into print. Items such as " going on the jew," " going on the tack," etc., were well to the fore. How long will they last? Possibly until next pay-day! No one ever seems to resolve to " go on the book," the idea always seeming to be how to get off it. But, of course, that is a wonderful achievement which lacks an explanation.

Riding school has again started, and the selected few are trying to " put on their legs " and " round the wrists," etc. Many of them are trying to pick up tips from the fat Rough who passed off in '21 (on a horse straight from the shafts).

Schemes are also in evidence. We have visions and hopes of there being but a few more to complete the season. Events of the near future will, however, decide just how many.

Latest Recruiting News.—We are getting quite up to date in our little unit, having in our possession three little Tinker Bells. Master Paddy Grafton has already received his membership card. Master Johnny Stocks' will arrive very shortly, we believe. The senior member of this gallant little trio goes by the name of Smudger, and he sees to it that three good deeds are done each day. Bear up, you 'erbs. Auntie Owen still has room for more. But don't take it out of me, as I'm cross-fingered.

Education.—Our congratulations to L/Corpl Matthews and Sigmn Jessop on obtaining their firsts, also to Sergt Applegate on getting maths and map reading towards it. Towards the special, L/Corpl Fell passed in maths. Well done, all!

Re-Engagements.—Corpl Murphy to complete twenty-one years. Well done, Spud! Another recruit to the Ancient Order of Anti-Dole-ites, eh? Still, it needs a firm hand to sign; so good luck!

Indoor Sports.—The craze of America has reached us at last—namely, midget golf. Complete with hockey sticks and tennis balls, one keeps amused for hours. Of course, such things as D.R.'s leggings, boots, etc., are required to serve as bunkers, whilst a wash-bowl or two and some strips of wood make excellent holes. The only drawback is that the D.R. isn't supposed to know how his leggings become dirty. However, sailors don't care—neither does our original Dan. No names, but he hails from Kohat and wears a dog's leg.

Maybe " yours truly " will hear more of this, but notes have to come from somewhere; and, anyway, I'll probably outlive this lot to be able to write some more—next month. So till then, cheerio!

Agony.—To Heath and H.E.H.: What! stamps too dear? Well, well! hang on, and we'll send some. L.A.L.

No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

December 30th, 1930.

General.—Once more we offer our apologies—this time, for the absence of notes for the past three editions. Owing to our old scribe proceeding to the U.K. on a Blighty voc. the monthly horror of writing WIRE notes has fallen upon my hard-worked shoulders, and at last (after a course of phospherine, etc., loaned by our medicine man) I have strung myself up to concert pitch.

On November 29th the Troop, with other units, set forth to a place named Barnawa with the idea of having a few weeks camp. However, the horses thought otherwise, and immediately on our arrival they contracted 'flu, providing our Farrier staff (Busty) with a good excuse for getting rid of a few broken thermometers. The result was that on December 3rd we *walked* back to Meerut, camp having been postponed until a later date(?) Who said horses had no sense?

On December 17th the Signal Officer-in-Chief held his annual inspection of this unit, and although no official report has come under my inquisitive gaze, I have every reason to believe he was well pleased with our turn-out.

Christmas was dealt with in the approved manner. Corporal Chappell and committee (?) arranged everything and showed us how things could be done. Well done, Buddha boy! We had several visitors who were amazed at the fare provided, and everyone declared himself well satisfied (when he was able to do so). Captain Duke was on ten days shooting leave, but Lieut D. M. Smyth was present at the dinner, and I believe he also enjoyed himself.

Poultry Farmer, B Corps, 'Pindi: Sorry we cannot be of any assistance to you. Had you taken up guinea-pig breeding, we could have told you how to make their eyes drop out.

Departures.—L/Corpl Wright and Signalmen Knights (Baldy) and Humphreys to U.K. We wish them every success in civvy street. Signalmen Meech and Green (Gripper) sail on January 17th. Bon voyage, chaps!

Postings.—Corpl Swaine J. P. (Paddy) to Peshawar District Signals. The best of luck!

Things We Want to Know.—If the Chowkidar still wanders in the middle of the night? How long "Gripper" can grip? What will cure a squeaky voice? If wireless waves can really dodge the aerial?

This Month's "Chatty" is awarded to our Rough for the following: "When I was in Karachi in 1921" (grip orf, Bill!)

Latest Fairy Tale.—Place: Stables. Time: Grooming hour. Sergeant-Major (after calling rolls): "Two men from wireless to visual."

STEVE.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

January 28th.

General.—Now that we have all settled down and our sets are working, we are looking forward to many excursions into the cultivation and the desert, and we all hope to have seen a bit of the country before the summer.

We had our first taste of desert travelling when our wireless cars were called upon to take part in a desert test. I heard that someone said it would all be a piece of "kike," but judging by the remarks of those who could walk a little when they got back, it appears to have been a very hard piece!

During the last two weeks we have had two very good runs. One was to Port Suez, a distance of about ninety miles, and the other to Ismailia and Port Said, which took us about 140 miles from camp. Our wireless cars somewhat disappointed us on the first test, but retrieved their reputation on the second, when we were able to speak to Cairo from Port Said quite easily.

We are preparing our wireless cars for Brigade schemes now, and on February 9th two of them are going with the 12th Lancers to Mena Camp. Just a few nights beneath the Pyramids, boys! and then, when all these schemes are over, we shall be able to enjoy the sights of Cairo once more!

Agony.—Marmion Motors calling Hopwas. Where are you?

YATIM.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

British H.Q., January 24th.

The Best of Luck.—On New Year's Day, C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Goodridge C. packed his little wooden box and proceeded aboard the coaster *Tungchow* en route for Shanghai, and thence per the *Nevasa* to the U.K.

The Section (with the exception of those on duty and in bed with 'flu) turned out to wish him Godspeed. Charlie's activities in North China are too well known to need any enlarging upon; but let it be said that his knowledge of short-wave work, gained whilst developing that subject in this country, is very thorough and should be a great asset to the unit which is lucky enough to gain his services. Bon voyage, Charlie; a good station and a congenial job!

Christmas Festivities.—Christmas is now a thing of the past, but the memory lingers on. On Christmas morning the Section showed up in force for church parade, and then proceeded to investigate the good things provided in the way of liquid and other forms of nourishment. The junior staff mess was a very convivial resort, and we performed the usual honours in the approved British style on the arrival of the Brigadier. After the Brigadier's departure, the senior n.c.o.s visited the mess, and the harmonious "murdering" of several well-known tunes almost brought the plaster down from the ceiling.

The gold medal is awarded to Sigmn Tim Blackham, who remained on duty whilst others made merry. We are informed, however, that he made up for lost time in no uncertain manner on being relieved.

The Irony of Fate.—It is said that one has not really seen China until one has visited Peking and viewed the various temples, pagodas and palaces with which that city and the surrounding country abound. In the course of four years, Charlie has paid scores of duty visits to Peking, but being strictly on business, he had very little time for sight-seeing. That being so, he decided to spend a week in sight-seeing before returning to England, home and beauty. However, Fate decreed otherwise. It so happened that he arrived in Peking coincident with an outbreak of 'flu, and, falling a victim, spent the week's "sight-seeing" in bed. So Charlie returns to England without really seeing China.

English Mutilated.—The following is a copy of a letter concocted by the Chinese staff of the Departmental Sergeants' Mess:

A Merry Christmas.

Every body Gentlemen And Sorry that We have not good present to you, but we get some flowers instead its because the Father Christmas very like he told come in the Mess give every Gent. Good chance but if he see flower on your coat I think you must get some good luck in the New Year.

From Servant

Bar Jen	Cook Long	Table Chan
Second Ho	S.P. Fun	J. C. Fun.

Anyway, the spirit is there—and that is the main thing.

Climate.—During the past week we have been treated to a bit of real Siberian winter. Temperatures of three degrees below zero (thirty-five degrees of frost) have been recorded. Our Peking Detachment have had the pleasant experience of temperatures eleven degrees below zero, accompanied by a high wind and blinding dust storm. So you people who shiver in Catterick's icy blasts can console yourselves with the thought that elsewhere on this earth Signals are seeing it through with the thermometer standing far below anything that Catterick can show.

HSING HAI TU.

Shanghai Signal Section.

January 26th.

General.—Work goes on apace, and communications, both W/T and line, are excellent.

The majority of the Section have now entered the "straight," as we are practically all on our final year in China, so that daily-marked calendars and talk of "homeside" are now general.

Shanghai is now in the grip of winter, and believe me, it's some winter. A few days ago the glass registered 15 below, and breaking the ice on our "gunfire" (for the uninitiated, the morning cup of tea which is placed beside our bed by the sergeant-major!) was no joke. However, nuff said—or Egypt Sigs will be telling us our fortune again.

Arrivals.—Three pups.

Departures.—Three pups (if they don't soon adopt silencers after "Lights out").

Extensions.—Signalmen Morrell and Croft to complete eight years with the Colours.

Agony.—Endeavouring to make notes from nothing.

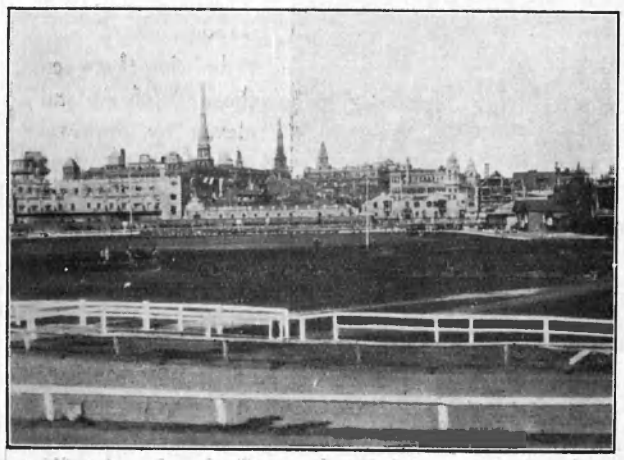
DEBROY.

Garden Bridge, Shanghai.

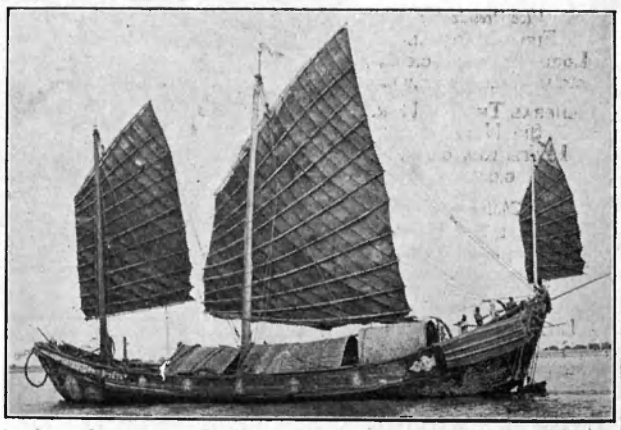
The Bund, Shanghai.

Traffic Control Standard, Shanghai.

Shanghai Lights.



The Racecourse, Shanghai.



A small Junk.

Malaya Signal Section, Singapore.

Season's Greetings.—The O.C. and members of the Malaya Signal Section wish all readers of THE WIRE a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to the following new arrivals, and hope that their stay in Malaya will be a long, happy and prosperous one (also that they will be able to save "plent wong" while they are here):—Sergt Carpenter A., Cpl Evans J., L/Corporals Dacombe L. and Simm M., Signalmen Baldwin J., Bennetts E., Brooks C., Davis A., Dell F., Field L. and Lobb W.

Departures.—We have said adieu to the following valued members of the Section, and take this opportunity of wishing them bon voyage and that their future stations will be all that they desire:—Corpl Warren J., Signalmen Addis W., McCann R. J. and Pearson H. They will be greatly missed on the sports field and elsewhere, but it hoped that, in time, their places will be ably filled by the new draft.

Obituary.—It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of No. 2314722 Signalman Simpson H. T. after a short and sudden illness. His loss as a good comrade and keen sportsman will be keenly felt by the Section.

Congratulatory.—To L/Corpl McDowall G., late of this Section, congratulations on getting posted back to Belfast. When is the happy event to take place, Mac? Tell Busty Barton that there are still "faults" on Blakang Mati.

Christmas Festivities.—Christmas this year went with an unusual swing, ably assisted by the Navy, as represented by members of the crew of H.M.S. *Kent*. The Christmas dinner was an outstanding success and reflected great credit on the efforts of the committee. Two very jolly smoking concerts were organised and enjoyed by all present. The Navy in particular found life ashore a great change from the boat, and we sincerely hope to see them again on their return to Singapore.

Annual O.C.A. Dinner.—The usual O.C.A. dinner was held at the Union Jack Club, Singapore, on November 27th. As usual, it was a great success, and served as a good introduction for the new draft and an opportunity of wishing the outgoing draft the best of luck in their new stations. Unfortunately, two of the four ex-members of the Signals stationed in Malaya were unable to be with us; but we are sure that had it been possible for them to attend, they would have done so.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, February 2nd.

General.—Again this joke—if it can be called a joke. I feel like quoting a little phrase I have heard, "We here are alright and you are alright, so that's alright," and signing my name under it. But now we have managed to swindle the Section into resuming their subscriptions to THE WIRE, we *must* give them something to read.

The Atlantic Fleet has arrived and brought with it all good wishes from England, which came in the form of rain. We don't mind their coming to share our sunshine so long as they leave their rain at home—but on their arrival, no sooner had the first ship pushed its nose round the Tarifa Point than it started to rain.

We have said goodbye to our old Section sergeant (C.Q.M.S. Hart C.) who embarked for the United Kingdom per H.M.T. *Dorsetshire* at 2.30 *a.m.* on Sunday, 1st February. I expect a good many readers will remember him, as he was in the Section for six years and is, with the exception of Corpl Parry C. and L/Corporals Smith and Marsh (who are also embarking in the near future) the last of the "old brigade." Anyway, the best of luck to you all! and when you have time to spare, don't forget those who have still a few to do.

The Section took part in a combined exercise with the Navy, in which the Navy attempted to land their forces and the Army had to prevent them. This was carried out at night, and the scheme was very successful for the Army.

I have been tempted many times to give readers an idea what Gibraltar is like from the point of view of a soldier. Perhaps my temptation may bear fruit one of these days—that is, if I don't get the sack for "propaganda," because they are going to develop Gibraltar as a holiday resort. R.D.H.

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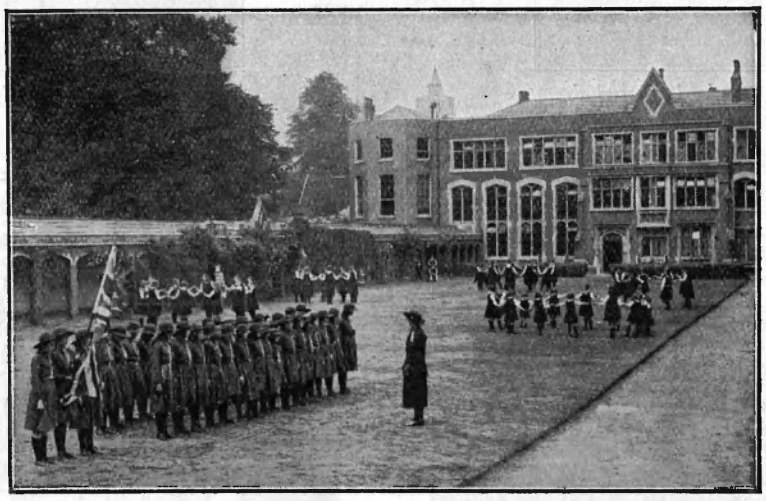

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- - THE "TERRIERS." - -

26th and 27th (London) Companies, Air Defence Brigade Signals.

56 Regency Street, S.W.1.

I am afraid I have been too much out of things to be able to adequately describe the activities of the month. Suffice it to say that the usual routine work has been going on steadily at headquarters.

Lantern Lecture.—On February 4th we were honoured by the visit of Major-General J. H. Bruche, C.B., C.M.G., the Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff. With the aid of his lantern slides, he took us for a cruise round the islands of the Torres Straits, and I think I speak for all when I say that it was a most instructive and enjoyable experience.

Country Ramble.—On February 7th I met Mr. Grover (by appointment) at Horse Guards Parade at 8 o'clock in the morning. We had a delightful day in the country. On another page I show you something of what we did. Refreshments were enjoyed by me (not by Mr. Grover, as he was too slow in appreciating the situation) at the Rose and Crown. For weeks we have both studied little books thoughtfully provided by Major Wickins, and I am happy to state that of the knowledge I gained during those weeks, exactly one per cent was of advantage to me when the time came. So I had to fall back on common sense. I passed. Capt Peel cannot discover why. Neither can I.

Dance.—The unit held another dance on the night of February 7th (sorry!—I should say, night of February 7th/8th). As I did not recover from my country ramble until the following Sunday week, I was not present, so I can only express the hope that all went well and that everyone enjoyed the evening.

Camp: Week-End.—Don't forget the training on the 7th and 8th of March. And the Old Comrades of the Signals Association are holding their dance on that Saturday night, so we look like combining business with pleasure, and we want *everyone* there.

J.F.T.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company, 1st Corps Signals (S.R.)

No. 1 Advanced Aircraft Park Signal Section (S.R.)

Drill Hall, Burlington Street, Manchester.

We have kept silence for a space, and it is said "Silence is golden"; but now, "sure we have a bibful to spill!"

We welcome, very heartily, Lieut E. L. Ellis from our friends the 42nd Divisional Signals T.A. and hope he will thoroughly enjoy his new duties.

The news of camp, which is to commence on May 3rd on Salisbury Plain for participation in R.A. exercises, brought us to our feet with a jerk, and Thursday nights at Burlington Street present brisk scenes of martial activity!

Not the least welcome news of camp is that we shall join our London and Liverpool colleagues, Nos. 1 and 3 Companies—an event which has been among our aspirations for a long time.

On February 7th upwards of ninety members of the Company and their friends joined in the annual hot-pot supper. The canteen had been most tastefully decorated, and the tables were inviting even without the hot-pot!

Thanks to the excellent preparations of the energetic and painstaking committee, the proceedings never flagged for a moment under the chairmanship of Sergt Aitkin, who wielded the mallet to good effect. In a trim speech the O.C. spoke of the desirability of improving the weapon training record, and his confidence in the Company's giving a good account of itself at camp.

We refrain from mentioning our own artistes by name (each of whom gave of his best) but we should like to say how much we appreciated the efforts of Mr. McEvey at the piano, Mr. McEwen in song and story (true Scotch!), Mr. McCormack in splendid voice, and Mr. E. Jones in best drawing-room stories!

How gladly would we have ended here, but we have just heard the sad news that Lieut Bottomley is to be transferred to the Regular Reserve of Officers. The Company and Lieut Bottomley are almost synonymous terms. Cannot birth certificates lie? A fine figure of a man and a soldier, a stalwart friend, whom years do not age. No, we cannot bring ourselves to the parting of the ways!

ACK ACK ACK.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

We were glad to have been able to send up two of our stalwarts to represent No. 1 Company at the dinner of the w.o.s and n.c.o.s, 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford, on January 31st; and although these two appeared to be rather reticent on their return, I am quite convinced that they had a thoroughly good time and were given a real Signals welcome.

They gave me plenty of interesting details about the journey up, the arrival, the "sit down," and a speech in response to a toast of "The Wessex"; but after that their account seemed to me to be somewhat "patchy." I suppose the feelings of gratitude for the splendid hospitality and such good fellowship—but, there, it was (to quote their summing up) a night (and a slice of the morning, too, I gathered) that neither would have missed for anything. Good! Let's hope the cement will hold parent and child together for many a long day.

Our Company concert on January 30th was a very successful affair, and our good friends who provided the talent gave us a most enjoyable evening.

Mr. Scorer (Officer i/c A Section) has gone into business at Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells. We miss him at Exeter, but wish him every success in his new venture. He hopes to come along for the St. George's Day parade and for the Whitsun camp. He frequently sends us cheery messages, and always adds that he hopes the C sets are functioning! Hope on, Harold!

At the time of writing our P.S.I. (Sergt Standley) is laid up with a septic knee, but we wish him a speedy recovery.

OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

Training is progressing smoothly, with technical and weekly rides. The latter have again become important in view of our "reversion to horse." Oh, these rides! they cause the poor P.S.I. untold worry in trying to satisfy the greatest number of jockeys with the least possible number of mounts. How, for goodness sake, can one give forty men a ride with only nine horses? No wonder P.S.I.s go bald and look old (but they don't feel old, do they, Pip?—O.S.).

However, it has its humorous side. Scene: Company office. Enter a smart young lad (recruit). "Please, sir, would you mind if I came to the ride on Thursday in my bowler hat and civvy coat? I would wear my breeches" (I should hope he would). On hearing this the P.S.I. lapsed into a foreign language, while the recruit disappeared and has not been seen or heard of since.

Here's another one. Scene: the C.Q.M.S. stores. Enter a "bright one." Fred's eyes light up as he sees visions of more 108's to get signed. "Please, sir, could I have an extra set of buttons, etc., for my 'mess' dress?"

After all, one should expect this in our Corps, I suppose.

All joking aside, though, the youngsters are doing very well, and they should keep the flag flying at Okey-Pokey—sorry! Okehampton, I should say (yes, Pip, of course, you should—O.S.)

PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

The Garrison ball organised by the Territorial officers in Plymouth was held at the Stonehouse Town Hall on Friday, February 13th, when over three hundred attended. The guests included the Naval Commander-in-Chief at Devonport, our own Divisional Commander and his staff, and representatives from all units in Plymouth.

The scene in the ballroom was an extremely picturesque one, and the support given to the energetic committee (which included Capt W. G. L. Cornelius) was well merited.

A function of this nature is of great help to the Territorial movement in Plymouth, and the committee are to be congratulated on the splendid results of their efforts.

Recruits are slowly coming along, both at Topsham and Devonport, and we are hopeful of taking a still larger Company to annual camp this year.

We would also like to add our thanks and congratulations to the canteen officer. Perhaps just a small word of thanks is at the same time due to the Plymouth Sections for increasing the profit on Kiwi! (but " Strong's of Romsey " don't brew this Kiwi, do they?—O.S.) THREECOY.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

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

General.—It is not usual for headquarters of this unit to throw bouquets to our No. 2 Company at Brighton—the principal reason being that they have their own trumpeter—but we really must congratulate them on their annual dinner. When a Territorial unit composed of civilians with whom soldiering is but a hobby (and who have offices, factories and shops to consider first) can get a muster of 90% of its strength at such a function, it certainly must have the right type of material in its ranks.

The " Who's who and what's what " board that was so freely advertised in this Journal gave us rather a shock, because it did not quite tell us who's who and what's what. We do *those* things much better in London!

Training.—This is going on apace, and the lectures by C.S.M. Jordan are being well attended. The n.c.o.s class under Lieut. W. Gilbert also shows no sign of losing favour, and as this entails an extra hour's work every Thursday, it indicates that those who are keen on promotion intend to qualify for it.

Wireless communication with the 2nd Cavalry Divl Signals is a weekly feature of No. 1 Company's training, but until weather conditions permit No. 3 Company's wireless training is confined to indoor work—mostly manipulating and getting accustomed to the mark 1. pack sets lately issued to the unit. The writer of these notes (having had some!) thanks everybody concerned that, so far, the sets are minus pack *animals*.

Riding drill under the permanent staff is held every Tuesday at Clapham, and the little shop opposite Stamford Brook Station does a good trade in loaf sugar on these nights.

The operating progress chart was much in evidence towards the end of January, and the result was in doubt right up to the 31st. Finally, Boy Jordan F. won, closely followed by Corporals Kinnard and Bracey.

Social.—Dances are now held in the drill hall every Saturday, and any members of the Corps who are on leave down Hammersmith or Chiswick way are strongly advised to come and see for themselves.

Sergeants' Mess.—As reported in our last notes, our oldest inhabitant having said good-bye officially, January 24th was made the occasion of a social farewell. Everybody who is anybody in our little sphere turned up to give George a real good send-off, and a first-rate evening was spent. An excellent programme was put on by our entertainments committee, and we think similar functions should be a monthly feature.

In a fitting speech, R.S.M. Gilbert recalled that Sergt Forest was a member of the Mess in the days of the old 10th Middlesex (since disbanded), and much amusement was caused when an old recruiting poster of that period, on which his photo appeared, was unfurled. Special mention was made by the R.S.M. of his shooting abilities and the fact that he was a regular member of the team which had won the Justices shield so many times in recent years.

Sergt Forest was then presented with a chiming clock as a token of esteem from the Mess members. Unfortunately for the proceedings, during his reply the clock started to justify its existence by chiming! Still, it was a very pleasant evening, and we all hope that George, who lives quite near, will often find time to call and see us—particularly as he has the unusual distinction of having retired with permission to retain his rank and wear his uniform. A.R.

Stop Press (Sport).—Hearty congratulations to our parent unit, 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, on their splendid victory in the fifth round of the Army cup. The P.T. of this Company has a Wembley Cup Final ticket which he would gladly exchange for an Army Cup Final ditto.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—Nothing of an exciting nature has occurred during the last month, so I must rattle my brains (if any) to make a few notes.

With all the talk about " Brighter Brighton," one's thoughts naturally turn to the question " Can Brighton *be* brightened?" Personally, at no great risk of contradiction, I think I can safely say " Yes."

Take, for instance, our drill hall with its newly garnished front and the inside flooded with enough light to give each member of this unit sun-ray treatment. Now that this transformation has taken place, voices can be seen—I mean, heard—asking how many bulls make five on the range.

Now for business. Training is still going on, and the recruits are hard at it, striving to become proficient before camp. There is a marked improvement in their work. Tests are being made every month to see how they are progressing.

A loud speaker attached to a D.iii. is used for sending messages, and it has proved a great success.

The linemen's class is in the hands of C.S.M. Nash. It is pitiful to watch the agonised look on the men's faces as they try to remember how many electrons make an ohm, and how many " omes " there are on the short list.

Annual Company Dinner.—This was celebrated on Saturday, January 17th, at the Savoy Restaurant. The O.C., Capt Boag, presided, and was supported by the officers of the Company.

The happy gathering of the clans sat down to what proved the finest dinner ever held in the history of the Company. It was evident from the beginning that the event would be a great success.

Eighty, including guests, sat down to a magnificent dinner to the strains of some beautiful music provided by the Savoy Orchestra. Among the guests were Lieut.-Col. H. M. Logan (secretary, Sussex Territorial Association), Col. E. C. L. Wallace, D.S.O., Mr. Boag, senior, Mr. H. J. Sibley (Brighton Postal Superintendent) and Mr. W. McCormack, M.I.E.E. (Post Office Sectional Engineer).

The toastmaster's duties were in the hands of Mr. C. Dean, formerly a sergeant in this Company. The usual toasts were given.

The O.C. then proceeded to present the Wheeler cup to Signalman Wickham, and medals and spoons to C.S.M. Trower and Sergeants Marchant and James. At this stage the O.C. said that Major Read and Capt Barton had sent their compliments but were unavoidably prevented from attending through illness.

Then came an excellent and varied programme by the Brighton Legion Lights concert party.

We were very pleased to see three of our London friends with us: R.S.M. Gilbert, C.S.M. Thomas and Sergeant Walker.

It having been discovered that the hour was approaching 11.30 p.m., the moist—sorry!—the most enjoyable evening we have ever had was regretfully terminated.

I wonder how many had heavy heads on Sunday morning! Still, there is one consolation: they all had Sunday to get over it and to settle down to a normal and sober life once again.

The committee who were responsible for this delightful dinner were the O.C. (Capt Boag), C.S.M.s Nash and Trower, and Sergt Brown.

Condolences.—Our deepest sympathy is extended to Corpl Knight in his recent bereavement.

Promotions.—Congratulations to L/Sergeant Fowler R. and Corpl Watson E. on their respective promotions.

Welcome.—The glad hand of welcome is extended to 2/Lieuts Hayes and Campbell on their joining No. 2 Company. May your stay with us be a long and happy one, gentlemen!

News just to hand states that 2/Lieut Watson also joins our happy band.

Schemes.—Our schemes during the winter months are being held in the drill hall. These are also of a nature welcome to the Company. Not only do the men have a chance of doing a month's work in one day, but they appreciate it by showing an improvement in their work.

See Notes of the 26th/27th A.D.B. Signals.

Musketry.—Miniature musketry parades are being held twice a month. The recruits are showing form equal to that of some of the old 'uns. Keep it up, lads! you'll beat them yet. By the way, we are now forming a club, and members are pouring in. What about it, Nos. 1 and 3 Companies? Any chance of an inter-Company shoot later on?

Boxing.—This, by the way, is in its infancy, but we hope to show our prowess in the fistic art later on. 2/Lieut Hayes is acting as our instructor. Good luck to you, sir, in your new role!

Agony.—We are pleased to know that Nos. 1 and 3 Companies have at long last found a scribe. Now, Tommy, let's hear from you every month—although we failed to see your notes in the last issue.

Arrivals.—Recruits are gradually coming in. The men we are at present enlisting show promise of developing into good operators.

Re-Engagements.—Corpl French, L/Corpl Claude Strong and Sigmn Wickham.

Discharges.—L/Sergt Weaver F. and Sigmn Williams.

Finale.—I suppose I must finish, or else I shall be late for my night-cap. "Great stuff, this Bass!" NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phoenix Street, Derby.

The unit scribe has been asleep, so we apologise for the non-appearance of notes for the past two months.

Despite the fact that the winter months are more usually spent on social events, it must not be assumed that training is neglected. The number attending drills, especially recruits, is most satisfactory.

A large number have been getting "their eye down" on the miniature range, and their progress is very satisfactory. Owing to lack of accommodation there is no miniature range at Derby H.Q. and No. 1 Company, so we have to share one with other units. Despite this drawback, there is no lack of keenness; there are always a number waiting to try their skill in finding the elusive bull. To assist in the training of these budding marksmen, our commanding officer provided a "spotting" rifle, and the lads are getting quite proficient in this novel method of improving their shooting.

The annual dinner of H.Q. and No. 1 Company was held, as usual, in their own club room, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion. The room was filled to capacity, there being very few absent faces. An excellent dinner was provided, and after full justice had been done to this, the remainder of the evening was spent in saying the usual nice things about everybody, interspersed with community singing and other items of a vocal nature. Everybody, as usual on these occasions, went home contented that this was "the best show we have ever had."

No. 3 (Nottingham) Company held their annual dinner at the Welbeck Hotel, Nottingham. This was also voted "the best ever" held up to the present, which is saying a great deal. There was, however, one disappointment: the absence of our popular adjutant, Major J. C. Bray, O.B.E., who has been ill for some weeks. It is most unusual for him to be absent from these social functions, and his absence was felt by everyone, for we always look forward to his helpful criticisms on the work done during the past year. Hopes of his speedy recovery were freely expressed, and we are very pleased to say these have now been realised, for he is once more amongst us.

We have no doubt that his many friends will join us in our congratulations to Bt.-Major Bray, O.B.E., on the honour conferred in promoting him to that rank (which has been so long deserved), and we all wish him many years of good health to enjoy it.

The annual ball of the officers of the unit was held at the Mikado Cafe, Nottingham. This was attended by Colonel Worthington, T.D., the officers of the unit, and many distinguished guests too numerous to mention. Mention must be made of the lively impromptu concert given by the junior subalterns following the supper. Dancing was carried on until 2 a.m., at which hour everyone was fully enjoying himself, and regret was expressed that it was time to go home.

MEREBIMUR.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

Once again WIRE time is here, and although we have not a great deal to say, we do not intend disappointing our readers.

Winter Training.—This has now finished, and we have to congratulate the following upon passing the Group E test:—L/Corpl Harris, Signalmen Alderson, Davidson, Mould and Jones S., and Boy Oxley. We sincerely hope they will make an attempt to get their B.iii. before going to camp.

On Sunday, January 18th, we held a tactical signal exercise. This was voluntary, and was attended by Major T. T. J. Sheffield, Capt Hopkins, Lieutenants Sargeant and Steadman, S.M. Battersby, and twelve n.c.o.s. The scheme lasted from 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m., was a great success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody concerned.

Annual Ball.—On Monday, January 26th, we held our much-looked-forward-to annual ball from 9 p.m. till 2 a.m. This was attended by our late C.O. (Brevet-Col. MacLeod) our late adjutant (Capt P. Jennings, M.C.), Major T. T. J. Sheffield, Capt Sargeant, R.N., Squadron Leader Davies of the R.A.F., and other officers and members of the unit and the Company.

The catering was again ably carried out by Sergt Walker and his assistants. As two o'clock came round, we heard the same old cry "How about an extension?" This was granted by our O.C., and Mr. R. Bell's orchestra consented to play on, but at 2.30 everybody went home, feeling that it had been a night well spent. ESPRIT DE CORPS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Park Street, Cardiff.

General.—An intensive recruiting campaign has been opened by the unit, with Capt Arnold as recruiting officer. The rewards offered should provide plenty of inducement for present serving members to increase their bank balance, providing they bring along the right type of individual.

Shooting.—The result of the individual championship on the miniature range ended in a triumph for Sergt Green (P.S. No. 3 Company) with a score of 128 out of 150, closely followed by Corpl Milton (No. 2 Company) with 125 and 2/Lieut Bartholomew (No. 1) with 117.

Sergt Green was also the subject of special mention in *The South Wales Echo* for having obtained a "possible" on the air rifle range. He scored seven bulls in succession the first time he fired for the team this season—proving that his championship effort was not a fluke.

All three Companies have sent in their entries for the Sir Charles Wakefield cup, and practice has commenced. Keen rivalry within the unit is anticipated, and we hope to be somewhere near the top.

The air rifle team have dropped a couple of points since last month, and are now sharing third place in the league. The second round of the handicap cup took place on February 11th. We beat the Rompney Castle team, but our handicap was too much. This was the second match with the same team this week, Signals having beaten them the night previous in a league encounter.

Social.—A games tournament was held in the officers' mess between the officers and the w.o.s and n.c.o.s. A most enjoyable evening was spent. It terminated in a shooting contest on the miniature range to decide the winners—the results so far being a draw. Although the n.c.o.s let the officers hold the Salmon trophy for shooting, they *can* beat them, as their score of 280 against 181 shows.

Social.—A very select whist drive and short dance was held in connection with the n.c.o.s mess, which was reserved for members and friends. It was voted by those present to have been a huge success. Mrs. Phillips "wangled" the first lady's prize and Sergt Dickson the first gentleman's.

A snooker handicap tournament has been running for some time, and the final between R.S.M. O'Connor (P.S.I.) and Corpl Jones (No. 1) took place on February 9th. The match was very exciting, the R.S.M. holding the lead for most of the game. Corpl Jones, however, got down to it and steadily wiped off the deficiency until it was left for either to pot the black to win—which Corpl Jones did, with a sigh of relief. Both contestants were awarded a billiard cue, THE LEEK.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Soccer.—Our first game of soccer produced good results for us: a step nearer to cricket. We played the School of Signals, and the results were: Our first team won by 4—1, our second drew at 2—2, and our third won by 10—0.

Shooting.—With the commencement of the second half of the Shooting League, we got down to it, but I am afraid the nerve tonic taken by several members of our team was not a success—and we lost our first match. The second is still doubtful, but the third we won with plenty to spare. The final results of the shooting will be published in our next notes.

Rugby.—We have now completed our rugby fixtures and have run out winners of the senior league. D Company's second team inflicted the first defeat our seconds have experienced in four years. Gee, D! look out! Our revenge will be sweet.

The rugby fixtures are not yet completed by all other Companies, so the positions of junior teams cannot be given.

"A" Group, Royal Signals, Aldershot.

Rugby.—The "A" Group team met the 2nd Battn The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, on January 26th, on No. 69 ground. The first match, played before Christmas, had resulted in a draw, neither side scoring. Drafts to India and 'flu deprived us of Lieutenants Worrall and Morris, Corporal Heasman and Signalmen Hulme and Robertson J., and Driver Borrow was unable to play owing to a cut eye.

The game was a good one, and the Camerons deserved their win by a try and a penalty goal (6—0 points).

Our forwards played splendidly, but lobbed passes between the backs prevented several tries. L/Corpl Sadler and Signalmen Taylor and Cunningham were very conspicious, and Sigmn Fuller, who came into the team as a reserve, was by no means the worst forward on the field.

A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

No. 3 Company.

Sports (in brief).—In the Willan boxing trophy we came up against a good team, but at the beginning luck was against us, as we could not find representatives in two weights. Thus, we were two down at the start. Out of the remaining five fights, we won three, so that the showing was good. The fighting was excellent, and all enjoyed the programme.

In the first round of the inter-Company cup competition, at hockey we drew with No. 1 Company (1—1) after a very sporting game. We won the tug-of-war with two straight pulls. We were, however, unfortunate in losing the soccer by 0—3, as we had lost two of our best players and another was on guard. The match should have been played as water polo, as the ground was under water the whole time. We managed to beat them at billiards by 6—0 games.

No. 4 Company.

Sport.—The Company has entered for the A Corps inter-Company games cup. S'welp me bob! The whole of our twenty sportsmen are undergoing an intensive period of training for this ordeal. Several are not expected to return—especially from the cross-country run.

The football team has had two games so far, losing to our No. 1 Company by 2—4, and drawing with No. 3 at 2—2.

Several transfers are impending, as a result of these games. The following players are placed on the open to transfer list:—Baldy Waters, with or without feet (ten cigarette coupons); Bobbie Fox (given away—at a pinch).

No. 2 Company, 1st Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

Boxing.—We made a good show in the novices boxing team competition held in the Marlborough Lines gymnasium on February 2nd, and had very hard lines in not retaining the Willan trophy. Col. Willan very kindly came up from Salisbury to see the boxing, after which he made a speech.

In the first series we met No. 1 Company A Corps Signals. Our first man to enter the ring was Sigmn Phillis, who beat Sigmn Fowler. He seemed pretty confident and won the first round. Round two ended fairly even. Phillis won the third round and the award by forcing the fight.

Fight No. 2. Sigmn "Nuts" Rutter v. Sigmn Grant.—In this fight our man was giving away about 14 lbs. In the first round he made a splendid effort and gained the points. Round two opened with some hard hitting, both getting in some good blows. Nuts made a determined effort, and Grant gave some good punches in return, but whilst Grant was rocking Nuts issued him a splendid right to the jaw, flooring him for the count.

Fight No. 3. Dvr Pendleburry v. Sigmn Hogg.—Pendleburry opened up very promisingly. Hogg, just as good, had our man down twice in the first round. The second round saw both taking some hard blows. Hogg, finding his feet, piled up the points and the round ended in his favour. Pendleburry opened gamely in the third round, but Hogg soon had him on the boards. Making a splendid recovery, Pendleburry made a determined effort and, serving out some beautiful rights, almost knocked out his man. The A Corps man retaliated gamely, and was given the verdict—leaving us with only one point in the lead.

Fight No. 4. Sigmn Worby v. Sigmn Cartwright.—Cartwright was much taller than Worby, who nevertheless fought gamely. The first round was even. In round two Cartwright led with a right to the face and, fighting well, he won the round. Worby fought well in the next round, almost forcing the fight. This was the best round from the start. The A Corps man's height enabled him to get in some effective work. Later in the round Cartwright injured his thumb, but he fought well and gained the verdict. This brought the score on even terms with six points each.

Fight No. 5. L/Corpl Allen v. Sigmn Davis.—This fight opened with some good hitting by both men, Allen getting the better of the exchanges and leading by a margin of points. In the second round the Corps man fought very hard with both hands. Davis seemed too bewildered to stop the quick leads of his man, and was eventually put to sleep with a terrific right to the head.

Fight No. 6. Corpl Burnesconi v. Sigmn Barnes.—This fight was at catch weight, our man giving away over 2 st. In spite of this disadvantage, he floored his man twice early in the round but found the boards himself before it was over. For the second round both men left their corners in a determined fashion, each giving and taking some very heavy blows. Sconi was obviously waiting for a k.o. Later in the round, whilst Barnes was rocking, Sconi handed out a swinging right which caught his opponent and "rocked him to sleep." This made the points once more even, with only one more fight to decide.

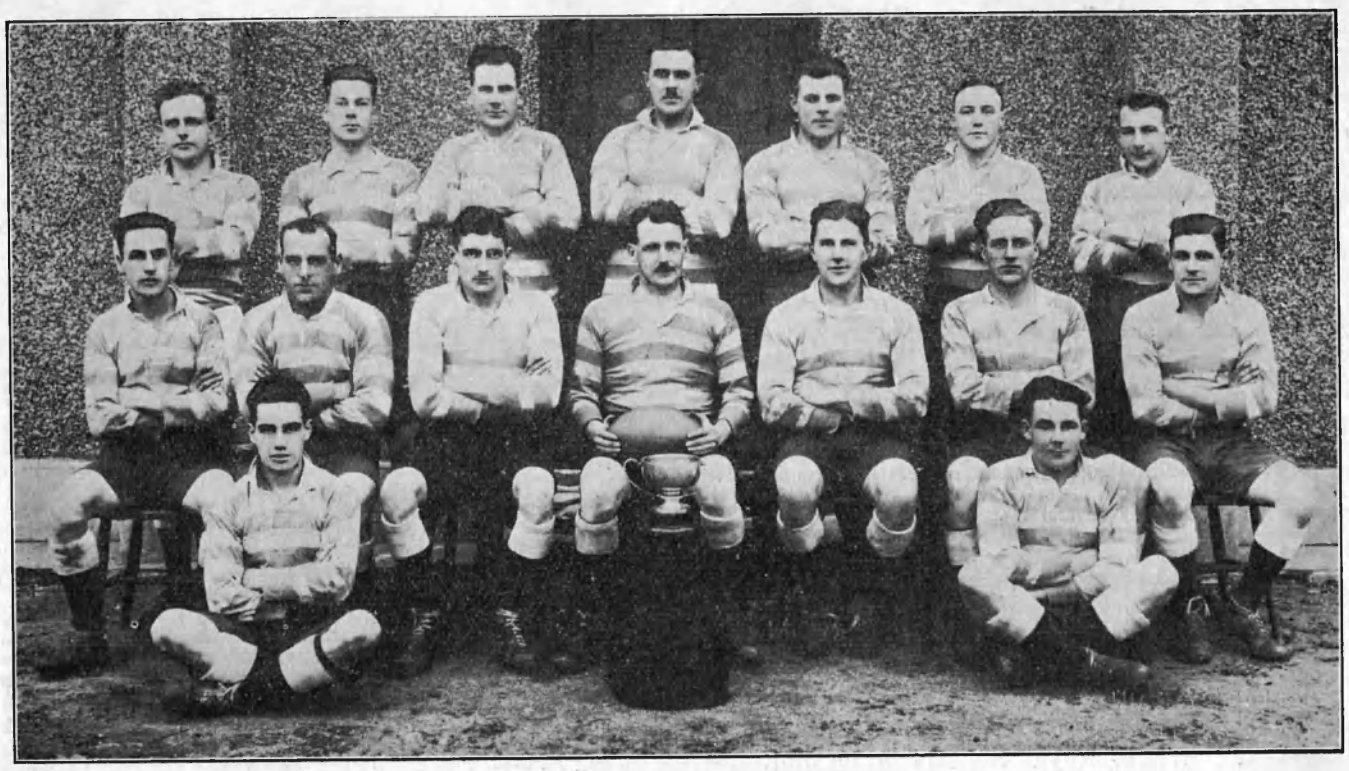

Photo by] *No. 3 Company A Corps Signals, Aldershot.* [*Wm. Mey & Co. Ltd.*
Winners of the Hitchins Inter-Company Rugby Cup, 1930-31.

Fight No. 7. L/Corpl Clarke v. Signalman Meason.—Nobby opened grandly by giving out some good rights. Meason closed in, and the round was ended in a clinch. In round two both were fighting well, but Nobby, using his left to better advantage, got the fight well in hand. Nobby left his corner smiling and fresh for the third round. A good right sent his man to the boards early in the round. Both appeared to be after a k.o., but Nobby's straight left and slight advantage in height gained him the round, the fight ending in his favour.

This brought our total points to eleven against A Corps' ten, and took No. 2 Company into the semi-final.

SEMI-FINALS: No. 2 COMPANY v. No. 1 COMPANY
(both of 1st Divisional Signals)

Sigmn Phillis and Sigmn Gower opened the first fight of the evening for the right to enter the finals. In the first round Phillis, soon finding his feet, gained the lead by a small margin. Round two warmed things up considerably. Gower was seen to better advantage and gained this round. The third round opened briskly, but Gower had the advantage and gained the verdict.

Fight No. 2. Sigmn Rutter v. Sigmn Payne.—Round 1: Nuts "got cracking" and gained points from the start. Payne collected a good right on his head, followed by an equally good left, and went to rest with a "payne" in his head.

Fight No. 3. Driver Pendleburry v. Sigmn Philpott.—Round one found Pendleburry on the boards and the fight being awarded to Philpott.

Fight No. 4. Sigmn Worby v. Sigmn Stillwell.—The first round started with some very good exchanges. Worby seemed to want a quick finish, and he gained the round. In the second round, after a brief opening by both men, Worby made no mistake with a smashing left which put his man down for the count.

Fight No. 5. Sigmn Davis v. Sigmn Hull.—Hard hitting opened the first round, and Davis found the boards but was saved by the gong. In the second round Hull came up with some good punches, putting our man down early in the round and eventually knocking him down with a good right for the count.

Fight No. 6. Corporal Burnesconi v. Sigmn Rawlinson.—In round one Sconi opened with some hard hitting and, fighting well, gained the round. The second round saw more hard hitting by both, but Rawlinson hitting rather low, the round ended in Sconi's favour. The latter was unfortunate in injuring his right hand in the third round, but in spite of this he fought well and gained the fight on points.

Fight No. 7. L/Corpl Clarke v. Sigmn Timpson.—This was to be the deciding fight. Early on Nobby was cautioned for hitting low, and was on the boards for a short count. Timpson gained the round. In the second round Nobby led with a good left but was soon back on the boards. He fought back gamely, but was again down—this time for the full count, Timpson winning the fight.

Result.—No. 1 Company, 11 points; No. 2 Company, 9. Well done, Twoco! better luck next time.

Rugby.—We were unfortunate to meet the winners of the trophy.

Shooting.—Two teams of ten represented the unit in the S.M.R.C. team championship. Fifteen of these were selected from this Company. Results are not yet to hand.

Cross-Country.—No. 2 Company represented "A" Group (1st and 2nd Divl Signals) in the Command inter-Company team championship for the second year in succession.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

Sport.—The unit cross-country team had a splendid win in the Garrison eliminating run, taking first place—and this against the 2nd Battn. Somerset Light Infantry, the Suffolk Regiment, the 4th Light Brigade R.A., and the 10th Field Brigade R.A. A good performance for a unit only 55 strong!

The above result put us into the Aldershot Command inter-Company run, in which twenty-two teams competed, and we obtained seventh place. I haven't heard what Aldershot Signals have to say about this!

Football and hockey are continuing, and both teams are holding their own.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Hockey.—On Saturday, January 17th, Signals (Southern Command) played the 1st Battn K.O.Y.L.I. in the Army hockey tournament.

The exchanges were at first very fast and the game changed rapidly from end to end, but the K.O.Y.L.I. soon found our weakness—the wing halves—and consequently, by plying their wingers with long passes, managed to keep most of the play during the later stages of the first half in our part of the field. However, our defence held out and there was no score at half-time.

On the resumption our wing halves kept position a little better, and consequently the game was more even, but we could not find a way through the opposing defence until a quarter of an hour from the end, when one of Captain Pearse's well-timed and well-directed passes was taken up by Peake, who nipped away with it and crossed the ball beautifully for Semmence to bang it into the net.

This put new life into the team, and in the few minutes remaining for play further goals were scored by Starling (2) and Peake. The final score was: Signals 4, K.O.Y.L.I. nil.

Team—Goal, Hadland; backs, Sigmn Woodford and Driver Stillwell; half-backs, C.S.M. Price, Capt. E. G. W. Pearse and L/Corpl Tomkins; forwards, Signalmen Chambers and Semmence, Lieut Ruck, Corpl Starling and L/Corpl Peake.

On January 27th we opposed R.E. (3rd Division) in the third round of the Army hockey cup. The Garrison cricket ground was in splendid condition and the day fine. From the bully off the R.E.s went right through and scored, but the game was not many minutes old when Peake was sent away on the right and put across a brilliant centre, which Semmence got hold of to score the equaliser.

The R.E.s had most of the game after this, chiefly owing to our backs and halves over-hitting the ball. Continued pressure by the R.E.s led to another goal, but shortly after, from a break-away, Lieut Ruck got going on the right, and after a brilliant run he put the ball across like lightning to the waiting line of forwards. Starling partially stopped the ball, which went on to Semmence, who made no mistake in again scoring an equalising goal.

Each side attacked in turn, but chances were missed, the players beginning to tire owing to the fast pace; and just when we were saying extra time would have to be played, the R.E.s scored what proved to be the winning goal, the whistle blowing for time shortly afterwards. We missed the assistance of Capt. Pearse very much.

Team.—Goal, Hadland; backs, Sigmn Woodford and Sergeant Westwood; half-backs, C.S.M. Price, Driver Stillwell and Sigmn Addis; forwards, L/Corpl Peake, Lieut Ruck, Corpl Starling, Signalmen Semmence and Chambers.

Garrison Hockey Cup.—This tournament is a Company and Battery affair, and provides some very keen hockey. So far, both Nos. 2 and 3 Companies have got through the first round, No. 2 Company beating 42nd Battery R.A. by 4—0 and No. 3 Company beating 1st Battery R.A. by 3—0. No. 1 Company lost to 19th Battery R.A. by 1—4.

We hope the Garrison hockey cup will eventually rest on one of the shelves in the unit as company for the soccer cup—if we can retain it!

Cross-Country.—The team have been training for the past six weeks and, as far as one can judge, have done fairly well. Sergt Cotterell has only just started training again, owing to an ankle trouble sustained on a P.T. course. We may not be quite so good as last year, but I feel confident, if the team train hard, they may get as high in the Army race as they did last year. We have had only two test runs as yet, both being against the Royal Navy and Marines, Portsmouth. The run at Portsmouth was won by the small margin of two points, and the one at home by the larger margin of 35, Corpl Broadley being the first man home on each occasion. Sergt Cotterell has not yet been able to compete, but we have a team in the South of the Thames race, and we hope some of our younger runners will show up well.

Soccer.—We continue to make good progress in the Salisbury Plain Area League. We are not always able to field our full side, for various reasons, but it says much for soccer in the unit that on the day we played the R.E. in the S.P.A. cup, we also fielded a side in the S.P.A. League. They lost, but it proved that we were triers.

In the cup match we lost to R.E. by 1—2, but I think we should have made the game safe in the first quarter of an hour, when our fellows did everything except score. We led at half-time by 1—0, but shortly before the interval our centre-half (L/Corpl Elphick) had to retire owing to injury, and we played a man short all through the second period. Even then, we managed to hold our own until just on time, when R.E. scored the winning goal from a corner kick. Sigmn Sowerby was the outstanding man on our side, although every man played his hardest.

The following are the results of No. 3 Company's 1930 fixtures in the Wednesday Section League:—

Sept.	3rd	v. Sarum Wednesday, away, won by 6—0
,,	10th	v. Experimental Station, home, won by 4—2
,,	17th	v. R.A.S.C. Bulford, away, won by 4—3
,,	24th	v. Balloon School, away, draw of 2—2
Oct.	1st	v. St. Martin's, Salisbury, away, won by 5—3
,,	8th	v. Sarum Wednesday, home, won by 8—2
,,	15th	v. 40th Battery R.A., away, won by 8—2
,,	22nd	v. R.A.S.C. Bulford, home, won by 7—2
,,	29th	v. Experimental Station, away, lost by 2—5
Nov.	12th	v. 40th Battery R.A., home, draw of 0—0
,,	19th	v. R.A.F. Old Sarum, postponed
,,	26th	v. Salisbury Post Office, away, won by 9—2
Dec.	17th	v. St. Martin's, Salisbury, home, lost by 1—4

Playing in the second round of the Morrison cup, on January 17th, No. 3 Company visited Bishopstone and beat them by 5—1.

No. 3 Company are now in the semi-finals of the Wednesday cup, beating Balloon School by 3—2 in the second round and Marlborough by the same score in the third.

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4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Football.—The record since our last notes is still a bright one. Results have been as follows:—

Beat 3rd Carabiniers, Garrison Senior League, by 7—1
Beat Harwich and Parkeston, Border League, away, by 2—0
Fourth round Army Cup, beat 17th Field Brigade R.A. by 4—3
Beat Brantham Athletic, Border League, by 4—3
Beat 17th Field Brigade R.A., Border League, by 5—2
Lost to Stowmarket, Border League, away, by 2—5
Beat Royal Fusiliers, Pearson Charity Cup, by 2—0
Beat 2nd Q.O. Cameron Highlanders, fifth round Army Cup, by 2—0

With regard to our victory in the fifth round of the Army Cup, doubtless our visitors from Aldershot Signals have already told their version of the game. We consider that we were just a trifle lucky to get through, inasmuch as our forwards decided to have an off-day together. However, we *are* through, and are now anxiously awaiting the draw in the semi-final. We hope that it will be our luck to be drawn at Aldershot, to enable many friends in Aldershot Signals to give us a cheer.

Boxing.—At last we have met a long-felt want and fixed up a boxing ring of our own in our unit gymnasium. Great keenness has been shown, and although we could not get a team ready in time for the inter-unit competition, five men entered for the individual championships: Sergt Judge (middle), Corpl Hancock (light), Sigmn Warner (welter), Sigmn Booth (light) and Sigmn Sedgewick (middle).

E Section led the way to inter-Section and inter-Company boxing by issuing a challenge to G Section for a four-bout match. Suitable fights were arranged, more with a view to evenness than to find out which Section was supreme in the ring.

The programme was:—Sigmn Topping v. Sigmn Widdowson; Dvr Harvey v. Dvr Hall; Dvr Trotman v. Sigmn Booth; Sigmn Faulkes v. Sigmn Esslemont—E Section representatives being first named in each case.

The first fight was very close, Topping just winning on points. Hall proved that he could hit rather straighter than Harvey and thus won his fight. Booth obviously had more experience behind him than Trotman, but the latter fought very well and the fight was very close: Booth won on points. An extra round had to be called in the last fight and Esslemont just won in the end.

Lieut Gardiner refereed. Capt Holland and Lieut Crawford acted as judges. Sergt Baker was M.C., and 2/Lieut McVittie the time-keeper.

Since the foregoing match proved successful, E and G combined and challenged B Cable Section. Fights were again arranged more with a view to evenness than to superiority, and the match resulted in a draw of four wins each.

The fight and results were as follows:—Driver Hall (G) beat Dvr Quaintrell (B). Dvr Shillibeer (B) beat Dvr Trotman (E). Sigmn Gartery (E) beat Dvr Souter (B). Sigmn Topping (E) beat Dvr Pitcher (B). Dvr White (B) beat Dvr Harvey (E). Sigmn Manson (B) beat Sigmn Faulkes (E). Sigmn Warner (B) beat Sigmn Esslemont (G). L/Corpl Baker (G) beat Sigmn Leslie (B).

The best fight of the evening was between White and Harvey. Both hit hard, and had Harvey hit straighter, it would have been extremely difficult to pick the winner.

Major Cobb and Capt Nicholls refereed, Lieutenants Milner and Gardiner judged, Capt Holland kept time, and C.S.M.s Jones and Herbert did the necessary M.C. work. The gymnasium hut was crowded to its utmost capacity, and very good sport was witnessed throughout.

Rugby.—Up till last week we have been unlucky. First of all, frost; then cup matches; and afterwards, illness forced our opponents to cancel their games against us at the last minute—too late for us to arrange matches against other teams.

Last week, however, things were brighter, and spurred on by the enthusiasm of Major Cobb—whom we are delighted to welcome into our midst—we played three games running.

On Wednesday, February 11th, we played a practice game in which several new faces appeared on the rugby field. Everybody enjoyed the game, and some new talent was discovered.

On Thursday, February 12th, our "A" XV. turned out against Colchester Town "A" XV. This match was played on Lexden ground, and resulted in a win for our team by 5—0 points after a hard game. In the first half we played against a strong wind and held our opponents successfully. With the advantage of the wind in the second half, we attacked considerably more, Dvr Briggs eventually scoring a good try between the posts, this being converted. Our team was:—2/Lieut Gray, L/Corporals Milne, Whitefield and Watson, Signalmen Smee, Hurrell, Snowball, Leslie, Pope, Gartery, Spetch, Shepherd and Sims, Drivers Newman and Briggs.

On Friday, February 13th, our first team turned out against the Black Watch and won the game fairly easily by 14—0 points. The team consisted of Lieut Crawford, 2/Lieut Gray, C.S.M. Herbert, L/Sergt Golder, L/Corporals Milne and Baker, Signalmen Snowball, Smee, Hurrell, Taylor J. W., Walton, Leslie and Gartery, Drivers Brooks and Newman. In the first half we played with our backs to a strong wind. Although we pressed most of the time, our forwards were not well together and our outsides kicked too much instead of passing out. L/Sergt Golder and Sigmn Taylor scored good tries which were not converted. In the second half we played against the wind, but our forwards got well together as a side. Sigmn Taylor scored another try well out, and C.S.M. Herbert only just failed to convert it with a brilliant kick against the wind. A try scored by Lieut Crawford after a long run, and converted by C.S.M. Herbert, concluded the match. All the players enjoyed the match, which was a good clean game all round.

Hockey.—The following matches have been played:—

January 20th v. 2nd Battn Middlesex Regiment (Garrison Senior League), won by 4—2
January 21st, v. R.A.F. Felixstowe, won by 2—1
January 31st, v. Braintree, lost by 2—3.

Unit and Section hockey games have been very much curtailed owing to the weather and the state of grounds.

The unit team did exceedingly well to defeat the Middlesex Regiment (Catterick readers, please note), and if they retain this form they should finish high up in the Garrison League.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Hunt Club.—We regret to announce that, on February 17th, Lieut.-Col. Bradley was badly kicked whilst out with the Derwent and sustained a broken leg. He has the sympathy of all ranks of the unit, and from the letters received this sympathy is also extended from all members of both Hunts. It was a rotten business, and his movement from Rae Head Farm to barracks was carried out in various forms of transport—from a farm cart to a closed saloon. We are all delighted to hear that he is making such good progress to recovery, and trust he will soon be with us again.

Snow and frost spoilt three of our meets with the Derwent, but those with the Staindale have been more lucky. Scent has, on the whole, been bad, but on Tuesday, February 10th, we had a magnificent run of two hours without a check.

Hounds met at Ravenscar Mill and ran via Hayburn Wyke to Cloughton Big Wood on a very fast scent. Hunting their fox fast through the Big Wood, they ran him on to Harewood Dale, where scent failed.

On Friday, February 13th, by invitation of the Derwent Hunt, the Staindale met at Lukton, but had a poor day. Scent was bad and the weather was most unkind. A fox found in Danby Warrens gave us a run for about half-an-hour, going to ground near High Danby.

Rifle Club.—The only time that the Rifle Club comes into prominence is when the result of a shoot is published in Unit Orders. Our miniature range, which is in the open, has refused to function for several months, being completely water-logged. In consequence, all our miniature range shooting is done at the local Territorial headquarters.

However, we notice with pleasure that the accounts of the Club are showing a steady balance, and we intend as soon as possible to instal a bullet catcher in the gym. When this is completed, we hope to get thoroughly going and give members value for their subscriptions.

As regards our present activities, we are entered in a Miniature League for a cup which will be presented about the end of March. The League consists of the Territorials (Green Howards and Royal Artillery), their old Comrades Associations, the local Police, and H.M. Wireless Station.

We are at the moment tieing for second place. The shooting has been as follows:—v. Green Howards, lost ; v. Yorkshire Hussars, lost ; v. Royal Artillery, won ; v. Police, won ; v. H.M. Wireless Station, won. We were very peeved to lose our match against the Yorkshire Hussars by one point.

We are grateful to those members who have given their services. Of the twenty-two signal assistants who have joined us, eighteen have volunteered to join the Club.

It should be noted by all that, as soon as weather permits, we will put up a good programme on our own range.

Football.—Our Saturday team have only played two league matches since I last wrote. We won both, and in consequence have moved up three places in the league table. We are now fourth from the top, the record being:—Played 7, won 4, lost 3 ; goals—for 23, against 19 ; 8 points.

We are going great guns in the cup competitions. On Feb. 14th we met Whitby United in the semi-final of the Scarborough and District Cup, and after a magnificent game we came out conquerors by 3—2 goals, thus qualifying to meet Whitby Albion Rangers in the final to be played in March.

On Saturday, February 28th, we meet Kirbymoorside in the fourth round of the Hospital Cup, and on March 7th we play Filey Town in the semi-final of the Challenge Bowl. Well done, the Saturday Leaguers!—a real good record, this.

Our Wednesday League team have won their last four games, but are still second in the league to the Alliance.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts
Alliance	13	11	2	0	63—25	22
5th Divl Signals.....	14	10	2	2	70—32	22

With two matches to go, and one of them against the Alliance, we still have a bare chance of topping the table.

Rugger.—The fixture with Bridlington on January 24th had to be cancelled, owing to their "A" XV. not having a ground available and their 1st XV. being much too strong for us to tackle now that so many of our players have gone.

On January 28th we played St. John's College, York, at York. We were unfortunate in having Sergt Fegan and Lieut Lyle going sick the day before and our reserve full-back not being available, so that we fielded a team with wing three-quarters who had only played outside a scrum once before.

We were up against a good side, particularly in the three-quarter line, and we lost by 35—0. The score belies the game, which was rather curiously level considering the score. We got over their line three times but failed to score, while their points were mainly due to spectacular and unexpected breaks-through, which more experienced outsides would have stopped. Our scrum, taken individually, worked splendidly and kept up the pace, but the St. John's pack certainly showed our men the value of heeling the ball out from the loose.

Both sides enjoyed a clean hard game which showed the triumph of combined skill over individual "guts" and raw inexperience.

Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

Hookey.—Considering that hockey was restarted this season after an interval of several years, I think we can look on the season with considerable satisfaction. We started off with a few friendlies, and then went through the inter-Company League (five Companies of the Royal Ulster Rifles, one R.A.S.C. and ourselves) and ended up second. This was very good, as we had only about thirty men and one R.E. officer to pick from.

We played one friendly match before Christmas, against the Royal Ulster Rifles, and were beaten by 4—1. This was our first game on grass, and as we were not at full strength, it may be considered a good performance.

We then had three serious losses in L/Corpl Harries (goal), Sigmn Wood (back) and Corpl Gandey (half). These three were the mainstay of our defence, and their departure made the team very weak.

After Christmas we played two games against the Ulster Rifles and were beaten by 4—1 and 4—0. In neither game were we at full strength, in the second game having eight men who had never played before this season.

Watson filled the vacancy in goal. In the first game (his first in that position) he played well, but used his hands too much. In the second he eliminated this fault, but was inclined to hesitate in running out.

Then came the N.I.D. Cup match against the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who were semi-finalists in last year's Army Cup. Watson, without any doubt, was the man of the match. Everyone, both players and spectators, left the ground talking of the Signals goal-keeper. We were beaten by 3—0, but no goal-keeper would have stopped those three. Watson must have saved at least thirty really good shots, for our defence was hard pressed for most of the game.

The other outstanding man on our side was Goody, a newcomer to hockey this season. His hitting of the ball throughout the game was very clean and accurate, and he broke up attack after attack by his good tackling and quick clearing.

The whole team played very well in this match, and are to be congratulated on an excellent display. The following were our representatives: Sigmn Watson ; Sigmn Goody and Lieut. Wilkinson, R.E. ; Sigmn Thompson, Lieut Bainbridge, R.E., and Sigmn Boulter ; Sigmn Turner, L/Corpl McDowall, Lieut Tucker, Sigmn Ferry and Sigmn Burnett.

Signalmen Wilson and Shepherd have played well and regularly for us this season, and others who have played occasionally are L/Corporals Mills and Healey and Sigmn Barcock.

Association.—Although our record in the Company League was very good, we lost about half our team after Christmas with postings abroad ; consequently we had a weak side to play the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the cup, and they won by 9—0 (not the worst defeat, it may be mentioned, as one team were beaten by 16—0!)

Of the game, the least said the better. Every man played very hard, but we were outplayed by a far better team. Dove, our goalkeeper, is worthy of mention. None of the goals accrued through any fault of his, and the number of really good saves he made was phenomenal. Goody and Turner also made several good saves with their heads.

The following played in the cup match: Sigmn Dove ; Signalmen Goody and Turner ; Signalmen Couch and Watson and Driver Pilkington ; Signalmen Ferry and Burnett, L/Corporal McDowall, Sigmn Raine and Lieut Tucker.

Army Cup.—We congratulate the 4th Divl Signals on their further success in the Army Cup, and wish them the best of luck against the Cameron Highlanders.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Sports.—With the exception of the mounted sports, life in this sphere has been very quiet, though elaborate preparations are being made in the training line in view of the imminence of the dismounted sports, which will be held on Saturday, 7th February.

A Company are determined to avenge their defeat of last year.

Platoons are striving to wrest the inter-Platoon championship clock from No. 4 Platoon, who at the time of writing are in the lead by 2½ points. What about it, No. 2?

Boxers are busy exploring the rural surroundings of the camp in an effort to get fit for the Deccan District boxing championships, which are due to take place next month. We wish them luck and a reversal of last year's verdict.

Results of the mounted sports, together with a few comments, are appended.

B.O.R.s and I.O.R.s jumping—1st, Sergt Gregory; 2nd, Naik Mohd Zaman.

Individual tent pegging—1st, Jemadar Allah Yar ; 2nd, Havildar Kishor Singh.

Section tent pegging—This event was open to all units of the Garrison, but in spite of the formidable opposition, the S.T.C. (India) won by the splendid efforts of Jemadar Mir Alum's team.

Open jumping—This event was also open to the Garrison, and though we were not quite so successful as in the above event, second place was obtained by Jemadar Mir Alum. The winner was Lieut Loring of the 15th Lancers.

Kirian Dongo trophy—A jumping event which raised much enthusiasm when Captain J. J. Duvivier, on "Fireplant," rode a faultless round. It was a great exhibition. Well ridden, sir!

Gymkhana event—This caused great amusement, the antics of certain mules when the "male section" endeavoured to persuade them to go over a jump being particularly humorous.

It was won amid great excitement by Mrs. Coryton and Lieut. G. S. Knox.

The daylight portion of the programme was brought to a close by a hair-raising motor-cycle display by the despatch riders of this Centre, ably led by Sergt Tebby, which showed the visitors the high standard which has to be obtained in this branch of the Corps. It was a great exhibition, and I almost imagined for a moment that I was back m the arena at Tidworth.

This was followed by a fine display of tandem driving by D Company. Led by Sergts Dilworth and Gregory and L/Corpl Woodbury, our long-faced friends afforded us a very pleasant quarter of an hour.

After dusk had fallen, we were treated to a spectacle of club swinging by recruits under training. The lighting by torches and electric lights was extremely effective, and credit must be given to Captain B. L. Herdon, assistant adjutant, for the excellent display, and to L/Sergt Humphrey L. A., who was responsible for the lighting effects.

The day wound up with a moon-light steeplechase which was enjoyed by all.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Football.—Considerable interest—much more than in the past—has been aroused among the soccer fans by the formation of a Garrison Football League, in which A Corps has a team. Acrimonious discussions after the games have been the rule rather than the exception, this unit having been the subject more times than it deserves.

The football has been of the cup-tie variety in all three games played by us so far, but there have been no injuries. We are far worse off for talent than we have ever been before, but the team has won its games by trying and keeping on trying.

Results: v. A Company Royal Sussex Regiment, drew at 1—1; v. H.Q. Royal Sussex Regiment, won by 1—0; v. H.Q. and Stores, R.A.F., won by 1—0; v. A.R.S., R.A.F., won by 2—0.

Last week A Company of the Royal Sussex Regiment withdrew from the league and the result of our match with them was cancelled, so that the record of our team now reads: Played 3, won 3; goals—for 4, against 0; points 6. This puts us at the top of the league table, where we intend to stay!

Not many spectators have turned out to cheer, but when the schemes are over, perhaps they will encourage a good team in their usual enthusiastic style.

Rugger.—A difficult time has been experienced in getting together and maintaining a team, owing to Sections being posted away and to the rival attractions of hockey and soccer. Everyone has, however, played up nobly, and the experts from the other games have come to our assistance whenever possible.

A fair number of games have been played against our old rivals the Gymkhana and the R.A.F., but we have failed to record a victory against either of them. We have, however, beaten a strong side from H.M.S. *Emerald* and from the R.A., Hyderabad, so our tails are well up. Our last game against the Gymkhana was a terrific struggle, and the Gym only just got home by 6—5.

Our hopes are now centred on the open rugger tournament, for which the 2nd Div. Quetta always send down a team. If we are not too busy winning the final, we hope to do the next best thing by winning the family fight against the Quetta Signals.

The most prolific try-scorer has been L/Corpl Webb, who is the only man in the team who can run really fast, but Lieut. Worrall, Sergeant Bridge, Signalmen Knight L., Delaney and Myddleton, L/Corpls Ryalls, King and Brophy, and Corporal Curtis—to mention but a few—have played hard and well.

The chief difficulty experienced is making up the team when for one reason or another regular players are away, but a number of good triers have turned out for us and done their best at short notice and with no training.

An unfortunate accident occurred at the beginning of the season, when Sigmn Hollands (a promising outside) was hit in the eye with a heavy muddy ball. We all hope that he will soon recover and be with us again.

Meanwhile we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a draft of sprinters!

Hockey.—The following covers the period from mid-December to mid-January. After a very fine beginning in the First Division of the Sind Hockey Association League, we followed up by losing several matches in succession, eventually finishing well down the league table. Still, relegation was avoided; and perhaps we may carry off the shield in next year's tournament, which I hear is to be run on the knock-out system. The final league table is appended.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts.
Karachi Port Trust	11	8	0	3	24—7	19
Sind Police	11	7	1	3	29—13	17
Telegraphs	11	6	2	3	26—15	15
St. Pat's Gymkhana	11	6	4	1	19—14	13
Royal Air Force	11	4	2	5	19—15	13
N.W. Railway	11	5	4	2	23—15	12
Y.M.C.A.	11	2	4	5	14—17	9
A Corps Signals	11	3	6	2	19—25	8
Ralli Brothers	11	2	5	4	15—23	8
Rangers	11	3	6	2	16—27	8
G.P.A.	11	1	6	4	11—25	6
Sea Horses	11	0	7	4	12—31	4

In friendlies, too, our prowess seems to be on the wane. The following is our record up to date: First eleven, played 7, won 1, lost 6; goals—for 18, against 29. Second eleven, played 7, won 1, drawn 2, lost 4; goals—for 13, against 19.

However, there is hope yet. In the second St. Pat's hockey tournament, our first eleven qualified for the second round by beating the Karachi Young Men's Zoroastrian Association by 5—0 goals. If all goes well, we may yet be able to report that another trophy is sheltered by Acor.

Wazlristan District Signals.

Razmak Brigade Signal Section.

Soccer.—Things are beginning to look up in this line. The Section has managed to get together quite a respectable team for a unit of its size, and some keen games are anticipated. The following are the results of the matches played to date:—v. Headquarter Section, Dera Ismail Khan, lost by 0—1; v. Battalion team, 1/6th Gurkha Rifles, lost by 2—5 (one of our own players scoring two goals for the Gurkhas); v. Staff and Departmentals, the game resulted in a draw of 1—1.

Hockey.—This is our strong point, and we can confidently meet battalion teams and hold our own. Results: v. Headquarter Section, D.I.K., a keen game resulted in a draw of one goal each, and we think we can honestly say that H.Q. were lucky; v. 4th Light Brigade R.A., lost by 1—2 (Lewis); v. 8th Armoured Car Company, won by 8—1 (Lewis 5, Staite 2, Richardson); v. 1st Battn. Hampshire Regiment, lost by 1—4 (Lewis); v. 7th Field Ambulance, lost by 0—1; v. Signals, 1st Hants, won by 3—2 (Lewis 3); v. 2/16th Punjab Regiment, won by 6—3 (Lieut Wolferstan 2, Sergt Stevens 2, Staite 2).

The second eleven lost to the 8th Armoured Car Company by 1—8 and to No. 30 A.T. Company by 2—3 (Lewis 2).

In a friendly match between the British and Indian other ranks, the B.O.R.s ran out winners by the odd goal in three (Lewis 2).

Billiards.—After being hopelessly outclassed on the Tanks' table in December, we were at home to them on Sunday, 11th January, and gained our revenge, scoring 802 against their 696.

We are now awaiting the playing off of a handicap tournament in the Section, results of which will be published next month.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Sport.—In the realm of sport we have been fairly quiet. There have been numerous inter-Section games, to help in selecting the best teams for football, hockey and cricket. With the help of our adjutant, Captain J. A. I. Watts, we should be able to field strong teams in both hockey and cricket.

Football.—The unit have played several outside games against teams from the 10th Hussars and the Black Watch. These have been friendlies, and so far we have held our own.

On January 15th we played our first game in the All-India Brigadier challenge cup. This was the first round, and we were

drawn against the Young Men's Club, Delhi. The game was a very fast one, and although we were the winners, our opponents gave us a very good run. The score was 2—1 in our favour, the goal scorers being Sigmn Lee and L/Corpl Evans.

The second round was played on January 17th. In this we were again successful and won by the score of 2—1, Sigmn Lee scoring both goals. Our opponents were the 3rd Battery R.A.

Our luck still held good, and in the third round we met the Ahmadan Club, Meerut, and won—again by two goals to nil. The goal getters were Signalmen Pope and Cousens.

The semi-final was played on January 24th, and this saw our defeat at the hands of the 1st Battery R.A. with a score of 2—1.

Cricket.—We have had a good season so far, having played some ten games—all friendlies—and being winners by comfortable margins each time. There is no doubt that our star performer is L/Corpl Evans, both as wicket-keeper and batsman.

We are looking forward to the start of the tournaments, for we feel sure that we shall go a long way this season.

Hockey.—Except for inter-Section games, there has been little activity in this sphere. A Section won the inter-Section tournament. The unit played the R.A.M.C. on January 27th, but somehow we could not settle down and lost, the score being 3—1 against us. Sergt Kelsey scored our only goal.

Billiards.—This game was revived once more when the unit played the 10th Hussars on January 29th. It was our first game for a very long time, which may account for our defeat by 43 points. The team was not a real unit side, so we can still look forward to the time when our full team turns out to avenge this defeat.

Kohat District Signals.

Hockey.—Although we have played our usual number of outside games, everyone's interest during the last month has been centred on the inter-Section tournament for the Uberoi cup. The following Sections were represented:—Headquarters, Operating (H), No. 1 Brigade (J), No. 2 Brigade (K), and Wireless (A) and Pack Cable (C) combined.

Results that led up to the final match were: K beat A and C by 4—1, H by 2—0, and J by 1—0 (6 points). H.Q. beat A and C by 1—0, H by 2—1, and J by 1—0 (6 points). H lost to H.Q. by 1—2, beat A and C by 2—0, lost to K by 2—0, and drew with J at 1—1 (3 points). J lost to H.Q. by 0—1, beat A and C by 1—0, drew with H at 1—1, and lost to K by 0—1 (3 points). A and C lost all matches.

The last game for the cup thus fell between H.Q. and K. The first game resulted in a draw of one all after extra time. K scored an early goal, and for a time were masters of the game. H.Q. then rallied and equalised through Major Henderson, who was injured shortly afterwards; but although H.Q. had nearly all the game after this, they could not get through. In the last minute or two K forced three corners—all fruitless.

In the replay each side swept up the field in turn and excitement ran high, but at half-time neither had scored. H.Q. tried hard in the second half and did everything but score; then, in the last minute, K got away and secured the vital goal, Signalman Richards being responsible. From the bully off the whistle immediately went for time, and thus K got the cup for 1930.

Mrs. Eyres kindly presented the cup to Lieut Hoblyn, the captain of K team, after the match.

Cricket.—This has just started, and our first game (v. the Gymkhana) was played on January 18th. We just lost by nine runs. A great last wicket stand was made by Lieut Hoblyn and L/Corpl Smith A., who knocked up fifty of the runs required to avoid defeat. A worthy effort, and deserving of a better fate. Scores: Gymkhana Games Club 123, Kohat District Signals 114.

Rugger.—The unit has been rather more successful this season. Great keenness has been shown from the commencement, largely due to the enthusiasm of Lieut J. M. C. Hoblyn, who is a tower of strength in the pack.

Numerous pick-up games have been played, in which hidden talent has been discovered, tarnished talent re-burnished, and old talent discarded. From these games, which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all, quite a favourable team has evolved which has beaten the Kohat Club and various teams of the R.A.F.—three times each. Of course we have lost a game or two as well, but these only serve to spice our wins.

Our keenness has been somewhat damped owing to a rather mythical allotment of the rugger ground here. In the New Year, however, someone made a good "revolution," and the Signals made a good ground on the grass farms. It was christened by two matches on two consecutive days. In the first one, L/Corpl "Hayley" Morris lost a shirt and an undervest; and in the second one, the R.A.F. lost—by six points.

We enter a five-sided league tournament next week. Wish us good fortune!

Soccer.—Very little has been played in the unit of late, but during the Christmas holidays a team entered a tournament arranged by some of the civilians in Kohat to compete for the All-India Kohat football cup. Our team played first of all against the R.A.F. "B" team and won by 1—0, L/Corpl Coton scoring the goal. A second match against the Shooting Star "B" team resulted in a win by the only goal, Signalman Price being the favoured forward. The third match was against the R.A.F. "A" team, and a most brilliant display was given. We lost by the only goal, but Sigmn West well earned the medal awarded by the Cup committee for the best display in the tournament.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Sport.—During December we were very active in the sporting line. The results are as follows:—

Football.—v. N Battery R.H.A., draw of 1—1; v. B Company Norfolk Regiment, won by 3—0; v. A Squadron Lancers, won by 5—1; v. N Battery R.H.A. won by 4—1; v. C Squadron Lancers, won by 5—0; v. B.M.H., draw of 0—0; v. M.G. Squadron Lancers, won by 3—2; v. N Battery R.H.A., draw of 1—1; v. H.Q. Norfolk Regiment, won by 1—0.

Hockey.—v. A Squadron Lancers, won by 3—0; v. H.Q. Norfolk Regiment, won by 2—1.

Cricket.—v. A Squadron Lancers, lost by 7 runs.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

Command Team Boxing Championships.—In the second round of this competition, we met the 2nd Brigade R.H.A. in our ring on January 10th.

We were unfortunately deprived of the services of Sergeant Wheeler through taking it for granted that the weights were correct prior to the sealed lists being handed in. Consequently, it was found that Sergt Wheeler was 3 lbs. overweight and could not fight for us.

In spite of this handicap, we managed to hold our own, with the help of G Troop, who had three representatives in the team. At the interval we were level with 12 points each, but eventually we had to admit defeat by 23 points to 21. The results of the fights were as follows:—

Feather (2)—Sigmn Allsop knocked out Driver Eades in the second round.
Light heavy—Gunner Webber knocked out Driver Dyason in the first round.
Light (2)—Driver Eastoe (R.Signals) lost on points to Driver Welton.
Welter (3)—Bombardier Smith knocked out Sergt Hitchins in the second round.
Heavy—Lieut Cole knocked out Gunner Haggerty in the first round.
Middle (3)—Gunner Parry knocked out Sigmn McKeer in the first round.
Feather (1)—Sigmn Harris won on points from Driver Smith.
Bantam—Sigmn Cruickshank knocked out Trumpeter Avery in the second round.
Light (3)—L/Corpl Brice knocked out Driver Screen in the second round.
Welter (2)—Sigmn Bloomfield won on points from Gnr Kerley.
Welter (4)—Driver Morris knocked out Signalman Butler in the second round.
Middle (1)—Sigmn Smith C. A. lost on points to L/Bombardier Garnett.

Middle (2)—Gunner Kilburn knocked out Sigmn Carver in the third round.
Light (1)—Sigmn Smith C. W. lost on points to L/Bombardier Eden.
Welter (1)—Driver Taylor lost on points to Gunner Evans.

Command Football Competition.—After defeating the R.T.C. in the first round of this competition, we were drawn to meet the 12th Royal Lancers on our ground in the second round.

This match created great enthusiasm, as the Lancers are our closest rivals in the best all-round unit competition, and when the match took place on January 28th it drew the largest crowd of spectators seen on our ground this season.

Great excitement prevailed during the first half, and when the interval arrived with the score at 3—1 (Lieut Cole (2) and Sigmn Beard) in our favour, we were quite pleased with ourselves —with every reason to be optimistic.

On the resumption of play the Lancers were not to be outdone. They played like a team inspired and eventually drew level. Then ensued a battle for supremacy, and during a period of pressure a very doubtful penalty was given against us from which the Lancers scored. This left only five minutes to play, and during that period the Signals literally bombarded the Lancers' goal but could not find the net again, so we had to admit defeat to the tune of 3—4 goals.

Command Football Shield.—This shield is for annual competition in the Egypt Command, between the winners of the Cairo Military League and the winners of the Command Cup.

The Signals, having won the League, played the 1st Battn King's Regiment (winners of the Cup) on the Slade ground on February 6th.

In the first half our team appeared to be unsettled, with the result that the interval arrived with the score of 3—2 in the King's favour.

During the second half our team played improved football, and were decidedly unlucky to be in arrears by 2—4 goals at the end.

The local press said that this was the best and most keenly contested game on the Slade ground this season—with which opinion we fully agree.

After the match, the shield was presented to the King's by Mrs. R. M. Powell, wife of the Chief Signal Officer, British Troops in Egypt.

Small Units Football Competition.—In the final of this competition, No. 3 Company played A Company, Wiltshire Regiment, on the Slade ground on February 1st, and on this occasion we annexed the cup. A very interesting game saw No. 3 Company run out winners to the tune of 5—1 goals.

It is interesting to note that the Signals have been in the final of this competition for five consecutive years. When it is pointed out that it is open to all units of the Army and R.A.F. in the Command, it will be realised that this is a record of which we can justly be proud. The winners of the Cup during that period are as follows:—

1926—No. 1 Company Egypt Signals, lost to A Company, Royal Scots.
1927-28-29—No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals
1930—No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

This ends a fairly successful football season.

Billiards.—In the final of the Collier Cup, we met and defeated the R.H.A. Up to the last game we were leading by seven points only, but Corpl Beach clinched matters by winning his game by 65 points—thereby giving us the cup for the second time in four years.

Sports Championship Challenge Trophy.—With the completion of the Command football and team boxing competitions, we still remain at the head of affairs, but the 12th Royal Lancers have drawn level with us, with 83 points each.

The only remaining event is the Command team athletics, which will be held in April next, when we hope to keep in front of the Lancers and retain the cup.

Last year we won this competition with 70 points, which included thirteen for athletics; but this year we have 83 points *prior* to the athletic meeting—which proves rather conclusively that the standard in all branches of sport has been improved during the year.

G Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, Cairo.

Sport.—We have had plenty of games during the last month, thanks to the 12th Lancers, who are always ready to turn out a team to play us at something. We have also had fixtures with the Gunners and our friends at Abbassia.

Boxing.—In this sport we cannot challenge anybody ourselves, but three of us took part in the match between Signals and R.H.A.—which, unfortunately, we lost by a very small margin.

Football.—In the R.Signals we have always kept our tail up, and our first important match (against the R.A. at Helmieh) resulted in a win for us by 4—2. Everybody seemed pleased with the result.

Hockey.—At this game I think we can field a very good team, although we have not yet met anybody of great importance. By the time these notes go to press, we hope to have entertained Egypt Signals on our ground and to have shown them what we can do in the way of hockey.

Billiards.—Well, I did not know we had anybody like Lindrum or Smith in our team! but we have played two matches since we arrived, both of them being against B Squadron 12th Lancers, and we are very pleased that we have won each time.

We hope to record more victories in the next issue of THE WIRE.

Shanghai Signal Section.

Football.—In the Tze-Ling cup, Area Details lost to F.R.C. by 2—7.

In the league games, Area Details beat Tung Wen by 12—0, but lost to the French Army by 5—7.

In friendlies, Area Details beat the French Army by 7—5 and the R.A.O.C. by 3—1, while Signals played two drawn games with H.Q. (2—2 and 1—1).

Hockey.—Area Details beat S.H.C. by 3—2.

Rugby.—Signals beat other Corps by 7—3.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

Football.—The Staff and Departmentals football team are having a much more successful season than last year, when they won only three matches. This year's record to date is as follows:—v. St. Louis, won by 2—1; v. M.G. Company 1st Battn Queen's Regiment, lost by 2—3; v. Tientsin Football Club, lost by 3—5; v. German Football Club, won by 3—1; v. French Army, drew at 2—2; v. Nankai University, won by 1—0; v. Tientsin Anglo-Saxon College, won by 2—0; v. C Company 1st Battn Queen's Regiment, won by 7—0.

It is worthy of note that neither the Nankai Club nor St. Louis had lost a point prior to their match with us.

We hope to record further successes, and have high hopes of finishing in the first three in the league.

L/Corpl Ralph and Sigmn Sherwood represent the Corps in the league side, whilst Sigmn Gautier is hon. secretary of the Club.

LEAGUE TABLE.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals	Pts.
Tientsin Football Club	9	7	2	0	31—8	16
Nankai Football Club	8	6	0	2	24—9	12
Staff and Departmentals	8	5	1	2	21—12	11
French Army	8	4	2	2	19—11	10
St. Louis	7	4	1	2	11—10	9
German Football Club	9	4	1	2	19—17	9
Tchen King Football Club	6	3	1	2	15—17	7
Headquarters, 1st Queen's Regt.	5	3	0	2	12—7	6
Tientsin Anglo-Saxon College	8	3	0	5	9—18	6
B Company 1st Queen's Regiment	7	2	1	4	18—17	5
M.G. Company, 1st Queen's Regt.	4	2	0	2	9—15	4
15th U.S.A. Infantry	6	2	0	4	10—27	4
C Company 1st Queen's Regt.	6	1	1	4	10—27	3
Russian Football Club	5	1	0	4	5—11	2
Kunst Football Club	7	0	0	7	1—24	0

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XII.—NO. 134 APRIL, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

Hearty congratulations to the 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, on having played themselves into the final of the Army cup by defeating the Durham Light Infantry by 3—2 goals. For the first time in the history of the Corps, Royal Signals will be represented in *the game of the season*, and we are confident that they will give a good account of themselves. Go to it, Colchester! —and may the best team win!

❀ ❀ ❀

"Simkin."—It may interest some readers of THE WIRE to know that "Simkin," the grey gelding which for eighteen months belonged to Major F. R. Cobb, M.C., was destroyed on March 10th, he having broken down during training. "Simkin" won some dozen races during his career, and many ex-boys will remember when he won at Catterick Bridge in 1928.

❀ ❀ ❀

It has been suggested that we should commence an entirely new section in our Corps Journal, under the heading of "Time Expired and Reservists." Having decided to adopt that suggestion forthwith, we approached our old friend Lawrence H. Drake and intimated that it would be a most favourable opportunity for him to once again display his talent and demonstrate that his hand has lost none of its cunning. It was considered fitting that he should be given the privilege of providing an appropriate illustration for that section of our Journal to which he himself belongs! Our faith in his ability to do so was not misplaced, as will be seen on page 133 of this issue.

Here, therefore, is a golden opportunity for those of our old acquaintances who are now in a position to do so, to chronicle their views on civilian life generally and the employment question in particular.

We would remind all ex-serving readers that Signals Association are always faced with the problem of securing offers of employment for other ranks as and when they leave the Service, and in these days of trade depression it is a very thorny problem indeed.

There must be many ex-R.Signals who are now in lucrative and comfortable employment; and, for the general information and guidance of our serving readers, we appeal for contributions to this particular Section, giving the writer's impressions of civil as compared with Army life, general conditions of employment, and anything which may be of interest and value to those who are anticipating discharge in the near future.

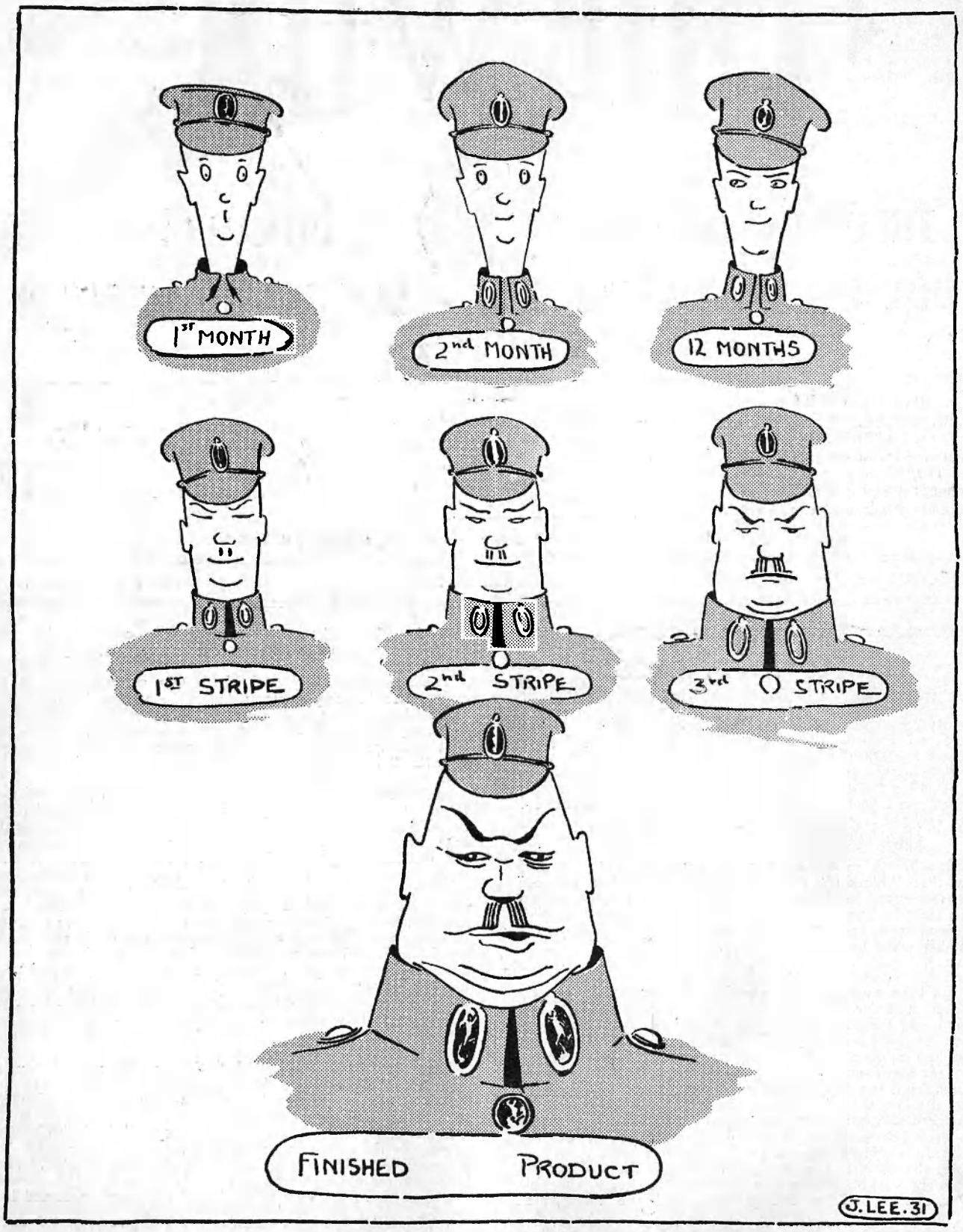
In this respect, we are indebted to Mr. D. B. Jarvis, of the Canadian Marconi Company, Yamachiche, Quebec, Canada, for his second interesting contribution. Mr. Jarvis is an ex-Signalman, late of A Corps Signals, Karachi, who submitted a similar letter which was published in our November, 1930, issue. He takes considerable pains to convey not only his own impressions of the work in which he is now engaged, but also the essential qualifications for such employment and the best methods of applying for it. This correspondent is obviously a firm believer in taking full advantage of opportunities as and when they are offered him, and one must congratulate him on the successful outcome of his enterprise. We take this opportunity of thanking him for his continued interest in Association activities, and shall welcome further contributions whenever he has the time and inclination to forward them.

❀ ❀ ❀

Army Boxing Championships.—Those who were fortunate enough to be present at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday, March 5th, were privileged spectators of a fine exhibition of both boxing and toe-to-toe fighting.

It was undoubtedly left to L/Sergt Peters, of the Irish Guards, to provide the sensation of the evening by defeating Sergt T. Wigmore (A.P.T.S.) the welter-weight champion of 1929. The latter was not nearly fast enough for his opponent, who assumed the aggressive from start to finish and thoroughly deserved his victory.

A very promising light-heavy-weight was discovered in Pvte. Sullivan, of the Manchester Rgiment, who knocked out L/Corpl



The Evolution of a Sergeant-Major.

Price, of the East Lancs, with a perfectly timed right hook to the jaw in the first round.

Royal Signals were represented by Lieut A. B. Ruck in the officers' light-heavy-weights, but after a very plucky fight against 2/Lieut J. A. H. Powell, of the 60th Rifles, he was obliged to retire in the third round with a badly cut eye.

Full details of the evening's contests are published on page 130 of this issue.

❀ ❀ ❀

Will Unit Correspondents who are good enough to forward photographs for reproduction, please send them loose, without pins through or paper fasteners round them. Title lines to accompany them should be written on separate sheets, and not on the back of the photos ; the latter should be simply numbered on back for reference. Above all, photos should not be pasted on sheets—which only leads to trouble in detaching them for reproduction purposes.

Signals Association Notes

Salisbury and District Branch.

General.—The first quarterly meeting of this Branch took place at the White Horse Hotel, Castle Street, Salisbury, on Tuesday, March 10th, at 7.30 p.m. Colonel R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., was in the chair. The secretary submitted his report on the membership, as follows:—

"On December 5th, 1930 (the annual meeting) the total strength of this Branch was 24: 5 life members, 10 annual and 9 monthly. During the past quarter, the Branch has increased by 20 members, making a total of 44: 6 life members, 29 annual and 9 monthly. This includes two annual members being transferred from other Branches. In addition, we have had one member (S.R. officer) transferred to the Aldershot Branch, not included in the above membership. There are still another fifty ex-Signals in the district who are being communicated with, and we hope to have a hundred members by December, 1931."

The president of the entertainment sub-committee announced that the Branch had been invited to play the R.A.S.C. Old Comrades Association (Salisbury Branch) in a games tournament. The invitation was accepted. These games are to be played off at the London Hotel, Fisherton Street, Salisbury, on March 26th, and it is hoped that all members of the Branch will attend either as players or supporters.

We welcome to our committee ex-Lieut W. Ison, who has been selected to serve as vice-chairman for the current year.

On the conclusion of the meeting, a smoking concert was arranged by the entertainment committee, and about forty old pals attended. The 3rd Divl Signals concert party rendered selections during the evening, under the leadership of R.S.M. Clark and C.S.M. Smart (of the C.S.O.s office). Capt R. J. N. Solly entertained with pianoforte solos, and Mr. Roper accompanied the community singing of old war-time songs from that excellent publication "Songs that won the war," which contains a foreword by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

During the interval, a weight guessing competition was run. Three members came in the running, and after a toss Mr. Hunnisett was adjudged the winner of a cake which had been kindly presented by Mrs. F. Cole.

During the evening C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Goodridge, of Hong Kong fame, and ex-R.S.M. Cann R. J., of Sialkot note, put in an appearance.

The proceedings terminated at 11 o'clock with the National Anthem, and members returned to their respective homes to answer that eternal question: "When can the women attend these functions with their hubbies?" That is the burning question: when?

Cheerio until the next report. Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK COLE, Hon. Sec.

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-Warrant Officer	Storekeeper
Ex-N.C.O.	Electrician
Ex-Signalman	Handy Man
Ex-N.C.O.	Labourer
Ex-Signalman	Houseman (Domestic)
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-Signalman	Porter

GENERAL SECRETARY.

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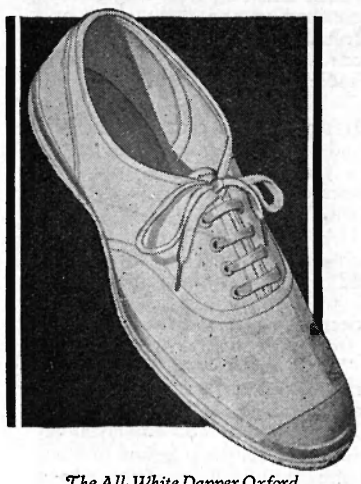

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Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from Capt H. J. Wiseman, Capt H. Golden, 2/Lieut R. Pearce.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot, and 2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, London. Temporary difficulties. £1/10/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

2—Ex-N.C.O., Farnborough. Domestic difficulties and unemployment. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

3—Ex-Signalman, London. Temporary difficulties. £2/10/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

4—Mother of deceased Signalman, Mexborough. Domestic difficulties. £1/10/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

5—Ex-N.C.O., Manchester. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

6—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

7—Signalman, Aldershot. Domestic difficulties. £2 advanced as a temporary loan from Association funds.

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

Employment Problems.

It cannot be generally understood by the majority of " Other Ranks " still serving that the present situation regarding civilian employment is as bad as is described in the daily press and elsewhere. Actually, and unfortunately, it is infinitely worse, and the task of those organisations whose business it is to assist their members in search of suitable situations is becoming increasingly difficult every day.

The problem is one which is causing grave concern, and one which calls for all the initiative and enterprise conceivable on the one part, and patience, adaptability and a willingness to accommodate oneself to the opportunities of the moment on the part of candidates who seek nomination.

To illustrate the lamentable lack of consideration shown by a certain class of applicant, publicity is given to an incident which has recently occurred and which has done incalculable harm to the Signals Association.

On March 12th the General Secretary received the offer of a vacancy in the Hampshire area from a gentleman who required the services of a " charge hand " at a well-known Institute. It was stated that the employment was of a permanent nature, and that it should suit any unskilled single man who was not afraid of work and was quick, clean, honest and intelligent.

The work consisted of cleaning the Institute before 9 a.m. and afterward serving behind the bar, looking after billiard tables, and generally assisting in running the show. The wages offered were 18/- a week, live in, all found. Hours of work from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.; with time off from 2 to 5 p.m. daily, one half-day per week, and a week-end (from Saturday 2 p.m. till Monday 7 a.m.) every third week. No previous experience required.

The Association immediately nominated a man, and selected one who had persistently asked to be accommodated with *permanent* employment. They arranged by telephone for his provisional acceptance on probation, supplied him with the necessary letter of introduction, and sent him off to take up the job. He duly reported for interview on the following Saturday morning, as arranged, secured the vacancy, and was asked to commence work at 7 a.m. on Monday morning, March 16th.

On Monday morning, however, the employer received a letter from the man, saying that he had been offered a *temporary* job in London which he had decided to accept in preference, as it was near his home!

The employer, naturally annoyed at being put to unnecessary inconvenience, telephoned to the Association, asking for another man to be sent to him at once—failing which, he would be obliged to make other arrangements.

The Association immediately called in a man who was particularly marked down for a situation of that description. He had no specific home, no relatives and but few friends in this country, having spent the last five years in India ; and he had stated that he did not mind what the job was, so long as he had employment of some sort to go to. The conditions of the situation were fully explained to him, and he was also told how the previous candidate had let the Association down. He was profuse in his thanks for the opportunity offered him, and left to report for work immediately, after accepting a small parcel of working clothes to save soiling the suit he was wearing. The Secretary telephoned his departure to the employer, and recorded it as another vacancy satisfactorily filled.

The first letter opened at the offices of the Association on the following morning was one from the man in question, saying that he had changed his mind and decided to look for something better!

This necessitated a most apologetic letter to an employer who could have filled the vacancy half-a-dozen times a day from applicants in his immediate vicinity. The fact that he did not do so in the first place was solely because he is an ex-R.Signals man himself, and he was trying to do a good turn to his old Corps Association. There is no need to say any more, except that the vacancy is now filled—but *not* by an ex-Signals man.

Lack of space prevents me from describing many other inconsistencies in detail. There is on record, however, the offer of a vacancy (unskilled) in the Aldershot area, 18/- per week, live in, all found. Seven prospective candidates were offered the job in writing, and only one took the trouble to reply. He got it!

A man visited the Association office quite recently, having just been transferred to the Army Reserve after six years service. He was twenty-four years of age and single, and stipulated for employment as a " Church Verger." This may seem incredible, but it is on record—in his own writing!

Another—more recently still—nineteen years of age, having purchased his discharge from S.T.C. Catterick, after four months service, at a cost of £35, called to ask if he might be accommodated with Government employment as a clerk!

It is only fair to say that the two latter cases are exceptions, but there are many who insist on such impossible conditions that it makes it extremely difficult to place them. For example —they *must* obtain work in some particular locality ; some will not leave London under any consideration ; others, who live in an obscure country village, will not move out of it.

A man living in the remotest corner of Glamorganshire wants employment in Sheffield, not realising for a moment that Sheffield has its thousands of unemployed already, and that the local authorities are obliged to fill their scanty vacancies with local and not imported labour.

Another applicant, still serving but expecting to be discharged or transferred to the Army Reserve in a few weeks time, and whose home is in Hampstead, seeks employment of *any* description in the Isle of Wight. He hasn't any interests in that delectable locality, but optimistically decides that he would like to live there.

Signals Association, like other kindred organisations, are " all out " to do what they possibly can to assist those applicants who are prepared to be reasonable in their demands, but they reserve the right to demand square dealing in return.

Every consideration is given to each man's peculiar requirements and qualifications, but employment cannot be manufactured for the individual, neither can the Town Clerk of Bournemouth be persuaded that he is morally bound to fill the vacancy of bathing hut attendant on the beach by appointing an ex-Signals man in preference to local applicants.

There *is* employment to be had by those who want it, especially in London and the London area ; but, for unskilled labour in *any* district, the scale of wages is low.

Applicants are advised to accept the first job offered to them, to carry on to the best of their ability until another situation (more suited to their particular qualifications) materialises, and then to give their present employer as long notice of their intended resignation as possible, in order that he may have every opportunity of replacing them without unnecessary inconvenience.

Such consideration is not only appreciated, but it reflects favourably upon the Association from which that man was first obtained, and the employer will not hesitate to seek replacement from the same source. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that employment is appallingly scarce, and competition correspondingly keen. Once that condition of affairs is realised in its fullest sense, it is only reasonable to hope that applicants for employment registration on the books of the Signals Association will do all they possibly can to recommend their Association by giving due consideration to their employer's interests.

Corps News—Officers

MOVES—

Capt M. C. Bennett from Catterick to Aldershot (1st D/S)
Capt R. H. Hooper from India to Bulford (3rd D/S)
Capt W. A. Peachell from India to Aldershot (1st D/S)
Lieut D. R. Paterson from India to Aldershot (1st D/S)

Extracts from " The London Gazette."

REGULAR ARMY— War Office, 17/2/31

Lieut.-Colonel L. Griffith, D.S.O., from h.p. list (late R.Signals) to be Colonel, 14/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut.-Colonel R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C., on completion of four years service as a Regimental Colonel, is placed on the h.p. list, 15/2/31.

Lieut.-Colonel J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O., retires on retired pay, 15/2/31.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieut.-Colonels, 15/2/31 : (Local Lieut.-Colonel) R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C. ; R. V. Montgomery, M.C.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors:—H. V. von S. Thorne, 14/2/31; R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E., 15/2/31.
Capt E. G. W. Pearse is seconded whilst an Officer of a Company of G.C., R.M.Academy, 29/1/31.
Capt T. B. Ferriday retires on retired pay, 9/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS
Capt E. E. Fenn, O.B.E., from Supplementary Reserve of Officers, to be Captain, 18/2/31, with seniority 12/12/25.
Lieut G. E. Bottomley, from Supplementary Reserve of Officers, to be Lieutenant, 13/1/31, with seniority 13/1/29.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS
2/Lieut J. R. B. Hands, from 55th (W.L.) Divl Signals T.A., to be 2/Lieutenant, 18/2/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals.—Sigmn W. J. Smith, from 2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals, to be 2/Lieut., 18/2/31.

War Office, 20/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—
Lieut.-Colonel R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C., h.p. list (late R.Signals) to be Colonel, 15/2/31.

ESTABLISHMENTS—
Major P. B. D. H. Foot, R.Signals, relinquishes his appointment of Inspector (Cl.Z) R.E. Stores, 10/2/31.
Major J. G. Deedes, M.B.E., R.Signals, to be Inspector (Cl.Z) R.E. Stores, 10/2/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. H. W. Cobbing to be Lieutenant, 2/2/31.

War Office, 24/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Major J. G. Deedes, M.B.E., is seconded whilst employed as Inspector R.E. Stores, 10/2/31.
Maj. P. B. D. H. Foot is restored to the establishment, 10/2/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—The undermentioned to be 2/Lieuts 25/2/31:—A. Ellison, E. G. Day, A. McDonald.

War Office, 27/2/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ESTABLISHMENTS
Capt G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., R.Signals, relinquishes the appointment of Staff Captain, S.T.C., 28/1/31.
Captain B. B. Kennett, R.Signals, is appointed Staff Captain, S.T.C. 28/1/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
54th (E.A.) Divl Signals—2/Lt L. H. Gentry to be Lieutenant, 2/2/31.

War Office, 3/3/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS
Capt G. W. Wanstall, M.C., ceases to belong to the Reserve, 4/3/31, and is granted the rank of Bt.-Major.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals—Lieut Hon. S. A. Maxwell to be Captain, 9/2/31.
52nd (L) Divl Signals—G. A. Keymer to be 2/Lieut., 4/3/31.

War Office, 6/3/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS
Lieut D. C. M. Johnson to be Captain, 1/12/30.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. R. B. Hands relinquishes his commission on appointment to Supplementary Reserve of Officers, 18/2/31.
56th (1st L.) Divl Signals—Lt. F. White to be Captain, 7/2/31.

War Office, 10/3/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
The undermentioned are seconded:—
Capt B. B. Kennett whilst holding the appointment of Staff Captain, S.T.C., 28/1/31.
Capt P. Jennings, M.C., for service with the R.A.F., 14/2/31.
Capt E. H. du Cros for service on the Staff in India, 20/2/31.
Capt G. P. Pavey is restored to the establishment, 28/1/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
52nd (L) Divl Signals—2/Lieut J. Miller resigns his commission, 16/2/31.

War Office, 13/3/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Colonel E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., on ceasing to be employed, is placed on the h.p. list, 14/2/31.

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TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals—2/Lieut P. A. Ennor resigns his commission, 14/3/31.
43rd (W) Divl Signals—C. G. H. Govier to be 2/Lieutenant, 14/3/31.

- Plain Tales -

Sport and General.—When, during a football match, you see the goalie sitting in a corner of his net, making sundry repairs thereto, you may assume that he is not unduly anxious about the chances of his team.

At least, this was the idea I had as I watched the match, officers v. sergeants, S.T.C. Actually, the result was 4—0, but if the officers had played a less efficient goalie the score would have run into two and possibly three figures. Capt Duvivier was almost a team on his own, and Major Pocock (in goal) made some remarkable saves. There were eight other officers playing, and one occupied a position at full back.

In the shooting competition, the officers won by sixteen points, one of the sergeants' star performers being rather off form.

After a hard fight, the sergeants carried off the hockey by 1—0.

There remains the cricket and tennis, which will be decided after these notes have been posted. It is a great pity that darts have not been included, because the sergeants have, through the generosity of the brewers, acquired a magnificent dart board. Quite a number of members "push a pretty dart," and it is hoped that from among them a team will be selected to represent the Mess in the Deccan District heavy-weight dart championship meeting (if there is such a thing).

There is a movement on foot to start a new field event. It will be called tossing the banjo, and is likely to become very popular with the members of No. 9 Bungalow. The idea is to throw the banjo as far as possible without stepping out of a ring 18 feet in circumference. Units in England who may be

interested are invited to write for handsomely illustrated text books, when the matter will be closed (as far as they are concerned).

In Snob's Lane.—Lord Vere de Broke may be seen dashing about the Cantonment in a very racy looking A.E.C. three-ton two-seater lorry these days. It is painted a delicate khaki (in places) and its graceful lines clash inharmoniously with the local incinerators. He is a very keen motorist.

Did you see the Hon. George Newberry in *The Sketch* a few weeks ago? George pushes a very nifty bow in a band at Quetta —which reminds me that, once upon a time, he used to be able to push a creditable chota peg.

C.S.M. and Mrs. Bew and Staff-Sergt and Mrs. McGuire, together with their families, will sail in March for England, where they will spend six months in wondering where all the rain comes from. Sergeants Minion and Tebby, with their wives and families, will also sail about the same time ; but, sad to relate, they will be posted to the home establishment. To these two families, we extend our sincere sympathies. It must be awful to have to live in England!

Since the celebrated Ned Chandler left Jubbulpore, the S.T.C. (India) has been without a proper concert party. Which is a great pity. A good comedian is required. One who realises that he *is* a funny man. There are plenty of funny men (and women, too, for that matter) but they don't know it.

There was a distinguished gathering at the Empire Theatre, Jubbulpore, for the opening of the talkies. At least, I think so, because a number of people occupying the posh seats were wearing dinner jackets but not eating pea-nuts. The talkie portion broke down once, and the troops, who were present in considerable numbers, enlivened the proceedings with several raspberries. Subsequently, the apparatus worked perfectly.

Topical Rhymes.—

" Stand back!" the warrior cried, as he
Pulled out his little gun ;
The rookies stood, with mouths agape,
To see how it was done.

" Bang! bang!" the pistol Webley said ;
Of the score he had no fear,
And even the ranks of Four Platoon
Could scarce forbear to cheer.

The crowd stood round admiringly ;
The warrior fired again ;
Then a gasp was heard: " He's missed the bull!"
In his eyes was unspeakable pain.

He turned from the range with a listless step,
And his voice had a hint of tears
As he spoke to the miserable crowd around:
" First miss in seventeen years!"

Tips to Musicians.—How to prevent that forced tone on a saxophone. Remove all the keys, the crook and mouth-piece, and place in a solution of vodka and P4. SOB. Lock the body of the instrument in a strong safe and throw the key down a well. After about six months, you can throw the crook, etc., down the well, too.

Chats to Military Policemen.—Huh!

BARLEUX.

Army Boxing Championships.

BY W. C. H. MANSFIELD.

A capital entertainment was provided at the Royal Albert Hall on the evening of March 5th, when the Army Boxing Association held their individual championship finals for 1931.

Selections by the band of the Welsh Guards, community singing under the auspices of *The News Chronicle* (directed by Mr. Arthur Caiger, D.C.M.) and sixteen fistic bouts were the features of a programme which afforded ample satisfaction to a crowd which numbered nearly 7000.

There were four officers' finals, the first being the welter-weight, in which 2/Lieut G. R. Chetwynd-Stapylton (Somerset L.I.), last year's runner-up, outpointed the holder, Lieut. J. J. McCully (1st Royal Sussex Regiment). This was an impressive bout, in which the new champion took the initiative and gained his victory with clean straight punches and by avoiding Lieut McCully's dangerous hooks to the head.

2/Lieut. T. Burrows (R.E.) proved far too good for Lieut. J. S. R. Edmunds (Ox. and Bucks. L.I.) in the middles, but the loser, although covered with blood and gasping painfully, was game to the end and fully deserved the congratulations which were offered by the M.C. to a gallant fighter.

In the cruiser-weight contest, Lieut A. B. Ruck (Royal Signals), another game fighter, was defeated by 2/Lieut. J. A. H. Powell (60th Rifles). Lieut. Ruck, who boxes with his right foot foremost, was severely punished about the head from the start, but he refused, even with a badly cut eyebrow, to be put out. Although suffering considerably he stuck to his guns, but in the third round the referee intervened and awarded the fight to 2/Lieut. Powell.

The heavy-weight contest was full of thrills. Lieut. F. G. O'Dwyer (Royal Inniskilling Fus.) met Lieut. C. H. V. Pritchard (Royal Welch Fus.) and the pair went at it hammer and tongs for the full three rounds. At first Lieut. O'Dwyer appeared to have matters his own way, but later Lieut. Pritchard got in some fierce body blows which had devastating results and were sufficient to give him a narrow verdict.

Lieut. D. E. Taunton (Northants Regt.) feather-weight, and Lt. H. C. D. Huxham (Loyal Regt.) light-weight, were unopposed and therefore retained their titles.

The other ranks fly-weight title was retained by Sergeant Haslam (A.P.T.S.). This veteran met Bandsman Fairhurst (King's Regt.), last year's runner-up, in a fast and scientific bout, in which for a fair part of the time Fairhurst, although handicapped with a damaged right hand, held his own. Haslam, however, knew too much for his opponent, and his skill at in-fighting was instrumental in gaining him the victory.

In the bantams, Private Marsh (1st K.O.Y.L.I.) a boxer with a right-hand lead, for a time completely mystified Corpl Bennett (2nd E. Lancs), but the latter eventually overcame his unorthodox opponent and punished him about the head in no uncertain style. From then on the issue was never in doubt, and Bennett fully deserved his win.

Another to retain his title was Corpl Jones (2nd Welch Fusiliers) in the feathers, against Sergt Wood (1st K.O.Y.L.I.), whom he defeated in last year's final. Jones easily mastered the aggressive two-handed attacks of Wood and ran out a clear winner by his clever ringcraft.

A strenuous fight was witnessed in the light-weights, immediately after the interval, between Private Khrein (1st Green Howards) and L/Sergt Smith (R.A.). Hard punches were exchanged throughout and a knock-out appeared imminent, but they both kept up the pace, and Khrein secured a points verdict.

The tit-bit of the evening was the defeat of Sergeant Wigmore (A.P.T.S.) by L/Sergt Peters (1st Irish Guards) in the welter-weights. Wigmore started in whirlwind style but met with strong resistance. Before long, Peters took up the aggressive, and his long reach, combined with a punishing left, enabled him to keep Wigmore well on the move. In the final round Peters' sustained attack was too much for Wigmore ; but the new champion had a hard fight for his title!

In the middles, Private Brennan (R.Tank Corps) gained a points victory over Sergt Jamison (Gordon Highlanders). Both men were grim and determined, but the ring was slippery and neither of them seemed able to keep to his feet and put his best into the contest. On one occasion they both all but fell through the ropes into the auditorium.

Private Sullivan (1st Manchesters) an ex-professional who was re-instated as an Army amateur, knocked out Private Price (E. Lancs) in the first round of the light-heavy-weight final. A terrific right swing felled Price, who banged his head on the boards and was unable to rise. The medical officer was called to him, but it was later announced that he had fully recovered.

The evening wound up with the heavy-weight contest, in which Fusilier Byman (Royal Scots Fusiliers) beat L/Sergt George (2nd Scots Guards). Byman, a young giant of about 15 stone, outclassed his opponent, who relied on clumsy two-handed punches which had little or no effect.

The trophies were presented by General Sir A. A. Montgomery-Massingberd, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., president of the Army Boxing Association, in the Royal box.

N.W.F., 1930.

An Epic of Unbelievable Courage and Hardships on the Kajuri Plain.

I have been constrained to write this article by certain members of our gallant little band, who are of opinion that it is now time for King Prempeh and the Ashanti campaign to give pride of place to Bara Signals of N.F.W. 1930 fame.

I don't really know what events led to our taking the field, but rumour has it that we were to get our " halfpenny back " for certain Afridi outrages in Peshawar city during the summer of 1930. Anyhow, the official *intention* was to occupy the Kajuri and Aka Khel Plains, and as these comprise practically the whole of the winter allotments of the Afridi tribes, the whole thing looked promising: for the Afridi is notorious for his love of digging up solid rock in an endeavour to grow a few turnips and similar edibles!

At Rawalpindi, October 8th dawned bright and fair with a feeling of peace and goodwill in the air, for the pay bloke was alleged to be dishing out big pays that week, and visions of a week-end at Murree looked like materialising into reality.

Then came war in all its stark madness. In Orders appeared a long list of those who would proceed that night to Peshawar, en route for the Frontier, and for the first time the evils of war came home to us with stunning force—I would not be able to go to the pictures that night. My god! had we not yet learned the lesson of '14—'18?

A feverish activity, lasting the whole of the day, swept over B Corps Signals, as quartermasters, for once unable to stop and swindle anyone, dished out iron rations and other alleged foodstuffs, while technical men sought out 40-line S/Bs. and anything else that happened to be lying around.

The main body left that night, with fifty rounds weighing heavily on bloated chests, and loads of poles and things necessary for a well conducted war. Many a tear was shed that night as the soldier bade farewell to his charpoy, with only a ground sheet to place between himself and the cruel rocks of the N.W.F.

The few of us who were to leave the following morning spent a cheerful night listening to fellows who " 'ad 'ad some " relating the playful ways of the Afridi who has been robbed of his favourite cabbage plot, and sleep only brought distorted visions of Messrs. Afridi initiating B.O.R.s into the peculiar rites of an Afridi bank holiday.

Our convoy left early the next morning, as quietly as a Sunday school outing, and that night we arrived in Peshawar, full of dust and trepidation. It was in Peshawar that we had our first taste of the horrors of war, for, as anyone who knows will tell you, a ground sheet cannot be said to be conducive to a pleasant night's sleep. Amid all those aching bones and joints, one man alone slept well: a young lad—just out—who, like Nelson of old, had viewed the " Field service scale of equipment " with a blind eye, and had brought biscuits (coir) bedsheets 'neverything.

It's a long sleep that has no awakening. The night of horror passed, and as the sun rose high in the heavens, many strange sights were to be seen around Peshawar. Along the Bara-Peshawar road, little gangs of Signals could be seen digging holes in the ground (surely the most futile of all human endeavours). At first the local inhabitants thought it was a new style in gardening, and expressed great amazement when an iron pole was placed in the hole made. Despite opinions to the contrary, the average Indian possesses a fair amount of intelligence, and keen minds of the various villages soon observed that an iron pole leaves much to be desired as an adjunct to raising a good crop. Quite naturally, they concluded that it must be a new game, and followed the hard working Construction Section for miles along the road, waiting for the grand finale. But as hole after hole and pole after pole were completed, with no signs of a finish, they grew weary of such a senseless game, and drifted away to discuss the peculiar habits of the genus " lineman."

During the day, three Brigades moved out from Peshawar to take up strategic positions on the edge of the Kajuri Plain, and

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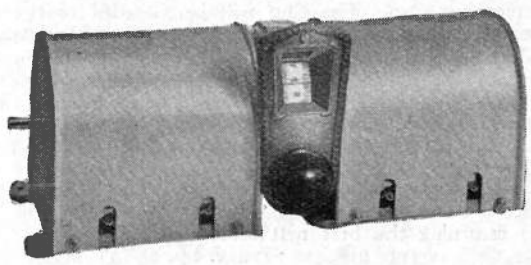

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for hours a never-ending column of troops marched along, beetle crushers doing terrific damage to the insect life on the hitherto peaceful road. Contrary to popular impressions, the Signal detachments completed a fine day's work, and at the conclusion of the day an advanced H.Q. had been established in Bara Fort and two lines connected us to Peshawar.

Then another night of hitting the deck ; some of us in the fort, and other unfortunates lying around on the great Kajuri Plain. I remember arriving in the afternoon with the " dufter " paraphernalia, to find that all the level ground for miles around had been staked out, and apparently nothing was left to sleep on but a varied assortment of boulders.

Going around on the hopeless quest of finding somewhere to sleep, I encountered our acting quarter-bloke, a sergeant who in his palmier days had been a key-basher of no mean ability. Now he was a broken man, with two hundred hungry soldiers howling for grub, stores scattered all over the Frontier, and (like myself) with nowhere to lay his curly head.

In me he saw a simple youth who could be dragged into his vortex of misery, and as he was not wearing a crown above his stripes, I believed his harrowing tale and vowed to help him in his search for a camping ground. For some time things looked hopeless, and then we discovered a 160-lb. tent squashed in between two others, the occupants of which were leering at us from the comparative comfort of spread ground sheets and blankets.

I don't know whether you are acquainted with a hundred-and-sixty pounder, but those who are will realise that it is no place in which to hold a dance or reception. Nevertheless, at the time, it appeared a home from home, and says I " Ah! and now to lay me down." But the sergeant, in a voice that shook with emotion at my selfishness, cried, " But how about the stores?" I reeled back as the base treachery of the man struck my already enfeebled mind. Stores? As far as eye could see, stores leered at one, as though anticipating the agonising hours that would pass before they were stacked in some semblance of order.

Dazed beyond power of refusal, I tottered around picking up boxes battery, cells inert (how I envied those cells), and other appurtenances of a modern army. As the fleeting hours of youth passed, so the ground space of our tent decreased until, when the sergeant was convinced that there were no more loose stores within ten miles, there was no space left for us to lie on. What a mockery! To think that I had worked as no sergeant can, just in order to dish myself out of the only decent piece of ground left in North-West India.

Death was a pleasing thing then, but worse was yet to come. The quarter-bloke and I had just decided our resting places for the night. He was to wrap himself around the tent pole, and I intended to drape myself over a pile of D.iii.s and tele. 110's. The senior n.c.o. appeared just as we had decided to get down to our fate, and bawled something to the effect that rifles would be chained to the individual at night. I laughed hollowly at this last straw, and chaining the gun around my waist, balanced myself carefully on the backsight and went to sleep. The last thing I remember was the sergeant trying to make both ends meet around the pole and cursing his rifle as only a senior n.c.o. can do.

I awoke with the sensation of several blunt drills boring through my back. Dawn had not yet broken, and the odds were on my beating the dawn to it if I lay down much longer. The tent flap was wide open, and a cold wind was nipping around the edge of a heap of stores as though just let loose from the local cold storage. My companion in distress, clinging to his pole closer than a brother, was dead asleep, and it was not until I inadvertently trod on his starboard ear-piece that he realised that life is earnest, life is real.

Let us pass over the time spent in finding water with which to shave and wash, and pass along the bus to six o'clock that morning. Signals appeared to occupy half of the visible landscape, and many strange faces passed me with the hard set expression of the soldier who finds he has arisen before reveille. For the first time I realised that B Corps were not alone in their misery.

An intensive scrounge around the Fort brought to light the fact that practically every branch of signal work was represented at Bara. In all directions, little clouds of dust indicated that B Corps Construction Section were already performing great hole-digging feats.

Inside the Fort, a short-wave W/T station from B Corps was endeavouring to beat the 1st Indian Divisional Signals medium-wave station in an ether tickling competition. Passing a little room adjacent to the Fort Compound, I observed a terrific amount of industry. The O. and M. Section from B Corps were mucking-in with Peshawar District Signals pack office and were putting a Corps office on its feet in great style. I picked 'em hurriedly from this danger zone, for as you know, nothing is quite so ferocious as a man in a death struggle with a 40-line switch-board.

When I say that everything was in working order by 07.25 hrs. that morning, I think that you will realise that no one had stopped to pick flowers. In point of fact, there are no flowers within a twenty-mile radius of Bara, and even the humble blade of grass has decided to give Kajuri the miss.

Just after breakfast (honour to our cook!) a noise like a nest of machine guns announced the arrival of the D.R. Section from B Corps. Smilingly they rode up, little knowing that the best road they would see for several weeks would be the great wide plain of Kajuri just as Nature made it.

And still they came: Peshawar District Pack Cable Section, followed immediately by the Draught Cable Section, their *raison d'etre* being to follow up the moving Brigades quickly with cable, while the noble hole diggers plodded on and planted poles for the future permanent line.

Enthusiasm was the keynote of the day, and many young lads had visions of a medal nestling coyly in the centre of the next kit they laid in barracks.

(To be continued)

[We shall have a considerable number of photos to show with the next instalment of this article.—ED.]

Royal Signals Golf Meeting

(Spring, 1931)

The Meeting will be held on the Aldershot Command golf course on 18th and 19th April, when the following events will take place: —

1 **The Corps Open Championship Challenge Cup.**—Open only to Regular serving officers of the Corps or members of the Corps Golfing Society. Conditions: Play to be over 36 holes. The Cup will be awarded to the player returning the best scratch score.

2 **The Corps Handicap Challenge Cup.**—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Play to be over 18 holes, which may be concurrent with play for the Open Championship Cup. The Cup will be awarded to the player returning the best nett score under lowest Club handicap.

3 **The Turner Foursomes Challenge Cup.**—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Play to be over 18 holes. The Cup will be awarded to the pair returning the best score under handicap against bogey.

4 **A Singles Handicap Sweepstake.**—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Entrance fee 2/6. Play to be over 18 holes, which may be concurrent with play for the Open Championship Cup. The winner will be the player returning the best nett score under handicap. Prizes: winner, 80% of entrance fees ; runner-up, 20%.

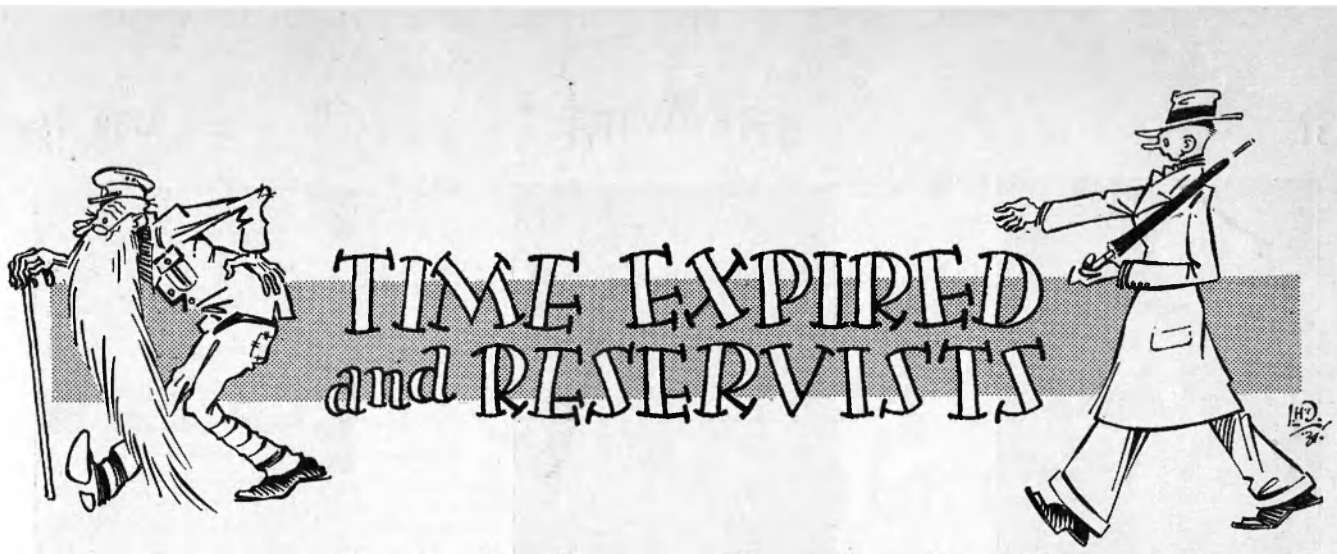
5 **A Foursomes Handicap Sweepstake.**—Open to all officers of the Corps, including T.A. and S.R. Conditions: Entrance fee, 5/- per pair. Play to be over 18 holes. The winners will be the pair returning the best score under handicap against bogey. Prizes: winners, 80% of entrance fees ; runners-up 20%.

PROGRAMME OF PLAY.

Open Championship Cup (36 holes)—18 holes on the morning of April 18th, and 18 on the following morning.
Handicap Challenge Cup (18 holes)—April 18th (morning).
Turner Foursomes (18 holes)—April 18th (afternoon).
Singles Handicap Sweepstake (18 holes)—April 19th (morning).
Foursomes Handicap Sweepstake (18 holes)—April 19th (afternoon).

Play in the mornings will start at 10 a.m.

Entries should be sent to Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Meredith, M.C., A Corps Signals, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, before 18th April, with a certificate of handicap.



24 King's Road, Ditton Hill,
Surbiton, Surrey,
March 14th.

Salutations to the Editor and to all readers of THE WIRE at home and abroad.

General.—I have much pleasure in contributing a few lines to this " Time Expired and Reservists " Section—the latest, but by no means the least important, effort to enhance the interest of the Magazine for its readers.

Employment.—I want to say a few words to those who are nearing the end of their service, and would ask them to think very seriously before they decide on returning to civvy street.

Hosts of men still serving get fourteen bob a week,
All found, including good and wholesome food :
But I know of men with a job to seek
Who'd be glad to go back if they could.

The dole is 17/- per week, and as summed up in the above verse, a man has already spent it before he's got it! The average rent for a working-class home is £1 per week. I do not rent a house, but I pay 25/- per week for board and lodging, and on top of that I want clothes, tobacco and amusement. To get these, I need tools for my work.

" Will I get a job?" is the question you should put to yourself. More than 2,000,000 men are out of work at the moment. Are you any better than these men—hosts of them skilled workers —who are ready to work for any wage, almost, that is better than the dole?

My brother's pal—a young fellow twenty-one years of age—was offered the job of driving a lorry at £1 a week! You can take these offered jobs or leave them! They *are* taken, however, while at many Labour Exchanges, queues of men formed in fours and a hundred yards in length wait to sign their names, not so much for any work which the Exchange *may* have to offer them as for the 17/- to pay the rent of two rooms.

In the next issue, I will suggest ways in which employment may be secured. To those who risk leaving the Colours, I wish tons of luck. You'll need it!

Boxing.—On the day of the Army boxing championships at the Albert Hall, I picked up my paper to find the names of those representing the Corps. It has been usual to find two or three in previous years, but this time I failed to find any to keep Lieut Ruck company. I had no more use for that paper. Now, come along, boys! Are there no more Emblems, Vineys or Stuarts available to keep the Corps flag flying? Let's be represented next time.

Cross-Country.—The best of luck to Corpl Broadley in the National run. There will be a strong field, but I fancy his chance of capturing the honour held by " our Joe "—than whom none would be more pleased at his success.

Personal.—A line from Colin would be a pleasant surprise.

Shady: Please let me have your address. This is most important, as Devon may not suit you.

Nippy, somewhere in India: Please note that Ukann Larfe has several times been " hot on the scent " at Malden. Success *will* be his, and he will drop you a line. The old 2¼-B.S.A. still rattles along. A most horrible invention for the benefit of the deaf has arrived here in the form of a 5 h.p. Dunelt. It won't work just now, but if it ever does the owner will never get farther than a " speed cop."

Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. O'Connor on attaining that rank. How's Dan? Did you listen-in to the Ireland v. England match at Twickenham? Good old Ireland! (I did not.)

Salaams to Sergt Napper, of Kingston, now somewhere in China. I pass the " Fairfield " four times a day! Birmingham should do well at Putney, while Cambridge should take the points at Wembley.

The " very best " to all, including Tim Kelly, Fred Mallet (Spike) and Jimmy McKee (Karachi).

Yours, BUDDY, (ex-Cav. Div. Sigs.)
[W. Bolton]

Canadian Marconi Co. Beam Service Station,
Yamachiche, Quebec, Canada,
January 25th, 1931.

The Editor of THE WIRE.

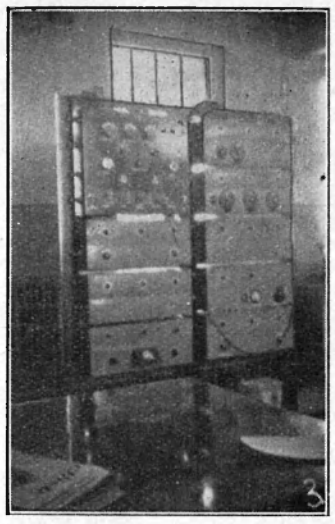
Dear Sir,—This is to thank you for publishing my letter in the November, 1930, issue of THE WIRE, and to request that you may publish this letter.

I am surprised that there are not a few more such letters forthcoming from Reservists, discharged n.c.o.s and men. I realise, of course, that there are those who are less fortunate than myself.

My idea was to throw light on prevailing conditions in and around Montreal for the benefit of intending immigrants.

I feel sure there are many " ex-Sigs." scattered throughout the globe who could pen some interesting letters on their adventures and progress since leaving " The Corps." In this way they could " contact " old friends and at the same time give intending immigrants an idea of how and where to start.

I cannot say that Canada is a land of golden opportunities at the present time. I should like to point out, though, that even if unemployment figures are high, it should not discourage the skilled Wireless Tradesman and Electrician.



If he were to probe these figures, he would more often than not find that the greater percentage is of unskilled and other than Wireless or Electrical trades.

Television is going to open up a great field, and " Wireless Ops " would do well to get down to a little " punching up " in that line. We have carried out some Facsimile tests between here and London, and they have been quite successful. (" Facsimile " is the highbrow term for Television.)

I am sending along some snapshots and will describe them as follows: —

No. 1—The English Multiplex Beam Receiver, which is capable of receiving telegraph at high speed and 'phone at the same time.
No. 2—The Australian Simplex Beam Receiver.
No. 3—New York Simplex Beam Receiver.
No. 4—One of seven 300 feet masts (there were 2 ft. of snow on the ground at the time the snap was taken).
No. 5—Another 300 feet mast [this was a " wash-out."—ED.]
No. 6—A space in our Receiver Room which has still to be filled up with more receivers.

Whether or not these photos are successful at all remains to be seen. I am by no means an expert at photography.

Before I close, I should like to mention the fact that there are two other " ex-Sigs." on the staff here. One, a Mr. Baird, who served with the Royal Engineers during the late war, and the other Mr. B. E. Cooper, who was one of those lucky £100 bounty men who served with the Royal Corps over in Ireland in 1920.

At the time of writing, the temperature outside (friends in India, please note) is 16 degrees sub-zero, and by no means the lowest it has been.

I will sign off now, with my warmest wishes and salaams to the lads of the W.E.S. in India and to those who have been lucky enough to be posted to the Home Establishment.

I am, dear sir,
Yours truly,
D. B. JARVIS,
Late Signalman, Wireless Experimental Section,
Rawalpindi, India.

" Landbeach, West Street,
Dunstable, Beds.
March 17th.

To the Editor, THE WIRE

Dear Sir—I notice that, in the current issue, Barleux enquires when Maresfield Park was first occupied by Signals. It might interest him to know that the first Signal unit to take up their quarters there was the 1st London Divisional Signal Company R.E. (T.) who proceeded there soon after mobilisation in 1914, after being under canvas at Crowborough for a short period.

This Company afterwards became the 29th Divisional Signals, and under the command of Captains Firth and Freeman proved their worth in Gallipoli and France. In both seats of war, they had on certain occasions to use rifles and bayonets as well as their pliers and D.iii.'s.

When they proceeded overseas, their place at Maresfield was taken by their second line, which afterwards became the 56th Divisional Signal Company, who were subsequently moved to Crowborough, and Maresfield Park handed over (together with the *mud*) to the Canadian Mounted Troops and 1st King Edward's Horse (King's Colonial Yeomanry).

*As to when the park was again occupied by Signals, I cannot say, but thought the above might be of interest as affecting a station so bound up with the early days of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Barleux mentions the " Chequers." There used to be a village smithy down the lane at the side, through the window of which a frisky mule once drove our Farrier-Sergeant.

It is of interest, too, to note that those Signals were well known in the district for their running capabilities, and could be seen taking a scamper across country in all weathers whenever duties allowed.

Your faithfully,
E. A. PELLS, Major, R.E. (ret.)

[*Note—This, if we remember aright, was towards the end of 1919, when the Training Centre took over the camp vacated by the Gunner Cadets, and shortly before the birth of THE WIRE. —The Printers]

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop,
Sialkot, India.

The Editor of THE WIRE.

Dear Sir,—I trust that you will find space to publish the enclosed paragraphs on "Think it over—again," with the cutting taken from *The News of the World*.

Your previous article proved very interesting to all Signal other ranks here, and I think this press cutting expresses the opinion of the majority of them.

With best wishes for the continued success of the Corps Journal,

I am, sir, yours truly,
P. I. BRETT.

"Think it over—again."

In the issue of THE WIRE for December, prominence was given to an article entitled "Think it over," in which the writer gave his views on the employment—or rather, unemployment—of ex-soldiers.

It is futile to dispute the fact that unemployment is very bad: over two million men out of work is argument enough! But—there *is work* somewhere.

After all, every soldier must finish his service at some time, as our old friend A.B.64 reminds us. Surely, to start young in one's trade or profession is infinitely preferable to leaving it until reaching an advanced age? (A man must be at least thirty-nine years old after finishing a period of twenty-one years service.)

Without wishing to criticise the system of pensioning, at forty years a man is too young to retire and do nothing, but rather old to start a new job, and so is heavily handicapped in present-day competition.

The following press cutting shows that there *is* work somewhere, although mighty hard to get.

DEARTH OF WORKERS.

Employment for Hundreds, but only Twenty-six Applied.

Inability to obtain sufficient workers has compelled the proprietor of the Shuflex Rubber Factory, at Wembley, to close down. In his appeal against assessment at the meeting of the Central Middlesex Assessment Committee, he explained that workers had to walk a mile to and from their work. He could not get more than twenty-six employees, whereas there should have been several hundreds, although he was continually in touch with the local Labour Exchange. Considering the great amount of unemployment, Mr. F. J. Cresswell, chairman of the committee, thought it was an extraordinary state of affairs.

Corps Boxers in Civvy Life.

BY "TEXAS."

Many people are often asking how our Corps boxers fare when they return to civilian life. By the courtesy of the Editor, I append a few details of contests I have seen recently—being an old follower of the game. (1st Div. Aldershot, please note.)

In the English Police boxing championships, the Corps had two old representatives engaged: Police Constables Rodda (Nottingham City Police) and "Tubby" Howard ("L" Div. Metropolitan Police). Rodda met a good man in Garda Forde (Civic Guards, Ireland), and after three rounds of good boxing by both men, he lost on points. Howard was drawn against P.C. Joe Goyder (City Police) an A.B.A. light-heavy champion, who knocked him out in the third round and went on to win the title.

Nottingham Police met the Metropolitan Police and Civic Guards in a match at Nottingham on February 21st, when the two Corps men were again engaged. Rodda met an ex-A.B.A. champion in P.C. Jackson (Met. Police) and did extremely well in winning a closely-contested fight on points. Howard, for the visitors, was not so successful, losing on points to P.C. Campbell (Notts Police, late Gordon Highlanders). The fight of the evening was that in which our old favourite V. A. Stuart met P.C. A. Titmus ("A" Div. Met. Police) and, and after six rounds of terrific fighting, beat him on points. This was Stuart's first appearance in the ring since he left the Corps.

Stuart appeared for the A.B.A. in a show at Richmond, and once more found himself opposed by Titmus, the Police champion. This contest took place in a small ring and proved a "thriller." From the start Stuart out-boxed and out-fought his man, and in the sixth round sent him to the boards with a terrific right, winning easily on points. This is believed to be the first time that Titmus has ever been knocked off his feet.

By the time these notes are in print the A.B.A. championships will have been held, and I hope to see Stuart win the heavy-weight title. At the moment I cannot see anyone equal to wresting it from him. Stuart is now a Fireman in the London Fire Brigade.

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YORKS.

The Army Football Cup.

DURHAMS FIND THE SIGNALS AGAINST THEM.

4th Divisional Signals 3, 1st Durham L.I. 2.—Four thousand spectators saw ninety minutes of hard, and at times clever, football at Darlington in the Army Cup semi-final between the 1st Durham Light Infantry (Catterick) and the 4th Divisional Signals (Colchester) which the Signals won by 3—2.

Their victory was enhanced by the fact that at one period of the game they were two goals in arrears, but they rallied to such an extent in the second half that they scored three goals in the short space of ten minutes. Their whirlwind tactics during this period left the Durhams almost helpless.

It had not been so all through the game, which was in fact fairly evenly contested. The opening stages saw the Durhams completely overrun their opponents, but Dalziel, in the Signals' goal, could do nothing wrong. Shots from all angles came alike to him, and among his many brilliant saves was one from a penalty taken by Cowell, the Durhams' leader, who up to this match had scored with every spot kick that he had taken.

The Signals came into their own later, and with an excellent half-back line, in which Palmer was a commanding figure, they launched a series of dangerous attacks. Cope and Machin were prominent in the Durhams' forwards, but Cowell did little of note. Brunt and Edge, the wing men, were the Signals' best forwards. All the goals were scored in the second half. Fulton and Golightly scored for the Durhams in the first ten minutes, but in the next ten Spencer (penalty), Oades, and Brunt replied for the Signals.—*The Daily Express*, March 17th.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

I must first apologise for the absence of notes for last month. Not that they weren't *typed*, but owing to being late through a certain amount of sickness at home and abroad, they were pushed into the w.p.b. (Is that so, Mr. Editor?)

Switzerland is at our door. Skis have been in evidence, and tobogganning has even been seen over a few rabbit warrens. Nothing serious, though. Cold as it is, and sloppy as it will be, parts of the country look beautiful, and I doubt not that some excellent photos will shortly be produced by enthusiastic amateur and professional photographers.

We have survived the 'flu epidemic. Without a doubt, some had a rough time of it, but they stuck it and didn't visit the M.O. until they were down and out. A lot of married men were quite glad to see their better halves " up and about." It makes a long day when mother chucks up the sponge!—especially when there are a few chicken in the same state, waiting for their daily food.

We have been fortunate in the general health of the pipes this winter. The plumbers haven't reaped a harvest at our expense, so far, and I understand they are thinking of giving up the recently-installed telephones to their private addresses.

We congratulate the 4th Divl Signals on reaching the semi-final of the Army soccer cup. It is our intention to turn out in force to give them strong support if the game is eventually played in these arctic regions. We are sure we could drown the noise made by the D.L.I. when it comes to shouting! If we could push the 4th Divl into the final, and send them down to Aldershot for the Corps there to see them perform, we should be glad indeed. Anyway, we are sure the team will give us of their best. Good luck to them!

The inter-Company Rugger League having been completed, we find ourselves second to F Company. Quite a good performance. We shall have to do something about this, F Company!

While we haven't managed to shake them off, in the shooting League we came a bit nearer to doing so, tieing with them for first place.

We haven't done so well at soccer. We still have two more matches to play, but if we can win them the points will be useful.

Our minds are drifting towards thoughts of the annual inspection, but before then, we have the Easter holidays to fortify ourselves with new courage to " look it in the face."

Moves.—Sergt Oliver to Colchester on February 26th. After five years of steady work in the saddler's shop, we shall greatly miss him. Our best wishes go with him, and we hope his family will soon find some quarters at their new station. Keeping two homes is expensive!

L/Sergt Kilford has come in relief of Sergt Oliver. He has been here before, and will not take long to shake down.

L/Corpl Freeman arrived from India on February 28th, and is now enjoying a month's furlough.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

March 14th.

Again comes the R.S.M.'s insatiable demand for notes, but I fear, my masters, that I have very little to tell.

Hardly a day passes but fresh names are added to the list of towns " verboten." It is almost like the days of Dora, for one may not venture to Sunderland, York, Sheffield, Nottingham, Barnsley, Rotherham, Keighley, Mansfield, Doncaster, Blackwell or Hebburn-on-Tyne. One may visit Newcastle, but may not enter any place of refreshment or entertainment. All this is on account of the dreaded spotted fever bacilli.

For the same reason the Army cup semi-final between 4th Divl Signals and the D.L.I., which should have been played at York on March 11th, is to be played at Darlington on the 16th. We expect to see a great exodus from Catterick to witness the match.

The vile weather to which I referred last month continues. Its culmination was five successive days of snow, which covered the ground to a depth of one foot. Incidentally, several hearty curses have been showered upon the head of the man who discovered Iceland.

We welcome Major R. H. Neale, who has recently arrived from Bulford to take up the duties of P.R.I. in this Battalion.

The moving finger writes—presumably at Chatham—for we have lost some more personnel in the form of drafts for Egypt and Sarafand. They carry with them our best wishes.

According to one of the latest accretions to the Corps: During the East African campaign, the white ants ate the telegraph poles, so the Signals, undaunted, strung their lines upon the necks of *giraffes* at a height of 25 ft. above the ground. But it was all of no avail, for (according to the same authority) the elephants stole the cable! (Ref. E.O.3cc. J.1931)

Our tame half-wit, referring to the re-organisation of the Dismounted Wing, said the reason was that the authorities feared that if the Depot Battalion developed any more wings, it might fly away. Nah, then, do yer knoaw 'im? Yer wouldn't fink so, Daddy.

D Company, Training Battalion.

Glory! pushed again! I wonder who pushed this job on to me, anyway. They *must* be hard up for a scribe in D Company!

Indian Draft.—The undermentioned sailed for India per H.M.T. *Nevasa* on February 26th (we wish 'em the best of luck!):—L/Sergeants Butler W., Steele P. and Widgery, Corpls Newman, Phillips, Gandey G., Stockton F. and Wiggens, L/Cpls Bartlett, Brider W. and Jones E., Signalmen Clarke, Gibbons, Hickman, Fears, Jackson, Kelly J., Marshall P., Marchant W. J., Moiatt F., Scanlan N., Styan A., Taylor E., Thorpe G., Carville M., Crompton J., Milligan R., Mullin A. and Paul E. " Widge " thought he was getting a ride with the baggage party, but he marched all the way to Richmond station!

Appointment.—Congratulations to the O.C. cookhouse, Sigmn Bellinger, on attaining the solemn rank of U/L/Corpl. Mine's a half-pint of sergeant-majors.

Birth.—Congratulations to L/Sergt and Mrs. Page on the arrival of a daughter (Pamela Edna). We are all pleased to know that Mrs. Page is now off the D.I. list.

Arrival.—Sergt Malcolm has arrived from A Corps Signals and is taking over the all-important job of messing. No doubt, he will soon acquire the lay girth.

Discharge.—Sigmn Crawford, whose leg was amputated as the result of a motor-cycle accident, has now been discharged from the Service. I understand the Signals Association has found him a job as a switchboard operator. Sigmn Crawford wishes to thank all ranks who contributed to the £38/12/2 raised for his artificial limb, and for the great help and consideration given him generally.

Apology.—Our tame artist laughed quite heartily at Lee's " K.R.R." in the February WIRE, but now he humbly apologises to all who happened to notice that he had placed a man on guard

with his bandolier on the wrong shoulder. Still, as Wellington said, "The man who never made a mistake never made anything."

To 4th Divisional Signals.—If vocal support will do anything, you have already won the semi-final of the Army cup. Congratulations! At least, the whole Corps hopes so.

Spring Drills.—We think exactly the same as the other Companies, so read *their* notes.

To H.Q., S.T.C.—The more 'tis the truth, sir, the more 'tis a libel!

Heard.—Signalman (reading letter): "Canal! My brother in Canada has been hurt by a lion." Cockney ex-Public School Boy: "Blimey! 'Oo froo it?"

Rugby.—We congratulate our second team on their unbeaten record.

JOSOPE.

E Company, Training Battalion.

March 11th.

"In the spring, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of ——." Mine are occupied at the moment with snowstorms and spring drills.

The Arctic Circle has sent us a very unwelcome visitor, and for the past few days we have had nothing but snow for breakfast, dinner and tea. But for the fact that the "United" buses have manfully run to schedule, I'm afraid that we at Catterick would have been like "Babes in the Wood." Of course, I have cancelled my proposed visit to Switzerland, and intend to exercise my powers when spring drills commence next Monday. In any case, the pay-bloke says I have not enough credit to take a Richmond return. Ahem! shades of Napoleon on his trip to Moscow!

There is no truth in the rumour that our S.A. squads are to be equipped with sleighs, but I think that something should be done for our C.S.M., who has had to give up his old war horse (for the time being, of course).

The 'flu epidemic having been safely dealt with, I must offer a few bricks—no, I mean bouquets—to our worthy orderly corporal. His room was turned into a hospital, and he administered to the needs of the sick. Nurse was doing wonderfully at "her" new trade, but unfortunately was compelled to give up owing to the fact that she caught a few germs herself!

All in Catterick have, for the past week or so, been on tip-toe to see the 4th Divisional Signals play the D.L.I., our near neighbours, in the semi-final of the Army cup. Unfortunately, the match had to be postponed owing to snow. The team arrived from Colchester last evening, and are looking fit and well. We are very pleased to see that old members of the Company football team are now playing for 4th Divisional Signals. The match is now to be played at Darlington as soon as the snow clears, and I trust that the team will get all the support it thoroughly deserves. The very best of luck to you, Colchester!

Appointment.—Most hearty congratulations to Corpl Bryant on his appointment as L/Sergeant.

Drafts.—We have said "Cheerio!" to an old friend, to wit Sergt Nicholson, who departed for Egypt Signals on March 9th. That boat *did* arrive after all, Jock.

Increase.—Congratulations to Corpl Cotton on being presented with a son on February 6th. Fifth Royal Irish Lancers, please copy.

Decrease, pro tem.—Corpl Kilford, our worthy pay assistant, has departed to the Dismounted Wing to help them over their troubles. Oh! we *do* miss your voice and the R.103 on the verandah, Tich.

Re-Engagements.—Our C.S.M. and Sergt Cayley have re-engaged to complete the "ex-rat" service. In the words of our Cabbo, "Once a boy, always a boy." I don't think!

Aspirations.—To Bill: How about that fortune? Bullets are offering £4500 this week. Who said targets? Why not ask Goodwin!

THE WATCHER.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—The annual isolation commenced on February 21st, when Nos. 5 and 9 Huts were segregated owing to a case of measles. Nos. 1 and 6 followed suit a few days later, and as a result technical training was badly upset. No further cases have developed to date, and it is hoped that normal routine will soon be resumed.

March 16th will see us turning out, bright and early, for the first of the spring drills. There's nothing like an hour on the square to sharpen up appetites for breakfast! It is confidently expected that, as usual, the boys will put up a good show.

On February 26th we said au revoir to L/Sergt Widgery and Corpl Phillips, who left for India per H.M.T. *Nevasa*. We shall follow their wanderings with interest, and hope they will preserve happy memories of their association with F Company.

Corpl Harbin leaves us in a few days for a preliminary P.T. course at York, and later at Aldershot. We shall miss him badly when the athletic season commences. Still, he will be very handy for the Army championships, and we look forward to seeing the pole jump record go up a few inches.

Pats on the Back.—To L/Corpls Lauriere and Hicks N. C. on joining the ranks of the great unpaid.

To L/Corpl Sadler on his great game for the Army rugger XV. against the Royal Navy at Twickenham. He learnt the game in F Company under the watchful eye of Major Cobb, and we are very pleased to see that he is carrying on the good work.

To 4th Divisional Signals soccer team on their excellent show in the Army cup. We believe that no Signal team has hitherto reached the semi-final stage in this competition. They are due in Darlington to try conclusions with the 1st D.L.I., who have carried all before them in Catterick Garrison matches. If enthusiastic support is any aid to good play, the 4th Div. should touch their top form, as almost everyone who can get away is making the journey to cheer them on.

Stop Press.—Another case of measles has developed, and Nos. 5 and 9 Huts are again isolated. Any germs which manage to survive in the prevailing wintry conditions must possess an exceptional degree of stamina! PIP.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

"If this be the sunny south, give me the frozen north!" Thus did a good member of the Corps, who is spending a short holiday with us, express his first impression of Aldershot. Certainly, he had good cause, for an east wind was blowing at its worst when he emerged from the train with his long-faced charge. The next few days were even worse, and snow and severe frost drove us indoors to a warm and sympathetic hearth.

At the moment we are enjoying a spell of sunshine, and there is no need to listen for the frost hooter or to empty the radiators.

Signals regimental point-to-point race is on Tuesday, March 17th. It is being held again, this year, at Ashbridge Farm. Those riders who have walked over the course feel that, with the mounts we have available, walking is the best way of getting right round! However, the matter must be left to the horses and the usual spot of luck.

I have just heard that 4th Divisional Signals have played themselves into the Army football final by defeating the Durham Light Infantry by 3—2 goals. Heartiest congratulations, 4th Divisional Signals! We sincerely hope that you will win the tournament.

Arrivals.—From S.T.C., L/Corpl Roderick, Signalmen Greave and Reid. From D Troop, Sigmn Stanton. From overseas, Sergeants Thomas, Keane, Robertson and Burns, L/Sgt Handley, L/Corpl Crow, Signalmen Goble and Raymond.

Attachment.—Sergt Harcourt from No. 1 Section R.A.O.C.

Departures.—Overseas, L/Sergt Parsons, Corpls Tunnicliffe, Appleby, Minchin and Stibbs, L/Corpls Cook and Bell, Signalmen Marshall, Langley, Fielden, Williams, Lewis, Aldridge, Ratnage, Richardson, Davies, Reeves, Nicholls, Wheatley, Delicate, Cokayne and Martin. To 4th Divl Signals, C.S.M. Hailes. To S.T.C., Sergt Malcolm. On discharge, L/Sergt Huxtable, Signalmen Hines and Blake.

Re-Musterings.—To lineman c.ii., L/Corpl Rawlins, Signalmen Mills and Pearson. To lineman c.iii., L/Corpl Allen, Signalmen Jones, Cartwright, Burge, Murrell, Frames, Bowen, Edwards and Wadey.

Courses of Instruction.—L/Corpl Brown completed a fire fighting course at Aldershot and qualified as instructor. L/Corpl Hodge and Sigmn Mortimer completed a drill and musketry course at the S.T.C., obtaining 55 and 83 per cent. respectively.

Service.—Corpl McKowin and Sigmn Pask extended to eight years, and Sjgmn Curl to complete twelve years, with the Colours. Corporals Baldock, Hayhoe and Walsh, and Sigmn Wise, re-engaged to complete twenty-one years.

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Corpl Crawford to be Corporal, on January 3rd; Sigmn Stanton to be A/L/Corporal, on December 23rd.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 Construction Section.

General.—Another WIRE received and read, and still no notes from the Company other than those of No. 1 Construction Section. What a pity! Just as one was beginning to sit up and take notice of their Company and Section notes, too! Well, I suppose there must be a good reason for their continued absence. But, nevertheless, there must be a good number of "old boys" who look for news of their old Company and Section. So now, you fellows, what about it?

We are really sorry to lose Sigmn Delicate, who leaves us for warmer climes. His happy personality (not to mention his prowess on the running field) will always remain in our memory. We could do with many more like you, Rook. However, cheerio and good luck!

Work on the Tattoo has started in earnest, and at the time of going to press the familiar airline routes in and around the ground have disappeared (Jim Farley, please note). An entirely new system is being constructed, and no more borrowing of circuits is likely to happen now. I hope to give more details at a later date.

Also working at the Tattoo is a party from the A.V.T.C., but we looked in vain for Red Pullen. On enquiry, we were told that "only picked men stay in the shops." How true this is, only P knows. Anyway, John, you are not missing anything (?)

Congratulations.—To Major H. V. Thorne on his promotion to that rank. To Taff Mills on his marriage to Miss E. Stacey on December 30th (good old Tattoo!) To 4th Divl Signals on their success in the Army cup (may we see you on Easter Monday!)

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of ex-Corporal Jack Russell, which occurred at Haywards Heath on February 16th. The late Corpl Russell was in this Section for five years, during which time he made many friends of all ranks. He was a popular n.c.o., an excellent tradesman

The late Corporal Russell.

and a good sportsman. We feel sure that all who knew him will join us in extending deepest sympathy to his wife and parents in their sad bereavement.

Dole Not Required.—Sigmn Wise to complete twenty-one years ; also, Willie Wifers and Willie Hoar to beyond the twenty-one. May these two lads live long to be tickled and tickle respectively.

Departures.—L/Sergt Huxtable and Sigmn Nicol to civvy street. Mr. Nicol is employed on the Command central ground and seems quite happy. Good luck to you both!

Sigmn Delicate to Egypt. Keep your eye on him, Egypt Sigs.

Arrivals.—Nil ; but the Section could do with some to fill the gaps made by Mr. Records.

Conclusion.—It is one of the hardest jobs in the Section to find material for WIRE notes, but I trust all those interested in us find news of their pals now and again and are able to gather "just how we are pushing along."

Till next month, cheerio! DANGLER.

P.S.—I have been unable to get any news from the garage. This is not due to the phone being dis, but to the activities of Al Suntone, whose exploits with his long-range automatics has spread fear in the hearts of all (American papers, please copy).

No. 3 Company.

General.—Pheaverish! A phew unphorseen diphiculties have arisen owing to the phailure of the ephs and cays on our typewriter. We don't lique the looc oph this cind (pronounce the "c" hard) oph spelling any more than you do, but mistaix will happen in the best regulated phamilies. Phortunately, we shall be able to ceep going as long as the ph's and c's hold out, and except phor a mistaque here and there . . . . . Gawd! gimme my pen!

Simple Stories.—Sidney bought a bike. The bike had a sidecar. (To be continued.)

Beware! Whilst learning to ride a motor-cycle combination, it is foolish to round a corner at anything over 45 m.p.h.

* * * *

The typewriter has now been operated on and, having successfully survived the ordeal, has come up for more bashing. As the training season is still in vogue, there is very little of any interest to record in these notes.

Departures.—J draft to India on February 26th. We lost a few more of our very small Company when Signalmen Marshall J., Fielden, Lewis, Richardson, Langley, Williams E. and Aldridge departed for that sunny clime.

Another great loss to the Company is that of C.S.M. Hailes C. R., who has been posted to Colchester. However, our loss is their gain. They certainly *are* gaining a good athletic organiser and a good performer with the weight and discus.

Later Departures: In Memoriam—

We've said good-bye to Wheatley,
And also Ding Dong Bell ;
Shed some sad tears for Nicholls,
And for Cokayne as well.
There's also Jimmy Martin—
He's last, but not the least.
Farewell, for all those summers
You are spending in the East.
—(*Glug Glug.*)

The above left us for Egypt on March 10th. We wish all the departures from the Company the best of luck, wherever they land up.

In addition, we have lost another great athlete in Corpl Tom Stibbs, who has gone to Egypt. All ex-Maresfield wallahs will remember him on the old village ground. Egypt are getting an excellent all-rounder as well as a "jolly good fellow."

Extension of Service.—Sigmn Fred Curl has taken on for twelve years ; he must like it! Corpl Stan Walsh has taken on for twenty-one ; he must like it, too! But who wouldn't, when you can go wandering round looking for a job—yes, looking for one ; and judging by results, he's still missed looking in the right quarter. Gee, what a life!

Promotions.—Heartiest congratulations are extended to Corpl Crawford on attaining that dizzy height. [Note to Records: What about that Promotion Roster—has someone lost it?]

Attachments.—L/Corpl Stanton has been posted to No. 3 Company from D Troop, but is still attached to them.

Agony.—Will Signalmen Dangerfield, Payne or Furniss, believed to be somewhere in India, please communicate with Sigmn Franklin, No. 3 Company?

Has Sigmn Fox (Georgie), now at Catterick, lost his pen, or has the ink frozen? What about a letter to Ginger Kent, 3/A Corps?

An Ode.—(Not to be confused with the half-brother of "Kathode.") Who saves us from the bitter frost? Why, Lamp-Lighter Pascoe, R.Signals! E.H.F.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

Wire notes! "Swire" notes, you mean. Persons who are too ignorant to appreciate the point may exempt themselves from saying "Very clever!" I don't need their plaudits. I will offer them advice:—Travel ; see the world ; learn Arabic. However, to begin the monthly "bind."

Sigmn Brennan has returned to the fold, thus taking some of the strain from the Workshop personnel.

In connection with the Workshop, our O.C. has brought in quite a reasonable lot of equipment to bolster it up. Among other things is a lathe, of which I hope to tell you more when the office staff have finished with it.

Friends in Palestine will detect something of the "old Cooper" when I tell them he can't "receive" at the moment owing to a damaged nasal organ. What an incomparable artiste this man is! When we mentioned last month that he was the composer of "Little White Lies," we were wrong. We did a brilliant mind an injustice: it should have read "*Big* White Lies."

Knotchy Knight is loose again—fretwork, this time. Ben, two thousand miles is just the distance you want between him and your three-ply wood at the moment. He's working at it one day, and then fretting the rest of the week—which makes things worse.

Schemes start very soon—and then, what will the harvest be? I can have a dark guess: who will replace the willing Mawson and his water cart?

Strewth! another impending disaster. L/Corpl Harris has returned from an M.T. course and leave, having qualified in both. In connection with the latter, a Coupon Club is being organised. A rather sound idea, really, for a present can still be provided whilst expense is obviated.

We still look for notes from Palestine. If a draughtsman hasn't time to write them, who has? The answer's "An operator."

Corporal Weir and Sigmn Kerr are away at the moment on vulcanising courses. We have sent the two because the Citroen will need them. It is too much for any person single-handed.

Knotchy has returned from his vocational course. He must have learned something, for our bungalow looks a picture in its new coat of distemper. The green patch will, no doubt, make an admirable foil for Baldy's leg glide, whilst the black border should make an ideal "top of the net" for the tennis enthusiasts.

So, One Company, the wash-bowls still worry you! Why don't you let the matter slide? That's what the bowls did. Not being malicious, we chose to ignore your remarks last month. Were it otherwise, what could be better than No. 4 W/T Company 4, B Group Signals 3? However, we are above that. We are noble in victory.

Still, you wield a vitriolic pen, so I hasten to add that you had us beaten at hockey. Out of the twenty-four members of this Section, twenty-three blame me for that defeat ; so it seems that I did you a good turn. Now, can you be peevish?

Ex-Sigmn (now P.C.) Graves, of the Hastings Constabulary, sends his salaams to Lawson, Ledger and Mansfield of Palestine, and suggests a re-union of the gang of his period. R.S.V.P. to Ghunga of No. 4 W/T Company.

L/Corpl Perkins (Quetta?): Write one, Polly. Writing when address found.

L/Corpl Hancock: Am saving a bed for you. Mine's a Bass —Claude.

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

General.—We must apologise for the absence of notes from this Company in the last two issues.

At the moment, individual training is the thing of import. Under the able management of Sergt Hoyland (Hefty) and his highly specialised instructors, some excellent results have been attained. About 70 per cent., during the last two periods, have obtained higher ratings, including a number of class i.'s.

Some specially selected n.c.o.s and men are now undergoing a course of driving i/c. Crash helmets have been indented for. It is rumoured that, after the course, they are taking a new high-power super-destructive car to Daytona to split the atom!

Other than this, life is free and easy in the camp, but things will probably start to hum next month.

Arrivals.—We extend our hearty salaams to Captain R. H. Rayner, who takes over command of this Company. May his stay be long and pleasant!

After a period of many moons, we at last welcome some new arrivals from Catterick to assist the old stagers in carrying on. The following joined us on February 11th: Signalmen Fraser, Chaloner, Smart, Sucksmith, Taylor C., Leeming, Deakin, Walker, Thewlis and Spauls.

Departures.—On March 16th we say good-bye to our O.C., Lieut E. J. H. Moppett, who leaves us for a well-earned leave prior to a tour with the Canadian Corps of Signals. All ranks will be sorry to lose him, but wish him every success in Canada.

Several old campaigners have left this land of bees and honey for India and Egypt. To some, it is not new ground. Quite a number took packets of salt in view of the coming Gandhi competition. We wish the following all the best in their new adventure:—Sigmn Bird D. to Aden. L/Sgt Murphy C., L/Cpl Hutchison, Signalmen Hughes, Holt, Hennell, Robertson, Race, Dunlop and Cripps, to India. Sigmn Fishwick to Egypt.

I am sure L/Sergt (Spud) Murphy was looking forward to meeting his jolly old friends once more. He informed us, before going, that one of his first duties was to call on his old friend Mahatma and give him his salaams, with a packet of salt to boot. Bear up, Spud! you will be home shortly.

Sport.—A number of games of footer and hockey have been arranged, and we are more than holding our own in the inter-Company matches. A few hockey players came to light when matches were arranged. They discovered, quite early in the game, that only one side of the stick could be used, and that it was made for hitting the ball and not for chopping off heads.

Education.—In the past month, many of our students have been attending school for their seconds. The examination has been held, and the results are eagerly awaited. Professor Hogg (of I.C. Engines and Carburettor Filters Ltd.) has put forward some astounding theories in the mathematical line. Great things are expected of him (but not this year).

Promotions.—Congratulations to Sergt Stather on attaining full rank, and to L/Corporals Cox G. and Redding F. on getting their first foot on the proverbial ladder. We hear they have ordered a copy of the new Promotion Roster shortly being issued. Their beards will probably be long by the time the next book is published. We live and hope.

Re-Engagements.—Corpl Elkins and L/Corpl O'Donnell, to do the old pontoon (bear up!) We hear that, owing to the success of the above, further applications have been pouring in, but nothing definite is yet known. The secret will be revealed in our next notes.

This Month's Howlers.—Question: "Give a definition of H.F." Answer: "High frequency is a frequency which is so high, it goes too fast."

Question: "Explain the functions of H.F. detector and L.F. valves in a three-valve receiver." Answer: "H.F. is high frequency, and the other two speak for themselves."

Agony.—Will Sigmn Constantine, late of this Company and believed to be in Trimulgherry, India, communicate with Sigmn Barker (the Air Line Wizard)?

Deadwood (3rd Indian Divl Signals): O.k. Am writing. H.S.M.

Wanted, a smart man with a good all-round knowledge of making up beds. Apply Box No. B.B.10.E, Mons Barracks.

THREECOY.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Very little of interest has happened since I last put pen to paper. The Company is so small that it is difficult to write anything about our doings.

Three more members of our little lot have departed for sunnier climes, bearing with them all our good wishes for the future.

Observations.—It is noticed with regret that the Mons Barracks fire picquet and appliances are not pictured amongst a current series of cigarette cards.

Several of our instrumentalists are having a quiet time lately, and silence once more reigns supreme in No. 39 Room. Where did the applause come from?

The Company Gazette.—Amendment: From last month's "Departures to India," delete L/Corpl Cooper.

To Egypt on March 10th: Signalmen Wood (Chippy), Healy (the jazz singer and half-back of Ukelele Ike) and Gillis (the Mechanical Man).

To be C.S.M. of No. 1 Company: C.S.M. Graddon, ex No. 2 Company.

Marvels.—An event of unparalleled importance was noticed during last duty week. A certain individual was the cleanest man on guard-mounting parade for the first time in nine years of diligent service. Not content with one victory, the great man followed it up with a second triumph in the following week. Onlookers said that the man was in Prime condition and looked more like a tramp than anything else.

Agony.—Waxy Holman, Egypt: What about it?

F/S West, China: Now at School of Signals, Catterick. Jerry.

Tail-piece.—I must draw to a close. The well of information and inspiration has run dry. The sands of time grind slowly but exceedingly small, and all scribes should be abed at this late hour, so I'll seek repose—wishing all at home and abroad the best of luck at Easter and for the rest of the year. FUTURIST.

No. 3 Company.

First of all, I must apologise for the absence of notes last month.

The Company is just the same, less sixteen to India and four to Egypt—which finishes the drafts for this season. So roll on, the new arrivals!

Our sportsmen have been doing their best. We have won the rugby and cross-country, and have shared the points for football with Twoco. So, with luck, the trophy should be ours this year!

Furlough is over now, and spring is drawing near, escorted by Easter leave. We hear of trains for the troops running from Aldershot to John o' Groats, calling anywhere you like, so Jock will have to go on leave via Cardiff.

Beauty Hint for the Month.—Fresh air. Bottle it; rub well into skin, night and day, ad infinitum.

Last of all, I must again apologise—this time for the brevity of these notes. I will make it up next month.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

The unit in general is still engaged in technical training, although, in view of the near date of the Trade Testing Boards (the Mecca of our enthusiastic upgraders) one might say that the unit is terminating its technical training.

The aspirants for higher ratings are receiving their full share of theory and practical training. Furrowed brows and wan cheeks—the result of overmuch swotting of the much-maligned Mr. Ohms—are a common sight; whilst the pictures of manly figures industriously and dexterously dealing with chunks of cable or rigging up multi-airline are by no means uncommon.

To the non-technical johnnie, this multi-airline business appears very amusing, for, after hours of exacting toil and endeavour, wherein everyone concerned would give his life to get the poles in a straight line after the manner described by Mr. Euclid, and after hours of strain and frayed temper, when at long last the job is completed (in spite of mislaid clamps!) and for miles the little black and white poles gracefully adorn the landscape—after all this has been borne, the whole issue is immediately dismantled!

To offset technical training, there are driving classes. At the moment we have two of these, and the morning air is ofttimes

rendered hideous with the awful sounds of much gear-clashing and the like. Eventually, I suppose, a few drivers will blossom forth to uphold the very high traditions of the unit as regards mechanical transport. Apart from the liberal use of blacklead and other cleaning materials, the standard of our transport is to be envied.

Commission.—We have to congratulate Corpl Rowe C. S. R., of this unit, who has been appointed 2/Lieut in the Wiltshire Regiment after a two-year course at Sandhurst.

Arrivals.—L/Corpl Crow from Malaya Signal Section, and Sigmn Caulfield from Training Battalion, Catterick. The former arrived in the U.K. as a " stray " and was promptly pushed off to A Corps Signals, but has since been instructed to report here. As he was granted furlough from the former unit, we have still to see him in the flesh, but our welcome is none the less sincere. Our notes re the merits of Blackdown remain as last month. Sigmn Caulfield has already settled with us, and may be seen daily among the D.R.s. Our fitters always seem to attach themselves to the D.R.s ; we often wonder what the attraction must be!

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. Paul W. A. to 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford. As we lack a C.S.M., he had that honour duly pushed on to him, and in the words of the prophet " right nobly did he fulfil it." Our best wishes go with him.

L/Sergeant Lewis S. and family to Egypt Signals per the *Lancashire* on March 10th. It is not so long since he was last in the land of golden sands, so he will not be amid strange faces.

Our best wishes also to Sigmn Myers J., who has departed to the land (as Bunny has it) of veils and purdahs, bare feet and heads, ad. infin.: in other words, to India.

Educational.—Our congratulations to Corporal West C. and Sigmn Steel J. R. on sitting for various subjects for the Army special certificate. In view of the amount of cramming and swotting these two managed to do, we certainly hope they have been successful. To reach matriculation standard is not an everyday performance, and as they studied in their own time the unit are whole-heartedly proud of them.

Sport.—As a special favour, would you mind looking up our Sports Notes? B.A.E.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

General.—I have to apologise for the non-appearance of notes from this unit in last month's issue. Eh, what? you've heard that one before? Well, I will see that you do not hear it again as far as we are concerned.

On February 2nd we said good-bye to our late O.C., Major J. R. Carter, O.B.E., who proceeded to Woolwich prior to taking up his appointment as Superintendent. Our very best wishes go with you, sir.

After much thought, Sergt Lambert W. decided to give civvy street a trial and took his discharge on March 11th. Our very best wishes go with you, Bill. We shall be watching the Peerage announcements.

We welcomed Major A. C. Sykes, D.S.O., O.B.E., our new O.C., on February 21st. A very hearty welcome is extended to him, and we hope that his stay with the unit will be long and pleasant.

We extend rather belated but nevertheless sincere congratulations to Lieut G. H. S. Balmain on his promotion to that rank. We were all very pleased to see you back after your illness, sir, and hope that you are now enjoying the best of health.

We have to hand out some more hearty congratulations: to Sergt Hoy C. on his promotion to that rank (mine is the usual, Charlie) and also to L/Corporals Malvern and Steele on their appointment as L/Corporals in the Corps.

Our canteen is going great guns, and judging by the many smiling faces one sees at the bar, it is a very popular retreat after working hours. An extra loud-speaker, run off from the set in the men's recreation room, is now in operation in the corporals' room. This has proved rather popular (during the Jack Payne hour) but we wish the operators could tune in some nightingales, as we are rather tired of hearing the screechings of hundreds of canaries in the middle of " Donna Clara."

The junior n.c.o.s of the unit held a carnival dance in the Garrison theatre on February 16th. There were about one hundred and fifty on the floor, and socially the dance was a huge success. The dancing was from eight o'clock until midnight, and all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was the first dance to be given by Signals in this Garrison, and many complimentary remarks were heard from all sides. Now that we have shown them what we can do, we are hoping for much better support at our next, which we hope will be held in the near future.

Southern Command Annual Cross-Country Championships.—This run was held on March 3rd. This unit again supplied three radio-telephone cars. Sergt Jones C. again took up his position as announcer (complete with megaphone) at the start and finishing point.

The stand at the Tattoo ground began to fill up soon after two o'clock, and excitement was running rather high when the runners lined up at the far end of the ground as the clock struck half-past.

As they passed the stand, they were all very closely packed. The first broadcasting station, about three miles away, opened up with a commentary about fifteen minutes after the start. The runners were then too far away to distinguish them, but we soon heard all about them via Sergt Jones' megaphone.

At the first point, Signals (Southern Command) were doing very well indeed. The first runner to pass the car was Corpl Broadley of 3rd Divl Signals ; the second was No. A.2 of the Norfolk Regiment. At this point the Signals were still well packed, but a little more spread out than at the start. The commentator at this station was unable to give us much information, owing to the fact that the runners were all going very strong and were passing him in bunches.

The second commentator had a much better time, as the field was spread out and he was able to tell us more about the runners and their condition. The first man to pass this station was Corpl Broadley, who was running very well and seemed quite cool. Here he had a good hundred yards lead of the second man, who was still No. A.2 of the Norfolk Regiment. At this point the Norfolk Regiment had pulled up wonderfully well, and their team were very evenly packed.

Soon after the second station had closed down, some of the spectators got very excited and said that they could see the first runner in the distance. The runner eventually turned out to be a horse and van which was running very well with no apparent effort on the part of the horse. Very soon excitement again reached fever pitch, as another spectator had spied a runner in the distance. Much anxious scanning of the surrounding scenery proved this runner to be a despatch rider (limping rather badly).

Our office boy eventually shocked the community at large by calmly pointing out one of the runners, emerging from the distant landscape in fine style. He was too far away to distinguish, but excitement ran over and many rash bets were heard on all sides. As the runner came into the straight, one great shout went up as it was seen that the first man home was Corpl Broadley. The second man to pass the post was No. A.2 of the Norfolk Regiment, who was running in great style. In fact, the two first men home seemed little the worse for their trot around the countryside.

The field could now been seen in the distance. They were all going well. Signals proved to be the winners. The Norfolk Regiment pulled up very well at the finish, and came in fairly evenly.

The surprise team of the afternoon was that of the 11th Hussars (P.A.O.). We had heard very little of them from either of the wireless stations, but at the finish they came in almost as one body. They were very well packed indeed, and seemed to be going very well.

Re-Engagements.—Sergt Rhodes J. (the O.R.S.) decided to dodge the dole for a little longer and has re-engaged to complete his pontoon. (Catterick, please note, but keep your remarks to yourselves.)

Sergt Hoy, having decided that he would not be kicked out, took the final plunge the other day, and so he also is doing a pontoon.

Two more, L/Corporals Choulerton J. and Storey A. V., are now doing their twenty-one (B Corps, please note). They whispered the other day that the reason for their action is that they want to go to India to see some elephants! H.Q.

Southern Command Signal Company, Salisbury.

General.—General Sir A. A. Montgomery-Massingberd, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command, left this Command on February 28th for the War Office, and his successor, Lieut.-General Sir Cecil F. Romer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G. (from Western Command, Chester) has taken over in his stead.

Congratulations.—We congratulate our neighbours, 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford, on coming out on top in the Southern Command cross-country championships at Tidworth on March 3rd.

Births.—The Company offers hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones, of the Fairground, Bulford Road, Durrington, on the arrival of a son on February 6th, and to Sigmn and Mrs. W. G. Robertson, Meteorological Department, Experimental Station, Porton, on a similar gift on the 14th.

Marriage.—Further to our notes in the March WIRE under the heading of "Mixed Doubles," the members of Signals staff, H.Q. Southern Command, thank Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Sherman for their kindness in sending some of their wedding cake, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It brought back the memories of the noble Tea Club, which caused the sergeant-major to say "What about a cup o' tea to go with it?" We wish them the very best for their future happiness!

Agony Column.—Will Bow Lowings, who served in Mauritius in 1923-24 and whose present address is unknown, please communicate with Mr. A. Jones (ex-2313633 L/Corporal) late of 3rd Divl Signals, now residing at the Fairground, Bulford Road, Durrington, Wilts, who is anxious to hear from him (come on, Bowy! let's hear from you).

To all who are expecting to hear from Mr. R. J. Cann (ex-R.S.M., No. 2 Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot): Please note that he has just arrived home, but that owing to the great change that has occurred in Salisbury, he has not yet been able to get down to his writing desk. He will write to all concerned as early as possible. He said at the O.C.A. smoker that the world is not so large after all, because he unexpectedly discovered quite a lot of his old pals in the Salisbury Branch of the Association.

Will Mr. Schwenke (ex-Signals, c/o Superintendent, Signals Experimental Establishment, Woolwich) kindly get in touch with Mr. E. G. Hand, of 6 Nursery Road, Salisbury, who met him whilst serving with Signals on the Rhine.

Hospital.—We are sorry to learn that C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) J. Thorpe, of Devonport, has been admitted to hospital suffering from a sprained ankle due to a slight accident. We hope he will soon recover.

COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Concert Party and Band.—I said in previous notes that we were experimenting with a concert party and band. Well, on March 10th we got a dozen volunteers to give a show at a smoking concert held by the Salisbury Branch of the O.C.A.

The band, under the able direction of Captain R. J. N. Solly, opened the show, and the concert party under Sergt Vignaux, assisted by one or two artistes from the O.C.A. and more band items, kept things merry and bright for the rest of the evening.

No doubt, Salisbury will report this function, but I must mention that the seven different ways in which Captain Solly rendered "Katie" were most entertaining and amusing.

Now, is there any more talent tucked away in the unit? We want a pianist as relief for Captain Solly, someone who plays a trumpet, and a saxophonist. Any volunteers will be extremely welcome.

General.—Individual training is still the chief concern of the unit at the moment, and many are sweating on the few extra pence as the time draws near for the test of the first party. It is hoped that none of the expectant ones will be disappointed.

The G.O.C. paid a visit to most I.T. classes on February 24th. He asked many questions, and if all the answers were not what he expected, he seemed quite satisfied with what he saw and enquired about.

Two more drafts have left the unit on clear cold mornings. The way they clear off makes one think they are happy to go! Thirty went to India, and fifteen to Egypt and Sarafand. When the end of the trooping season arrives, we shall have sent overseas one hundred and twenty n.c.o.s and men.

With those and the usual flow to Army Reserve and discharge, we shall have lost about half of the old hands. They have largely been replaced from the Depot and abroad, and newcomers are reminded that they will have their work cut out to live up to the reputation gained by the old hands.

The officers' mess is growing a wing! At present the growth is not very large, but it will eventually be a block of six quarters for single officers. It should prove a very comfortable change from the present quarters, and I'm sure it will be much appreciated if it is in occupation before another icy spell such as we are now experiencing.

The garden does not take much shape as yet, but the hedging is complete and the fence nearly so. The whole, when completed, will be a stride forward in the "Brighter Bulford" movement.

We are for the "Big Dig" again on March 16th, and hope the weather behaves kindly this time. Some of the lads who have left us will smile, but they will also realise what a benefit it will be to the Garrison in general and the unit in particular when completed.

Garden operations commenced last month, but are suspended this month owing to visitations of the blizzard from the Arctic. However, when we get going again, Barleux's "hints" should come in useful. I hear the main crop, this year, is to be carrots and larkspur. I hope the flower borders will claim a little more attention this time. One or two of our more expert amateur gardeners are already producing spring flowers.

Education has been going strongly this winter, and when the 1st and 2nd class examinations are over, we hope to record 100 per cent. passes. The sergeants' mess cook says he hopes it is not 99% only!

A very successful Association dance was held in the Garrison Institute on February 20th. Various prizes were given for dancing during the evening—nine in all—kindly presented by different tradesmen. I did not record the winners, but noticed Corporal and Mrs. Fee and R.S.M. and Mrs. Clark among them. About a hundred and twenty couples enjoyed themselves very much and are looking forward to the next one. Our thanks are due to Lieut C. H. Lyddon and his committee.

Sergeants' Mess.—We have continued our whist drives and dances during the month. The attendances have been very gratifying, and the shows most enjoyable.

As a variation, the annual ball was held on March 6th in the Garrison Institute, which was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. Dancing commenced about 8.30 p.m. and continued till 2 a.m. During the evening we were very pleased to welcome the commanding officer and officers and their ladies, and were very glad to have them spend an hour or two with us. About two hundred sat down to supper, invitingly laid out and well served by the N.A.A.F.I. staff. Their ices were very good.

After supper a parade was formed, when novelties were issued, and I thought the dance that followed looked extremely pretty. Then we really got going on a Paul Jones, but time was up all too soon, for we didn't want to leave a nice warm hall to face the icy blast outside—especially as we were unable to obtain a suitable night-cap owing to the consumption on that side of the bar having been under-estimated. However, all members congratulate C.S.M. Freemantle and his committee on a most successful and enjoyable evening.

Marriage.—Corpl Smith to Helen Grace Stapley on Feb. 15th.

Courses.—L/Sergt Gladwell attended a special instruction course in M.T. at R.A.S.C. Depot, Feltham, from October 27th to January 26th, and qualified as I.C. Driver class i.

Re-Engagements.—To complete twenty-one years: L/Corpl Kiernan T. W. on February 13th, L/Sergt Newmarsh on March 2nd, and Sergt Brundell on March 7th.

Arrivals.—Corpl Parry and family from Gibraltar on February 15th. Signalmen Campbell, George, Wilder and Brownrigg from Training Battalion S.T.C. on February 23rd. Signalman Fill from Training Battalion S.T.C. on February 27th.

Departures.—Corpl Andrews and four Signalmen to Egypt on February 17th. Sigmn Gent to Aden on February 14th. Corpl

Mottram and family to India on February 25th. Sigmn Goldsby to South Irish Coast Defence Signal Section, Spike Island, on February 24th. Corpl Fee and twenty-nine Signalmen to India on March 25th. Sigmn Field to 5th Divl Signals on March 14th.

Promotion.—L/Corpl Twigger to be Corporal, 16/1/31, vice Hurst (to Reserve).

Discharge.—Sigmn Burgess proceeded to his home, pending, on completion of his twenty-one years (survivors of D Company, Maresfield, please note). Sigmn Reynolds to Reserve on Feb. 21st.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

General.—The football team left on March 10th to stay at Catterick for the semi-final of the Army cup v. 1st Battn Durham Light Infantry, to be played on the Darlington Football Club ground on the following day. Unfortunately, the match was postponed owing to snow, and Major Cobb, Capt Holland and the team remain at Catterick until it is played on the 16th. We only hope the S.T.C. won't make them too fat!

We hope the team enjoyed their journey in Pullman railway carriages—who pays?

Some sixty-four spectators left for Catterick by motor-coach, but were fortunately intercepted at Grantham and returned to camp safely, though not feeling happy. The precise definition of "esprit de corps" is often a difficult poser to the average recruit, but I venture to suggest that a striking illustration is "When sixty-four men ask to travel 480 miles in a charabanc in the snow, at their own expense, to see their unit football team play a match."

Before leaving this subject, mention must be made of the spectators' "business transactions" in Grantham. On hearing that they had to return to Colchester, all the troops dispersed around Grantham until near the time for the return journey. Just opposite where the buses were parked was a Woolworth's, and the boys, looking for diversion, crowded in. Almost their first purchases were babies' feeding bottles, which they promptly filled with suitable liquid refreshment at an adjacent estaminet. On returning to Woolworth's, the gramophone was commandeered, records put on, and the famous emporium turned into a jazz hall. Having purchased a sample of nearly everything in the place, they all crowded on to the buses and went home. Troops must have been a strange sight in Grantham, and the "serving wenches" in Woolworth's were outguessed every time. The whole thing was carried out in a spirit of great fun, and certainly enhanced the Signals' reputation as "public school boys." Up, School! A good percentage of the population of Grantham turned out to see us off—and, given a little encouragement, I believe they would have cheered mightily!

Did you pay for the specs, Dave?

No. 1 Company.

Since there are to be no manœuvres in the 4th Division this year, we are to be considerably below our establishment. Poor old No. 1 Company has to make the sacrifice—"H" and "A" being practically disbanded and posted away to make up the Artillery and the Infantry Brigade Sections. All that remain are the specially employed and the i/c drivers in H and (of course!) B Cable Sections. The latter Section is over strength in horses, numbering nine remounts amongst its ranks. A very even lot, too; but they mean a lot of hard work for the Section before they will be fit to take their place in the teams and behind the wagons.

B Cable Section have just moved into newly-painted barrack rooms—and very smart rooms, too, with their blue window curtains.

Arrivals.—We welcome the arrival of Major F. R. Cobb, M.C., in the Company, and feel sure that he will be the same father to us as he was to F Company at Catterick.

Sergt Oliver and Signalmen Ekin and Akin recently joined the Company from Catterick. We trust that their stay will be long and happy.

Departures.—Signalmen Castell and Eccles left us on March 10th for service in Egypt and Palestine respectively. May their sojourn be thoroughly enjoyed!

No. 2 Company.

Many of our old friends have now left us for service abroad. Sergt Baker has sailed for India, and Sergt Lawrie for Egypt: both will be sadly missed by E and F Sections respectively.

In addition, we have said good-bye to Corporals Bunn and Shurer, Signalmen Bowyer, Devlin, Heald, Nock, Worsdale and Clarke. Lieut W. G. R. Elliott has left us for Bulford.

We welcome 2/Lieut N. M. Hay, and Signalmen Pye, Sedgwick and Ward from Catterick.

The recruits ride has just finished, and Signalmen Topping, Brett, Sims, Powell, Roake, Price and Oakey were passed off by the O.C. with flying colours. Sigmn Topping won the whip with the highest aggregate of marks.

The n.c.o.s ride has finished, and our Company show-jumping team (L/Corporals Rosie, Baker and Parks, and Dvr Redman) have started practice. The weather, however, combined with the lack of a riding school, has considerably impeded their progress.

Section games have also been somewhat held up by the weather, but we are in the semi-final of the Garrison Company soccer knock-out competition, having defeated C Company Northampton Regiment by 8—1 goals. We play the 13th Battery R.A. in the semi-final on Monday, March 16th.

Our hockey team (a fairly strong one) was beaten by H.Q. Royal Fusiliers after a good game.

Section training starts in earnest on Monday, March 23rd, and Sections will begin to join their respective Brigades towards the end of April. Some of our hill-climbing enthusiasts (not the cyclists!) learn with pleasure that we are to go to Trawsffyndd for practice camp this year.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Although snow-bound, we still carry on the good work. The ride continues on its own sweet way, and the painters are merrily painting. Very soon, our rooms will resemble fairy palaces, and colour schemes will be the vogue.

Training.—Signalmen Lush and Clavering are at present swotting for their B.ii. operator signals test. Our best wishes for their success are extended to them.

Sport.—Our football team, unfortunately, succumbed to our neighbours the Sappers in the Garrison Company knock-out competition. Against a superior side, we went down with colours flying, and take consolation from the fact that we kept pegging away until the final whistle blew.

Our hockey team is doing very well indeed in the knock-out competition, and we have every hope of bringing the trophy to rest in No. 3 Company office.

Inter-Section Football.—The games in this league give us the chance of playing our "unknown quantities." So far, we have not discovered another Alec James, but quite a number of our triers have earned Section distinctions.

Inter-Section Hockey.—As with the football, everyone plays at one time or another, and a noticeable building-up of team spirit is becoming evident.

Education.—A number of potential professors are studying hard for that elusive 2nd class certificate, and I hope to publish an honours list in the near future.

Draft.—On February 26th we said good-bye to Corporals Parkinson and Knowles, L/Corporals Cooper and Colwell, Signalmen Emery, Sims, Maltman, Becconsall, Swainson and Rose. Our loss is India's gain. We wish them bon voyage, and trust their tour abroad will be a happy one.

On March 10th, Signalmen Leng and King left us for Egypt. May they do as well for Egypt Signals as they have for us!

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

General.—We are just emerging from a few days of intense cold and blizzards—a little bit like Shanghai, eh?—but it's lovely by the seaside. What's wrong!

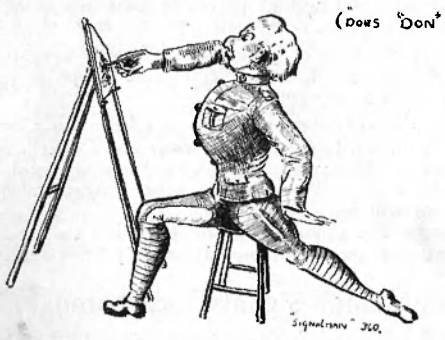
Despite the weather, our weekly dances are still in full swing; in addition, the local Branch of the O.C.A. got cracking, and an enjoyable evening was spent with a whist drive and carnival dance. To make the whist exciting, a variation was introduced, having Klondyke, misere, workhouse and ordinary whist. I

know a Scotsman who lost all three Klondykes and misere during the play. Och! och!

However, people went off with prizes as follows. Whist: Ladies, Miss Cambridge (1), Miss Cooper (2), Miss Macauley (3). Gentlemen, Sigmn Tebby (1), Sergt Lewis (2), Sigmn Durham (3). Hidden numbers, O.C.A. badges: Sigmn "Porkie" Flynn (1), Sigmn Rawcliffe (2). Marked chair, Sigmn Macauley (yes, same miss). A "swindle sweep" was run in aid of the Benevolent Fund, and two swindlers swam off with a percentage: Sigmn Tumilty (1), Corpl Barlow (2).

A hearty welcome is extended to Major P. B. D. H. Foot, who is taking over No. 1 Company; also to L/Sergt Pinkstone E. from India, L/Corpl Wilkins from Hong Kong, Signalmen Downs H., Farmer N., Holland S., Hoyle E. and Murray L. from Training Battalion, and Driver McGregor from Depot Battalion.

PORTRAIT OF CATTERICK'S TAME ARTIST AT WORK.
("DOES "DON" COY. KNOW HIM?")



Farewell and good luck to C.S.M. Sharpley, D.C.M., who has left us for a short vocational course prior to discharge after nearly twenty-three years service; also to the following, who have gone to a hotter place named India: Sergt and Mrs. Morgan and family, Sgt Bartlett C. M., Corpl Grocott J., L/Corporals Harvey and Hargreaves, Signalmen Edwards C., Fox J., Francis L. G., Goodhand H., Holmes J., Houghton N., Kent C., Maughan J., Oates C. V., O'Malley C., Price A. and Wills A. G. To Egypt, Sergt Crockford A., Signalmen Clifford A. and Trout T. Sigmn Elliott A. S. (possibly our last draft) on a jew's course at Sarafand. Bon voyage!

Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. Callegari (hullo! twins!) and to Corpl and Mrs. Barlow on the birth of a son and heir (John Lawrence).

We would like to know.—Who is the champion vanilla slicer? Whether week-ly olives are preferred to cucumbers.

Things that pass but are not forgotten.—(1) Trumpeter sounding fire alarm about 12 noon. Young soldier: "Blimey! ain't cookhouse sounding early to-day."

(2) Scene: Main Entrance. Enter wife of soldier living out, who approaches the guard-room and rings fire alarm bell. Guard turns out. Guard Commander: "Where's the fire, ma'am?" Wife: "What fire? what fire? I want to see the Company sergeant-major."

Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Bevan (Dick) on his promotion to that rank, and to Corpl Collins on arriving back from Newcastle.

L/Corpl McLean is busy oiling his joints for a preliminary P.T. course.

Result of novices boxing display: thick lips and black eyes.

Agony.—(a) Measles spreading. (b) "Pullman" Porter would be glad of a line from "cheery" Smeed—whereabouts uncertain.

No. 4 Artillery Section, Edinburgh.

Piershill Barracks, March 13th.

General.—The Section has undergone changes since our last appearance in these columns, and many new faces have appeared in our flock.

The training season is in full swing, and we are now preparing for a great exodus to Newcastle on April 1st.

The G.O.C. Scottish Command has just inspected the Brigade and the Signal Section, and was very pleased with the show put up.

The C.S.O. Scottish Command is inspecting the Section next Tuesday, and an equally good turn-out will be given. This will be the first inspection by the new C.S.O., and we hope that his command in Edinburgh will be a pleasant change from India.

Promotions.—We congratulate L/Corpl Nuttall on his promotion to full rank, and also Sigmn Hunter G. M. on his promotion to L/Corporal on the Corps roster. We always said that you were carrying a rather heavy haversack, Jock. Sigmn Hart T. is appointed U/L/Corpl vice Clarke (Nobby) who reverted to the ranks at his own request.

Departures and Arrivals.—We said "Good luck!" to Sergt Dunn A. E. and family on their departure for service in India. Sigmn Green departed for that station, too, soon after. Good luck to him also!

Sigmn Edmunds arrived safely from India and has just returned from a well-earned leave at Derby. Sigmn Denholm joined us from the Depot and has settled down now to the ways of the world in Edinburgh.

Births.—L/Sergeant Costello A. J. is a full-blown father. He has a son—a real born champion; at least, he's shaping that way!

L/Corpl Hunter has been doing some hand-scrubbing on a baby's cot down in the stores. I wonder why? When is the event, Jock?

Marriages.—Sigmn Louttit was married in Edinburgh on 6th March, while Driver Radford went further afield to Whitburn and was married on February 28th. They're safer at a distance, eh?

Sport.—We have done very little in this line owing to annual leave and postings, etc.; but now that we are getting up to strength again, I shall have some news about this branch of training in next month's issue.

The Brigade players, Sergt Cooper, Corpl Nuttall and L/Corpl Hunter, have been out and enjoyed games with the Brigade.

Our last game was with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, at Redford, the result being a draw. L/Corpl Hunter scored for the Brigade. It was a fast game on a tricky pitch, but we stuck to our guns and pulled the score level early in the second half.

EDINA.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

February 20th.

Drafts, 1931.—We are still at it! The first U.K. draft was expeditiously distributed all over India on the 31st of last month, just in time to get clear for the second one, which arrived in Jubbulpore on February 2nd. Even though we are hardened to the unexpected as regards drafts, we have not yet fully recovered from the shock of this last one arriving *before* the scheduled time—the troopers must be getting Schneider cup fever.

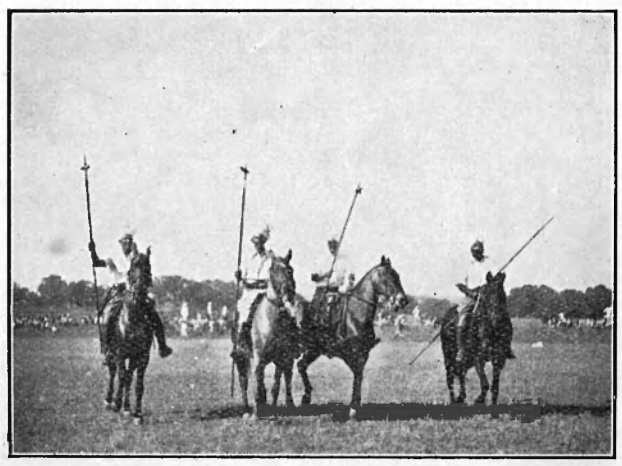
There is nothing of great importance to report on their stay in Jubbulpore. No doubt, they will be pleased to see some more of India instead of cooling (?) their heels and awaiting the posting orders.

Friends in the U.K. of Lofty Lambert will be pleased to note that he has been posted to Karachi. He always was lucky, wasn't he?

Whist Drive and Dance.—A whist drive and dance in aid of local funds was held in the Regimental Institute on Wednesday, February 11th. The attendance was not up to expectations, but a most enjoyable evening was spent by those who attended —a total of sixty-eight took part in the whist drive, but many more turned up for the dance and completely swamped our lady supporters. The evening was a success socially, but details are not yet to hand regarding the financial side. We were unlucky in that it was held just before the second U.K. draft came out of segregation.

Marriages.—Still another to report! There must be something in the air at Jubbulpore. On the 2nd February, at the Roman Catholic Church, L/Sergt MacFarlane G. of this unit took Miss Slawson for better or for worse. (Congratulations to you both, and may you live long and happily!) Soon after the ceremony the happy pair departed for Poona for their honeymoon, the bridegroom apparently being of the opinion that the air there is better to train on than the relaxing atmosphere of Jubbulpore. Best of luck in the District tournament, Mac!

Mounted Sports.—In continuation of the description of our mounted sports held last month, I have pleasure in showing some photographs which will, no doubt, show the Signals in general that we are doing our very best to uphold the good name of the Corps, even in India.



Jemadar Mir Alum's Team: winners, Open Tent-Pegging.

Much Ado about Nothing.—And it came to pass that a tribe of B.O.R.s became settled in the land of Jubb ; yea, chief scribes and ops, fitters and Company duty men, who lived contentedly together, and there was peace throughout the land.

And behold, in the days that followed, there came into this land a stranger from afar off ; yea, verily, a Risalite, bidden by the chief of Rec. This stranger became a father unto the flock. The members of the tribe of Jubb brought their woes unto him, and he was sore distressed.

"Woe unto the man that doeth evil unto the tribe!" said the Risalite, and the brethren acclaimed him with one accord. Then the Risalite made a covenant with the tribe, inscribed on slabs of foolscap.

After another moon had passed, he called unto him the n.c.o.s and, smiting his breast, he cried out in a loud voice: "There is evil in the land—cut it out!" And the n.c.o.s went away sorrowful, and arrayed themselves in sackcloth and ashes because of the evil that was in their midst. The tribe wondered greatly at what had come to pass.

And behold, the day dawned when the B.O.R.s of the tribe were assembled together in countless hosts (about fifty) to do battle with time on the track, in anticipation of the day when they should be called to array themselves against their darker brethren. Behold, they sallied forth—some in chariots, some on wheels, and some on Shanks' pony—to Anderson Lines, to watch the battle.

The mighty champions of the tribe battled bravely amongst themselves, and great was the applause when a B.O.R. was chosen to fight in the lists for his tribe. At the setting of the sun, the host returned to their wigwams, full pleased that the Fazal Din cup would come to the sect of the B.O.R.s. (The dismounted sports will now be held on March 7th.)

After many darknesses, there came to the tribe B.O.R.s. from over the sea, and great was the shaking of the mitt and great the rejoicing heard throughout the land, for were not these doughty warriors come to relieve those who had suffered long in this land? Yea, verily, it is indeed so.

In the midst of this rejoicing, alas! there came among them an evil spirit from the land of the N.W.F. Weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth were heard throughout the land, and the tribe murmured among themselves, saying: "Who is this who cometh and taketh our weapons from their place of safety and showeth them to our chief?"

Lo! it was the man from the N.W.F. who did these things ; yea, even the sick of the tribe did he chase, and those resting after the toil of the night, and again the tribe murmured: "Who is this evil spirit who upsetteth our tribe and causeth trouble in our midst? It surely was an evil day when his face was uncovered amongst us."

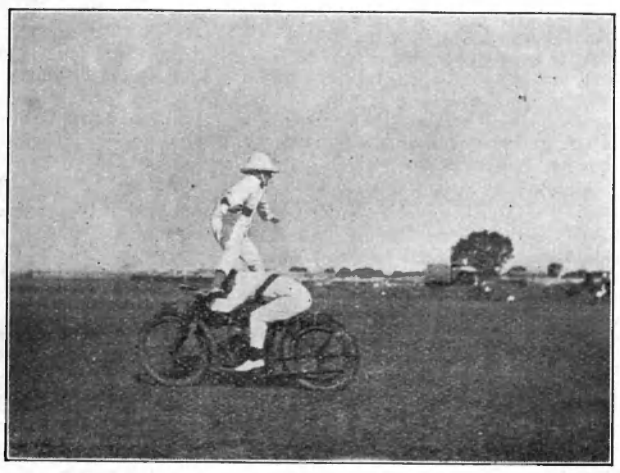
Then up spake a warrior of great renown: "Ho, chappies! I beseech you, have patience ; be thou comforted, for I have met men like him before ; be thou not afraid, for surely the Chief will have compassion on his tribe." And lo! it was so: the tribe were comforted and remembered the days of their youth, when first they became warriors and chief scribes and ops and fitters and Company duty men.

And a great peace reigned throughout the land for a time! (There we will leave them.)

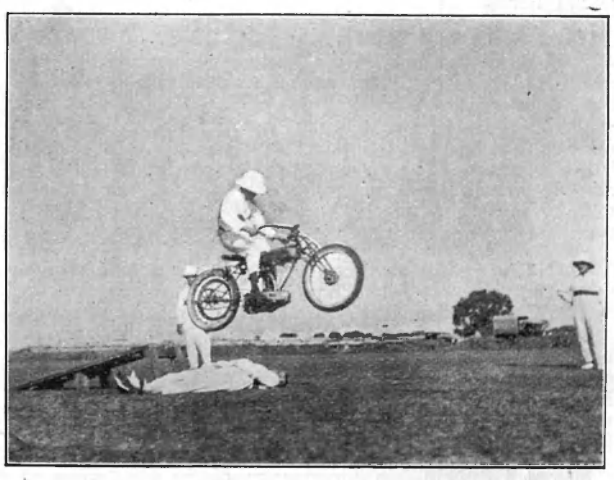
"Snapped" at the S.T.C. (India) Mounted Sports.

The Squad and a "Triumph."

Back row (left to right)—L/Cpl Fletcher, Sigmn Foxford, Sergts Conyers and Bramwell, Signalmen Ellison and Chitty
Front row—Sergts Brooke and Tebby, Lieut G. I. Burgess-Winn, Sergt Angell, L/Sergt Finney

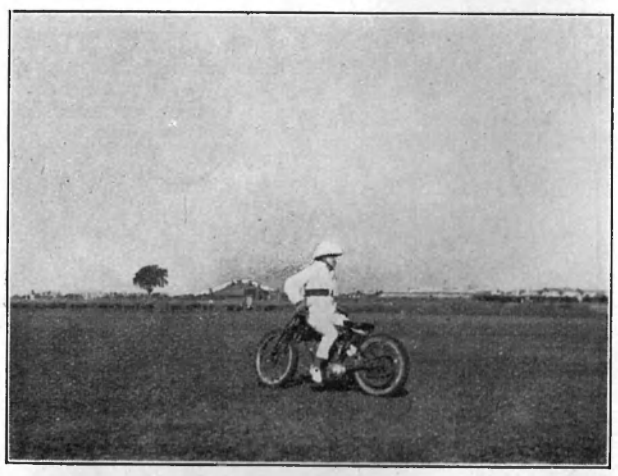


Sergeant Angell.



Sigmn Foxford "in the air."

Sergeant Tebby.



Sergeant Angell.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

February.

General.—During the past month, things have been very quiet, and consequently there is very little to report.

A number of details have proceeded to the out-stations to relieve those who, having completed a year's exile from their parent unit, are recalled to the fold.

The arrival of the new draft broke the monotony for a day or two, but they quickly settled down and tranquillity continued its reign.

Arrivals.—We welcome the undermentioned to Acor, and hope their stay will be a pleasant one:—Corpl Lambert, Signalmen Dale, Hawkins, Motley, Sadler, Austin, Fisher N., Heywood, Nabarro, Smith, Brown S., Harrison, Hill and Robinson—all from the United Kingdom via Jubbulpore; also Sigmn Green E. E. from Malta.

Inspections.—General Sir Charles Harington, G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, prior to his departure to the Aldershot Command, made a farewell inspection of the Karachi Garrison and visited this unit on February 9th. He expressed great satisfaction with everything.

The C.S.O. (Lieut.-Colonel L. H. Morse) made a technical inspection of the unit on February 17th, and once again we emerged with flying colours.

Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Frost H., of this unit, on making a further step towards the baton; also to the undermentioned, who have a footing on the first rung: Green J. J., Myddleton C., Dalton G. J. and Ward F. J.

AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

January 28th.

General.—I must apologise for the absence of the unit notes from the February issue of our Corps "Coggage." Unfortunately, after writing them, I discovered, much to my chagrin and disgust, that I had missed the jolly old mail. I trust my readers will excuse me on this occasion. Many thanks!

The month of December found a number of our comrades still absent from Rawalpindi on account of the recent disorders around Peshawar, although we had the pleasure of seeing a few of them at Christmas.

Around the first week of this month the whisper went round, "The talkies have arrived." This was true, although I don't wish my readers to think that by this statement it is meant that our married quarters had been away. No!

As the festive season approached, so the unit went on "hunger strike." The great day arrived as usual, after the 24th, when if what Mr. Pussyfoot Johnson tells us is true, there should have been quite a number of thick heads. In the region of seven o'clock, an angelic figure was seen to approach our respective boudoirs, bearing coffee and biscuits. We rose, somewhat reluctantly, at or about 8 a.m., completed our toilet very carefully, and grasping our "feeding irons" firmly in the right hand, sped to the mess room, where the pleasant aroma of bacon and eggs struck us—I do not mean the eggs struck us: only the aroma.

At 10 a.m. on this greatest of great days, one Soothing Sidney commenced his wonderful Christmas draw before a large and enthusiastic throng, some of whom did exceptionally well in collecting fags for missing comrades. I still wonder who was the Good Samaritan who got mine!

However, feeding appeared far more interesting to most of us, and at 1 p.m. sharp we assembled for dinner. We were all seated when the commanding officer, accompanied by all available officers, visited us. After offering us the usual greetings, he said a few words in which we were informed that 1930 would be his last with us as C.O., and thanked us for the good work and sportsmanship we had shown during his tour of command. The Quartermaster (Major A. Newton), the Adjutant (Capt. C. H. I. Akehurst), and both Company commanders (Captain V. J. E. Westropp and Lieut. H. C. B. Rogers) each said a few words, as also did R.S.M. Kneebone (this to the tune of "Old soldiers never die") and the respective C.S.M.s. On their departure, we steadfastly refused to allow the talking to interfere with the matter on hand!

January arrived with no Proclamation Parade for the unit—thanks to our absent warriors. However, the joys of that old-time sport pokey drill (for which a "blue" is not awarded) have kept us out of harm's way for a week or two. Actual musketry commenced on the 26th, when even "Lord Nelson" astonished the critics by hitting the target at more or less regular intervals. The second party are due to begin on Monday, February 2nd.

On the 24th inst. our commanding officer departed for Jubbulpore, to attend the annual conference prior to his leaving for the U.K. on nine months combined leave. The officers and all senior n.c.o.s were present at the station to wish both him and Mrs. Mudge bon voyage and a good leave. As the train moved out R.S.M. Kneebone called for cheers from the seniors, which was responded to in real old British fashion.

Arrivals and Departures.—Both December and January have seen vast changes in the personnel of the unit. First we welcome Captain R. Maguire from the U.K., and Lieut. W. D. J. Harries from 1st Indian Divisional Signals (who is at present officiating adjutant), and hope that their stay with us will be both pleasant and enjoyable.

Our departures are more than a few, as will be seen from the following: Captains C. H. I. Akehurst, R. F. Holwill and H. S. Morris, M.C., to the U.K., on leave—the two last named pending the expiration of their service. Captain D. A. Brown, M.C., to 1st Indian Divisional Signals. Captain V. J. Westropp to S.T.C. while attending as a student at the Staff College, Quetta. Lieut. F. R. Booth to 3rd Indian Divl Signals, Meerut.

In addition, the following have departed for repatriation to the Blight cantonment: Corpl Worth and wife; L/Corporals Russell R. T., Stammers, Silver, Dobson, Edwards and Tomkinson; Signalmen Atkinson, Bridge, Coghlan, Clinton, Lumby, Jones, Randolph, Parrack, Lowe, Harcourt, Cleal, Cooke, Stacey, Partridge, Bromfield, Livemore, Baynes and Steele. I take this opportunity of wishing them all the best of luck in civvy street.

Appointments and Promotions.—Congratulations are due to the following on their recent step up the ladder: L/Sergt Hobby to Sergeant; F/Corpl Jagger to F/Sergeant; Corporals Miles and Varley to L/Sergeant; and Signalmen Staley, Stanford, August, Dougal, Jarvis, Osborne and Reed to U/L/Corporal.

Tut! Tut!—I have received information from a most reliable source that a certain young bashful and handsome W/T operator (name not mentioned?) rose early one bright and sunny morning, carefully made up his charpoy in the approved style, and then discovered it was Thursday. Still, even this is o.k. for me, Chiefie!

Wanted.—Sigmn Smart R. G., late of Gibraltar fame, is finding the handicap too heavy, and asks that a signalman not over 5 ft. 2 in. be posted to the unit *tout suite*.

Spoedy's Latest.—Wot a team!

To our Recent Additions to the Married Quarters.—Salaams are extended to Mrs. Law, Mrs. Crabtree, Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Stapleton. Don't forget, ladies, I hold my weekly knitting class on Thursdays.

For Sale.—Brand new set of fire-irons. Husband and wife now on friendly terms.

Our Football Songsters.—The forward line: "After the ball was over." The backs (L/Corpls Moody and Staley): "Oh, that we two were maying." Goalkeeper Edwards: "Hoot, boy, where are you? I'm here at the gate alone."

BEKORE.

B Corps Signals Operations, Afridi, 1930.

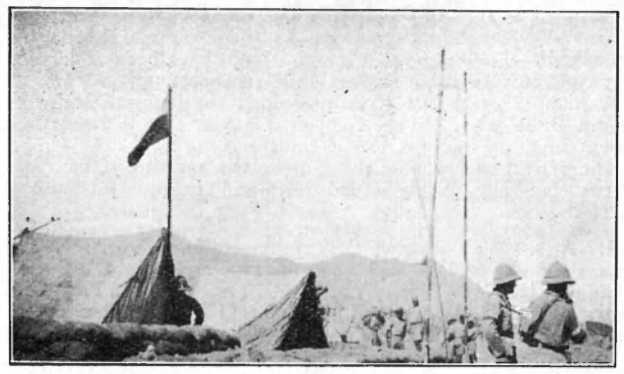
BY MAJOR A. E. PHAYRE MUDGE, O.B.E.

As a result of the incursions into Peshawar by the Afridis during the summer, it became evident that it would be necessary for the Government of India to take some action.

Plans were accordingly prepared by the G.O.C. Northern Command. As far back as August I was *au fait* with the scheme of operations, which necessitated a large increase in the Signal personnel already in the Peshawar Area.

B Corps Signals were detailed to supply the extra personnel if required. All the necessary arrangements were made, and that part of the unit detailed to go to Peshawar was in a state of preparedness to move, at twenty-four hours notice, for six weeks. We had two false alarms before we actually left,

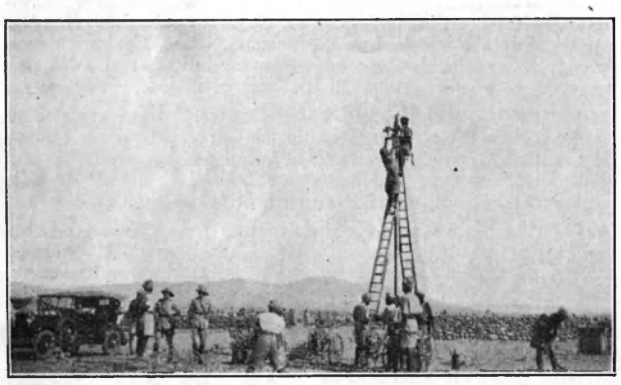
Part of B Corps Signals in camp at Miri Khel.
(Note guns laid for action)



Signal Office, 9th Infantry Brigade, Miri Khel.
(Note the office dug down into the ground, with sandbag protection)

I finally received orders at about mid-day on October 6th to move on October 8th, and that operations would commence on October 15th. The unit, for the purposes of the move, was divided into two parties: a road party and a train party.

The road party was composed of one Construction Section, one Light Motor W/T Section, motor cycle despatch riders, and wireless lorries for stores, under the command of Captain R. F. Holwill, A.I.R.O.



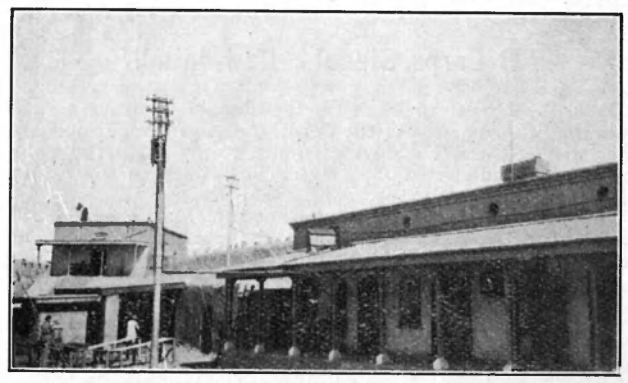
O.C. B Corps Signals visiting Construction Section at work.

The train party was composed of half an Operating and Maintenance Section, one Draught Cable Section, half a Medium Artillery Brigade Section, and a party from Construction Section in charge of twenty miles of line stores, under the command of Lieut F. R. Booth.

The train party left Rawalpindi at about 22.30 hrs. on the 8th, and arrived at Peshawar about 06.30 hrs. on the 9th. By 08.10 hrs. the train was entirely off loaded, all personnel clear of the station, and stores stacked in the station yard.

The road party left Rawalpindi at 07.30 hrs. on the 9th, and arrived at Peshawar about 13.30 hrs.

Myself and Captain V. J. E. Westropp (as Wireless Officer of the operations) left on the afternoon of October 8th and arrived at Peshawar that night.

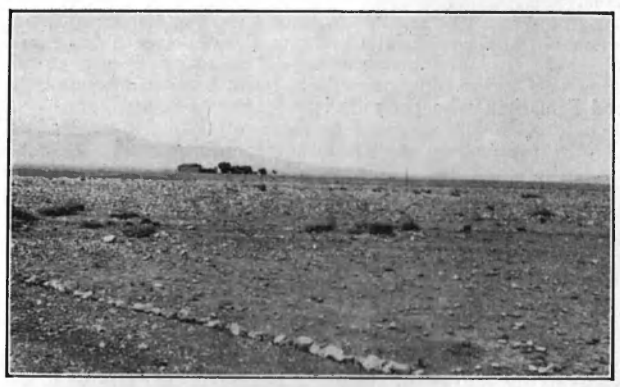


Signal Office at Bara Fort, showing T.P. and leading-in.

The whole detachment was placed under the command of the O.C. Peshawar District Signals. I accordingly reported myself on the morning of the 9th, and after reading the latest plans, the O.C. Peshawar Signals and I worked out our signal arrangements and orders were issued on October 10th.

In the main, at first, the signal arrangements necessitated the opening in Bara Fort of a large signal office and exchange, and

Look-out Post, Afridi Village, used by us as a Visual Station.



Typical country, Kajuri Plain, showing telegraph route completed.

the construction and repair of certain lines. The Construction Section commenced to build, on October 10th, two additional trunks, Peshawar-Bara, a distance of seven miles, partially through cantonments ; this line was completed on October 12th. The Section was then based on Bara, building local lines and effecting repairs on existing external routes right across the front from Jamrud-Bara-Matanni.

B Corps Signals building line from Bara to Miri Khel, finding own protection.

The scheme of operations, roughly, was the advance of one Brigade (9th) forward in the Kajuri Plain to Miri Khel, about ten miles in front of Bara, one Brigade (22nd) in reserve at Bara, and one (Nowshera) on the left flank at Matanni. It was therefore necesary to attach additional Signals personnel to the 9th Brigade. This consisted of one Draught Cable Section, with orders to lay one pair on each side of the track during the advance from Bara to Miri Khel ; two Pack W/T Detachments (1st Indian Divisional Signals) for W/T communication back to Bara ; half a composite Mountain Brigade Signal Section (B Corps Signals and Peshawar District Signals) for the 23rd Mountain Brigade ; and extra motor cycle despatch riders.

Zero hour was 00.01 hrs. on October 15th, but orders were received at 18.00 hrs. on the 14th, postponing this to the same hour on October 17th.

At dawn on the 17th, the 9th Brigade advanced and reached Miri Khel without opposition. F.D. Cable Section laid two pairs forward from Bara, and communication was established throughout the advance, although on the night of 18th/19th October one pair was cut by local villagers.

The Construction Section commenced to build a four-way route forward on the 17th, and by the end of that day had completed two miles. The ground was exceptionally hard, and augers were useless. This meant a big delay, but by the 23rd the route was through to Miri Khel, a portion of the route having been completed daily. Wireless communication was established between Bara and all Brigades and between Bara and Peshawar. Until November 1st, when I left the Area, this W/T communication never failed.

Jemadar Jogindar Singh, Construction Section.

The Construction Section were used to wire up permanent Brigade Camps and to generally improve existing lines.

W/T and Cable Sections were lent to Brigades as required when they carried out local reconnaissances, and did much useful work.

The signal office at Bara was generally improved and organised during the period under review, and within a week of the commencement of operations was a model office—largely due to the excellent work of Captain Westropp.

By November 1st the situation, from a Signal point of view, was more or less stabilised, and Captain Westropp and myself returned to Rawalpindi.

I am sending a few snapshots of Signal interest with this article, to give readers a rough idea of the type of country the operations were being carried out in.

I feel I cannot complete this article without thanking all ranks of Peshawar District Signals for the great kindness, courtesy and consideration shown to us all, both on arrival and later in the Peshawar Area. It could not have been anything but a difficult task to cope with, having so many people thrown suddenly on their hands at a busy period.

Special Operations, October 27th—Cable Detachment on line of march.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 1 Company.

February 12th.

General.—At the time of writing these notes, there is a month to go before we lose another batch for home establishment and discharge—mostly junior n.c.o.s—when our ranks will be sadly depleted. Those who remain all seem to have a staff job of some description, and we can only hope that we have a very big draft from the S.T.C. very shortly. By the number of ranks that have applied for vocational courses, it seems that there will be very few of the old hands left after the next trooping season.

Departures.—The following are leaving the happy fold for the U.K. on March 16th, so by the time that their names appear in

print there should be opportunity for the lads at home to welcome them with open arms, gnashing of teeth, and a barrah top (M.I.M.): Corpls Couperthwaite, Hickmott and Brown, L/Corpls Andrews, Monaghan and Neeve, Signalmen Connelly, Stamford F., Barker and Hall. To payment furlough in the United Kingdom, L/Corpl Hall and Sigmn O'Malley.

L/Corpl Bray must also be mentioned as having proceeded to Poona for a veterinary course, and L/Corpl Wilbraham to the Muscle Factory, Ambala (but he won't catch the above-mentioned lot for any P.T. this side of the ocean).

Arrivals.—Corpl Pearsall and L/Corpl Harries and families, Signalmen Garbutt, Grattage and Rockall, from the U.K. We hope their feet will not get too sore through gravel crushing along the Kila Abdulla road ; but one hears such a lot of those six-wheelers nowadays that they may be more fortunate than their forefathers.

Training.—A little individual training and testing has been carried out ; consequently, some of the boys are looking forward to a little extra pay (I.D.T.). We have all been inclined to get muddled with " currants " and various other kitchen commodities, the bubbles that generate in a cell and generally manage to escape through the vent, and the electron theory, which is being made to appear like a " Tale from Hoffman " or some queer talkie. No wonder people go greyheaded. In any case, our hair has been standing on end very much of late, and consequently the C.S.M. has been " hair raiding " daily.

Just one howler, whilst on this subject of trade-testing. Question: " What is an over-reach?" Answer: " An over-reach is when a horse over-reaches itself."

Labour.—Our morning exercise of shifting stones from one spot to another is still going strong. Perhaps the following suggestion will make the work appear a little more joyful on these cold mornings: Just use a little auto-suggestion. Imagine that India is still the jewel of the British Empire and that the stones are diamonds. It is surprising how soon the stones will disappear —and one can get rich!

Things we have noticed.—Spud Marsden took a flask of cocoa to the Quetta Club one evening during a dance engagement, and *drank* it. A big fat man wearing civvies in Karachi. The bully-light does not shine now that the days are drawing out.

Advertisement.—Citroen cars, apologies for. It might interest Sergt Angell, late of this unit, to know that his late bedstead was driven from Quetta to Karachi by Jumbo, ably assisted by " Start-her-up Sam," and returned to Quetta o.k. with Sergeant " Elsie " as passenger. We have heard all sorts of yarns about the downward trip, and it was not surprising, from all accounts, that Samuel returned by train. But we would all like to see a full account of both journeys from the organiser of the trip.

WUNCO.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Having been missing from the columns of THE WIRE for the last few months, I suppose an apology is due to the readers in general and members of this Company in particular. Christmas and five weeks leave at Karachi must be my excuse, and an attempt to be more regular in future my atonement.

Nothing of great importance has happened since the unit drowned the old year and swam into the new one. On the (?) January the married quarters rallied round and dispelled the after-Christmas gloom that invariably descends upon the troops, by organising what might be described as a bun fighting tea dance.

It was a huge success, as is indicated by the fact that several self-styled confirmed bachelors are reconsidering their vows of celibacy. Everything eatable was kindly supplied by the married quarters, and the ladies waited at the tables. Mrs. Dilley displayed a pessimism foreign to her nature by appearing in a nurse's uniform, complete with medical chest containing large supplies of No. 9's and other well known cures for indigestion. However, everyone pulled through without having to apply for first aid. After tea, the evening was completed by a dance, which ended a very sociable and entirely enjoyable affair.

We all appreciate the efforts of our married quarters to make this " gloom tonic " a success, and the men of No. 2 Company take this opportunity of expressing their thanks to them, one and all, for their generosity.

Since Christmas, quite a large number of the unit have visited Karachi—some on leave, others with the rugby team that competed in the Karachi Open Tournament. We were defeated in the semi-final of the cup by 8—0, the K.O.Y.L.I. being our opponents. It is worthy of note that they finally secured the trophy by defeating Hyderabad R.A. by 6—5 in the final.

Technical training is still going strong. The O.S.s are now fighting for higher ratings, and we wish them all success. Most of the O.V.s have completed their training and are now sweating on the top line.

Mention must be made of the forthcoming trooper. This Company alone has some twenty-five men with the necessary qualifications for transfer to the Army Reserve during the trooping season 1931-32, and several of them are already time-ex. These are easily recognisable by the martyr-like manner in which they go about their business and the way in which they manage to introduce such expressions as " civvy detained," " time expired," and " Roll on, Ock " into their conversation. The " raspberry chorus " has little effect upon these people. One, indeed, was heard to remark upon the deplorable vulgarity of " these common soldiers." The authorities, however, chose to ignore their civilian status.

Arrivals.—The Company extend a hearty welcome to Lieuts I. St. Q. Severin and M. G. Gordon-Wilson, and wish them a pleasant stay in Quetta ; also to the unforgivable W.J.O. on his return to the fold. " It is better to have loved and lost, than never to have lost at all."

Departures.—Sigmn Bone P. to 4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry, on medical grounds. Percy's face will be sadly missed in the " wet." Sigmn Pearman P. to S.T.C. Jubbulpore to compete with other alleged draughtsmen for a higher rating.

Promotions and Appointments.—We congratulate Sergeant Woolhouse on his promotion to that rank ; also the following on their respective appointments: C.Q.M.S. Stainer H., U/L/Cpl Haskell R. and A/U/L/Corpl Verney J. Keep it up, Dick! you'll be a lance-corporal yet.

Toots by Timex.

Countries to Order: our Concentrated Attack on the Landscape.

Since the hills in order stood
And earth received her frame,
Baluchistan and its contours
Have always been the same,
Save when, perhaps, a monsoon flood
Has washed away a hill,
Or made a nullah deep and wide,
As monsoons sometimes will.

Then, why, in 1931—
Years after it was made—
Must we set to each early morn,
Equipped with pick and spade,
To try (although we know, in vain)
To level Quetta's face?
If aught we shift, the rain will see
It goes back in its place.

The object is, we all presume,
To smooth the maidan.
It sounds all right, but one has just
The maidan to scan
To see it's quite a hopeless task,
For all our work is vain—
As soon as weeds are rooted up,
They start to seed again.

The guns in Quetta have, for years,
Aimed shells at Tukatu.
Perhaps they're in the swim, and hope
To level Quetta, too ;
But if they cannot level it
With gun crews and their aid,
How can we hope to gain our end
With paltry pick and spade?

We seem to work haphazardly.
One day we'll make a dump ;
Next day, we're told to " Gather round
And shift that ugly bump."
It doesn't matter what we do,
Or what we shift away ;
The maidan is the maidan,
And maidan it will stay.

This Week's Great Thought.—Should married men play at snowballing? Opinions on this subject are invited, and interesting letters will be commented upon in our correspondence column.

Agony.—Members of the Fighting Fourth extend their sympathy to "Lord Duncan," alias "the Fighting Parson," on hearing of his recent downfall at Scarborough. We have no doubt you played a good hand, Dunc, but the lady must have sat with "three with the Queen."

The Pfaffisky Biscuit.—People have been very careful lately: not a *faux pas* worthy of the biscuit has been made. It will, therefore, be divided among the following for their efforts.

Half of the biscuit to Taffy Edwards for being the world's worst "caller out" for housie-housie, and for repeatedly discovering No. 98 in the bag.

Two-sixths to Tich Lavis for understanding T.O.L. to mean "Turn on extra light."

One-sixth to L/Corpl Manning for stating that Sunday, the 24th, would fall on a Saturday.

The crumbs go to "One-round Willie Cox" for having only one mistake right on the football coupon. PFAFFISKY.

Junior N.C.O.s Mess.

To all we extend our very best wishes for 1931, and hope all those lucky souls sweating on "boats, large, mk. vi." will be rewarded.

All kinds of things happen in December, as you are all probably aware, but the greatest of these is that festive season termed by some "Christmas" and by others "Eshmash."

It started with the junior n.c.o.s mess draw on December 23rd. Kipper, ably assisted by Topper and Miah, succeeded in creating a record for the number of tickets sold. Many and varied were the results of the draw: some tight belts, and some just tight. This was followed with a dance, which was "the goods." Christmas Eve was a preparatory "snivel" to get in trim for Christmas Day. Christmas Day was spent by the majority in trying to consume more liqueurs than their anatomy would hold.

A departure from the usual trend of events took place on 28th December in the form of a dinner held in the mess, with a total of sixty-four present, including many guests. The catering was carried out by the Cafe Stanley, and all agreed that it was a wonderful success. A dance and social followed the dinner, and this, as usual, was appreciated by everyone, including the Are-ess-em (and he parted that hair in the middle—M.I.M.).

Another dinner was held on January 4th, and those ex-rats certainly "nibbled" some. This, of course, was an informal affair—picking up the bones, etc., being the "hakam."

After the 1st January parade, the boys settled down to the usual routine with many regrets that we could not carry on for another fortnight or so; but there is still something worth while looking forward to. Ask Tubby.

Things that don't leak out.—The episode of the dog's drinking bowl. What happened to H.W.B.S.W.'s Turkish delight? How we run our free bar. Who gave his chicken away? Who had a jolly good "snivel"? What happened to the "drawers, cotton, short"? And did the bhisti have a full mussack—B/Docs? KIPPER.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

February 23rd.

General.—After a brief stay with the unit, Major H. G. Henderson has left us for Waziristan District Signals. All ranks regret the loss the unit has sustained by the departure of this popular officer.

Once again the unit is "under entirely new management," and we welcome Capt D. Anthony Brown, M.C., as our new C.O. Capt Brown has only been with us for a few weeks, but during that time he has done much in the way of promoting sport and entertainment in the unit; and by the time these notes are published, we hope to have entertained Rawalpindi with an excellent fête and variety entertainment during Signals Week.

It is worthy of note that the departure of Major Henderson coincided with the regaining of their old gallant and dashing style by the D.R. Section. No longer do they slink around corners; no longer do they hide their light under a bushel, or bush, or may be in a ditch; no longer do they avoid the eyes of all and sundry; neither do they tremble at the approach of a non-commissioned officer.

Possibly you may ask why these things should have been, and why they should have walked in fear of their lives? But then *you* are not a D.R., and you have never been detailed to act as C.O.'s D.R. orderly; and most certainly you have never had to follow Major Henderson when he has been out on one of his stunt rides. Anyhow, if you are curious and want to know all about it, ask Conker: he'll tell you.

The majority of our warriors have returned from the Frontier, and we are glad to have them again, even if only to swell the numbers available for guard. Whilst on the subject of guards, it may be remembered that in a recent edition, we remarked that a certain sergeant was not aware that the guard-room had been altered. The sergeant wishes it to be known that he is now fully acquainted with that fact.

Musketry.—The order of the day has been musketry. Three very pleasant weeks were spent in flopping about all over the parade ground, in an endeavour to learn the correct way to collapse or fold oneself up, as laid down in "Small Arms Training." However, that is now a thing of the past, and we are engaged in the more serious business of classifying. The main parties of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies have fired, and the casuals are holding themselves in readiness. Up to the present, Sergt Pope tops the score with 104.

Sport.—There has been plenty of sport during the last month, but the majority of the matches have been for Combined Signals teams. An account of these appears in the Sports Supplement.

Arrivals.—E Section from Nowshera, J Section from Abbottabad, and G Section from Nowshera. Corporals Warner and Harrold, Signalmen Blake, Clifford, Kent, Locke and Robson, from Jubbulpore.

Departures.—C.Q.M.S. Hudson to Meerut.

Jumbled Jingles—

Dickory, dickory, dock.
A mouse ran under the office clock;
The Adjutant threw a stone at the floor—
It went right through the office door;
Dickory, dickory, dock.

Heard in the Field.—Senior Officer: "Well . . . . have you experienced any trouble?" ????: "No, sir, except that the indicators on the 7+3 still stick, owing to the dust."

A: "Your helio is out of alignment; you must watch your spot." B: "Well, can't you watch it for me?"

Scene: a Signal Office on the Frontier. A signalman is about to use a tele. 110. A: "What are you about to do?" B: "Ring up Karawal Camp." A: "Well, don't turn the handle too fast; you will run the batteries down."

Truth is Stranger than Fiction.—A signalman submitted an application to the R.S.M. to be excused guard on the ground that he had a buckshee ticket for the theatre. He wins the cup outright for No. 2 Company!

Polo Notes.—The Signals team entered for the Low Aggregate tournament and were defeated in the first round by the Old and Bold after a very keen game, the score being 4 to 2½.

In the subsidiary tournament, they fared better and reached the final after defeating a team of the 15/19th Hussars by 4—2½ goals, three of the Signals goals being scored in the last chukker. In the final they had an extremely close and exciting game with General Fagan's Park House team, who won by two goals to nil. Signals were represented by:—No. 1, Capt D. Anthony Brown; No. 2, Capt C. M. F. White; No. 3, Capt F. P. L. Gray; back, Capt E. M. Pyster. TONY RED.

G Signal Section.

More or Less General.—Were I just an ordinary scribe, I would start these notes with the conventional expression: "By the time these notes are in print." But I am not. As the Editor told me (by air mail) my notes are "an occasion." They reach the office, and an awed whisper runs through the building: "G has written again!" The wires hum, the good tidings are broadcast, and again all units ejaculate: "Who is the brilliant writer? Let us have his name, that we may honour him." But I merely smile a sad smile; so well do I know the true worth

of the passing applause of the multitude. Enquire no further, my friends, but leave me in peace to work out my destiny.

General.—Our long-standing acquaintance with the 22nd Indian Mountain Brigade closed at the end of the practice camp, when they departed for Kohat. Many were the expressions of regret voiced on both sides. Our regret was in losing some good friends, and theirs in losing a most efficient Signal Section. Our battles together will be long remembered—such glorious deeds cannot die.

After a short period of retirement, spent in the dubious pastime of furbishing up our various instruments, we again sallied forth to the fray—this time with the 21st Indian Mountain Brigade. Once more we lived in an atmosphere of arid smoke, whining shells, terse commands, "Shot one, sir!" "All fired, sir," "G.P.O.s to the phone, please!" etc. How one's heart palpitates with the thrill of it all! Of course, it was the first time we had worked with this Brigade and, incidentally, the first time they had had a Signal Section working with them. But was there a man dismayed? No! the cry went round the camp: "It is G; they will not fail us"—and it was even as they said.

On February 12th, with full hearts, we commenced the trek to Pindi, returning to the fold after an absence of six weary months. The way was long and the roads hard, but what recked we of weariness? On! on! February 17th saw us once more among our anxious friends. What cheers! what greetings! "G have returned!" was the cry that went round; "kill the fatted cutlets." Now we are absorbed in the mad gay social whirl of Rawalpindi, and only in the dim watches of the night do memories return to haunt us. Adieux!

"G" would like to know.—Where did the profits from the first dance go, J? Who was the man at the said dance who made such a terrible *faux pas*? (really, Don!) How Chippy manages to live on his losses? OMAR.

Kohat District Signals.

February.

General.—We are still altogether in Kohat, the split-up for the hot weather not yet having commenced. The month has been a busy one, with Section training and musketry going in full swing. It is pleasing to note the good shooting that has been seen on the ranges this year.

A few changes have occurred in our personnel. We have said good-bye to Lieut J. M. C. Hoblyn, who has gone home for three months leave and then returns to Trimulgherry.

Sergt Peerless W. D. and family have also left us for Trimulgherry (shades of old "F" Divl Signals slowly stealing away!) We bid them "bonne fortune."

Capt F. P. L. Gray, who was with us here before, has returned for another spell, and we also welcome 2/Lieut H. Worrall from home.

Mrs. Lawrance has returned from home, where we understand she had been detained for health reasons. May her renewed acquaintance with India be both healthy and happy!

Signalmen King A. and Gardner have gone down to Calcutta for vocational training (I like to put this in, because it gives heart to those who are saying "Next year!")

An interesting impromptu athletic meeting was held here in mid-month, when we tactfully sorted out the fleet ones and the plodders for the forthcoming District athletic meeting.

Sergeants' Mess.—Here we are again, for the second time this year! Who said New Year resolutions only lasted one month? (ask Albert; he knows!)

During the month we have given, with great success, two dances and two whist drives. The latter are now being held weekly, and are getting more and more popular as time passes. In fact, we feel certain that more furniture and a larger mess will be the only solution presently.

With reference to our notes for January, in which we bade farewell to Sergt Wall W. (whom we have nicknamed Boomerang) we are pleased to say that he is back among us again—his place at Trimulgherry having been filled by Sergt Peerless W. D. Can't you shake off that Frontier dust, Bricky? How ever did you really manage it?

We extend a hearty welcome to Sergeants Offord and Dunn and their families, who have arrived from home.

Things we have heard at dinner lately:—"Are you a member?" "Do you want to be a member?" "Have you ever had THE WIRE?" "Do you want THE WIRE? If not, why not?" Such phrases seem strange to us—but wait and see!

The corporals of the unit accepted a challenge to a billiard, phat, crib and shove-ha'penny tournament last week, and a very enjoyable evening was spent—although we are afraid that they remember little about the billiards *or* the crib *or* the push-pice.

Entertainments.—One is inclined to put forward that "after Christmas feeling" as a reason for the lull in entertainments, but we have had one or two nice shows which, though not very well attended by the ladies, whiled away many merry hours.

The first dance, held in the S. and D. Club, enabled us to spend a very pleasant evening. Our friends from the Royal Air Force again turned up in grand style. It must have been a trifle overwhelming for the few ladies who graced us with their presence, to have such a number of ardent dancers asking them for "the next." The band, under the persuasive baton of Sergt Bardoe, excelled itself.

Another dance, again held away from home, was in honour of our friends the rugger team from Peshawar District Signals. The invitation we extended to them was accepted with alacrity; they certainly showed us something about dancing. The band again did wonders in keeping the show lively.

A third dance, this time in honour of the 7th A.C. Company R.T.C. (who were passing through on their way to Waziristan) was held in our own mess room, and proved as successful as any we have held elsewhere. Music of the best was served up by Sergt Bardoe and his merrie men.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

February 11th.

General.—The unit has now reached that period which falls between the collective and individual training: a sort of calm before the storm.

We have lost Signalmen Burn, Holmes, Ambridge, Gill and Lucas to the Army Reserve this month, and we lose ten more next month, so we should be seeing some new faces shortly—and then we shall be able to say "Roll on, next trooper!"

Arrivals.—Lieut L. C. C. Harrison joined us from Karachi on the 1st of this month. It is a pity there is no rugger down this way!

Departures.—Corpl Brazier R. V. leaves for Meerut this week. The only consolation we have is that we shall now be able to play the gramophone a little more often.

S.O.S.—Geordie wants to know why Bill did not send him any wedding cake?

A (Com)plaint.—Having no tame poet in the unit, I would fain try mine own hand at verse. My inspiration is the article from *The Daily Mail* published in the January issue of THE WIRE.

IN REPLY TO AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "THE DAILY MAIL."

Cease, papers, publishing reports
Of soldiers in the King's cohorts,
Unless, perchance, you tell the truth—
The which I doubt, in very sooth.

Print no more pictures, fair to see,
Of parties at our gay N.A.A.F.I.,
With graceful girls in flowing coats
And soldiers who are dressed like mokes,
While we out here, in India's clime,
Can't wear civvies, wet or fine,
Monsoon or summer, damp or dry—
Dressed in drill, we stand and fry.

And gossip writers, say no more
'Bout undergrads who swell the Corps,
For most of those whom we have seen
Joined from B—— without a bean.

Wish you to see a gorgeous scene?
Then come to Trim. by the "Deccan Queen";
And if you do, I fear that I
Will put all work and worries by,
Forsake the dusty office and
This dismal dry depressing land,
And instantaneously make tracks
To join the army of the W.A.A.C.s.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

February 20th.

General.—I notice that another month has passed since last I wrote—the calender says so: it must, therefore, be correct. Anyway, here goes! Our unit meanderings must be expounded somehow; and having survived the last lot, I have "neck" enough to write some more.

We have, I think, successfully wound up the training season, only one or two schemes having fallen to our lot during the past month. Riding school is now the order of the day.

Time, too, has been taken up by a little musketry. A few casuals have visited the local ranges in hope of blowing holes in something. Naturally, holes *were* blown, and some quite good results were obtained. We are now waiting for the annual course, which will be on us very shortly.

On February 2nd the unit gathered together to witness the presentation, on behalf of the Troop, of a silver tea set to R.S.M. Cann, who left us for colder climes the next day. Lieut Moberly officiated on behalf of the C.O., and supplied some interesting data in his short speech. After the presentation, R.S.M. Cann expressed his sorrow at having to leave us, and intimated to all that a "pontoon" was not so bad, after all. Three cheers were given for the R.S.M., this winding up the meeting. We are sorry to lose him, but we sincerely hope that he will be as popular and happy in his new sphere of life as he was whilst with us.

Inspections.—Of late we have been "buffing up" for the fateful 14th, on which date we were paid a visit by the Major-General of Cavalry. Popular ditties such as "Gird your marching order on" were all the rage in the week previous (this, by the way, is sung to the tune of a well-known hymn). The Major-General first inspected us in full marching order, afterwards making a close inspection of the lines. Everything, apparently, was to his liking.

It has been said by quite a few that it is a good job that these things, like Christmas, come but once a year; whilst others will have it that you can't get a good man down.

Since last writing, we have become mechanised. I nearly forgot to mention that! We now have a six-wheeler and a Ford touring car. These, however, with all their gadgets, have in no way stopped the Roughs from having their morning scramble. It's funny how these chaps will insist on getting "upstairs." Some use has been found for the six-wheeler. Candidates for 1st class certificates, in spite of the distance to the school, do not seem too heavy on footwear. Do you agree, Shoey?

Whilst on the subject of education, I must mention that Sigmn Stocks J. (of Tinker Bell fame) obtained a "D" in maths and passed in geography towards the 1st. Corpl Stanley passed in English and maths. Well done, both!

Arrivals.—Signalmen Alderman and Rork from the S.T.C. (India) on February 3rd. We trust that their stay with us will be a long and happy one—but not above the "five."

Departures.—R.S.M. Cann R. J. to civvy street, per the *Lancashire*, on February 3rd.

By the time these notes are in print, we shall have lost two more Admi's. The home establishment benefits to the extent of hockey and football. Sigmn Semmence leaves us on March 16th, and Sergt Hinds on the 26th. Unit condolences on their moves to the c-c-cold places will be inserted later.

Promotions.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Redworth and Corpl Frawley on attaining their respective ranks. Mine's a bottle!

Badges.—All good members of the Signals Association have, by this time, received their badge. All agree that the design is both original and neat. The only missing link now is the coat with a lapel button-hole in which to wear it.

Agony.—To Heath: We hear that a night watchman usually cooks bacon on a shovel on the brazier. Is this correct? Several of the lads are anxious to know. The S/W still waves; does yours? H.K.B. expected for a week. Salaams from the lads.

To H. E. H.: Just a few lines. Picketing 70 feet. Ah, these memories! Still, bear up, and cheerio! L. A. L.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

British H.Q., February 25th.

General.—The Chinese war lords have been giving us quite a rest just lately—due, no doubt, to the weather being too cold for fighting. In consequence, the Section have had very little to do other than ordinary routine work, and we can fall back on the time-honoured formula "Nothing much to report."

However, some inter-Section postings have taken place. Signalmen Collyer E. (op sigs) and Chinery F. (electrician-fitter) have been transferred to Peking, whilst Signalmen Welch (op sigs) and Hale J. (electrician W/T) have returned to the fold here in Tientsin. Signalman Chinery had just returned to us from hospital after an operation, and we are hoping that the champagne air of Peking will place him well and truly on his feet once more. Men who serve in Peking can flatter themselves that they are serving in one of the "outposts of Empire"—this being the most distant station to which British troops are sent under peace conditions.

Short Waves.—A new rectifying panel which we recently constructed and fitted to our existing transmitter has placed our set in the one-kilowatt class, and our dream of working England direct thus takes another step towards reality. In fact, we have received reports via Hong Kong that our signals have been heard by R.7 at Aldershot. Projected improvements to our receiving apparatus may also help considerably in establishing two-way communication.

"Pidgin" English.—The following pidgin English version of the first verse of the well-known poem "Excelsior" may be amusing to old China wallahs:—

That nighty tim begin chop-chop
One young man walkee—no can stop.
Maskee snow! maskee ice!
He cally flag with chop so nice—topside galow!!

Congratulations.—An old member of J Section 2nd Divl Signals wishes to congratulate Sergt Bartlett C. on his promotion to that rank.

The Crowborough postman (successor to Jim Adair) takes this belated opportunity of congratulating C.Q.M.S. Bill Holmes, of the Depot Battalion, on his promotion.

Agony Column.—Sergt Napper H. of this Section is desirous of purchasing bound back numbers of THE WIRE which any past or present member of the Corps may have for disposal.

To Nobby, Rawalpindi: Have you lost your pen? If so, we work on 23 metres every day. Toni, North China.

Baldy: See you are still up to your old game. Hope it doesn't prevent you from writing me a letter. Viv.

Oh, Barrel! where art thou? Viv. HSING HAI TU.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, March 10th.

General.—Nothing really important has happened since our last notes, and I think that *these* will be short (but not sweet).

We let go another old hand on February 11th. Corpl Parry C. left us for U.K. after spending a few years here; in fact, he remembered Gib when it was a "Rockery." The 3rd Div. are to be envied in receiving him, as he is a very good all-round sportsman. He has on several occasions represented the Gibraltar Garrison at football, hockey and cricket. Anyway, good luck, old chap! (keep your eyes on that lad at Tidworth)

Congratulations.—We extend our congratulations to L/Corpl Cook F. on passing for the 2nd class certificate of education.

2031.—To judge from the conversation among the old soldiers of Gib (I almost said "barrack fixtures") a stranger would imagine that the libraries in the Fortress had been replenished with a supply of A. Conan-Doyle at his best. On enquiry, however, one (not a Craig Kennedy) learned that they had been the guests of the ship's company of H.M.S. *Renown* at the showing of a talkie film. Will would-be aspirants to a tour in Gibraltar please note that life is passably pleasant here, even without talkies!

For Sale.—Owing to certain resolutions, it has been found necessary to dispose of a number of Ardath and Gunboat coupons. Prospective buyers, please apply to Fortress Exchange.

Stop Press.—If not too late, we offer our congratulations to 4th Divl Signals on their successful efforts in the Army cup competition, and wish them continued success at York. A short description of this game (and the next one) would be much appreciated, Can do, A.E.W.? R.D.H.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Burlington Street, Manchester.

Training.—With the advance of spring (and it has been a very cold advance, so far) we are beginning to get out and find our feet, so to speak.

Things in general are progressing very well, and we must congratulate the following on their recent promotion:—L/Sergts Livingstone D. N., Cartner A., Burton R. and Redfern A. to be Sergeant. The following Corporals become L/Sergt:—Monks W., Burke T., Edge W., Wattleworth F., Thorpe H. and Haslegrove J. The following L/Corporals are now made full Corporal:—Connors, Dobbs W., Dalby A., Lucknock H. and Greyburn H. The confirmed L/Corporals are Colley H., Wiseman R., McComas J., Woolam W., Hook C., Keer G., Grinyer R., Barlow R., McLoughlin L., Goodall R. and Pemberton D. We wish them every success in their new ranks.

Levee.—At the Levee held at St. James's Palace on March 3rd, our commanding officer (Brevet-Colonel R. S. Newton, M.C.), our adjutant (Capt C. E. Sketch) and 2/Lieutenants T. A. H. Lea, M.M., E. J. S. Brooks and F. J. Baldwin, had the honour of being presented to His Majesty the King by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

Sergeants' Mess.—The w.o.s and sergeants held their annual dinner at headquarters on Saturday, February 28th. This is the second annual dinner held by the Mess, and everyone present unanimously agreed that it was a big improvement on the first. They hope to "go one better" next year.

Sixty-five members and guests sat down to an excellent repast, most ably catered for by our caretaker, Sergt Jones H. (late R.Q.M.S. of the Corps). Among the guests were Bt.-Colonel R. S. Newton, Major R. Lazenby, Captains C. E. Sketch, W. S. Ashley and C. B. Delaney, and 2/Lieut A. R. B. Dobson—all of whom, we are sure, enjoyed the evening to the full.

Coffee disposed of, R.S.M. Grist G., who presided, proposed "The King," after which the entertainers soon got things very lively. All details were arranged by R.Q.M.S. McVittie J., and were very much appreciated by all.

R.Q.M.S. McVittie proposed the toast of "The Commanding Officer and Officers," to which Col. Newton responded, making a very fine speech in which he gave the members some sound advice which we hope they will all take. He had a few words to say about our new headquarters (the hardy annual); and as things are certainly moving in that direction, perhaps the Mess may hold their dinner there next year.

C.S.M. Wakefield F. proposed "The Guests," to which Sergt McDonough (6/7th Manchester Regiment) very ably responded.

In conclusion, the commanding officer is to be thanked for his very kind assistance in support of these dinners. We all know how keen he is that they should be a great success. Sergeant Etheridge H. O. and Sergt Jones H. and the committee are to be thanked for the success of this one.

No. 2 Company, 1st Corps Signals (S.R.)

No. 1 Advanced Aircraft Park Signal Section (S.R.)

Capt T. G. Halsall and Lieutenants S. R. Bower and E. L. Ellis wish to thank A Corps Signals for their kind hospitality during the recent attachment at Aldershot.

Arrangements for camp are proceeding apace, and we are looking forward to a right merry meeting at Fargo, Larkhill, on May 3rd.

The "wife" (the A.A. Park Signal Section) is going with the Terriers to Cartmel, in the Lake District, on Whit-Sunday. We do *not* like this separation business! ACK ACK ACK.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

With the advent of spring and an early Whitsuntide in view for our week-end camp, we shall soon be throwing off that go-slow feeling which winter training seems to bring about, and I think we shall all be better for a return to outdoor work.

The cutting down of the winter training grant has given us about the tamest winter season we've had since the war, and we sincerely hope the axe won't keep on chopping, or there'll be precious little to chop!

Perhaps the summer grant will be a little more on the generous side, so that we can have two week-end camps as we did in the "golden days."

Stores have recently been checked, and the Q.M. department has been working overtime in hunting up the deficiencies, etc. Their work was somewhat interfered with by an outbreak of that very contagious complaint, Cup fever! Exeter City's wonderful efforts to gather the trophy kept us in a whirl of excitement until Sunderland, at their second effort, restored us to normal. Still, the bit of excitement we've had has done us good.

OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

All is very quiet on the Southampton front. The most important matter to report is that our C.S.M. has gone on an "18-day diet." I also notice that there is a lot of secret practice going on with packs of cards, which I presume is in preparation for annual training. I don't know whether it is "spoof" or "solo" that they are practising. Anyhow, the card fiends in the mess had better look out and leave their cheque books at home!

Quite a lot of training in other directions is also being done—technical, general, and *sports*. I don't know what they are after as regards the latter, but I wish them luck.

The first Section for Okehampton have now got together and are going strong. I am glad to see that they are on their toes. Keep it up, lads; you have a wonderful reputation to maintain, you know.

Agony.—Should this meet the eye of Sergt Williams R. A. in Hong Kong, Sergt Purseglove sends "all the best" to you and yours. PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

"Old Spark" has waited till the very last moment for the usual packet of news to come along, but, sad to say, it has not arrived in time for inclusion with these notes. Oh, that 16th day of the month!

This Section's annual dinner on February 28th was a most successful and cheery little affair. Capt Ames, the officer-in-charge, was very proud of the turn-out. "Old Spark" was, unfortunately, unable to be there, but the kind invitation sent to him was much appreciated. OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—After reading Nos. 1 and 3 Companies' notes last month, we have come to the conclusion that the guy who wrote the "Stein Song" (we mean those Companies' notes) is worthy of a presentation. We have decided to present him with a "halo" (not a brick—it hurts!) for the honour he has bestowed on us, and we also dedicate the following to him,

Trumpeter, what are they saying now—
Is it the notes you've been writing?
You've put them wise, those big London guys,
And you've started them all a-thinking ;
You've roused them up ; you've wakened them up,
Till their tails are no longer a-sagging.
'Twill be a great day, when they feel moved to say:
" Old Nimrod, of Brighton, has got us a-sweating!"
—(*with apologies to the author of " The Trumpeter."*)

Everything is all quiet on the Brighton front, except for some firing which can be heard. It has been located in the drill hall at Gloucester Road, where the lads are practising for the Lord Wakefield trophy. I'll deal with this later.

Now for work. We had a scheme in February, we did some shooting, we had a concert party, and above all, we did some work. Yes, we can work alright, as records will show. The lads turn up five times a week. Two of these are reserved for buzzer work and two for boxing, and on Sundays we are practising on the miniature range. Really, the attendances on these occasions are wonderful, seeing that they have only two days for themselves. But they don't mind: their heart and soul is wrapped up in their work.

Scheme.—This took place on Sunday, February 15th, in the drill hall. The attendance was about 50%. The usual routine was indulged in. Working in the drill hall during this time of the year is greatly appreciated by all ranks, who are studying hard in an endeavour to become proficient before camp.

Remembrances.—To those who value remembrances, there is something very attractive in the word, especially when one runs across an old member. This happened on the night of our concert, when C.S.M. (Bert) Faithful put in an appearance. When our Company was first formed, he had the honour of being the first C.S.M. Bert wishes to be remembered to the old-timers of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies. He is at present on leave from East Africa. It is of interest that only about six remain out of the Company then formed.

Easter Training.—Very soon we shall find ourselves among the Men of Kent (if you want to know the qualifications, ask our P.S.I.). Ashford is the place where we are going to be quartered for our Easter training. We hope that we shall have a jolly good time and come home thoroughly satisfied with our stay in Kent. More of this next month.

Social.—On Thursday, February 19th, we spent a very enjoyable evening in the form of a concert. It was very pleasing to see such a large gathering, especially of ladies. The entertainment was provided by the usual concert party.

Classes.—These have been going strong of late. When one enters the class-room, one continuous round of buzzing can be heard. All the students are striving hard to get their names on the operators' chart.

Musketry.—This is going great guns. The men are getting plenty of practice for the Lord Wakefield trophy, which will be fired off shortly. We hope to put up a creditable performance. The firing for this trophy seems to me a good opportunity for all three of our Companies to have an annual triangular shoot. If only someone would give a cup to be competed for!

We have been presented by an admirer of the Company with a handsome silver cup, standing about 2 ft. high, to be competed for annually on the miniature range. This is to be known as the Wheeler challenge cup.

Very soon we shall be firing on the open range, in readiness for camp. There are a few likely shots in the Company. Time will show what they can do.

Boxing.—By the look of things, this sport is going to be highly appreciated in the Company. On Monday, February 9th, Lieut Hayes started the ball rolling by giving some exhibitions in foot work, guarding and side stepping, detailing the finer points of the game as he went through his show.

We had a very good attendance, all being willing to " have a go " with the gloves. The spirit of determination is in the lads, and I am sure our instructor will bring out the good points in them. I might mention that we have several dark horses in the Company. Now, you lads who are interested in the good old game will have the chance of some punch-ball practice, skipping, sandbag punching, and above all, some Swedish drill.

Departure.—L/Corpl Crowhurst to the West Sussex Police. Congratulations!

Arrivals.—To the ten recruits finally approved during February, a hearty welcome!

Best Recruit.—The operators' progress chart speaks for itself, for it whispered to Sigmn Ridley W. that he had won the C.O.'s prize for the half year ending January 31st. Well done! Sigmn Parsons was very close, but failed to get home in the last stride.

Trade Tests.—We offer our congratulations to L/Sergt Marchant on getting his C.ii., and to Sergt King and Signalmen Tidey, Wickham and Oakley on their step up.

This Month's Best.—Sunday morning on the miniature range, with plenty of officers, n.c.o.s and men about. Enter a very smart sergeant. " I'll lay five to one—well, I'll lay ten to one that the semi-final football match at Old Trafford, Manchester, between Everton and West Bromwich Albion will be stopped by fog." This was greeted by a chorus of " I'll take you!" He then spent a hectic quarter of an hour in collecting bets. After all bets had been collected, with a self-satisfied grin on his face he said " Well, guys, you've all lost! the referee's name is Fogg." Hats off to the smart sergeant, and sympathy to those who were " stung."

There is no truth in the rumour that this said smart sergeant has written to the F.A. to ask if a fellow by the name of Rain could have the handling of the game at Wembley. NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

H.Q., Phoenix Street, Derby, March 14th.

The unit is still maintaining its standard of efficiency. Our hearty congratulations go to Captains T. M. Pyke and A. H. Billingham on passing subject " C," and to Lieut E. G. Chapman on passing subject " A," at the promotion examination held at Lichfield on February 21st and 22nd ; to Lieut H. Richardson on attaining his second " pip "; and to Corpl Swann J. A. on gaining his certificate for the second Northern Command P.T. Course for the Territorial Army held at the Command Gymnasium, York, from January 19th to February 14th.

The higher ranks of the unit are at present looking forward to the scheme for all officers, w.o.s and sergeants, to be held on March 22nd. We shall be honoured by visitors in Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., and two other officers from 1st Divl Signals. By the time these notes appear in print, we shall undoubtedly have gained more knowledge to be imparted to others during the forthcoming training season, which promises to be even more interesting than ever.

Annual camp is still several months ahead. This year, we are again promised Buxton. I say promised, because this is the third time we have been promised. On the two former occasions we were disappointed, although the substituted camps proved very popular and enjoyable ; in fact, perhaps better than Buxton would have been.

The last change was on account of water shortage. I do not think there are many members of this unit who particularly wanted to drink Buxton water. Many prefer the health-giving qualities of that supplied in the big marquee. Anyway, according to the amount that has fallen round about lately, there should be enough water to sink a fleet of battleships.

We were hoping at one time that we were going to have the pleasure of being near our parent unit at Aldershot, but we are unlucky: the powers-that-be said Buxton—and there we evidently have to go. However, wherever we go, we shall be just as happy as usual ; and perhaps (who knows?) we shall have the pleasure of going to Aldershot on some future occasion.

We are still in the social season. No. 2 (Chesterfield) Company held a combined dance with their neighbours, the 6th Sherwoods, on Shrove Tuesday. This dance must not be confused with the Shrovetide football at Ashbourne, a few miles away (oh, no!) All the elite of Chesterfield were there, including Major J. G. Underwood, the popular Company commander (I did not see Tommy Hewett or Tim Kelly, who are respected round these parts). Dancing was continued until 2 a.m., when everyone went home, tired, happy and sober (there was no bar!) Mention must be made of the efficient manner in which the duties of M.C. were carried out by C.S.M. Cutts A. D. of No. 2 Company.

No. 1 Company held their annual ball at the Albert Hall, Derby, on February 26th. A good number attended. Dancing

continued merrily until 1 a.m., everyone thoroughly enjoying the fun. Thanks are accorded to the dance committee for the efficient manner in which they discharged their various duties.

MEREBIMUR.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

Hello, everybody! Here we are again, with possibly just a little more to write about—but not much.

Inter-Company Shoot.—On Friday, January 27th, a very enjoyable evening was spent at Darlington, the headquarters of our No. 3 Company, in a return shooting match with No. 3. The match was watched by the two O.C.s, Major T. T. J. Sheffield and Capt Middleton, M.C.

Excitement ran high, Darlington leading almost to the finish. It was eventually left to C.Q.M.S. Gibson, our last man, to decide the affair ; and by putting up a score of 77, he left us "top dog" by one point. No. 2, 363 ; No. 3, 362. Hard luck, Darlington! After the match, the two teams were entertained to a very enjoyable supper.

Tactical Signal Exercise.—Sunday, March 1st, saw the n.c.o.s ready to participate in a signal exercise similar to the one held last month. Twelve n.c.o.s, under the supervision of Capt Hopkins, left the drill hall in a lorry and were met at Crathorne by the adjutant, Capt W. H. Dent, M.B.E. After consultation with Captain Hopkins, the adjutant decided that owing to the inclemency of the weather they had better return to the drill hall. This was done, and the rest of the day was spent in the hall, answering the questions which should have been dealt with on the actual ground upon which they were based.

Company Scheme.—It was posted in Orders that a Company scheme was to be held on Sunday, March 8th, but here again, owing to the deplorable state of the weather, it had to be cancelled. Some dozen men turned up, however, not knowing of the cancelment, and a scheme (on the same lines as intended had we been outside) was run in the drill hall under the supervision of C.S.M. Battersby. ESPRIT DE CORPS.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

Winter Training.—The winter courses arranged for training operators are now almost completed, and trade testing has already commenced.

At the first Trade Testing Board, thirteen men of No. 1 Company passed the required tests in the trades of signal assistant and operator signals, classes ii. and iii. The remaining Companies are being trade tested during next week, when it is hoped that a further number of operator signals and signal assistants will be added to those already qualified.

On completion of these Trade Boards, all Companies will commence recruit training in accordance with the programme drawn up for 1931.

Entertainments.—The final dances of all Companies having now been held, the entertainments committees have ceased activities. The last dance of No. 1 Company was held on 13th February and was a great success. It was most unfortunate that this clashed with No. 3 Company's final function, but as the dance halls of both Companies are allotted to other units on fixed dates, it was not possible to alter the arrangements.

No. 2 Company held their final dance on March 6th at the Windsor Hall, and this also was a huge success. The dances of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies were attended by the commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E.) and the adjutant (Capt I. H. Brown, M.M.).

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

General.—Although news from us has been scarce for some time, it does not follow that we have been idle. Rather the reverse, as our activities during the winter season have been so intense that they have only finished in time to commence recruit training.

Winter Entertainments.—These have been carried out with the same zest as in previous years, The junior n.c.o.s and men have held their monthly dances in the large drill hall, and these have been well attended by all ranks. These terminated with the annual Company dance on February 13th, when our officers were at home to their friends, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all. A special feature of this dance was the attendance of two pipers loaned by the 4th Battn Gordon Highlanders to play for the Scottish reels and dances.

The warrant officers and sergeants have also held their monthly whist drives and dances, and so popular did they become that the sergeants' mess was found much too small for the numbers attending. Our O.C. (Capt T. P. E. Murray) kindly lent the recreation room, which, with its central heating, commodious bar and larger dancing space, made an excellent substitute for the mess.

Winter Sports.—The chief sport this winter has been shooting on the miniature range by the members and honorary members of the Sergeants' Mess. Every Wednesday evening has found a goodly number on the range trying to make a "possible," so that when the annual shoot with the officers takes place, last year's scores will be reversed with a vengeance.

Inter-Company Miniature Shooting.—The monthly shoots in connection with the cup presented by our commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E.) have commenced, and our team are busy getting into form. We hope to run the same team that succeeded in winning the cup last year, so that we can repeat the performance this year.

Winter Training.—This has been on the same lines as last year, and from October 16th to March 9th a keen class of budding operators have been busy two or three evenings a week, absorbing a thorough knowledge of the items on the signal assistant and operator signals qualification sheets. A Trade Board was held on the last evening, and we congratulate everyone on the result, which has only been obtained after hours of painstaking concentration.

In addition to the above classes, voluntary rides for the drivers and linemen have been held twice a week during the winter. These rides, although voluntary, have always resulted in a good turn-out, and the n.c.o.s and men who attended are to be congratulated on their improved horsemanship.

Recruiting.—We are now in the envious position of being able to pick and choose our recruits, as we are up to full strength, with a waiting list that easily covers the small number due for discharge before annual camp.

Recruit training will be commencing in a few days, and a fine squad of recruits is eagerly waiting to start work. ONECOY.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals

and Supplementary Reserve.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow, March 13th.

General.—Individual training is in full swing, and the various classes of instruction are being well attended. At present we have three Divisional and four Regimental Courses going strong.

Boxing.—Congratulations to Sigmn O'Donnell J. on winning the fly-weight championship of the 52nd Lowland Division ; also to Sigmn Blair J. on being runner-up in the bantam-weights. We wish the remaining members of the unit team better luck next time!

Divisional Shooting Cup.—The unit failed to keep a grip on the "pot" this year, but managed to gain third place out of thirteen teams—ten of which represented Infantry Battalions.

Visitors.—We were pleased to see Sergt Tim Foley prior to his departure for India. He was looking forward to renewing some very pleasant friendships of the old Colchester days.

Talking of Colchester, we very heartily congratulate the 4th Divl Signals on reaching the semi-final of the Army cup.

Late News.—On entering the drill hall this morning, I was amazed to find it transformed into a miniature "Palm Beach." This transformation appears to be in preparation for the officers' annual ball, of which more anon. LOWSIGS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff, March 14th.

General.—"Good-bye to all that!" That is what the staff and everyone concerned said (only in stronger terms) when the

G.W.R. collected our harness for despatch to Ordnance for safe custody. We hope it is "Good-bye for ever!"

Under the auspices of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, a tour of the French battlefields is taking place from March 13th to 16th. The main object is to study the operations of the B.E.F. during the approach to and the battle of the Aisne, 1914. The officers from this unit are Lt.-Col. R. C. Seel, M.C., and Capt W. S. Catleugh.

An S.E.W.T. for the officers of this unit was held at Abergavenny on March 7th and 8th, and an excellent muster of some sixteen officers arrived at the post by half-past four at Saturday.

Congratulations must be tendered to one officer who piloted a car all the way there from Cardiff as an initial venture in driving. He should make quite a good chauffeur—if he survives the first dozen outings! The officer who accompanied him also receives an honourable mention. It is difficult to say which of the two is the more deserving of praise.

"Eye-witness" gives the following account of the start:—"To the impartial observer, it was patent that stirring events were afoot. The driver, pale but determined, and muffled to the eyelids in a well-padded suit, squeezed into position behind the steering wheel. It was evident that the car was in holiday mood—a wicked gleam came from the one lamp which possessed a bulb, as the driver turned on the lights instead of the more prosaic procedure of starting the engine. At last they were off! Apparently the car scented spring in the air. At least, after one or two light-hearted backfires, it skittishly swung out of the barrack square at a comfortable fifty. From this time onwards, the vehicle seldom remained on more than two wheels at the same time."

The overture was given in two extremely well thought out lectures on "The Air Defence Signals of London" and "Fault Localisation and Rectification," delivered in very convincing fashion by Captains Gollop and Gardiner respectively. (We did not know that fault finding was one of the latter's strong points.)

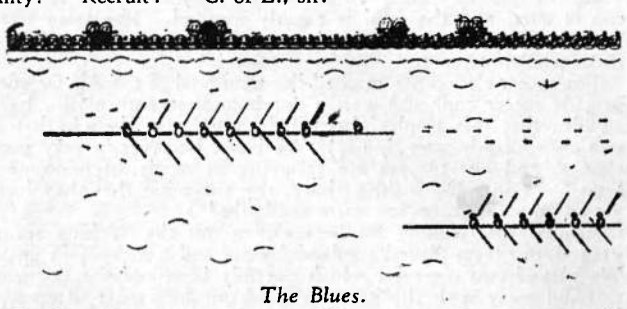
The signal exercise produced a number of interesting situations, combined with map reading problems. R.K.s dictum of "East is least, and West is best, and never the twain shall meet" was found to be perfectly true. An instructive discussion followed, and everyone went home feeling very much wiser than he did on arrival.

Social.—A dance run by the unit band, under the conductorship of Bandmaster Foxhall, was held in the drill hall on March 4th. This was the first of its kind, and the result justifies its becoming an annual affair.

A small whist drive and dance was held in the n.c.o.s mess on February 28th. This was the usual success, thanks to the untiring efforts of the entertainments committee under the leadership of Sergt Baxter.

Insult to Injury.—A P.S.I. of this unit (no names, no pack, etc.) cycled about twenty miles on an Army cycle on recruiting duties, in the sleet, rain, etc., over the hills and dales of South Wales, returning almost exhausted. He was greeted at the drill hall by an enquirer who wished to join the —— Navy. His face had to be seen to realise what he *thought*. Speech failed him!

Gems.—Here is one of a collection of many to be published in book form by the staff in the near future. P.S.I. (filling up attestation paper of prospective recruit): "What is your nationality?" Recruit: "C. of E., sir."



The Blues.

Inspired by the recent accomplishments on the typewriter by readers, published in *The Daily Sketch*, one of our members tried his hand (see above). I hope he did it in his spare time!

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Bay Lodge, The Green, Stratford, E.15, March 13th.

We must apologise for the absence of our notes last month. There were various reasons for this, but we will leave it at that. Suffice it to say we have received the cane at this end.

Winter training is now nearing its completion, and from what was seen this week in the lecture room, we should produce some very fair operators this year. There should also be a good attendance at the forthcoming Trade Board.

Two social functions have taken place since our last notes. First, the Sergeants' Mess annual dinner at the Pigeons Hotel, Stratford, on February 21st. This pleasant affair was voted one of the best we have had. The chair was taken by R.S.M. Adams H. L., M.M., the lower tables being presided over by R.Q.M.S. Sharp C. J., D.C.M., C.S.M. Hooper W. and C.S.M. Simpson H.

Among our guests we were very pleased to welcome old friends in Major R. G. Williams, M.V.O., and dear old Arnold Foster, late P.S.I. of this unit.

At the conclusion of an excellent dinner, we were entertained by George Thompson's concert party, who gave us a very good show. Interposed with this party was Miss Rosie Safferty, the eleven-year-old daughter of the late Sigmn Safferty, of this unit. Rosie gave us a very good comedy song on "Servants," and as an encore "If I had a boy like you" and a tap dance. In this song, the way she made love to C.Q.M.S. Morse (of the 47th) and Sergt Baker (of 4th Divl Signals) was very amusing, and slightly embarrassing to the two gentlemen. Miss Rosie has certainly come on a good deal since we were last entertained by her; she is indeed (as aptly described by one of the members) an absolute "pocket Nellie Wallace." She is at present under training by Miss Terry, and will no doubt, on reaching the age of twelve years, join one of Miss Terry's touring companies of juveniles. We certainly think she is worth "a place in the sun."

The second social function we have to report is the regimental dance held in Stratford Town Hall. This, as usual, proved a huge success, and the unit's thanks are due to Lieut L. H. Gentry, C.S.M. Hooper W. and the committee, for the very able manner in which it was organised.

Among our guests were His Worship the Mayor of West Ham and the Mayoress, who on arrival were given a hearty welcome. We were also pleased to see Capt C. C. Atkinson, M.C., from the Bedford Detachment.

After supper, the Mayor and Mrs. P. J. Bowling, wife of our commanding officer, led the grand march. We think the Mayor enjoyed being drilled a little! A company of about two hundred danced and thoroughly enjoyed themselves to the strains of Len Finch's dance band.

The duties of M.C. were carried out by R.Q.M.S. Sharp C. J. D.C.M., and L/Sergt Barnett A.

We are pleased to note that our No. 3 Company at Prittlewell have burst into print and are publishing a monthly news sheet under the heading of "Y.E.D.3." This is to be circulated in the Company and used for recruiting propaganda. We wish the Company every success in this new venture.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Simpson H. A. on his promotion to that rank. He is well known throughout the Corps, having been discharged to pension in July, 1924, after serving in the Norfolk Regiment, R.E. and Royal Signals. He is now employed at the Wireless Experimental Establishment, Woolwich. Y.E.D.

Bedford Detachment.

This Detachment has only recently been formed, and consists of the 233rd, 234th and 237th Field Artillery Signal Sections. The Detachment is not yet up to strength, but it is hoped to have a good muster before proceeding to annual camp.

Our first dance was held on January 30th in the drill hall, which was tastefully decorated in the Corps colours. The colours of our neighbours the R.E. and R.A. were also included in the colour scheme. The dance was voted a great success, and the band was all that could be desired. Among those present were Capt and Mrs. Wingfield, Capt Atkinson, M.C., and Mrs. Atkinson, Major Gude, R.E., and Lieutenants Lawton and Ward, R.A.

Agony.—Sergt Nobbs would like to know if G.F.V. and Robbo still thrive on Murree beer; also if Bill Cowell and George Cleaver still belong to the Jockey Club. How about the curry? Chilli, eh?

NOBBY.

E Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Sport.—The results of the Mackworth League football matches are as follows.

The first team lost to D Company by 1—4, beat School of Signals by 4—1, drew with M/Wing at 4—4, and lost to D/Wing by 2—3. The scorers were Purvis (3), Young (3), Collinson, Drysdale, Featherstone, O'Connor and Richardson.

We have also played a number of friendlies, results of which I will not publish, as I am afraid that the Companies concerned will be shamed.

We complete our fixture list when we meet F Company, and by the time these notes are in print we hope to have lowered their colours.

Our second string have played four matches, of which two have been won, one lost and the other drawn.

The third string are again doing splendidly, and the results are:—Played 4, won 4; goals—for 23, against 5. Keep it up! we want an unbeaten record.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Sports.—The annual competition for the Mackworth trophy has been completed, except for a few outstanding Soccer League games; and although the role of prophet is notoriously dangerous, it seems as though F Company will take the honours for the third year in succession.

Football.—Isolation and frozen grounds have prevented us from completing our fixtures, but results to date have been very encouraging. Against School of Signals, A team won by 4—1, B drew at 2—2, and C won by 8—0; v. Mounted Wing, A team won by 5—3, B won by 5—1, and C lost by 1—5; v. Dismounted Wing, A team won by 6—0, B won by 9—0, and C drew at 6—6.

Particular mention must be made of the form shown by Boy Guest, who has already played for the Battalion team. His play in the half-back line is worth going a long way to watch. Given a little more experience and weight, he should be worthy of a place in the highest class.

Rugby.—Detailed results are not available, but "A" team have won all their games, and " B " have been successful in four out of five games.

Shooting.—Results have been far superior to those attained in previous years, and are really excellent when it is realised that the teams are drawn from the cadre, whose total strength is only thirty-five.

In the first round, v. Dismounted Wing, A team won by 503—482 and B lost by 75—86; v. School of Signals, A team won by 481—456 and B won by 83—76; v. Mounted Wing, both teams won; v. D Company, A team won by 485—446 and B won by 83—80; v. E Company, A team won by 473—381 and B won by 88—79.

In the second round, v. Dismounted Wing, A team lost by 24 points and B lost by 9; v. Mounted Wing, A team lost by 19 and B won by 21; v. D Company, A team won by 26 and B won by 23; v. School of Signals, A team won by 84 and B won by 27; v. E Company, A team won by 107 and B won by 1.

Summarising the whole series, A team have won eight out of ten, and B have won seven out of ten matches.

A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

No. 3 Company.

Sports.—In the Powell cup competition (miniature rifle) our team did not live up to expectations. Last year, a splendid total was put up and we won the cup very easily, but this time, I fancy, we can wave it good-bye.

The team was as follows:—Capt Murphy, average 72; C.S.M. Hailes, 85.5; Corpl Frampton, 59.5; Corpl Dunn, 68; Sigmn Leary, 88; Sigmn Nicholls, 68.5; Sigmn Warner, 59; Sigmn Styles F., 53.5. Total average, 69.25.

The Company team in training for the inter-Company cup competition is showing good form and should do well. At any rate, we hope so.

In the inter-Company cup competition events are moving favourably, and at the moment of writing the scores are:—No. 1, 21; No. 3, 19; No. 4, 2. Several events are yet due, and these point to a happy ending for us. In the cross-country decided last week, No. 1 Company won easily and No. 3 were second; No. 4 were unable to find a team.

The surprise of the competition has been supplied by No. 4 Company in beating No. 1 by 4—3 in a match full of surprises. On March 12th, No. 3 beat No. 4 by 5—1.

Members of this Company are looking forward to seeing 4th Divl Signals beating D.L.I.s and thus providing the Signals in Aldershot with a " day out " on Easter Monday, when we hope to see them " fix " the Sherwoods. By the time these notes appear in print it will be all over, but nevertheless we wish 4th Divl the very best of luck!

No. 4 Company.

Since our last sports notes were published, we have done very little. At football, we beat No. 1 Company, by 4—3, but lost to No. 3 by 1—5. At hockey, we lost to No. 1 by 2—4.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

The hockey team have won through to the final of the Air Defence Brigade hockey cup. We are drawn against A Company 1st A.A. S/L. Battn R.E., whom we have reason to believe are firm favourites. We have every reason to fear them, as it was to the self-same Company that we had to lower our flag last year. In spite of this, however, we are fully convinced that the cup is ours, and the final is eagerly awaited. The team have been putting in some very good work of late, and the unit follow them wholeheartedly.

The soccer eleven has reached the semi-final of the Air Defence Brigade soccer cup, and we, in our boundless enthusiasm, have an idea that this trophy also will be ours. (In theory, that is two cups already won by us!) We have, however, a very good chance, and our players are receiving as much attention as a First Division side—with, perhaps, the exception that they have yet to go to Brighton for warm sea baths!

Against the Woking Strollers eleven, on the Woking sports ground, our team played a splendid game and won by 4—2 goals. We played two reserves, which possibly benefited the team, as this did away with the usual fault of our forwards: attempted individualism. The game was noted for very open and speedy passing, which alone was responsible for such a fine win. If our team would always play such football as this game brought to light, our success would always be assured.

No. 1 Company A Corps Signals Cross-Country Team.
Winners of the Royal Signals (Aldershot) Inter-Company Cross-Country League

The cross-country team are still keeping in trim for future runs. The Air Defence Brigade cross-country run will soon be due, and as we were the winners of the cup last year, there appears to be no reason why we should not repeat the win.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Cross-Country.—The team trained very quietly until February 14th, when we competed in the South of the Thames race. It may not be generally known that once a team has won that race, its component members are not allowed to compete again, so we were not able to run our stars Broadley and Cotterell. The race provided valuable experience for the team, even though we were only placed twelfth out of twenty-three entries.

Training was carried on a little more strenuously after this, in preparation for the Southern Command championship, which was held on Tuesday, March 3rd, at Tidworth. About eighty of the unit managed to get to the Tattoo ground, to find that A.F.V. Signals and E Troop were there in force.

The ten teams lined up on the far side of the ground to the east, dashing off at the start across the ground in front of the stands to the road leading past the kennels, thence to the cross-belt, striking it about three-quarters of a mile north of the Tidworth-Bulford road, taking the track along the side of the trees to Dunch Hill, where the first wireless broadcast was established by A.F.V. Signals. From there we learned the position at two miles, which showed we were well placed, with Broadley leading.

From this point the course lay south-west for about three-quarters of a mile, with a sharp turn south-west for another two miles, where the second wireless point gave us the good news that we were still well placed and Broadley ahead of the field, but the result could not then be foreseen.

Then another mile east for the runners, turning north across the Shipton-Bellinger road for another mile until the turn west into the Tattoo ground, where we saw Broadley leading the field and finishing about a minute in front of the second man, Beale being third.

The day was cold and dull when the race commenced, but a cold drizzle came on just before the finish. The going throughout was heavy, and the time was surprisingly good.

Sergt Cotterell had been unable to train owing to a sprained ankle sustained on a P.T. course, but ran well to be placed eighth and helped the team to again take first place.

I must place on record that this is the fourth consecutive win for 3rd Divl Signals. The names of the teams and other details are appended.

Team—1st, Corpl Broadley; 3rd, L/Corpl Beale; 4th, Sigmn Greatorex; 6th, Sigmn Ward; 7th, Sigmn Robinson; 8th, Sergt Cotterell; 13th, Sigmn Hudson; 27th, Driver Hawthorne; 28th, Driver Stokes; 35th, Corpl Lynton; 50th, Sigmn Rushmere; 57th, L/Corpl Pells.

Team placings—1st, 3rd Divl Signals, 239 points; 2nd, 1st Battn Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 412; 3rd, 2nd Battn Royal Welch Fusiliers, 473.

Individuals.—1st, Corpl Broadley, 3rd Divl Signals (41 min. 35 3/5 sec.); 2nd, L/Corpl Hubbard, Norfolk Regiment; 3rd, L/Corpl Beale, 3rd Divl Signals.

After the result had been announced, Lieut.-General Sir C. F. Romer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, congratulated the winning team in a few well-chosen words, and presented them with the challenge cup and a small plated statuette of a runner for each member, and a bronze medal to each member of the second team.

We hope now, with some more intensive training, to do well in the Army race, but our tail-enders are at present too far back to make us hopeful.

Boxing.—The Garrison novices team boxing took place on February 26th. There should have been two nights, but owing to lack of entries one was sufficient. Boxing took place in the riding school and commenced at 7.30 p.m.

The preliminary match, between the 5th Light Brigade and the 9th Field Brigade, was won fairly easily by the former, who afterwards met 3rd Divl Signals, the latter having drawn a bye. Signals immediately gave away two points, not having a novice bantam. The remainder of the results were:—

Feathers.—Sigmn Richards v. Tptr Woods. Richards was disqualified.

Lights.—First string: Sigmn Preston beat Gnr Patterson on points. Second string: Sigmn Harvey beat Mr. Lainie on points.

Welters.—First string: Sigmn Lovegrove knocked out Gnr Rivers. Second string: Sigmn Hughes beat Gnr Fletcher. Third string: Corpl McKenzie lost to Gnr Crutchley on points.

Middles.—First string: Sigmn Lymer lost to Gnr Gowman on points. Second string: L/Corpl Ford lost to Bdr Bamford, who knocked him out. Third string: Sigmn McKitterick lost to Gnr Hodgkins (fight stopped).

Catch-weights.—Lt. Yule lost to Gnr Williams (fight stopped).

Lieut Ruck and Sergt Child won their way to the Army individual championships. Neither met with final success, but it is very gratifying to think that we had two representatives.

Sergt Child won the Southern Command title, but lost on points in the first round of the Army championships. Mr. Ruck received a nasty cut over his eye and was forced to retire in the third round of the middle-weights final, after putting up a very game fight. We heartily congratulate them on their splendid displays, and Sergt Child on also winning several fights prior to the Army championships.

On Friday, February 15th, we had a novices competition open to Signals, Southern Command, and a most interesting display was given. The results are given below. There was a good attendance of spectators, but not so good as it might have been. The standard of boxing was surprisingly good, and several new and unknown lads were brought out. We are sure they will do well next season if they train.

Sigmn McKitterick treated us to a whirlwind display when he disposed of his opponent in very quick time, in the second round of the middle-weights, but we were very surprised when Sigmn Lymer meted out like treatment to him in the final. Drivers Hughes and Whyman and Sigmn Humphreys put up very game fights.

The competition was concluded by a speech by the commanding officer, Major E. W. J. Hobkirk, who very kindly attended. Our thanks are due to Lieut Ruck and his assistants for their hard work in organising the competition, and to the officers who officiated as judges, etc.

Welters.—Sigmn Lovegrove (A.F.V. Signals) beat Signalman Johnson on points.

Middles.—Sigmn Lymer (No. 2 Company, 3rd Divl Signals) beat Sigmn McKitterick with a knock-out in the first round.

Lights.—Sigmn Sawyer (No. 2 Company, 3rd Divl Signals) beat Sigmn Spencer on points.

Feathers.—Sigmn Richard beat Sigmn Austen on points.

Special contest.—Sigmn Carter (No. 3 Company) beat Sigmn Snelson on points.

Hockey.—No. 3 Company were knocked out of the inter-Company, Battery, etc. Garrison cup tournament by the 20th Battery R.A. The game was keenly contested, but No. 3 Company seemed to fail in front of goal. Their defence and halves played extremely well, and they certainly had more than their share of the play, but could not score.

This leaves No. 2 Company in the tournament. They beat the 54th Company R.E., thus qualifying for the semi-final, when they are to meet the renowned 14th Battery R.A. The game against the 54th Company was rather spoiled by the condition of the ground. It was so bad that the backs on both sides were more or less helpless. The 54th fielded a very good team, and but for the enterprise shown by our forwards, there would have been a different result. L/Corpl Peake played extremely well, especially when he was moved to centre-forward—his shooting was deadly. Semmence played his usual sterling game, as did the remainder of the team.

We had hopes of a No. 2 v. No. 3 Company final, but we will not bemoan our lot if No. 2 bring the trophy to the unit.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Garrison Individual Boxing Championships—First series middle-weights. Sgt Judge A. G. v. L/Cpl Batchelor (Northamptonshire Regiment). Judge just lost on points to a rather wild but exceedingly fit and hard opponent.

First series light-weights.—Corpl Hancock E. v. Sigmn Booth T. It was unfortunate that our two representatives in this weight should meet in the first series. Booth sprained his thumb badly in the first round, and the fight was awarded to Hancock.

First series welter-weights.—Farrier Warner E. W. v. Private Mitchell (Black Watch). These two went for each other with a will, and in the second round Warner walked into practically a k.o. punch. He never completely recovered, and was finally knocked out in the third round.

Semi-finals light-weights.—Corpl Hancock E. v. Fusilier Shaw (Royal Fusiliers). One of the best fights of the evening. Shaw is a good boxer, who hits both hard and straight. Hancock had Shaw fully extended, but he would not keep his guard up when attacking. Consequently, the Fusilier, by using his good left hand, kept off Hancock's attacks and won with a fair margin of points.

Unfortunately, Sigmn Sedgewick arrived too late from Catterick to enter. However, he ought to do well next year.

Inter-Company Boxing: No. 2 Company v. No. 1.—Ten fights were arranged, with a view to pairing off boxers of equal strength. The following are the results:—

Dvr Redman (No. 2) beat Sigmn Pitcher (No. 1)
Sigmn Campbell (No. 1) beat Sigmn Booth (No. 2)
Sigmn Matthews (No. 2) beat Dvr White (No. 1)
Sigmn Pearce (No. 1) beat Sigmn Taylor (No. 2)
Dvr Souter (No. 1) beat Sigmn Snowball (No. 2)
Dvr Hinchcliffe (No. 1) beat Dvr Hall (No. 2)
Sigmn Sedgewick (No. 2) beat Sigmn Warner (No. 1)
Sigmn Eccles (No. 1) beat Dvr Harvey (No. 2)
Sigmn Leslie (No. 1) beat Sigmn Jelly (No. 2)
Sigmn Russell (No. 2) beat Dvr Quaintrell (No. 1)

The result was a win for No. 1 Company by six fights to four. The Sedgewick—Warner fight was the best scrap. A most enjoyable evening; and we hope to have many more.

Hockey.—Once again bad weather has made us scratch several matches, and consequently the unit team has not really been at its best. Our chief difficulty lies in building up a forward line to work as a whole, as opposed to individual work.

The following matches have been played:—v. Braintree, won by 4—2; v. 17th Field Brigade R.A. (Senior Garrison League) lost by 1—4; v. Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, won by 3—0.

In addition, we also played a Sunday game against Braintree Old Students on March 8th, and managed to win by 3—2 after a really keenly contested match.

Company Hockey.—Garrison inter-Company knock-out (third round). No. 2 Company lost to H.Q. Company Royal Fusiliers by 0—2. No. 3 Company beat A Squadron 3rd Carabiniers by 1—0 and enter the semi-finals.

Cross-Country.—At present we do not boast of a good cross-country team, but it is hoped to improve our unit team by inter-Section runs and so help to discover fresh talent. This season we have had four Section runs, varying from two to five miles. J Section won the inter-Section competition easily, winning each run by a wide margin.

Beside trial runs, our unit team only ran in one match: against R.A.F. Felixstowe. Although we took a team of fifteen, only the first eight were wanted, as the R.A.F. could only produce a small team. However, we won fairly easily. Sigmn Davies was first man home, beating L.A.C. Gilbert by 150 yards.

In the Garrison cross-country, our team was fourth out of six entries. Sigmn Davies ran a magnificent race, finishing second to Sergt Sutherland of international fame.

Davies was also entered for the Eastern Command cross-country, and we had hopes of seeing him finish high up. It was cruel luck that he should have strained a foot, when running fifth, only a short way from home. Without damage, he might easily have finished even higher; as it was, he could only keep going and finished seventeenth. However, better luck next year!

Rugby.—We played the 1st Battn Middlesex Regiment on February 19th, on Reed Hall ground, and won by 14—0 points.

On February 12th, on Reed Hall ground, we beat the 2nd Battn Black Watch by 9—0 points.

On February 25th, on Reed Hall ground, the 2nd Battalion Northants Regiment beat our "A" XV. by 14—8 points.

Playing with a scratch XV. v. A Company 1st Battn Middlesex Regiment, on February 13th, on Reed Hall ground, we lost by 7—8 points. Sigmn Swann dropped an excellent goal from forty yards out. Unfortunately, 2/Lieut Gray and Sigmn Smee both "crocked," with a badly sprained knee and a cracked collar-bone respectively. Both these accidents happened during the last five minutes of the game.

H.M.S. *Ganges* gave us a match at Shotley on March 4th. Lieut Crawford, who played splendidly, scored two tries in the

first half, but the *Ganges* led by 8—6 points at half-time. Superior weight and pace in the *Ganges* three-quarter line enabled them to score two more tries and so win a splendid game by 14—6 points.

Our "A" XV. met Colchester "A" XV. on March 5th, at Lexden. Sigmn Shepherd scored in the corner in an excellent forward rush, and we led by three points to nil at half-time. Colchester, however, scored twice in the second half, when playing with the wind, and so won a very close and exciting game by 6—3 points.

General.—The team is settling down and has the making of a very good side. At present the best part of the XV. is the pack, which consists of hefty strong players—possibly a little slow—who go hard all the while. Sigmn Taylor W. J. (recently transferred from 1st Divl Signals, and a Corps player) is a great asset.

The "A" XV. consists of a lot of keen young players who only require practice and coaching.

The following players usually comprise the respective teams. 1st XV.—Sigmn Snowball; Drivers Brooks and Briggs, 2/Lieut N. M. Hay and Lieut H. N. Crawford; Signalmen Smee and Hurrell; Sigmn Leslie, L/Corpl Baker, Sigmn Manson, L/Corpl Milne, Sigmn Galbraith, Sergt Golder L., C.S.M. Herbert and Sigmn Taylor W. J. 2nd XV.—Sigmn Swann; 2/Lieut R. B. Gray, L/Corpl Whitefield, Signalmen Newman and Gartland; Signalmen Sims and Reid; Signalmen Taylor B., Pope, Shepherd, Gartery, Walton, Reeve and Spetch, and L/Corpl Gourlay.

Soccer.—Results since last notes are as follows:—

Beat Severalls Athletic (Border League) by 3—0
Beat Middlesex Regiment (Border League) by 7—0
Beat Royal Fusiliers (Border League) by 4—3
Beat Clacton Town (Border League) by 2—1
Beat 3rd Carabiniers (Garrison League) by 16—0
Beat Black Watch (Border League) by 5—1
Lost to Parkeston Railway (Border League) by 0—2

It will be seen that we have now met with our second defeat in the Border League. This came about in a surprising manner, and was effected by one of the weakest sides in the league. The game was played in a gale, and playing with the wind in the first half, Parkeston easily scored two goals. When sides were reversed, it was anticipated that we would swamp our opponents; but we found that we had to shoot through ten men, and in one case the Parkeston centre-forward (!) headed the ball out from his own goal line.

In the Garrison Senior League our record is as follows:—Played 8, won 8; goals—for 53, against 8; 16 points.

The goal average in this league is rather startling, but in view of the fact that we over-ran the Carabiniers to the tune of 16—0, this is easily accounted for. It certainly looks as if this league belongs to us! Another surprising point is that the Carabiniers drew with us in an early round of the Army cup. We have played this team five times during the season, and have scored thirty-eight goals in these matches.

At present, we are at the head of affairs in the Border League with the following record:—Played 16, won 13, drawn 1, lost 2; goals—for 58, against 26; 27 points.

We are now anxiously awaiting the result of the semi-final of the Army cup against the Durham Light Infantry. It is thought that this cup semi-final has caused more trouble than any other. Originally drawn to play at York, we heard that owing to spotted fever the match would be played at Colchester. We jubilantly altered our arrangements and did the necessary. The same afternoon we had official intimation that the match would be played at Darlington on March 11, but it had to be postponed on account of the snow-storm. The team is having a week's holiday at Catterick, awaiting the eventful day. The spectators, nothing daunted, are prepared to set off on the long journey to Darlington when the date of playing is definite.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

General.—Hearty congratulations to the 4th Divl Signals on their wonderful sensation in the Army football world. Their games have been watched with interest by all ranks of this unit—a great credit to the Corps. Well done!

Football.—Snowed up, and nine inches of it at that, so football for the last ten days has been out of the question. The thaw has now set in, but has not improved matters; grounds won't be fit for play for at least another week. Then we shall have a busy time in fulfilling delayed fixtures.

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On Saturday, March 7th, our Saturday team actually started their game against Filey Town in the semi-final of the challenge bowl, but after twenty minutes the game had to be abandoned, the score sheet being blank.

The cup match against Kirbymoorside resulted in a loss for us by 1—2 goals.

There is nothing to report of our Wednesday team.

Easter arrangements are as follows. Good Friday—morning, G.P.O., home; afternoon, Whitby A.R., home. Saturday afternoon, cup match. Monday—morning, Old Almondburians, home; afternoon, Whitby United, away.

Hockey.—Notes on hockey are rather difficult to compile this month, the weather having played havoc with our programme. Only three other than inter-Company matches have been played since January 3rd.

On January 24th we played our return match with Acomb H.C., and we had the pleasure of reversing the result (1—2) of our first match with something to spare, for we won by 4—1 goals.

On January 31st we had a very good game with St. Mary's H.C. (local team), the result being a draw of one goal each.

On March 4th we visited Pickering to fulfil our return match with Pickering H.C. This match was postponed from February 7th owing to weather conditions, and I am afraid March 4th did not show any great improvement. The ground was very heavy. Still, it's a long time since I've seen so much good hard clean hitting of the ball, and the game ended with Pickering the winners by 3—1 goals.

During the period above referred to, two matches for points towards the inter-Company athletic shield have taken place. As No. 2 Company of this unit does not yet function in the sports line, both games have been between Nos. 1 and 3 Companies.

In the first game, the result was a draw of 1—1, but at the second meeting No. 3 won by 3—1. The third game of this series takes place on Monday, March 16th, and as No. 1 Company are anxious to end "all square," a good game is anticipated.

There have been several new arrivals in the unit of late, but I am afraid no players of the category of those we have parted with have been discovered among them. 2/Lieut M. J. Conway looks like making a very good goal-keeper, and a couple who have not yet been tried out may prove to be discoveries.

C.Q.M.S. Hales (ex-Karachi) has given up playing, but has proved invaluable as an umpire. A good umpire, here, is as valuable as a good player, and goes a long way in teaching beginners how hockey should be played.

Rugby.—The match against Scarborough, fixed for February 14th, had to be cancelled owing to difficulties on both sides, so that the only fixture played off during the month was against Bridlington, on the 21st, away.

The fixture had been arranged with Bridlington "A" XV., but they were taking no chances against an unknown team and fielded as strong a side as they could. On the other hand, we were fielding a weak side, particularly in the three-quarter line. We went down by 20—0, but Bridlington did not find us easy

game, particularly in the first half, when the score was only 3—0. The play was what is politely known as robust in character (ask anyone who was in the scrum) but it was a good clean game, and both sides are looking forward to the return match.

Boxing.—On March 12th, our versatile dance hall-church-gymnasium appeared in yet another role—that of blood tub for our novices boxing competition. This was the first item in what we hope will be a long and successful programme for the boxers of this unit.

Preparations began towards the end of January with an organised system of training, with road work in the early morning and sparring in the afternoon, and although training suffered somewhat from interruptions and uncertain attendances, its benefits were clearly to be seen in the good fights of this novices competition.

Capt Schneider, our P.R.I., produced a portable boxing ring de luxe, which was erected in the gymnasium. Capt Clephan and an industrious band of helpers made the arrangements, and a well organised programme was carried through without a hitch.

Space does not permit of every fight being fully described, but here are the results.

Welter-weights.—First round. Sigmn Farmer beat Sigmn Gibbon on points. Sigmn Blizard won on a foul from Sigmn McFee. Sigmn Griggs beat Sigmn Wheeler with a knock-out.

Light-weights.—First round. Sigmn Barnes beat Sigmn Hurt on points. Dvr Spear had a walk over from Sigmn Steele, who scratched. Sigmn Potesta a bye.

Bantam-weights.—First round. Sigmn Gregory beat Driver Picton on points. Sigmn Hyde beat Sigmn Spencer on points. Sigmn McDonagh knocked out Sigmn Macaulay. Sigmn Guest a bye.

Welter-weights.—Semi-final. Sigmn Farmer lost on points to Sigmn Blizard after an extra round. Just before the gong Blizard received an accidental blow in the side which put him out of the remainder of the programme.

Light-weights.—Semi-final. Dvr Spear beat Sigmn Potesta on points after a very close fight.

Bantam-weights.—Semi-final. Sigmn Gregory beat Signalman Hyde on points. Sigmn McDonagh had a walk over from Sigmn Guest, who scratched.

Light heavy-weights—Final (special contest). Sigmn Guy beat Sigmn Swan on points after a really good fight, which produced some good boxing and plenty of hard hitting.

Middle-weights—Final. Dvr Parrish beat Sigmn Tumilty on points. The best fight of the evening. Dvr Parrish was the better boxer and hit hard, but Tumilty took all the punishment Parrish could give him and made a fight of it.

Welter-weights—Final. Sigmn Griggs won on a walk over from Sigmn Blizard, who had to scratch owing to injury received in the previous round.

Light-weights—Final. Sigmn Barnes knocked out Dvr Spear.

Bantams—Final. Sigmn McDonagh beat Sigmn Gregory on points after a close contest. This was Gregory's third fight in the evening.

After the contests, Major R. C. Nixon, R.Signals, presented the prizes.

Cross-Country.—An inter-Company cross-country run was held during the month, and the honours went to No. 3 Company by 89 points. The course included a variety of ground.

We are expecting to hear good news of the 3rd Divl Signals in the Army cross-country championship on March 17th.

Rifle Club.—We have had only one match this month, against "B" team 5th Battn Green Howards, whom we defeated by 89 points.

Hunt Club.—Since our last notes, we have been stopped from hunting, owing to frost and snow, for over a fortnight.

A meet at the Falcon on Thursday, February 24th, was poorly attended, but resulted in one of the best runs of the season.

On a very fair scent, hounds ran uninterruptedly, except for a slight check of ten minutes, from the Falcon to the cliffs two

5th Divl Signals Saturday League Team, 1930-31.

Back row (left to right)—The Referee, Pte Denny, R.A.M.C., Signalmen Whitehead, Thornton and Cord, L/Cpl Spargo, L/Sergt Devey, L/Cpl Rodger (linesman)

Front row—Sigmn France, L/Cpl Ferrier, Signalmen Cooper S. and Boyd (captain), Dvr Beedon, Sigmn Bywater

miles south of Whitby: a two-and-a-half hour run over a very nice piece of country.

A meet at Harewood Dale on March 17th was well attended, and hounds ran very fast to Broxa in the Derwent country—a distance of some seven odd miles. As the Derwent were meeting in this area, the hounds were whipped off and taken back to Jugger, where scent failed.

We trust that now the thaw has set in, we may be able to resume hunting.

We are glad to report that the C.O.'s leg makes excellent progress, but we fear he will not be in the field again this year.

Inter-Company Shield (All-Round Sports).—The competition for this shield is close. The points to date are:—No. 3 Company, 13; No. 1, 11.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Football.—A number of "fans" still remain with us, and their vocal accomplishments are extremely entertaining.

Our first eleven have been doing quite well of late, and if the relative strength of the several competing units is considered, their prowess is quite in keeping with Signals traditions.

Brigade training has permitted of but a few games this month, and the majority of those were competitive. The results are given below.

Western Command cup, lost to R.A.F. Depot by 0—3.

Eduljee Dinshaw cup—First round, v. 80th Field Battery R.A., drew (0—0) after extra time; in the replay, drew (2—2) at full time, but won by 3—2 after extra time. In the second round, lost to E.R.S., R.A.F., by 0—4.

Garrison Football League.—This competition being open only to Section teams of the R.A.F. and Company teams of the Infantry Battalions, which are approximately equal in strength to the Field Battery R.A. and ourselves, we had a chance to show our mettle. This we have done thoroughly, being at present the league leaders, with one drawn match and two to play. The final table will be published in next month's notes.

Rugby.—In the annual rugby tournament held in Karachi early this month, we drew a bye in the first round.

In the second round, we were drawn against 1st Battalion K.O.Y.L.I., and we knew that we had a stiff proposition before us, as they are a fine team and, in addition, have been holders of the trophy for the past two seasons. Unfortunately, we could but field a weak fifteen. The Koyli's gave a fine exhibition and completely outclassed our fellows. They ran out winners by 26—0, ultimately winning the competition for the third successive year.

Hockey.—In the second St. Pat's tournament, held in Karachi district during the latter part of January, we survived the second round by beating Karachi Rangers "A" by 2—0 goals, but lost in the next round to Karachi Rangers by the only goal scored.

A number of 1st and 2nd XI. friendly games have been played, with the results as shown:—1st XI. v. 2nd Battn Royal Sussex Regiment, lost by 1—2; v. 98th Field Battery R.A., won by 7—1; v. Burmah Shell, won by 3—2; v. Sind Madressah, drew at 1—1. 2nd XI. v. British Military Hospital, drew at 1—1; v. R.A.F. 2nd XI., drew at 2—2.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Soccer.—To combine the talent of two units and to thoroughly test the merits of various players, both as individualists and as members of one collective team, involves much chopping and changing. However, our problems are slowly but surely fading away, and it is to be hoped that in the near future we will be in a position to field an eleven capable of playing the type of game for which the Royal Signals of Rawalpindi have become noted.

The first results of the combination of the 1st Indian Divl and B Corps teams was, on the whole, satisfactory. In the Murree Brewery tournament we entered two teams, the first eleven drawing the 9th Queen's Lancers and the second team the famous Sherwood Foresters in round one.

Against such well known antagonists, our second eleven played a first-rate game, and although beaten by 3—1 the game was much more even than the score suggests. The team are to be congratulated upon their gallant fight. Team: Sigmn Ward; Sigmn Cleaver and L/Sergt Marchant; Sigmn Davies, L/Corpl Scratcher and Sigmn Clarke; Sigmn Browne, L/Sergt Watt, Corpl Price, Sigmn Pugh and Sigmn Jackson. The last-named player netted our solitary point.

The following represented the first team: Sigmn Edwards; L/Corpls Moody and Staley; Sigmn Perks, L/Corpl Taylor, and Sigmn Millett; Corpl Smith, Sigmn Sinclair, L/Corporal Hills, Sigmn Shealer and L/Corpl Jarvis. This side, after beating their first round opponents by 6—1, and then accounting for the 15/19th Hussars by six clear goals, lost in the final to the Border Regiment by 0—3. The game was a bitter disappointment, few of our men playing true to form.

This is the third time in the last twelve months that we have been runners-up; but there is no need to be pessimistic. A team that keeps reaching finals is bound to win, sooner or later; so roll on, June, and let's have another go at the Murree cup.

Hockey.—The Combined Signals teams have done reasonably well during the last month or two. After collecting the side together we unfortunately lost both wingers, Corpl Worth and Sigmn Wilson, and it has proved a difficult task to replace them.

We entered for both the District and the New Year tournaments. In the first round of the District, we met old rivals in the I.A.O.C., whom we defeated by the only goal of the match—a particularly brilliant effort on the part of our centre forward, Sigmn Walker. In the semi-final we met the K.S.L.I. on the Army sports ground and lost by 1—3.

The New Year tournament saw us drawn against M.T. Depot, whom we beat by 3—1. This paired us with the Heavy Repair Shops, Chaklala, recognised as one of the finest sides in the Northern Command, to whom we bowed the knee by the odd goal in three after a fine tussle.

Cricket.—Very little has been played lately, but it is hoped to liven things up in the near future.

We have twice played our old bogey team (H.R.S. Chaklala)—both two-day games. In the first game we forced a creditable draw after our opponents had declared in both their innings, Lieut.-Col. Drayson batting for an hour and a quarter in our second knock for 25 not out.

The second game saw us without Col. Drayson and L/Corpl Tomkinson, our stumper, against an entirely British team. We found ourselves 38 behind on the first innings. Chaklala made 169 for six (declared) in their second innings, leaving us to get 208 to win in an hour and a half. Some brilliant hitting on the part of L/Corpl Hills, who made 93 in pretty quick time, and a patient 77 not out by Sigmn Lundie, paved the way for a surprising victory by six wickets. This is the first time we have defeated Chaklala for some time past.

The Spratt cup inter-Company games are to be played off shortly, and we hope to see the best teams win on all occasions.

Tennis.—Recently the junior n.c.o.s and men held a club singles handicap tournament, in which Sigmn Shealer proved himself a worthy winner after a hard struggle against L/Corporal Sinclair—a beginner who produces strokes that might well be copied by much more experienced players. Denty was very disappointing—he would persist in lobbing the jolly old "goolie" into the sergeants' mess courts.

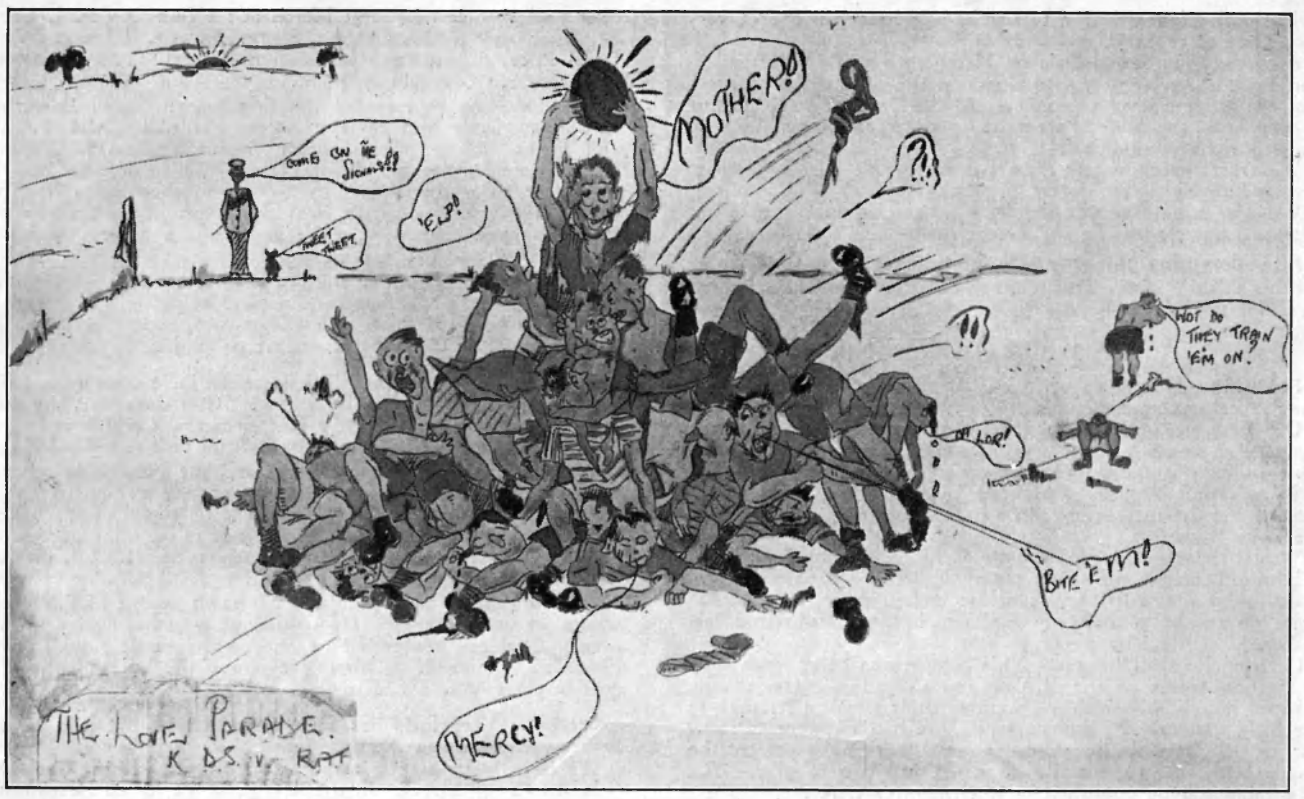
The prizes—two rackets—were presented by our hon. secretary, who makes no secret of his opinion that we could wipe up any tennis team in the Signals. Now then, coats off!

While on the subject of tennis, I would like to mention that our champion, Corpl Smith C. A., has expressed his intention of entering the Army tennis championships at Delhi—subject, of course, to the exigencies of the Service. We know he will give a good account of himself.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 1 Company.

Rugby.—The unit entered a team for the Karachi open tournament, but after beating the R.A.F. Karachi by 6—0 in the first round, they were defeated by the K.O.Y.L.I. (ultimate winners) by 8—0. Considering the number of injuries the team experienced, we must congratulate them on the splendid show they put up.



Kohat District Signals.

Rugger.—If you knew how saucy the local R.A.F. have been in the past about that shield ; if you knew how hard we have played, year by year, without success ; if you had been here on January 31st, and seen two complete rugby teams having a " mud pack " (to improve their " Lucks," I suppose) you would realise how very enthusiastic we are, now that we really have *won* the shield.

Three hard matches were played in the tournament, with an aggregate of 35 points for and 3 against. Good going, that!

In the first round we played No. 27 Squadron R.A.F. and won by 8—3. Tries were scored by L/Sergt Wagg and Sigmn Richards, and the goal was kicked by L/Corpl Bell.

In the second round we met the Gymkhana Club, a team composed of officers of the Station. We found them to be a " good meal " at 18—0. Six tries were scored—three by Sigmn Husband and one each by Lieut H. L. B. Kealy, L/Sergt Wagg and Sigmn Brown ; but owing to a sticky ball none was converted.

No. 5 Squadron R.A.F. (from Quetta) were our opponents in the final. No matter what *they* thought about it, our men went out to win, and they *did*: by 9—0. The three tries were scored by Signalmen Richards and Court and L/Sergt Wagg. This was a particularly hard game, because it had been drizzling with rain all day and the ground was decidedly juicy ; which fact reflects great credit on our forwards, who proved themselves equal to the extra exertion and played with a real team spirit.

On January 28th we were at home to our neighbours Peshawar District Signals, who came over the Kohat Pass in lorries and gave us a very enjoyable game. We were again victorious, by 9—0 ; but on the play, Peshawar deserved a few points.

Soccer.—This has been more or less at a standstill this month, except that several " scrimmage " matches have been played to choose a team to represent us in the Davis cup tournament here, and also one for the Signals Week at Rawalpindi.

We played one match against a representative side of the doctors (Military Hospital) and operated on 'em to the tune of 7—0.

Hockey.—This season's inter-Section cup competition was very keenly contested throughout. K Section vanquished H.Q. Section, after playing extra time in a replayed final game, by 1—0.

The wooden spoon must be handed to A Section, who, although they fought gamely, managed to gather only one point. Evidently, electrons cannot score goals (not sufficient H.T., my lads!) However, well done, K! but you sure will have to " steam some " next season.

Very few unit games have taken place lately. We managed to beat the R.A.F. by 2—1 in a friendly match.

Captained by Lieut E. L. L. Vulliamy, the I.O.R.s of the unit must be complimented on reaching the semi-final of the Afghan hockey cup tournament. They were very unlucky to lose to the Frontier Rangers, by the only goal scored, after two replays.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Football.—Recent matches have produced the following results. We have won against B Company Norfolk Regiment by 3—0 and 3—2, and D Company by 5—2 ; N Battery R.H.A. by 4—0 and 1—0 ; 9th Q.R. Lancers by *7—1, and their M.G. Squadron by 3—2. We drew against H.Q. Wing Norfolk Regiment at 1—1, and lost to C Squadron 9th Lancers by 2—3.

*I should like to draw the attention of Bekore to these football results. I think they may be of interest, in view of the fact that entries for the Durand cup come even from Sialkot.

Hockey.—We have won matches against M.T. Company I.A.S.C. by 4—0, B.M.H. by 6—0, N Battery R.H.A. by 4—3, and 32nd Field Troop R.E. by 1—0. We drew with H.Q. Norfolk Regiment (no score) and with Commercial Club at 1—1. Two games were lost: by 0—1 to M.E.S. and by the same score to A Company Norfolk Regiment.

Cricket.—Inter-Troop matches have been the only fixtures during the past month, but these have been much enjoyed by everyone,

THE WIRE

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VOL. XII.—No. 135 MAY, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

We tender our hearty congratulations to 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester, on having again brought the Corps into prominence as one of the finest sporting arms of the Service by securing runner-up medals in the Army Association Football Cup final.

That they failed to secure the coveted trophy was certainly disappointing, but it was a great game, and we can only express the hope that both teams may yet have the good fortune to meet again under similar circumstances.

❀ ❀ ❀

Easter Monday at Aldershot witnessed two sensational events in the history of R.Signals. Firstly, the final of the Army soccer cup between the 1st Battn Sherwood Foresters and 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester—which was naturally widely advertised and drew a record crowd. Secondly, a totally unexpected re-union of Royal Signals, which was *not* advertised but which resulted in such a gathering of Old Comrades that it left the present tenants of Mons Barracks literally gasping with amazement!

It would undoubtedly be quite safe to say that, on that auspicious occasion, as far as Royal Signals were concerned "all roads led to Aldershot." The visitors arrived from all directions and in all manner of conveyances, until those responsible for entertaining visitors to the match began to think very seriously of putting the troops on half-rations to meet the emergency.

Much could be said about the game itself, but as that has already been reported, not only by an official eye-witness but also by almost every serving home unit correspondent, we will content ourselves with describing the resultant "Gathering of the Clans" in what can only be described as the most successful re-union witnessed by the Corps since its inception in 1920.

It would need infinitely more space than we have been allotted to chronicle the half of those units and individuals who turned up for the occasion, but one saw chars-a-bancs depositing their loads of humanity from Colchester, Bulford, Salisbury, London, Tidworth, and even from far-off Catterick.

The members of the team were entertained to tea by the A.F.A. but were afterwards the guests of the evening at Mons Barracks, which presented a scene reminiscent of old times with such redoubtable warriors as Pot Fry, Taff Wills, Tich Adams, Dick Keevil, Harry Skinner, Nick Carter, Bill Barby, Frank Harris, Tiny Freemantle, Ginger Pank, Jimmy Lough and Paddy Duggan—to mention only a few—rubbing shoulders with those who were playing hosts for the occasion.

Our old friend Lawrence H. Drake was also in evidence, and produced a number of topical menus which were all subsequently purloined as souvenirs. Who by? Who knows? It can only be stated that they were originally intended as mementos of the occasion for members of the team—but, strangely enough, no one could find them when they were wanted for presentation!

Needless to say, it was all a hotch-potch of chatter. "Do you remember that very dry summer at Crowborough in 1921?" "No! no! I mean the path by the bushes just behind the Mansion." And so on and so forth until the time came to say "Au revoir."

The Colchester party had to leave at 7 p.m. (if they were lucky). The Bulford contingent were more fortunate, as they *could* stay a little later: they *had* to, anyway, because Joe Sweeting couldn't possibly *walk* home!

Everyone agreed that the reception accorded to such an unexpected multitude was beyond all praise. Great credit is due to those who accepted the responsibility of catering for the never-ending stream of visitors, and particularly to R.Q.M.S. George Bayliss and C.S.M. Gradden. It is, we believe, a generally accepted fact that the former is a veritable wizard on occasions of this description, and never yet has he been known to fail in an emergency. He certainly excelled himself on Easter Monday: and in awarding him *the palm* for catering par excellence, we venture to express the pious hope that he will still be in evidence—and in a similar capacity—when the Aldershot Branch of Signals Association hold their first official re-union of Old Comrades on July 18th-19th.

Make a note of those dates. Read the leaflet accompanying this month's Magazine, and make it your business to be present at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, on those two dates, even if you have to apply for a special family pass to do so.

Moreover, relay the information to any ex-R.Signals man you know who may not be in a position to obtain a copy of THE WIRE. All will be welcome ; and remember, the more R.Q.M.S. Bayliss has to cater for, the better he will like it.

Further particulars can be obtained on application to the General Secretary, Signals Association, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, who will also be pleased to forward full details to any ex-R.Signals man whose address can be provided.

Our Aldershot friends were frankly amazed at the number who turned up on Easter Monday. They appear to be labouring under the delusion that they saw *all* the ex-members of the Corps there *are* to be seen. Shall we give them something to write home about? Let's!

❀ ❀ ❀

We hope to publish a full-page photograph of the 4th Divl Signals Cup Final team in our next issue. It is interesting to note that they have already won the Colchester Garrison League, are in the running for the Essex and Suffolk Border League, and are also in the semi-final of two Charity Cups. A full record of their achievements during the season will be published with their photograph.

❀ ❀ ❀

The attention of all WIRE readers, and particularly those who have been discharged or transferred to the Army Reserve, is directed to the Re-union leaflet which accompanies this issue of the Corps Journal. It is confidently hoped that as many as possible will attend at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, on July 18th and 19th.

❀ ❀ ❀

The 1931 edition of the Corps Promotion Roster (pocket size) has now been published, and copies may be obtained on application to this office—price 1/- each, post free.

Our attention has been directed to an error on page 10 of that publication. The heading " Warrant Officers, Class II." should be deleted and replaced by " C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S)."

❀ ❀ ❀

Advertising Values.—We have recently been favoured with an advertisement for Messrs. Wingrove and Rogers, Ltd., wireless engineers and the makers of the well-known " Polar " condensers.

A covering editorial appeal to all WIRE readers, asking them to support home industries and particularly those firms who support the Corps Journal, has resulted in the following correspondence, which speaks for itself.

Our reader in Quetta has tackled the problem of local supplies in quite the correct way. By writing direct to the firm in question, pointing out the difficulty experienced in obtaining the articles he requires from local dealers, and at the same time making mention of the Journal in which he read the firm's advertisement, he has benefited all concerned—himself, by securing a prompt reply to his enquiries and advice as to the best and quickest method of obtaining the commodity he wants; the firm, who are " all out " to secure new business ; and lastly, ourselves, as the medium through which the firm's goods were brought to our reader's notice. This is a positive proof that the advertisement is serving the purpose for which it is intended.

" No. 2 Company, 2nd Indian Divl Signals,
" Quetta, Baluchistan.

" Messrs. Wingrove and Rogers, Ltd.

" Sirs—Having seen your name in connection with an appeal to help home industries in the Corps Magazine, I have ventured to approach you about the difficulty of obtaining ' Polar ' condensers in India. The United Engineering Corporation is, I believe, the sole agency in India for ' Polar ' components. I have ordered through the local dealer three ' Polar ' condensers with slow motion drive, and although this order has been despatched five or six weeks, this firm have not even replied to say that they are out of stock.

" On a previous occasion, it took three months to get from them a differential re-action condenser. I might add that a good firm can supply in seven days, and that were it not for the trouble and delay experienced with these people, many who are now fitting Formo and Ormond would buy ' Polar.' I have seen orders sent to ' The Bombay Radio ' and the Punjab Automobile Company of Lahore for ' Polar ' ideals, and they have replied that these condensers are not available in India.

" Trusting you will forgive my presumption, and also look into the matter,

" I am, sirs, yours respectfully,
" S. THORNHILL (Signalman)."

" (R10/B) 24th March, 1931.

" Sigmn Thornhill S., No. 2318165,
" No. 2 Company 2nd Indian Divl Signals,
" Quetta, Baluchistan, India.

" Dear Sir—We duly received your letter (undated) regarding the supply of ' Polar ' condensers.

" We have written to the United Engineering Corporation and asked them to go into the matter. They are our sole agents for the Bombay Presidency, but not for the whole of India.

" We would take this opportunity of saying that we are always pleased to supply our condensers direct, should it not be possible to obtain them quickly and satisfactorily from the local dealer. Anyone requiring these may remit to us the ordinary list price of these condensers and, whatever part of the world they may be in, we will send them immediately—all carriage charges paid—to them, provided they undertake to pay any import duty which may be chargeable.

" We trust that you will have no further difficulty, and remain,

" Yours faithfully,
" WINGROVE & ROGERS, LIMITED.
" —— Manager."

❀ ❀ ❀

We regret that extreme pressure on our space—despite a 44 pp. issue—compels us to hold over three or four pages of illustrations for the second instalment of the " N.W.F. 1930 " article. We will endeavour to make room for these next month.

We have also been compelled to hold over a long and interesting article on " The Malta Command Administrative Telephone System," which with numerous illustrations runs into some eight pages in all. This is in continuation of a previous article by Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Flynn which appeared in the November and December issues of last year. It will appear at the earliest possible opportunity.

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes

Salisbury and District Branch.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Lance-Sergeant Kilford (late of 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester, and S.T.C., Catterick Camp, Yorks) during this Eastertide. The funeral took place at Shrewton on Saturday, April 4th, and many of his old comrades paid their last respects by following him to his resting place.

The bearers were old friends from the British Legion at Shrewton, whilst C.S.M. A. E. Smart and Mr. F. Cole attended as representatives of his old unit and his Corps Association respectively.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and relatives in their sad bereavement.

[Mrs. Kilford wishes to thank all old friends of Royal Signals for their expressions of sympathy and also for the many beautiful floral tributes received.]

Entertainments.—On March 26th we played the Royal Army Service Corps Old Comrades Association at shove-halfpenny, crib and darts, at the London Hotel, Fisherton Street, Salisbury. The entertainment proved a great success, and those present enjoyed themselves immensely.

Unfortunately, the scorer got so far with the scores and then lost count ; hence we cannot give the final result or say who won.

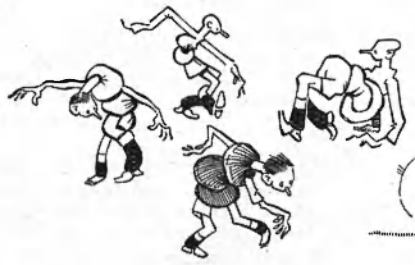
It is hoped to stage a replay at an early date, when we shall invite them to our headquarters at the White Horse Hotel,

THE CUP THAT CHEERS. By L. H. Drake.

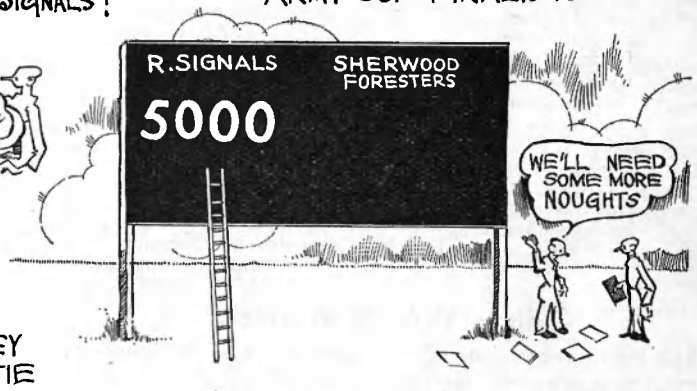
HATS OFF, PLEASE, TO THE 4TH DIVISIONAL SIGNALS!

IN FACT, EVERY CONCEIVABLE TYPE OF HAT - INCLUDING THE SUN HELMET OF CATTERICK - SHOULD BE DOFFED TO THE 4TH DIVISIONAL SIGNALS - -ARMY CUP FINALISTS -

CPL. G. PALMER (THIS IS A FAITHFUL LIKENESS) WON THE TOSS FOR THE SIGNALS' FIRST ARMY CUP FINAL



THEREAFTER THEY PROCEEDED TO TIE THE OPPOSITION INTO KNOTS AND THE SHERWOODS MUST HAVE FELT THAT THEY WERE "ON A PIECE OF STRING".



INSTEAD OF A BLANK AT HALF-TIME THE SCORE SHOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE THE CIRCULATION FIGURES OF "THE WIRE"

C.S.M. NICKLIN - IN THE FORESTERS' GOAL - STOPPED MORE FAST TRAFFIC IN THE COURSE OF AN AFTERNOON THAN A POINT-DUTY POLICEMAN WOULD DO IN A WEEK

BUT WHEN SIGMN. OADES "CUT IN" AND SCORED FOR THE SIGNALS

THE ROAR WAS DISTINCTLY HEARD BY RESIDENTS IN COLCHESTER.

AND NOW - MAY I TROUBLE YOU WITH YOUR HATS AGAIN - THIS TIME TO THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS. THANK YOU!

L.H. Drake 31.

Castle Street. The "London system" will then be brought into force, and we shall be able to check the score more accurately—at least, we hope so!

Yours faithfully, F. COLE, Hon. Sec.

3 Haviland Cottages, Quidhampton, Salisbury, Wilts.

Aldershot Branch.

The Aldershot Branch of Signals Association are holding their first official re-union at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, on Saturday and Sunday, July 18th and 19th, to which all old comrades who served with Signals in the past will be welcomed. Will all who intend being present kindly notify the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Old Comrades Association, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, as early as possible?—in order that necessary arrangements can be made for their reception. (See Leaflet supplied with this copy of the Journal.)

EMPLOYMENTS.—Situations found for the preceding month, with the co-operation and assistance of the National Association for Employment of ex-Sailors, Soldier and Airmen:—

Ex-N.C.O.	Messenger
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-Signalman	Lorry Driver
Ex-Signalman	Lorry Driver
Ex-Signalman	Attendant
Ex-Signalman	Attendant
Ex-Signalman	Porter
Ex-N.C.O.	Educational Instructor
Ex-N.C.O.	Wireless Electrician
Ex-Signalman	Cook
Ex-Signalman	Camp Orderly
Ex-Signalman	Barman Handy-man
Ex-Signalman	Motor-Cycle Delivery Man
Ex-Signalman	Telephone Switchboard Operator

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, 3rd Divl Sigs., Bulford
2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.
Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion, S.T.C. Catterick.
Sergeants' Mess, B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, India.
Corporals' Room, B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, India.
Officers' Mess, S.T.C. Catterick.
5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.
Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Aldershot.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, Yorkshire. Chronic sickness and domestic difficulties. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

2—Ex-Signalman, Aldershot. Domestic difficulties and unemployment. £1 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

3—Ex-Signalman, Brentford. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

4—Ex-Signalman, London. Unemployed and in temporary difficulties. Accommodated with three days board and lodging.

5—Ex-Signalman, London. Dealt with as No. 4.

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

Corps News—Officers

MOVES—

Lieut-Col. R. F. B. Naylor from Nigeria to Bulford (3rd D/S)
Captain R. G. L. Giblin from Egypt to Aldershot (A C/S)
2/Lieut J. R. G. Walker from A Corps Signals to 1st Divl Sigs.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 20/3/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned n.c.o.s, R.Signals Supp. Reserve, to be 2/Lieuts., 21/1/31:—Corpl T. E. Kitts, L/Corpl J. Gregson.

War Office, 24/3/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ESTABLISHMENTS

Major J. S. Yule, O.B.E., R.Signals, relinquishes the appointment of Supt. (Cl. Z) S.E.E., 13/3/31.

Major J. R. Carter, O.B.E., R.Signals, is appointed Supt. (Cl Z) S.E.E., 13/3/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut W. E. Chinn to be Captain, 1/2/31.

War Office, 27/3/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ESTABLISHMENTS

Captain N. H. Edes, R.Signals, relinquishes the appointment of Instructor (ungraded) School of Signals, 17/2/31.

Lieut J. D. Haigh, R.Signals, is appointed Instructor (Cl. GG) School of Signals, 17/2/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

53rd (W.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut A. P. Allan to be Lt., 1/3/31.
2/Lieut A. W. Bartholomew to be Lieut., 2/3/31.

55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut S. Brown resigns his commission, 2/2/31.

War Office, 31/3/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned Majors to be Lieut.-Colonels, 1/4/31:—R. E. Vyvyan, M.B.E., M.C.; L. G. Phillips, M.C.; R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C.; J. S. Yule, O.B.E.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 1/4/31:—D. D. Bannerman, H. D. Beadon, M.C., D. H. Cunynghame, C. A. Murray.

Capt E. Levett to be Adjutant, vice Capt H. D. Beadon, M.C., 15/2/31.

Lieut J. D. Haigh is seconded whilst employed as Instructor, School of Signals, 17/2/31.

Capt N. H. Edes is restored to the establishment, 17/2/31

Lieut H. A. C. Stallan is placed on the half-pay list on account of ill-health, 1/4/31.

War Office, 7/4/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

50th (N.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut R. M. Percival to be Lieut., 9/2/31.

War Office, 10/4/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Major J. R. Carter, O.B.E., is seconded whilst employed as Supt. S.E.E. 13/3/31, vice Major (now Lieut.-Colonel) J. S. Yule, O.B.E., restored to the establishment.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

56th (1st Lond.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut M. M. Cuthbert to be Lieut., 15/11/30.

- Plain Tales -

Occasional Thoughts.—Along the country roads, now, one may observe the dainty little "whatyercallems" budding, their delicate petals nodding lazily in the early summer breeze. Overhead, a cloudless sky, the sun shining with that gentle warmth to escape which foreigners will travel hundreds of miles. Sniff. One strides along, carefree. Not a debt, not a doubt. The "b" is silent, as in "caviare." On past English fields, green and brown merging into the incomparable blue of the sky, the sweet

voices of the farm labourers ringing in one's lugs as they sort out the mangels from the wurzels. Ever and anon a burst of girlish laughter delights the ear, as a buxom wench heaves a turmut at the old squire (erroneously reported to have been foully murdered). And a lot more like that, until one catches a local bus and sinks gratefully on to the padded seat.

How can you add to your income? Listen! Adopt a profitable hobby, such as fretwork, quartermaster's stores, saxophone playing, or looking at public vehicles for so much a look. Incredible earnings are often attributed to that much-maligned artist the saxophonist. For example, let us take one of these people, whom we will not name, respecting his innate modesty. When he entered the profession (to the dismay of Rudy Wiedoeft) he purchased a splendid instrument for 7/6. After about two hours practice he secured an engagement at £15 per night. From this he progressed by leaps and bounds, so that in the first year alone he made over £25,000. Of this he spent £24,999 in buying drinks for indigent sergeants. So now you know. He would have improved on this had he been able to grow wavy hair like Johnny Wooldridge. Note.—All the characters in the foregoing are fictitious, except Johnny.

* * * *

Social, Sporting and Dramatic.—The following arrived on Friday, March 20th, with their families, to spend their summer holidays (and all their other holidays for a few years) in India. They are very welcome! Sergt Palmer, L/Sergts Andrews and Lunnis, Corpl Appleby, and L/Cpls Jones and Wellock. C.S.M. Adcock arrived without his family, as did a whole shower of sergeants. More welcome! The following are the names of the 176 other ranks who also arrived on the same date. (I beg your pardon! This is held over for the time being.) Further welcome! All are heavily insulated, and their resistance is said to be wearing very thin.

I do not propose to tell you in detail about the S.T.C. (India) annual sports, because they will be reported elsewhere. What I do insist on, however, is three large cheers for A Company (British) who were miles in front of anyone else. Sergt Jack Angell was the Victor Ludorum. One lady said, " Oh, I do hope he wins the *Victoria Laudanum* cup!" Sergt George Stone did good work with a megaphone ; not that a megaphone was really necessary. He made one *faux pas* (French for " faux pas ") when he shouted " Competitors for the veterans' race! Will the ladies please get their spikes on?" A decent interval between these two sentences would have been graceful.

Middle weight dart championship, Central Provinces, India. 2000 guineas and a suitably inscribed concrete mixer. In the men's undiluted doubles, Sam Weller and Claude Collinwouldnt beat their opponents in two straight sets by 15—2, 15—4, and one for his nob, Claude having squared the referee by promising to get him off church parade. These two now find themselves in the final, where they will meet Busty Bramshot and Cyclone Bew, a pair hitherto undefeated with 2 oz. darts. Banger King having been warned off for using pigeon's feathers and wearing braces while throwing, the hopes of the Mess centre on Daisy Dilworth for the married men's mixed singles. No. 2 Bearer, who has been suffering from an obscure complaint known provisionally as " dart eye," is reported to be doing well. He shouldn't have walked in front of the board when I was throwing, anyway. This incident has given everyone a false impression. As soon as I pick up the darts, people rush to take cover. Pah!

* * * *

The Higher the Fewer.—A man answering a paper set by the Electrical School uses the expression " pacific gravity " ; and another writes confidently of the " forth valve " and the " amlephier." These are not howlers, but mistakes which may be attributed to the County Council system. If a man doesn't know that there is such a word as " specific," he probably says " yus " instead of " yes." Now I read something about public school men enlisting into the Royal Signals. Ha! ha! (in a high voice). What hopes? Still, the idea is quite good ; but with the arrival of P.S. men we shall begin to miss these bright spots in examination papers, or not, as the case may be.

P.S. men invariably talk beautifully, if somewhat frequently, but are occasionally hazy on spelling. The man who wrote " The triade valve is a glass blub " proved to have been educated at a well known college. I know a senior officer who always writes " priviledge." You see what I mean? I bet you don't!

It is the general belief among young officers that hardly anyone in the ranks uses aspirates or avoids splitting infinitives. They are generally right. With the arrival of a few thousand P.S. men whose parents, crushed by taxation and the price of beer, find that they cannot get their offspring into the Service as colonels (pause for breath) this belief will gradually be dispelled. A great pity. It is an entertainment to hear a very young officer telling someone what Corporal X or Sergeant Y said. Such expressions as "Gorblimey," " I ses to 'im, I ses," and " luvaduck" are used unsparingly. The men he refers to may, or may not, talk like that. It makes no difference to our young friend. P.S. men are as liable to make blobs as we Borstal and Dartmoor boys. I remember one Harrow man who ticked me off and included the warning " A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." I feel sure he didn't know he had misquoted. What he meant, of course, was " A little learning is a dangerous thing." Poor chap! He died in 1916 because he had learned how to throw a Mills bomb but not how long *not* to hold it after releasing the spring!

* * * *

Pour la Patrie.—A thrilling tale of the famous Slagdavian regiment, the 2nd Chaussettes. Translated from the French by moi.

Le Capitaine Pourboire was gazing through his tèlescope (or telescope) at a group of horse-hommes who were galloping furiously towards his camp. " Pomme de terre!" he said. " They are a longe way off and we can prepare our defense." " You are looking through the wrong end," remarked Pierre, his bathomme. Le capitaine cursed roundly, reversed his glass, and was preparing to take a further observation when the mounted party dashed into their midst, scattering the hommes droit et gauche.

" Vive la chausette!" roared the gallant officier, struggling to his feet.

" Pipe down, cap," said Pierre. " You've been laying there all night."

" Lying, my dear fellow," said Pourboire, gently ; " lying."

" I ain't, cap. You were flopped out. Mai foi. A flop the most magnifique!"

" Don't call me ' cap,' you son of a fusil."

" Qu'est ce que c'est," said a well manicured voice. Le Majeur Maggotte strode into the light of the camp fire, his spurs jingling in most martial manner. He was picking his teeth with the pen of his aunt.

Pierre was the first to recover his wits. He turned out the guard, blew the quarter for reveille, presented arms with the telescope (or telescope), and kissed the C.O. on both cheeks. " Mon officier," he said (waving the regimental colours aloft) " le capitaine does not know that it was yesterday the enemy fixed his duff. Helas et hein. Et parbleu," he added hastily.

Le majeur twirled his little noire moustache (noun f.) and gazed reflectively at his adjutant. " Nom d'un drain-pipe," he snarled at last ; " here you stand, making argument le plus bete when I distinctly ordered a kit inspection before the enemy attack. Bah! Bring me a drink."

An orderly brought le majeur a pint of absinthe, and he gulped it down, afterwards flinging the glass to the ground, where it shivered into a thousand glittering fragments. Pierre counted them.

At 5 a.m. the next morning the enemy attacked. The Chaussettes were forced back while a picked body of Dervishes threw green paint all over the beautifully laid kits. Pourboire cried bitterly, but Pierre and le majeur plotted revenge for this deadly insulte (insult). Drums rolled, strong hommes giggled hysterically, chevaux champed their bits, and night fell with a bump. Nobody bothered to pick it up.

Note.—At 10.30 a.m. next morning the enemy were preparing to attack again, but I noticed that it was " opening time," so they can jolly well wait until next month.

* * * *

Music Note.—The Italian boxer's favourite foxtrot: " My sweetie calls, but I carnera."

BARLEUX.

Army Soccer Cup Final.

The 4th Divisional Signals' Glorious Effort.

By W. C. H. Mansfield.

Much credit is due to the 4th Divl Signals, who were defeated in the final of the Army Cup by the odd goal in three by the 1st Battn The Sherwood Foresters (who fielded the same team that won the Cup last season) on the Command Central Ground, Aldershot, on Easter Monday, April 6th.

From the commencement of the game, some 8000 spectators witnesed a tense and thrilling duel, in which both teams played excellent football that was clean and sportsmanlike throughout.

The Signals won the toss, and within two minutes from the kick-off the Foresters had forced a corner which Dalziel cleared in good style. From this clearance the Signals made a determined raid in their opponents' half, but shots for goal by Spencer, Ball and Brunt were all unsuccessful.

Until the whistle sounded for the interval, it was practically all Signals, and the Foresters' defence was hard pressed ; it was the splendid work of Nicklin, their goalkeeper, that saved them from crossing over with a substantial deficit.

In the second half the Foresters began to take command of the game, and their efforts were soon rewarded by a goal from Goodley, their inside left, who headed in after Dalziel had partially cleared a shot by Parr, the outside right.

Whittle, at inside right, shortly afterwards increased the Foresters' lead by heading in from a corner kick.

This two-goal lead did not rob the game of its interest, and ten minutes from the end the Signals staged an exciting rally which looked like producing the necessary goals for a victory. These did not materalise, however, but just before the end a long shot by Oades found the net to reduce the margin.

Spencer, the Signals' left half, who was in his younger days a schoolboy international, was the outstanding player on the field, and Palmer was a very successful pivot. In the rearguard, Dalziel and Davies were well worthy of special mention, while Robson and Edge were the pick of the forward line.

For the Foresters, McPhunn was an able leader of a lively forward line, and Nicklin in goal was on the top of his form.

The Cup and medals were presented after the match by Lady Campbell, wife of the Commander-in-Chief Aldershot Command.

4th Divl Signals—Sigmn A. Dalziel (goal) ; Sigmn H. Marshall (right) and Sigmn H. Davies (left) backs ; Sigmn W. McLelland (right), Corpl G. Palmer, captain (centre), and L/Corporal R. Spencer (left) half-backs ; Sigmn A. Brunt (outside right), Sigmn B. Oades (inside right), Corpl T. Ball (centre), Corpl L. Robson (inside left) and Corpl T. Edge (outside left) forwards.

4th Divisional Signals' Cup Record.

Goals—for 26, against 16.

First round, beat 2nd Battn Royal Fusiliers by 3—2
Second round, beat 3rd Carabiniers by 3—0, after draw of 3—3
Third round, beat 1st Battn Coldstream Guards by 3—0, after draw of 4—4
Fourth round, beat 17th Field Brigade R.A. by 4—3
Fifth round, beat 2nd Battn Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders by 2—0
Semi-final, beat 1st Battn Durham Light Infantry by 3—2
Final, lost to 1st Battn Sherwood Foresters by 1—2

History of the Army Cup.

By W. C. H. Mansfield.

The Army Football Association Challenge Cup, to quote its correct title, was purchased in 1888 by the aid of donations from units of the Army.

It is a silver replica of the famous Warwick vase owned by the Earl of Warwick and kept at Warwick Castle. This replica was made in 1838 by one Paul Storr, who was a famous silversmith at that time.

Since its inception as an Army trophy, it has been competed for thirty-seven times by representative teams of the Regular Forces.

Competitions were not held in the 1899/1900 season or the seasons from 1914/15 to 1918/19.

The Cup cannot be won outright, nor may it be taken out of the British Isles,

A miniature in silver is presented each season to the winning team.

The first team to win the Cup were the 2nd Battn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who defeated the 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment by two goals to nil. In that season—1888/89—forty-four teams entered the competition, but the number has varied considerably with the course of time: this season there were 107 entries.

In the season 1901/2, only thirty-seven teams competed—the lowest number on record: the largest being 142 in 1919-20. Since the Great War, the number of entries has always exceeded one hundred.

A full list of the winners of the Cup is appended:—

1888/89 2nd Battn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
1889/90 2nd Battn Black Watch
1890/91 2nd Battn Scots Guards
1891/92 2nd Battn Scots Guards
1892/93 2nd Battn The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt.
1893/94 2nd Battn Black Watch
1894/95 Royal Artillery (Portsmouth)
1895/96 1st Battn Royal Scots
1896/97 Royal Artillery (Portsmouth)
1897/98 2nd Battn Gordon Highlanders
1898/99 1st Battn South Lancashire Regiment
1900/01 2nd Battn Highland Light Infantry
1901/02 Details, Black Watch
1902/03 Service Battalion, Royal Engineers
1903/04 Royal Marine Artillery
1904/05 2nd Battn Grenadier Guards
1905/06 Depot and District Battalions, Royal Engineers
1906/07 Depot Battn Royal Engineers
1907/08 4th Battn King's Royal Rifle Corps
1908/09 2nd Battn Royal Irish Rifles
1909/10 Royal Marine Light Infantry
1910/11 2nd Battn Sherwood Foresters
1911/12 2nd Battn Sherwood Foresters
1912/13 2nd Battn Durham Light Infantry
1913/14 Army Service Corps, Woolwich
1919/20 R.A.M.C. Aldershot
1920/21 R.A.M.C. Aldershot
1921/22 1st Battn Wiltshire Regiment
1922/23 Royal Army Service Corps (Training Establishment)
1923/24 1st Battn Wiltshire Regiment
1924/25 1st Battn Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)
1925/26 2nd Battn South Staffordshire Regiment
1926/27 2nd Battn The Leicestershire Regiment
1927/28 Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Southern Comd. (South)
1928/29 1st Battn King's Own Scottish Borderers
1929/30 1st Battn Sherwood Foresters
1930/31 1st Battn Sherwood Foresters

"Morse the Messenger."

(Dedicated to one Mercury, alias Jimmy)

Wingless, tho' of wondrous flight,
Wirelessed at the speed of light,
Spinning thought throughout world-space,
Linking ev'ry human race.

Wires a-humming o'er the land,
Cables slung from strand to strand,
Stride the height and span the deep,
Join the keys that never sleep.

Mirrored flashes of the sun,
Spelling those things said or done
At an Empire's finger tips,
Britain's eyes and ears and lips.

"– – – —— – News for you!"
"—— – —— Go on ; you're 'through'!"

Peace and strife, success or not,
All depend upon a dot.

Radio-relayed, rhythmic, Morse,
Communication's motive force:—
Flag to aerial, near and far
'Ends – —— – —— – O.K.! R.!!"

C. H. BEATTIE, M.C.,
(R.Signals, Res. of Officers)
BM.CBTL, W.C.1

N.W.F., 1930.

An Epic of Unbelievable Courage and Hardships on the Kajuri Plain.

[*Continued from the April Number.*]

I have been informed by competent medical authority that a second dose of Bara Signals can now be administered without danger of any serious after-effects. Anyhow, anyone who is foolhardy enough to proceed beyond the above title is simply asking for it ; so stand back, everyone!

For the benefit of those who are fortunate enough to disclaim acquaintance with the N.W.F., I have sent to the Editor an alleged map of the district where, for four weary months, the Signals have gained a fine name for devotion to charpoys in the face of the enemy.

As far as Bara Fort, we were operating over territory which was well known, but beyond Bara very little was known of the topographical conditions to be encountered, and we had to put our faith in existing maps for information required.

Now, before we left the dubious civilisation of Peshawar behind us, the powers-that-be enquired of the General Telegraph Department of India as to the existing lines that were likely to be of some use in the operations. The G.T.D., anxious to please, thought they had left a P.L. route hanging about Kajuri, and after some deliberation, decided that it commenced at Kacha Garhi and passed Bara en route for Mattanni. To give this great civil department its just credit, their lines are well erected, and in some cases it is even possible to get a call through.

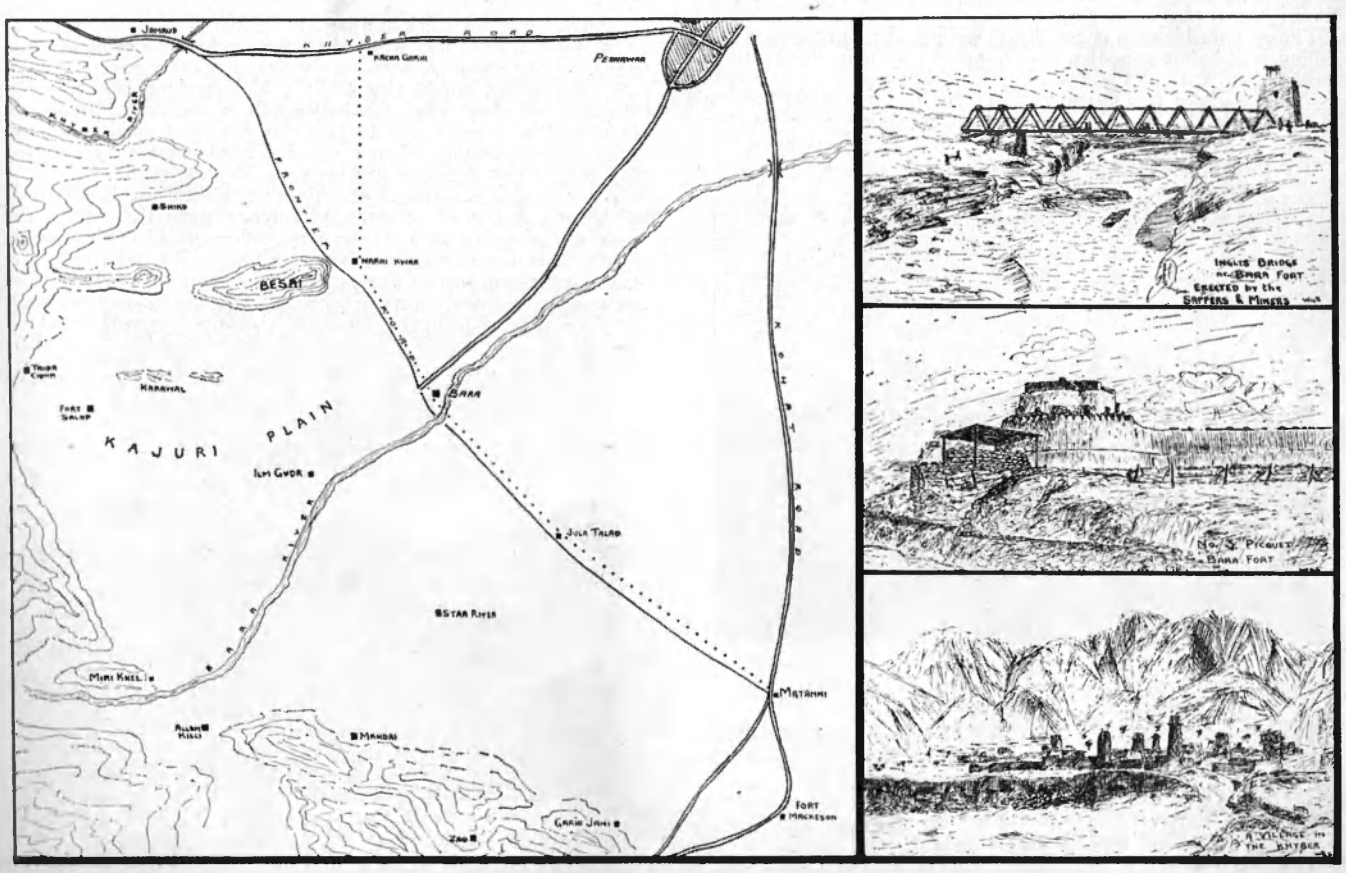
It was only natural, therefore, that we should try to find out a little more about this civil route, and the map was unrolled. Yes, there it was! a little row of dots, which the legend unblushingly stated was actually a telephone route. Moreover, a road ran beside it for the greater part of its length (or perhaps vice-versa) and our linemen, already tugging at the leash, thought they had struck a piece of ready-made cake.

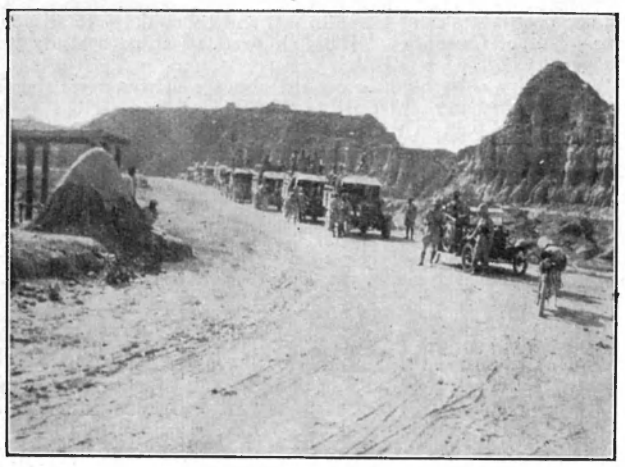
'Twas at this moment that the incommensurable value of my 3rd class certificate came home to me, and I would say to all you young lads at Catterick: "Though years of arduous study be the penalty, get your 3rds."

Well, as I was burbling before the above weighty advice rolled out, we applied our 3rd class certificates and twisted the map around until a pain in the neck indicated that it was set in the usual unreadable position. According to form, the route passed close to the Fort, but in vain our eyes swept the horizon—we had lost a telephone route, and our linemen, already out to test it, were in for a severe nervous shock. Sure enough, about fifteen minutes later, the hoarse baying of a frustrated lineman came floating o'er the breeze ; and then we realised that our route, if any, was lying in the loose wallahs bazaar, Peshawar, awaiting a client.

Further investigation revealed that not only was the line missing, but that the Frontier road had also gone the way of all earthly things and was no more. Far away across the rock-strewn plain, a telegraph pole at odd intervals brought dreams of what might have been ; but war is war, and a gallant little band of men—slightly peeved, no doubt—struggled across the desolate wastes and, late on that day, reached Narai Khwar and were "through" (magic word!) to Bara. In passing, I might add that the Frontier road, if and when it existed, had crawled down three nullahs and up their opposite sides, where even our mules found it hard work to make progress. No, Joe! I don't mean you—nor Smudger.

Back in Bara, our D.R. Section had engaged in a conspiracy with the signal office personnel, and in the darkest dungeon of the Fort (of which, more anon) had worked Field Service Regs. a terrific flanker by ordering up thirty charpoys from Peshawar. The quarter-bloke and I were standing outside our abode, deliberating on the possibilities of living through another night, when the charpoys arrived, and tears of self-pity glistened in our eyes when we discovered that they were all booked. As a moth is drawn to a flame, so we followed the charpoys to the Fort, where the yawning depths of the dungeons soon swallowed them up.



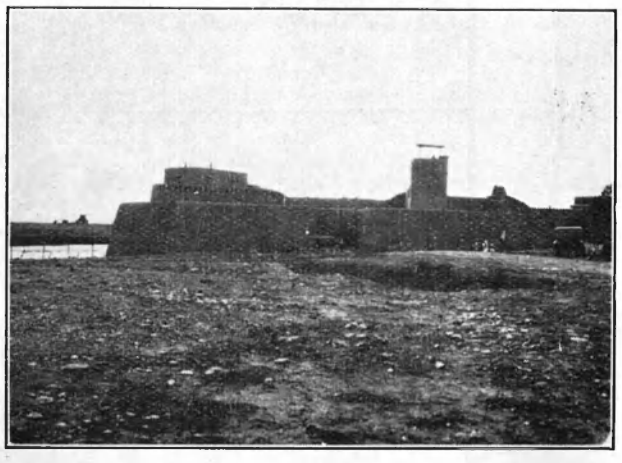


B Corps Convoy at Haro, en route for Peshawar.

During its hectic life, I suppose Bara Fort has entombed many a wandering Afridi. Certain it is that some of the rooms in it are worthy of the old Bastille of revolutionary France. Into these had crowded half of Bara Signals, until the Black Hole of Calcutta would have resembled the Regent Palace by contrast. The floors, walls and roofs were of mud which crumbled to dust at the slightest blow, and the sole means of ventilation and illumination was a species of sewer which ran from one room to an iron-barred exit at the base of the Fort wall.

Enthusiastic readers of Sexton Blake will immediately recognise our old friend the detective disposer room, in which Mr. Blake often just averted a wet and untimely end at the hands of the villain and Father Thames. We were only too thankful to escape from this ghastly hole to the clean wind-swept rocks of our Kajuri home.

The quarter-bloke was rapidly absorbing the finer arts of his calling, and before sundown had swindled someone out of a huge tent, Indian, E.P.—an edifice of such noble proportions as would probably harbour *two* charpoys. When I mentioned my opinion to the oracle, his eyes lit up with the fiery glow of a quarter-master working a secret and lucrative swindle, and I knew our rock-pounding days were nearly over.



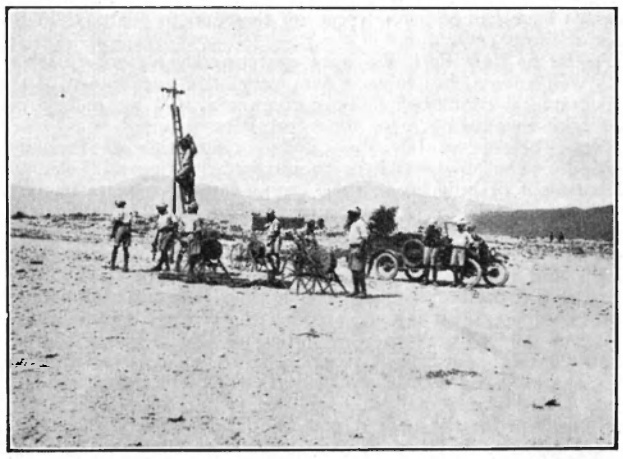
Bara Fort, eight miles south-west of Peshawar on the edge of the Kajuri Plain.

The next day the 9th (Jhansi) Brigade moved right across the plain to the south-west near the village of Miri Khel, our Cable Section laying cable with such speed as to nearly burn away the insulation! Our medium-wave wireless station kept them in touch with Bara, and the Brigade reached their destination without (vide official report) engaging the enemy.

The 2nd (Rawalpindi) Brigade took over the old encampment of the 9th, and then the word went around that we must dig ourselves in, in case friend Afridi came along one night on an informal visit. To the Construction Section, this was a piece of cake (sometimes, I think they really love digging holes) but our tent walls absorbed many an uncouth expression before the required depth was reached.

Some time later, the Nowshera Brigade rolled up from somewhere or other and settled down at Narai Khwar for a quiet time.

The Bara exchange was now growing to considerable dimensions. The 40-line board was about full, and in the operating room four Morse sets were making a deuce of a din for twenty-four hours a day. Our medium-wave station worked forward to the three Brigades, while short-wave told Peshawar all about it.

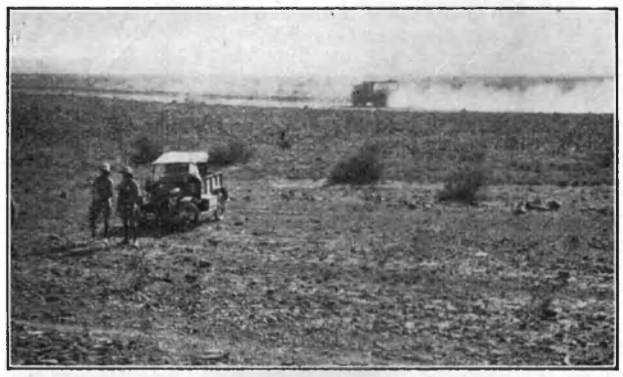


Construction Section at work across the Kajuri Plain.

Operations came thick and fast, but when you come to consider it, a war is a dead loss when the enemy refuses to come out and fight. The tribesmen, viewing the grand military spectacle from the surrounding khuds, thought it looked very nice and enticing, but decided they were far better off in the hills. Now, no expense had been spared to give the Afridis a good time, and I'm not exaggerating when I say that H.Q. were very annoyed at the cold and distant reception given us in Kajuri.

After much discussion, it was decided to send the R.A.F. over with some h.e. visiting cards, to impress upon the Afridis the necessity of giving us a look-in now and again. I don't suppose anything is more annoying than to sit down to one's eggs and bacon and then, just as one picks up the morning paper, to find an outsize in bombs coming through the old homestead roof. Anyhow, Mr. Afridi thought that this was going beyond all bounds of courtesy, and, gathering a few neighbours together, he commenced retaliating whenever the occasion offered.

The 9th Brigade had quite a gay time during the next few nights, and brisk business was done on the lead exchange.



Operations at Karawal, November 17th, 1930.
Major Henderson and Captain Winckley with "C" Office

Things looked like brightening up all round, when the R.A. stepped in and spoiled everything. Of course, I can see their point of view. They had dragged their 6-inch howitzers and 4.5's half way across India, and wanted to do something more than clean brass-work. So, when a crowd of Afridis came down one day to spend a couple of pleasant hours with our troops, the Gunners turned several little wheels and things on their guns—and the next moment, several nasty looking shells were on the way to greet them. The arrival of all this metal in their midst was extremely disconcerting, and caused the Afridis to eye us with disfavour. In fact, the next moment saw the survivors picking 'em hurriedly for home—no doubt, to write to their local paper on " Are British soldiers really nice to know?"

We can only guess what happened in Afridiland, but I am inclined to think they must have read page 4 of the January WIRE re good manners in the Corps. Anyhow, one night (about 23.00 hrs.) we were all tucked in nicely and dreaming of Father Christmas bringing us a large feather bed on Christmas Eve, when suddenly a shower of bullets passed over the camp, looking for something to hit. A band of Afridis had dodged around the back of Besai, past the Nowshera Brigade, and were endeavouring to engage in combat with soldiers who could be relied upon to do the correct thing. The picquets answered back, just to show their appreciation of this compliment, and sent several Very lights up in order to make them feel more at home.

The night was intensely cold—it being late in the year—and as practically all of us were in bed (yes, sir ; we'd wangled two real live charpoys) it was generally considered that the Afridis were dashed unthoughtful to call at that time of night. By this time Nowshera Brigade were taking an interest in things and wanted to know who was making all the noise ; even going so far as to send off a few rounds themselves, just to spite us.

By the time we had decided that it was time to arise and give our visitors the old " Imi," they had floated—evidently not wanting to be caught by uncouth Brigades. Of course, if it hadn't been so jolly cold, I expect we would have showed them some stuff, but you know what it's like, getting out of bed on a cold night! So passed the " attack on Bara ": a page of the Empire's unwritten history—and a good job, too.

By now, the ramifications (you know, I like the sound of that word: so reminiscent of " Scarface Al " articles) of the Signals had spread in all directions over the plain, and if you couldn't get through by line, there was wireless ; if wireless didn't suit you, our trusty D.R.s would help you out for the price of a couple of drinks ; if the D.R.s couldn't get through for you, then I'm afraid that John Bull would be your only hope.

One of our operators (all right, Paddy ; I won't give you away) spent several days in working out how many thousand messages had passed through Bara, and if you care to write to him (enclosing P.O. for ten chips) he will tell you exactly how many words per second, perhaps, have passed through Bara since we arrived.

Of course, sometimes there is an occasional slip. A certain person, having a message to deliver to the Kacha Garhi F.C. (Frontier Constabulary) got hold of the phone and asked for the Kacha Garhi Football Club—and dislocated all traffic while the T.S.B.O. was getting over it! This same Police Post also had unique ideas as to the use of a telephone line. One day, the line to Kacha Garhi suddenly developed a dead short—a very unusual occurrence, as our outdoor lineman will tell you. On investigating, it was discovered that one of the Police had mistaken our line for a clothes-line and had hung a pair of newly-washed pants over the wires. Even now, anything resembling a clothes-line makes our lineman see red!

When our D.R.L.S. commenced, one of the regular runs was to Jula Talao. Often they used to return—pushing the bike sometimes, and cursing Fords for causing damp magnetos, watered petrol and other grievous ailments to which the motor-cycle is prone. At first, I thought that one of the children of Henry Ford's brain had run amok, but it transpired that, owing to a little oversight, the constructor of the Frontier road had neglected to build a bridge where it crossed the Bara river—and, naturally, a road that lies under 3 feet of water is bound to be a trifle damp. But, as I have often said, we must bear up and remember the buckshee issue of fags every week. Ah, you fellows in Blighty are surprised to hear of the Government treating the Army to fags, what! Wait till I tell you about the rum issue.

(To be continued)

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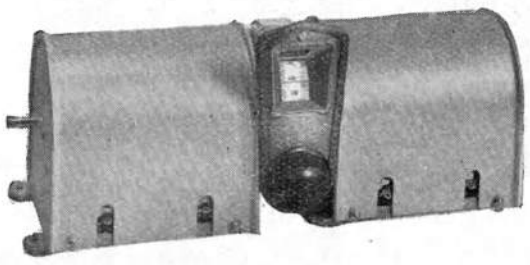
POLAR "TUB" CONDENSERS



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Polar " Tub " Two (less drive) ...	21/-
Polar " Tub " Three (less drive) ...	30/-
Polar " Tub " Four (with drive as illustrated)	50/6

Other combinations can be similarly arranged

Accurately matched condensers are essential for the modern receiver. Polar "TUB" Condensers are built on a rigid die-cast frame, and this construction enables the high degree of guaranteed accuracy to be maintained under all conditions.

The Condenser Spindle is earthed at four points and minimum trimmers are paralled with each section.

Let us send you further particulars of the Polar "Tub"; also the complete Polar catalogue.

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POLAR WORKS, OLD SWAN, LIVERPOOL

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return ?

Royal Corps of Signals Band Fund.

Statement of Accounts for Year ending 31st March, 1931.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
By Interest on Deposit Account	7	1	11
,, Interest on Current Account	0	8	7
,, Annual Subscriptions	547	17	9
,, Harrogate Tour	135	0	0
,, Southern Tour	1478	0	0
,, Dance Engagements	87	4	0
,, Railway Passengers' Assurance Co. (Settlement of Claim for Stolen Property)	52	0	0
	£2307	12	3

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To PROPERTY—						
Depreciation on New Property ...	31	8	1			
Depreciation on Re-valuation ...	170	10	5			
Stolen and Written Off	19	2	2			
				221	0	8
,, General Expenses (Telegrams, Postages, Uniforms, Repairs to Instruments, etc.) ...				80	8	4½
,, Bandmaster's Salary				252	0	0
,, Bandmaster's Uniform Allowance				2	10	0
,, Bandsmen's Pay				169	4	6
,, HARROGATE TOUR—						
Expenses (Travelling, etc.)	43	19	0			
Bandmaster's and Bandsmen's Shares	71	16	0			
				115	15	0
,, SOUTHERN TOUR—						
Expenses (Travelling, etc.)	611	10	3			
Bandmaster's and Bandsmen's Shares	699	13	4			
				1311	3	7
,, DANCE ENGAGEMENTS—						
Expenses (Travelling)	6	8	6			
Bandmaster's and Bandsmen's Shares	72	13	6			
				79	2	0
,, Part Share Expenses incurred in visit to 5th Divisional Signals				5	0	0
,, Adjust March Quarter (Overcharge, T.B. Dance Club)				5	15	0
,, NET PROFIT for Year				65	13	1½
				£2307	12	3

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors				0	6	3
CAPITAL on 1/4/31	787	12	10			
Add Profit for Year	65	13	1½			
				853	5	11½
				£853	12	2½

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash on Deposit	336	3	3			
Cash at Bank	173	6	5			
Cash on Hand	0	5	0½			
				509	14	8½
Sundry Debtors				3	10	0
PROPERTY—						
Value on 1/4/31	£499	17	2			
Purchased	61	11	0			
				561	8	2
Stolen	19	2	2			
Depreciation on New Property	31	8	1			
,, Re-valuation	170	10	5			
				221	0	8
				340	7	6
				£853	12	2½

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association?

If not, join now!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help. See the Notes on page 168, showing how the Association helps its Members. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

24 King's Road, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey,
The Editor of THE WIRE. April 14th, 1931.

Dear Sir—May I first of all thank you for your kindness in publishing my letter in last month's issue. Not being accustomed to writing articles for the Press, it was with some trepidation that I tackled my self-imposed task ; and I should not have been in the least surprised had it been returned to me marked " R.D." or whatever it is that editors write on unwanted contributions. As it is, I am so thrilled at seeing my effusion in cold solid print that I am tempted to try my luck still further, and see what happens this time. I omitted to mark my last month's effort " To be continued," which probably accounts for its publication. However, here goes!

General.—May I be permitted to add a few trimmings to my previous remarks on unemployment and, at the same time, offer a few suggestions on how to avoid it.

Firstly, sign on for a further period and do not contemplate leaving the Service until the powers-that-be tell you flatly that they have no further use for you. That is the soundest advice I can offer to any friend of mine still serving—and believe me, I know what I am talking about.

If you *must* come out, get busy hunting for a job straight away. Don't imagine that the local Labour Exchange or the Corps Association have a job waiting for you. They haven't! And there are scores of applicants waiting to be accommodated before your turn comes along.

Have your name put on as many waiting lists as you possibly can, and preferably during the last twelve months of your service. As a matter of fact, this is becoming increasingly difficult every day, chiefly owing to the general trade depression and also to the fact that there are so many others with the same idea.

If possible, and whilst still serving, get into touch with civilians holding decent jobs ; and if you can secure the friendship of such fellows, so much the better. Endeavour to create the impression that it is WORK you want, and not unemployment pay. My own job was secured in this way, and I am not the least bit ashamed of the way in which I angled for it.

Accept the first job available, and try not to throw a fit at the low rate of wages offered. You can always keep on the look-out for a better-paid job when once you are employed, but it is an entirely different matter securing that first situation. Once employed, you will realise, as I did, that you are years behind the times and that there are hosts of fellows of your own age much better qualified to fill that particular post than you are.

Civilian employment, to-day, is vastly different to what it once was, even only a few years ago. A man in a workshop or in any other place where large numbers of men were employed could, in the past, stop for a few minutes chat with a fellow-worker—but not so in these days of mass production. Only those who turn out accurate work retain their jobs, and the slightest mistake means instant dismissal. Every man jack, therefore, is endeavouring to turn out his maximum as well as his best—although, more often than not, he is compelled to hide the fact from his next-door neighbour.

I hope that those who read this letter will realise that it is written by one who, having been through the mill himself, is anxious to pass on his experiences to those of his friends still serving. It is very difficult to make fellows understand how appallingly bad things really are outside the Service, *and it is impossible for one to find out during short periods of leave.*

There are numerous organisations whose job it is to assist ex-Service men to obtain employment, but they cannot *make* work for their scores of applicants. Not the least important of those organisations is our own Corps Association, and fellows still serving would be well advised to take full advantage of the many facilities offered, though they should clearly understand that Signals Association, like others, have their problems to face and cannot work miracles or achieve the impossible.

This may seem like a long-winded blather to many, but believe me, there is nothing here which exaggerates the present position. It is a case of WORK these days, or remaining DOLEFULLY idle!

Personal.—Having thoroughly digested my last copy of THE WIRE, may I tender my apologies to Tim Kelly, whom I mentioned in my letter as being in Spike Island, and also to Nippy, whom I thought was hunting lions in India.

Football.—Well played, 4th Divl Signals! Best congratulations on taking runner-up medals, and better luck next time! What you have done this season you can repeat next—and win! I, for one, will be there to see it.

Tidworth Tattoo.—Last year, thanks to Captain Holland and Shady, a party of twenty-six (including myself) were accommodated with excellent seats, which afforded us a first class view of the proceedings. It was agreed by all that Royal Signals' motor cycling display was well worth the journey of eighty miles each way, but there was some disappointment at the curtailment of a programme which originally included Arabs, trick-riding, and clowns in mock bull fights, etc. The same party hope to be present again this year, and do not hesitate to say that they much prefer the above items to the landing of William the Conqueror.

Gosh! My instructions were to be as brief as possible! Cheerio, everybody! My very best salaams to all old friends, wherever they are. With all best wishes,

BUDDY (W. BOLTON) Ex-Cav. Divl Signals.

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81 Priory Road, Milford Haven, Pemb.,
The Editor of THE WIRE. March 30th, 1931.

Dear Sir—In reply to your inquiries and suggestions in THE WIRE, the following observations concerning the employment problem as it affects wireless men in small craft may be helpful.

Firstly, as anticipated in my letter published in the February, 1930, issue, somewhat rapid developments in the use of wireless in trawlers have taken place during the past few months at Hull and Grimsby, where a large number of ships working the distant fishing grounds of Greenland, Iceland, the White Sea, etc., have been equipped for the first time.

I do not know to what extent the personnel of the " Small Craft Section " of the British Wireless Marine Service has been increased to meet this demand, but the figures must be quite considerable. Against this, one local firm owning seventeen ships which were equipped has dispensed with wireless in the same period ; but this action is quite exceptional, and generally wireless is becoming a more and more common feature in big trawlers. Most new ships are being fitted as a matter of course.

It is quite obvious, therefore, that the employment situation in this branch of the service will never become stagnant, and that

vacancies for operators will continue with perhaps greater frequency than hitherto. Mr. Cowell, who wrote to me recently on this question, following your advice, tells me that he has been informed at Marconi House that he may have to wait two months for a vacancy, but personally I shall be very surprised if he has to wait so long.

As regards the situation with trawler owners who engage operators independently of the B.W.M.S., at Swansea and Cardiff, I understand, their waiting lists are still very long—due, no doubt, to the fact that their rate of pay is somewhat higher than that of the B.W.M.S. In any case, these owners engage only men experienced in trawler work. I cannot say if there are firms elsewhere employing operators independently.

I think it worth mentioning here that there are immediate openings in Milford for trawler firemen, of whom there is a definite shortage. A little brawn and the will to work pretty hard for two six-hour watches in every twenty-four hours are the chief qualifications, together with the ability to withstand great heat. The big trawlers have three furnaces with which to maintain an average steam pressure of 180 lbs.—a manly task for a lone fireman!

Beginners are welcomed and are given two trips as passengers for the purpose of learning the job. Further details may be best obtained from the Secretary, Trawler Owners Association, the Docks, Milford Haven. The pay is £2/15/0 per week, clear of food and accommodation. Incidentally, six months service as a fireman is an essential qualification for those who wish to go through for certificates as second and chief engineers of trawlers, both of which are good and well-paid jobs, though vacancies are scarce at present in these departments.

I will be pleased to hear from, and help as far as possible, anyone who may wish for further details of the jobs mentioned.

Wishing you further success in all your endeavours,

Yours sincerely, S. C. BALDERSON.

Corps Boxers in Civvy Street: No. 2.

BY TEXAS.

On March 5th, in the Midlands A.B.A. titles at Birmingham, P.C. Fred Rodda (Notts Police) beat A. Garret (Rugby) on points in the semi-final. In the final Rodda met W. Chatterton (Met. Boxing Club, Birmingham) and after out-boxing him he knocked him out in the third round and so won the light heavy weight championship of the Midlands.

On March 6th P.C. Rodda travelled to Pontypridd and fought Jack Peterson (of Cardiff). Rodda was tired and had damaged his hands the previous day at Birmingham. During the first round Peterson proved a hard hitter, as he dropped Rodda for a count of seven. In the third round the referee stopped the fight in Peterson's favour. For the benefit of the many hundreds of readers of THE WIRE who know Rodda, I should like to say that this is the first time he has been on the floor since he started at Crowborough in 1924. He says that Peterson is the hardest and most accurate hitter in amateur boxing. Jack Peterson is only nineteen years of age, and has since won the A.B.A. title at light heavy weight.

In the A.B.A. championship of Great Britain, at the Albert Hall, P.C. Rodda met P.C. Joe Goyder (City Police), and after three hard rounds Goyder only just got through on points.

Tony Stuart (London Fire Brigade, the holder) met L. Warren (Manchester, the Northern Counties champion) in the first series of the heavy weights. Warren came with the reputation of a hitter, but Tony found him a crude opponent. During the whole three rounds, Warren had a lesson in boxing. Stuart hit hard, but failed to put Warren away, and won easily on points.

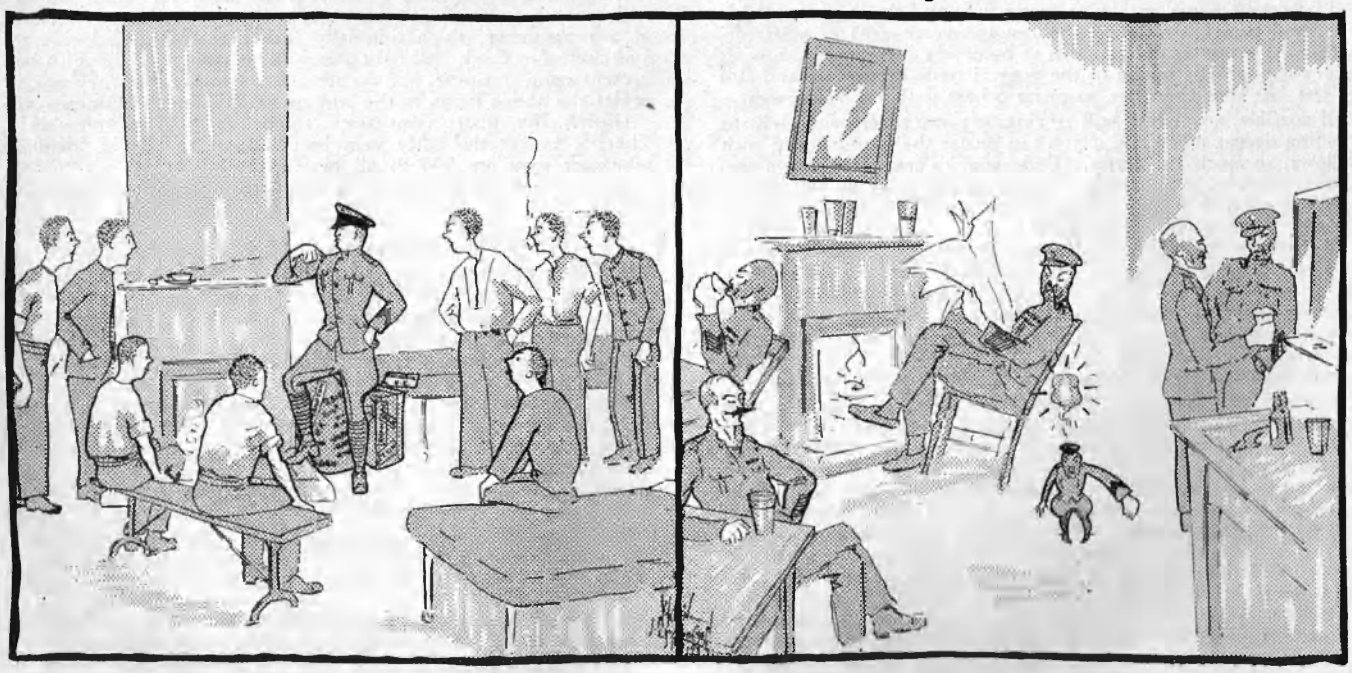
In the semi-final Stuart was drawn against C. H. O'Grady (City Police). Everyone looked for a win for Tony, but somehow he didn't exert himself; yet the least he should have had was the casting vote. O'Grady got the verdict on points. Many of the boys said that "Cove" should have been in his corner. Cheer up, Tony boy! we know you can lick 'em if you are fit.

On April 2nd, at Nottingham, P.C. Rodda met P.C. Waddington (Liverpool Police), and after putting him down four times knocked him out in the third round.

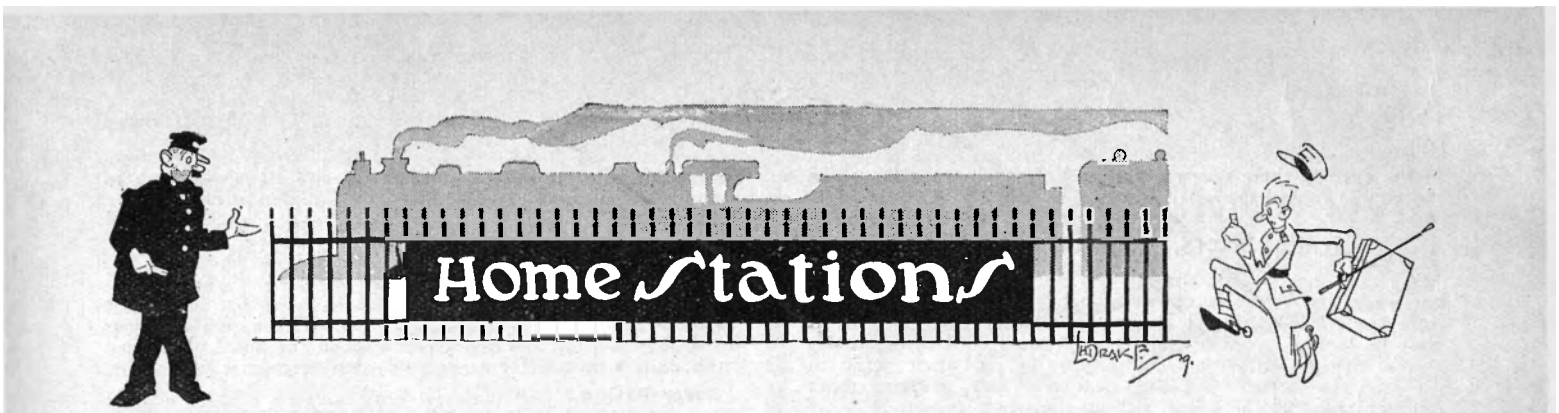
On April 9th, at London, P.C. Howard ("L" Div. Met. Police) met and defeated P.C. Carmichael ("T" Div. Met. Police) on points after six stiff rounds, during which "Tubby" did some hard hitting and used his left hand well.

I should like to add a bit about the Cup Final at Aldershot: 4th Divl Signals v. Sherwoods. The old Corps was well represented, and many old faces were seen. Jordan came from Norwich, Corpl Meldrum from Catterick, and ex-Sigmn Friend, Tony Stuart and "Tex" Sheard from London. We were all sorry to see the Corps lose, but hope to be there again next year.

The Warrior Returns from the "Far-Flung East."



THE DREAM THE AWAKENING



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Headquarter Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—Apologies to all readers for the absence of notes from this Wing. I am not certain who was the last correspondent, nor even when notes last appeared. However, with the kind permission of the Editor, I will make an attempt, on behalf of the Wing, to take up a small space in THE WIRE from now on until—say when, some one, please!

One hasn't far to look for inspiration. Lies are not always told (ask some of the faithful "servants"). For instance, it was only the other day (Easter Monday, to be correct) that one of the servants said he fell over a motor-car: Preston will oblige with some toe dancing? (No offence, Snowball; only watch your step off the bus).

During the last few months, personnel of the Wing—through no fault of their own—have experienced quite a lot of moving and changing around, and consequently have been rather unsettled; but now that the big rush of new arrivals to the Corps is nearly over, and the passing off of squads is progressing, they are once again settling back in the quarters near the N.A.A.F.I., where it is hoped that the old homely feeling will return to them. At present, several gramophones are (?——) and no doubt, with some of the musical talent from U.3 and U.4 Huts, the trumpeter will not be needed to sound reveille or lights out in future.

Sport.—At present, games are more or less at a standstill owing to the Wing being split up (half dismounted and half mounted); but it is hoped that in the near future H.Q. Wing will be standing its ground against other Companies and Wings, as football and hockey enthusiasts are numerous in our ranks.

Road Relay Race.—Sunderland to Catterick. On Good Friday, the North-Eastern Counties Cross-Country Association's fifth annual road relay race took place. The teams were entertained after the race. On the conclusion of tea, a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Anderson (Middlesbrough Harriers, president of the N.E.C.C.C.A.) to all who had assisted in making the run such a huge success, and particularly to the officers, warrant officers, n.c.o.s and men of R.Signals for the splendid reception at the end of the day's run. Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., in responding on behalf of R.Signals, paid a high tribute to the splendid sportsmanship which prevailed among the Harriers; after which the presentation of the trophy and parchment certificates to each member of the Heaton Harriers (the winners) was made by Mrs. Prickett.

Agony.—Smash 082 would like to hear from Ginger 083, believed to be in No. 2 W/T Company Egypt Signals.

Dolly Dews would like to hear from any old No. 83 Squad member.

Overheard.—Recruit (enlisted October, 1930): "Coo! THE WIRE? I ain't seen it for free munfs."

Mis-Appropriations.—The tagging together of R.O.S. reports with a horse-shoe nail came into force on April 11th, 1931.

W.J.T.R.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Arrivals.—A welcome is extended to F/Corpl Mains H., who has arrived from Egypt, and L/Corpl Freeman C. A. from India. We hope they will settle down to our climate and not keep it all to themselves. They are just too late to worry much about frost precautions, but there's plenty of time yet.

Death.—The sympathy of the whole of the Wing is extended to Mrs. Kilford in the loss of her husband, L/Sergt C. J. Kilford, who died at Catterick Military Hospital on March 30th from chronic nephritis. He was admitted to hospital on the 15th and placed on the D.I. list shortly after.

Although only posted from Colchester to this Wing on 26th February, he will be remembered by many who were here in 1926. During his seven years service he earned "Jimmies" at soccer, rugby and hockey. He was of steady unassuming character, a typical sportsman and a hard worker, and it is with sincere regret that we have to announce his demise.

The remains were escorted from the hospital to the railway station with all military honours, and conveyed to Shrewton, Salisbury, where he was buried on April 4th. Some beautiful wreaths were despatched to Shrewton by the officers of the Depot Battalion, the Depot Battalion, and the Sergeants' Messes of the Depot and Training Battalions.

Marriage.—Driver "Sally" Oakes to Miss Isabella Hodgson, at Tudhoe, Co. Durham, on January 10th. We wish them the very best for their future happiness.

Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion.

The area around the mess has been improved out of all recognition. We now have a nine-hole miniature golf course, thanks to the R.S.M. and Mr. Sandiford. Play has already commenced, and we hope soon to sort out the handicaps and have a tournament. We shan't be able to offer £1000 for first prize, but I imagine that entries will nevertheless be numerous.

We are very sorry that Mr. Sandiford has now left us for the south. After being with us for about eighteen months, he has taken up another position in Kent. He had made great strides in the construction of our recreation grounds. Improvements are visible all around the lines. He was always untiring in his efforts to oblige, and had no "Union" hours where we were concerned. We shall miss his pleasant companionship at our monthly Mess meetings.

Unfortunately, we were unable to give him a "smoker" as we originally intended, owing to the unfortunate death of L/Sergt Kilford, but he was presented with a framed photograph of the Mess members, prior to his departure, as a small token of our esteem. Good luck, Ben! we trust you will find time to write to us sometimes and to visit us if you are ever in the vicinity of Catterick.

We are glad to see Sergt Burr W. recuperating after a spell in hospital; we can't afford to lose one good cog in our machinery for very long. Sergt Seabrook is back after a short spell under the nurse's care.

We have lost another member, who has found a home in Mons Barracks, Aldershot. Sergt Wheeler has left the Dismounted Wing for the 2nd Divl Signals. Good luck, Pip! Smile, and the world smiles with you!

Congratulations to L/Sergt and Mrs. Bennett on the birth of a daughter. That son and heir is elusive. What was it Bruce said?

It will, no doubt, be interesting to members who were unable to attend the Cup final at Aldershot on Easter Monday, to know that the Aldershot sergeants' mess was the scene of a regular Corps re-union. Members turned up from practically everywhere by car, char-a-banc, motor bike, parachute, glider, rail and push bike, and we were most grateful to the Aldershot Mess for the manner in which they welcomed us. A first class lunch and tea were provided for over a hundred visitors, and the arrangements were excellent, even to the menu cards supplied by the renowned L. H. Drake. Ex-members were very prominent, and it was difficult to have more than a few words with any one person.

In the evening there was a dance, and although we did not win the cup, a most happy day was spent.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

We must congratulate the 4th Div. on the spirited fight they put up in the Army soccer semi-final. Large numbers flocked from Catterick, and local Darlington fans informed us that it was the largest crowd and the best football seen on Feethams ground this season. We were sorry to hear of their defeat in the final, but let us hope that next year they, or some other representatives of the Corps, will go the whole distance.

Easter, with its week's leave, has come and gone, to the accompaniment of wails about the weather. Now, everyone is looking forward to Whitsun.

Tra la la la! spring is here, and our amateur horticulturalists are getting down to it, while the natural complement to spring gardening is spring drills. Nuff sed!

Corporals' Mess.—We send our very best wishes to Corpls Birkett and Lay, who have left us for 5th Div. and A Corps respectively, whilst Corpl Dadswell is temporarily attached to the Anti-Gas School on a course.

A sensation was caused the other evening by a new N.A.A.F.I. assistant addressing a prominent member as " Eustace," but the tension was relieved by another member asking "Who's useless?"

Education.—Congratulations to the following on having cleared the educational Beecher's Brook, i.e. the 1st class certificate: Sergts Binham and Gale, L/Sergt Catchpole, Signalmen Moore, Lee, Robertson and Ingham.

Corpl Briar carries with him our best wishes on his departure on probation to the A.E.C.

Howlers.—The following answers were received from 1st class candidates in reply to Army and Empire questions:—

What is short service?—" What comes over the wireless at 8 o'clock every Sunday evening."

What are colours?—" The Signals colours are blue and white."

What are Yeomanry?—" A regiment of farmers on horseback."

Extracts from 2nd class answers: " The ebb tide is the waves made by a ship at anchor." " A jerkin was a leather coat worn by the pheasants in 1377."

D Company, Training Battalion.

I don't profess to be a good scribe, and I rather welcome any alterations to my notes that will improve them; but the fellow who changed my " bison " into a " lion " last month can neither fight nor soldier. [The poor printer may not be able to fight or to soldier, but he *can* " follow copy blindly " in the face of dangers from which the soldier would shrink. A reference to last month's manuscript shows that he did so in this case: though the allusion to a " lion " was a trifle too subtle for his jaded intelligence, the word was so clearly typewritten that he had no hesitation in " following copy." The joke therefore appears to be on our correspondent.—ED.]

Well, the Easter leave is over and finished with, and we are now busy passing out as painters, decorators and gardeners.

Point-to-Point Meeting.—The Catterick Garrison point-to-point meeting took place at Druggon Hill on March 25th. Our O.C., Captain B. G. Rowley, crashed heavily at the last fence when leading the field in the first race. He was riding Cinq Port and carrying all our money. Our interest in the other events was thus somewhat dulled, but we are all pleased to know that Captain Rowley is now holding the reins of office again, apparently none the worse for his fall.

Arrivals.—We welcome Sergt Solley and L/Corpl Patching from India, and Sigmn Hawkes from Egypt. Cut yourselves a piece of cake, and make yourselves at home. L/Sergt Sailor Haines has rejoined from a Post Office course at Peterborough, and has taken over as mess caterer. Nuff said.

Trade Tests.—Congratulations to the following on passing the higher ratings as shown: Sergt Pickering, fitter signals A.i.; U/L/Corpl Morgan, clerk C.ii.; Sigmn Bowden, elect. fitter A.ii.; Sigmn Player, inst. mechanic A.ii.

Extensions of Service.—W.O.1 (Supt. Clerk) Burgess and C.Q.M.S. Johns are permitted to continue in the Service beyond twenty-one years to make up " rat " service. L/Corpl Pink to complete twenty-one years with the Colours.

Brains.—Corpl Briar has left us to join the A.E.C. on probation. Good luck, Mac! steer clear of those Guards.

The best of luck, also, to Sigmn Cunningham, who has gone to Shorncliffe on an educational course.

Agony.—Sigmn Downs H. (2320360): Thank you for your kindly interest, but will you please explain the joke? We must be dense this month, for we certainly don't recognise your artist.

Cover Design.—Our tame art critic says he can see a great improvement in the cover design of THE WIRE this month, but he still contends that the old " Jimmy " should be restored. The present one is out of training, and the lines of latitude and longitude on the globe are badly drawn. Seven and sixpence, please!

These Spring Drills.—M.O. (to Recruit on Sick Parade): " And how are you this morning?" Recruit: " Not very well, thank God!" JOSOPE.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Before commencing the news, here is one S.O.S. " Will C.Q.M.S. Goodridge, last heard of in Tientsin, please disclose his whereabouts to Bill or to any WIRE correspondent?"

The doings of the Company are best expressed by borrowing a line from Gray's " Elegy " and simply saying that we " pursue the even tenor of our way."

Technical training and spring drills go steadily on according to schedule, but a certain liveliness may be observed in the lines and gardens. The Brigadier's annual inspection comes off next month. Hence the Pyramids!

The outstanding event of the month, from our point of view, is the winning by "A" soccer team of the Catterick Garrison enlisted boys cup. Details of the game are given in Sports Notes. While not wishing to mention any individual performance, we would record the remark of one spectator, who said that " Boy Bennett P. (height about four feet nothing) has more kick in his right foot than there is in a cargo of bootlegger whisky."

And now we join the host of scribes who, in this issue of THE WIRE, are offering heartiest congratulations to 4th Divl Signals on their performance in the Army cup. That they did not succeed in the final is the luck of the game, and we can only hope for better luck next time. What does matter is that they helped to recapture the enthusiasm which seems to have been sadly missing since the old Maresfield days; and if their success has done nothing else than show the youngsters what it means to play the game for the honour of the Corps, then, gentlemen of the 4th Divisional Signals, you have done a great deal.

What an object lesson that match was to civilian spectators who are accustomed to the disgusting exhibitions of hugging and even kissing which invariably follow the scoring of a goal in Football League games.

May we just whisper that the D.L.I. would like to arrange the transfer of the complete Colchester half-back line.

Arrivals.—We welcome Corpl McKenzie from Bulford. He has joined us to train our recruit boys in the way they should go. If you know of a better 'ole (in Catterick, anyway) ——!

Departure.—Corpl Birkett to Scarborough. Our best wishes go with you, Dick. May you soon master all the little peculiarities inherent in a field unit! Don't take too much notice of the leg-pulling about a pair and set. PIP.

School of Signals.

General.—The strange light seen in the sky for the last few days is, I understand, a phenomenon which has been observed in these parts only on very few occasions since the beginning of last century, and one which scientists are inclined to associate with the sun. No doubt, if you have observed the phenomenon, you will have noted the resemblance to the latter.

Gardening is now in full swing, and the lines are already showing an improvement.

In passing, I think the following example of modern efficiency is worth mentioning. Last October a grate was broken in the office. Consequently, we submitted so many urgent indents that we have none left. Some time later an R.E. workman came

to inspect the grate. A month elapsed before he brought someone with him to hold his tape measure. A month later, he came again—this time, to see if the grate was similar to those generally used. He discovered it was. Since then he hasn't been seen here. But why worry? We have discontinued using fires now.

The famous hush-hush mechanical device has again changed hands, and has been successfully tried out between here and Scotton. It has not yet been decided which record will be broken first, but as the new owner has put in a reveille pass to-day, it is possible that the machine may be seen in Richmond shortly. I need hardly add that the reveille pass idea is due to a clear road being essential.

By the way, the nice batch of primroses in the Company gardens are polyanthuses.

Postings.—Captain N. H. Edes has left us to join the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (via the Training Battalion) and Lieut J. D. Haigh has joined from the S.T.C.

Our new R.S.M., R.Q.M.S. Britton A., is due to arrive from A Corps Signals on April 30th.

Army Reserve.—During the month Sigmn Scotland and Driver Hulgrave left us on fourteen days pending, and are, I understand, both employed—the Signals Association having solved the greatest difficulty on re-entering civvy street and found them jobs.

Sigmn Wall, after a vocational course at Chisledon, has been transferred to A.R.

Marriage.—The man of the moment in this case is Signalman Smees, who made the fatal plunge on April 6th. I wonder who will be the next!

Arrivals.—Signalmen Griggs and Gregory from 5th Divisional Signals, and Sigmn Little from 3rd Divisional Signals.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

I hope all readers of the Corps Journal—and especially unit readers—read the Editorial Notes in the March issue.

We who are still serving know how pleasing it is to get news of old comrades, whether they are still serving or otherwise. Our Journal offers splendid opportunities of keeping in touch with friends. Many old friends of this unit have told me that they never fail to look for news of the unit in the columns of THE WIRE.

Should we not, then, do our best to contribute notes regularly? It is not necessary to be the recognised unit correspondent. Notes are welcome from any individual who is kind enough to write them, and the efforts of those who do contribute are always much appreciated.

I am sure all readers welcome the introduction into our Journal of a section devoted to contributions from Old Comrades who are no longer serving. Apart from the valuable advice which serving readers will obtain on civil employment and other problems, this new section affords old friends of the Corps an opportunity of, in a sense, joining up again, and of giving us the benefit of their past experiences and knowledge of matters connected with the Corps in general. I am confident that all readers will scan the columns of this section for news of their many friends outside the Service.

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent by a good many officers of the Corps on the occasion of the Royal Engineers point-to-point meeting at Ashbridge Farm on St. Patrick's Day. The weather was all that could be desired, and the feel of the dry soft turf underfoot must have afforded great encouragement to all who rode over the course.

Signals regimental race opened the programme. There were ten entries, and eight started. Captain Leslie Morgan won comfortably on "Viscount," and we extend him our hearty congratulations. Captain Reggie Sutton-Pratt will be glad to hear of this, as he himself rode this gallant horse into second place in two previous regimental races. Mr. Crawford, on Mr. Ponsonby's "Kissing Time," had a successful race with Mr. Gardiner, riding his own horse, for second place.

But for a slight mishap at the last fence, which cost him a few yards, "Viscount" (again ridden by Captain Morgan) would have secured third place in the members' race at the South Berks point-to-point.

The Easter break afforded a spell of leave to as many of the unit as could be spared from the Station. I hope all who got away enjoyed their brief holiday, although the weather turned out horribly wet.

We were very glad to have with us Lieut.-Col. G. D. Ozanne, M.C., his officers, and other ranks of the 56th (1st London) Divl Signals, T.A., for Easter. We trust they enjoyed their spell of training.

The Army Association football final, played at Aldershot on Easter Monday, was the occasion of a great concentration of the Corps. From far and near came supporters, representing all ranks, to see the 4th Divisional Signals team play the Sherwood Foresters. And a great game it was, too! There was not a dull moment throughout the whole of the play, and many were the thrills! We in Aldershot were very sorry that 4th Divisional Signals did not pull it off (the score was 2—1) but, nevertheless, we heartily congratulate the team on getting into the final and on their splendid effort to carry the cup back to Colchester.

We welcome to the unit Captain R. G. L. Giblin on posting from Egypt Signals. We much regret the departure, after all too brief a stay, of 2/Lieut J. R. G. Walker on posting to 1st Divisional Signals.

Those who remember Lieut C. H. Lyddon when he served with the unit will be glad to hear that he has made a good recovery from his recent serious accident, and has gone to Canada for a spell of duty with Canadian Signals.

Messrs. Beard, Penn, Beaver, Shepherd and Bryden, of Royal Signals Supplementary Reserve, are attached to the unit for the period of their preliminary training. We hope they enjoy their three weeks stay.

Congratulations.—To Unit and Company Headquarters Section on winning the Fuge inter-Section football trophy, and to A Cable Section on putting up a great game as runners-up.

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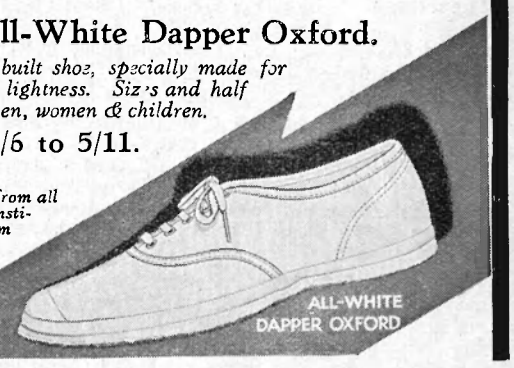


The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

To 1st Divisional Signals on winning the Powell musketry cup, and to No. 3 Company A Corps Signals on getting second place.

To Air Defence Brigade Signals on winning the Anti-Aircraft Defence Brigade inter-Company hockey cup for the 1930-31 season.

To Lieut. Ponsonby on winning the Catterick Garrison Signals point-to-point race on his horse "Kissing Time" (and on being released from "Time"!); also on being third, on the same horse, in the Catterick Garrison Subalterns race.

To the Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, on again winning the team jumping competition in the Northern Command this year, and so qualifying for Olympia once more.

Arrivals.—Captain R. G. L. Giblin from Egypt. From overseas, Sergt Holness, L/Sergts Osborne and Goodman, Corporals Brown, Hickmott and Ward, L/Corpls Wright, Shepherd, Ede, Eddings and Snook, Signalmen Bell, Wale, Watts, Donovan, Lawrence, Walker, Carrott, Greenland, Pavey and Abbott. From S.T.C., Corpl Lay and Sigmn Meadow. From 2nd Divl Signals, Farrier/Corpl Fuller. Welcome, all of you, to A Corps Signals!

Rejoined.—From G.P.O. course, Sergt Withers, L/Corporals Brett and Cairns, Signalmen Bisby, Murrell, Cameron, Clarke and Hitchens. From W/T course, S.T.C., L/Corpl Jarvis. From gas course, L/Sergt Jones.

Departures.—To 1st Divl Signals, L/Sergt Handley. To A.D. Brigade Signals, L/Corpl Crow. To 51st (Highland) Divl Signals, T.A., Sergt Thomas. To S.T.C., Signalmen Rutter and Kirtley. Transferred to Army Reserve, Signalmen Watson and Leary and Driver Mowbray. On discharge, Sigmn McCullam.

Attachments.—From S.T.C. (until March 18th) Drivers Hill and Richardson. From No. 4 Company L. of C. Signals, S.R. (until April 8th) R.S.M. Sewell and C.Q.M.S. Smith. From 4th Divl Signals (until April 7th) Sergts Terrell and Wells, Corporals Robson, Ball, Edge and Palmer, L/Corpls Langham and Spencer, Signalmen Taylor, Dalziel, Blunt, Davis, Cades, McClelland and Marshall.

Trade Qualifications.—Lineman, class i., Sergeant Bowler. Linemen, class ii., L/Sergt Huxtable, Corpl McKowin, L/Corpls Allen and Felix, Signalmen Crowther, Devin, Edwards, Grant, Lobb, Rabone, Scott, Wadey and White. Lineman, class iii., Sigmn Wall. Electrician fitters, class ii., L/Sergt Low and Sigmn Williamson.

Education.—Awarded 2nd class certificates on February 19th, Signalmen Revill, Belben, Worsdell, Styles, Skidmore and Shirley, Drivers Diment, Stretton, Tottman and Lofts.

Marriages.—At Farnham, on March 21st, Sigmn Woodwock to Miss Ella Kent. At Kingsbury, on March 14th, Sigmn Belben to Miss M. L. Male. At Guildford, on March 28th, Signalman Crowther to Miss G. M. Pennicott. We wish them a prosperous and successful future!

Birth.—In London, on March 25th, to L/Sergt and Mrs. Low a daughter (Eileen Wendy).

Course.—L/Corpl Rawlins qualified at a fire fighting course at Aldershot.

Service.—Extended for a further six months, Corpl Holtham and Sigmn Goble. Extended to complete eight and four, Sigmn Pearson.

Promotion.—L/Corpl Stringewick to Corporal on February 3rd. Congratulations!

No. 1 Company: No. 1 Construction Section.

General.—Very little of interest has happened during the past month, and I am afraid these notes will be short. Still, we are in!

L/Corpl Denyer is in hospital as a result of the recent inter-Section football competition. All ranks wish him a speedy recovery. Cheer up, Jack!

Work at the Tattoo is progressing quite well, and will be completed on time.

The Section is getting its eye down for the annual musketry course, which comes off early next week. I hope to record a good percentage in my next notes.

It was gratifying to learn that "Rook" was met on arrival in Egypt by an old M.T.-ite, who went out of his way to fix him up. All in the Section appreciate this esprit-de-Section, Clev.

Hard lines, A! You certainly deserved a better result. Still, eyes down for the next.

Arrivals.—L/Corpls Geere and Rawlins and Sigmn Beardall from B Cable Section. Sigmn Hatcher from India. Welcome, all of you, and a happy stay with the Cotton Wool-ers! Signalman Murrell from a G.P.O. course—full of stuff.

Congratulations.—To the 4th Divl Signals on reaching the final of the Army cup, and on the fine performance they gave on Easter Monday.

To Unit Headquarters Section on winning the Fuge trophy.

To Busty Crowther on joining the band of wise men (?)

And now, please excuse these short notes. Till next month, cheerio, everybody! DANGLER.

No. 1 Company: The Cable Sections.

The jeers of the Cotton-Wool Section having reached the ears of the long-faced members of the Cable Sections, I have been requested by their spokesman (Iron Grey, by name) to retaliate with the publication of a few notes on their behalf. Could they but get near enough to come to grips, they would take the law into their own hands (as Betty did when I chased her down the small lane, and she scored one on me) but they see little chance of this.

I am to congratulate A Cable Section soccer team most heartily on reaching the final of the inter-Section tournament for the Fuge trophy, and on putting up for the great gathering of spectators the best match of the season.

Rushmoor has promised, at some future date, to demonstrate how a good pair of heels should be used. Unfortunately, he tried to put in a practice demonstration for the benefit of Trooper, but in showing how it should be done the latter fell on concrete and is now slowly recovering in sick lines.

Tommy told me a great story of how he gets out of having to pull the recreation ground roller. Joey must have overheard this story, for recently he arrived back at the stable very shortly after he had taken over this duty—only he was pulling a back scratcher, which he had brought back to show the others that he really had been doing the job for a little while.

They extend a welcome to Farrier/Corpl Fuller, who has taken over the care of their shoeing.

Molly is very proud of having led the two Sections past the D.D.V.S. Aldershot Command at his recent inspection. She was most indignant at his remarks on her rotundity. However, she has submitted a request on behalf of both stables, that they all be presented daily with a large feed of carrots for the rest of their stay with the unit. They consider that such a report as "An excellent show" demands this as a minimum payment. Poppy is going to see the quarterbloke about it the next time he appears in her stable to draw forage.

I was told of a good many other things that I was to note, but I haven't time for more this month. Oh, yes, just one! They would indeed be glad if some scribe in each Section would borrow pen and ink and get together some copy for publication, because they would like always to be represented in the Corps Journal (and so say all of us!)

No. 3 Company.

I think the Company typewriter has completely broken down, or else it got lost in the Easter flood which I noticed in the Company office! Whatever the cause, I do not know, but I have received no notes for this issue of the Journal. You see, I don't belong to this or any other Company, but I am a supporter of them all. I cannot give you any information about what they do, because (as far as WIRE notes are concerned) they certainly have done nothing.

A recent draft of Brighton air having reached the Company, I was hoping that I should get real copy, especially as I know that this particular draft is full of ingenious schemes. But, no! A depression seems to be centred over the west end of our office block! However, perhaps we may hope for "good stuff" for publication in the June number.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

Another month's WIRE has arrived, and once more we look in vain for notes from Palestine. Look here! If your stationery supply has not yet arrived, we will lend you some, for we really would appreciate some news—we who live here in an awful land.

As far as our Company is concerned, events have been few and far between. "The deserted village" has nothing on the "even tenor of our way." No, sir! Individual training has almost finished. Now for the harvest and its parable of the five sowers.

The Wog Club heartily congratulate Mr. Scala on his winning ticket in the Irish sweep. We were worthy runners-up in this event, and as one of the lads knows a man who has spoken to someone whose brother is engaged to a girl who lives in the same street as the winner's aunt, well, we are confident that hope is not yet dead.

The final positions of the Health and Strength League are published herewith. Relegated to Division V.: Signalmen Ball, Cooper G., Kerr and Waters. To apply for re-election: Sigmn Holt T. Sigmn Fox R. K. is suspended sine die and ordered to pay the cost of the enquiry. This was held "in camera," and the facts of the case must therefore be withheld from the press.

Congratulations to Sergt Bremner and Sigmn Knight on receiving a "Jimmy" for their prowess on the hockey field.

City Notes.—Although the recent slump is bound to affect most bonds, stockholders would be well advised to keep their Christmas puddings. These are bound to be on the up grade before long. Bournemouth ales should be left alone, for they're something awful, and speculation on the Wogs is not to be recommended during the present financial crisis.

Easter has been and gone, and all the bank clerks, Imperial Airway mechanics and Talkie operators have returned to the fold for another spell. The resultant lies have been well up to standard. Sigmn Cooper G. gets the belt for his effort, "Cycling after dark"; whilst Paddy Kerr gets an honourable mention for his "U.J.C. nights." Both these will be entered in red ink in the big book, the publication of which will be taken in hand in the near future. It is confidently anticipated that the sales of this will create something of a furore in literary circles.

During the Easter we had most welcome visitors—people from strange lands, with tales of the sea and big ships. How eagerly we drank in their news, and how reluctantly we saw them depart to their homes. Just twelve months ago was our "great day," and how the bluebirds sang then! We hope you have the same amount of enjoyment, you who are effendis no longer but just common oafs.

By kind permission of the P.M.G. I publish the following telegram, which was handed in for transmission to Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, on the night of the 23rd inst. (no prizes are offered, and solutions should be kept to oneself):—"G.C. Carisbrooke, I. of W. Where be that rabbit too? H.M.W."

No apologies are offered for the following effort by W. G. Waters. He will contribute monthly from his selection of present day "song hits," starting next month with a new piece entitled "Farnham Blues," and following in subsequent numbers with such well-known tunes as "Rhapsody in the Royal Arms," "Roaming through the Ranges," and "My Cutie's got a Cootie." (Copyright will be rigorously preserved in the "big book.")

THE WOG'S LAMENT.

I wonder why this Easter
  Came upon us so soon?
It's left the lads of Four Co.
  In debt till their pontoon.
There's Ballie, Paddy, Kirky,
  And also Tusky, too;
They've never been so bad before—
  Oh, what a merry crew!
They didn't leave till Thursday,
  And Sunday saw them back;
There's one who walked from Farnham
  And swears he's on the tack.
It all amounts to one thing:
  And that, I think, is beer—
And oh! for old America,
  Now that spring is here.
And now, the morning after,
  The school we have to face;
If it wasn't for Good Friday,
  We couldn't stand the pace.
Apart from all the school work,
  We're using bond hooks now,
And by the time we've finished,
  We'll be browned off, you'll allow.
It seems a pity, really,
  To the East we ever went:
It taught us many things, you know,
  And now we value rent.
I suppose we now must finish—
  It's just to fill up space;
To owe money is just one thing,
  But debt is no disgrace.

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

General.—At the time of writing, most of the students are packing their grips in preparation for proceeding on Easter leave.

Technical training has finished (heads are beginning to deflate). Section training will begin shortly after Easter leave. I am sure most of us will be looking forward to those balmy nights that we usually get on night schemes. Such expressions as "What the ——are you doing on this line?" "Put me through to buzz," etc., will come into their own once more.

We congratulate 4th Divl Signals on their fine performance in the Army cup final on Easter Monday. They were certainly unlucky to lose. Better luck next year!

Arrivals.—Sergt Westwood from Bulford as acting Quarter-bloke. L/Corpl Willin and Signalmen Hall and North from India on April 7th, and L/Corpl Neale on the 10th. Corporal Cooley, Signalmen Davis, Norris, Stratton, McGratton, Walsh, Ward, Wright F. and (last, but not least) the one and only Whitt, from No. 1 Company.

Departures.—L/Corporals Eason, Marchant and Redding and Sigmn Lewis to No. 1 Company.

Re-Engagements.—Nothing succeeds like success. The following have scooped a further nine years into the kitty: Sergts Stather R. W. and Tucker S. A., and Corpls Rogers J. B. (Busty) and Arnell.

Agony.—To Sergt Spud Murphy, somewhere in the land of milk and honey: That football shield is ours again, Spud, for the third year in succession. We beat No. 1 Company by 13—1 and No. 2 by 5—3. Shorty.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—The usual observations are made with regard to the state of the Company, and taking everything into consideration, we are pegging along famously, despite very decreased numbers.

Sports.—An account of our successes and otherwise will be found among the Sports Notes at the end of the Journal. The congratulations of all are extended to our worthy football team, who have done so well during the last season. Although not winners of the trophy, they have always offered opponents a good game.

The Company Gazette.—Posted to No. 2 Company, Signalmen Brown, Cole and Prime. Arrived from a P.O. course at Birmingham, Signalman Turrell. Arrived from foreign climes, L/Corpl Clackett, Signalmen Hinton and Bailey. Posted to A Corps Signals, F/Corpl Fuller.

Things We Have Noticed.—An alleged M.T. driver was observed being very thoughtful (?) After all, why did he have that car towed for half-an-hour without a distributor brush?

The explanation of an age-old myth, or how my late lamented brother met his doom, as told by Jacko. "He was in the Marines, and when on board ship he was informed that he had won £500 in a sweep. Jumping up in alarm, the spike of his helmet stuck in the deck above and he was hanged by his chin-strap."

A heart-shaped bicycle wheel. We wonder whether anyone at Deepcut knows anything about it?

Songs and their Singers.—"Ramona," by Uncle George. "The Hungarian Raspberry," by Summers. "Take thou this rose," by Elvin. The above are rendered entirely free of charge by the individuals concerned.

An Operatic Society may yet be formed, and persons who fancy their chance may apply for entry forms at the Company office.

Between One and Another.—To Chippy, Egypt: Please note that the Chinese Laundry summer season has opened. Proprietors, Shutley and Buckler Ltd. (Ah Wong Lung and Wong Fu).

To Viv. Tientsin: The celebrated and world-famed barrel was last seen in the vicinity of Shorncliffe, surrounded by a host of toothpaste magnates.—Nunk.

The Section Mess Tin, this month, is presented to a noted electrician fitter, who procured a tin funnel when filling cells with acid.

Tail Piece.—That's all! FUTURIST.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

April 15th.

The up-graders have done credit to the unit by their successful ventures before the recent Trade Testing Board. Only three failed to satisfy the examiners, and whilst we sympathise with them and console 'em with the thought that knowledge gained is never wasted, we must congratulate the happy band of candidates who " did their stuff " and now bask contentedly in the golden warmth of higher ratings. So much for the upgraders. Now to the unit happenings.

You know, our linemen are awfully mechanical-minded. They simply burble at the sight of a Morris, which to them is as familiar from below the Plimsoll line as above. That's why our cars are so beautifully clean. The majority of the linemen personnel live under them—in fact, they appear to be merged into the bally things at times, crawling all over the gearbox and whispering words of endearment to the engine. It must be awful to be a lineman, though, especially when they get shunted down to the Inner Temple or the Holy of Holies—the garage!

It's different with the pukka drivers. Surprisingly enough, they don't have a great deal in common with the blacklead and paraffin business. That's why it must be awful to be a lineman! But, there, I am wandering again. My own interest in these six-wheeled showboats is, at the moment, to talk about our driving classes. Of course, you've heard about these?

Our would-be drivers—merely as an additional qualification, of course—are now attaining that finesse required of them. To drive into a specially roped off pen in reverse and to come out broadside on (as an eye-witness of ordinary qualifications, I gather that this is the idea) is mere child's play to this gathering of speed-minded wreckers! Apart from their driving lessons, their hand signals have been reduced to a fine art. We now await with bated breath for their road tests (I wonder if the office has sufficient " Accident Reports "?)

Congratulations (Iraq Memories)—Ex-members of the Iraq Signal Section wish to convey their heartiest congratulations to Major D. H. Cunynghame on his recent promotion.

More Bouquets.—To 4th Divl Signals on their " gallant defeat " on the Command ground, Aldershot, in the final of the Army cup. A great game under treacherous ground conditions. Here's to 1931-32 season, 4th Divs!

Posting.—Corpl Blight G. to permanent cadre, Training Battalion, Catterick. Here's to you, Georgie, and further activities among the M/C's. A fine hockey player is lost to the unit.

Arrivals.—Sergt Hawley A. from Kohat District Signals. We have shown our appreciation by granting him furlough almost immediately. A further addition to our cricket eleven, we think?

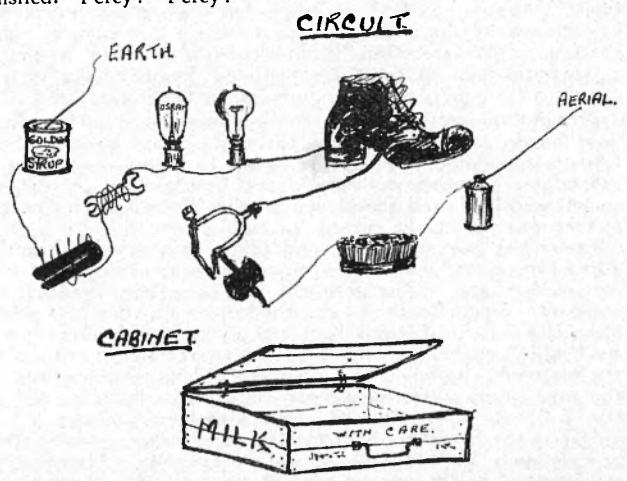
L/Sergt McMillan is due to arrive from the Training Battalion at the latter end of April. Welcome!

Lost.—During the training season: " Week-ends!"

Leaves from Arcady.—Black, after wintering in the office, has now deserted the roost and may be seen amidst his favourite pot-holes. He has acquired quite an extensive knowledge of the intricate " wranglings " of the Pay Department and nows holds forth to his less enlightened brethren, who are firmly convinced that " barrack damages " is another name for " easy money."

Agony from the Linemen.—One fatuous idiot, after reading the recent After-Order re stores to be carried by the patrol lineman, suggested an addendum something after this style:—" The patrol lineman, when patrolling the A.D.B. circuits, will carry the following stores:—Pliers, jack knife, spanner, pole climbers, light draw tongs, ratchet and key, coil of 40-lbs. bronze wire, coil of cable D.viii. twisted, telephone (portable 44 C), labels, note book, pencil, tape (adhesive and rubber), spun yarn, insulated copper, etc.; also bullometer, two onions, spare tent, billiard balls and chickweed, two bricks and one balloon, peanuts, and a packet of pins; spare shirt, pants, socks, towel, laces (if any). String and bullseyes are not allowed." Our sympathies are with the patrol lineman!

Remarks.—That wonderful wireless set owned by the gay Sir Percy has returned. Fortunately, at the moment the batteries have run down, but even so, everyone is set on edge. A chap can't sneeze without everyone looking around for the set. From the results obtained, we (our tame artist, that is) imagine the the circuits to be something after the style of the picture published. Percy! Percy!



Answer to Enquirer.—Worried: There is no clock kept on top of the garages. Possibly you mean the bullometer? P.S.—This was only put there recently. B.A.E.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

April 15th.

General.—This being the normal way of starting WIRE Notes for any unit, we do the same, although we have very little to put in under the heading this month.

Individual training has now come to an end, and Section training is the order of the day. The four Tank Signal Sections affiliated to this unit are formed into two groups for training purposes, and they can be heard any morning coming through the ether, super-imposed on the morning service from the B.B.C. Stations—so I have been told, at least. Some people are lucky enough to be able to listen to the morning service! I should imagine that it would be very amusing to hear Psalms mixed up with thrushes calling swallows. The aforementioned lucky ones do not agree with me. Some people are never satisfied, are they?

Arrivals.—Signalmen Barker F. A. and Gallop W. A. and the latter's family arrived on April 7th from India ex the *Dorsetshire*. Sergt Tebby C. and family arrived on the 10th, also from India, ex the *Somersetshire*. On the 16th Sigmn Banks H. is due to arrive from India ex the *Nevasa*. We wish them all a very long and happy stay in this part of the country.

Departures.—On April 1st (what a day to do such a thing!) Corpl More A. left us on fourteen days leave pending discharge. He is living in Andover, so we shall still be seeing his smiling face occasionally. On April 2nd Sigmn Williams F. left us, also on fourteen days leave pending discharge. Our very best wishes for the future go with them both. We shall always be pleased to see either of them if they get this way.

We have also lost F Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, who have been attached to the 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) the unit with which they work during training.

Courses.—The lucky individuals who were allotted G.P.O. courses last year have now returned to the fold, with the exception of Sigmn Smeed (at the Leeds office) who has been retained for a further month to enable him to sit for the City and Guilds examination. We wish him the very best of luck.

Those who have returned were attached to the Bristol and Lincoln offices. The operators from Bristol can now be seen wandering round the unit, muttering to themselves about teleprinters and such things peculiar to Post Office lines.

Our congratulations are extended to Sergt Woodcock on his marriage whilst at Bristol. We must say this is the first time that we knew the G.P.O. course syllabus included matrimony.

Just recently I have heard several agonising cries regarding the non-appearance of notes from Sarafand. There are several late members of that community here with us, and they are getting worried. Now, come along, Sarafians, atta boy!

On Easter Monday a number of the unit went by charabanc to watch the 4th Divl Signals play in the Army cup final. They all enjoyed the game very much, and we congratulate the 4th Div. on their good show. I hear that many old friends were met during the party's stay in Aldershot, and many old tales repeated. All members of the party wish to thank those concerned for the good time they spent in Mons Barracks. H.Q.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

General.—The usual apologies should be forthcoming, I suppose; but owing to pressure of work. "What! that one is worn out!" sez you.

The verandah wore a deserted look during the Easter leave period, as the majority took advantage of the wonderful weather we had (?) to get a respite from their various arduous duties. There are many broken hearts in Swindon, I hear, and many week-end passes in the office.

On Saturday, March 29th, we entertained D Troop to tea and football (to place them in order of importance, as determined by our office boy). The match resulted in a draw of three goals each after a keenly-contested game in which brawn was foremost, but we beat D Troop at the tea fight owing to having a nodding acquaintance with the N.A.A.F.I. staff.

Twice during March, on two successive Wednesdays, our O.C. gave a gramophone recital in the easy room. We heard how a record should really sound—just like the real thing. The trouble is that not everyone can be pleased, and "low brow" records were scarce. Still, to hear "All the king's horses," as rendered by Plum, was as low as any of us wanted to go.

We are given to understand that a local branch of the "Kibbo Kift" has been started in the Troop. Micky is apparently the "big cheese," as he has a trek of thirty miles to his credit already. Oh, these motor cycle bargains! Joys of the open road (?)

Inventions.—Oh, yes, we have our share of inventors—the office boy, in fact. He has invented a new drill and has named it "communical." It sounds heavenly, but wears out the knees of our breeches. Instead of having "Infantry Training" revised, we have given the inventor the sack.

Information Wanted.—Is Red to compete in the "Anfield 100"? Does Tushy still suffer from warts? Has Sammy yet convinced that dusky maiden of his personality? Where is our wandering boy to-night? (Oh, where? oh, where can he be?)

S.J.B.

Southern Command Signal Company, Salisbury.

The Army Cup Final.—Easter, 1931, will have its place as a noted landmark in the history of the Corps, by reason of that wonderful and thrilling Army Cup final at the Command athletic ground at Aldershot, on Easter Monday, between the 1st Battn Sherwood Foresters (old hands in cup finals) and 4th Divl Signals. Being a fortunate and happy spectator of a brilliant game, it is my opinion that we should have come out victors had not the ball nosed about too much round the Sherwood goal in the first half. One, at least, came away very proud of the display "our" team had given. I overheard a Buff (a non-partisan) say, "The best fought-out Army cup final I have seen for years," and this will convey to those who had not the good fortune to be present something of the excellence of the match. I wonder if the Corps Band would have brought us luck had they been there!

Re-Union: Sergeants' Mess.—The advent of a Signals team in the cup final brought about what surely must have been the first re-union of warrant officers and sergeants of the Corps. For a Sarum-ite to walk into the Aldershot mess and find members from Catterick, Bulford, Colchester, Derby and Nottingham, and many other representatives from Regular and T.A. Stations, truly illustrated the meaning of "esprit de Corps." To the committee and also to those behind the scenes, one's very best thanks are due for such a fine reception and excellent lunch.

Arrivals.—Sergt Williams E. C. J. arrived during the Easter holidays from No. 3 Company Egypt Signals, and has been posted to this Company w.e.f. April 7th. We extend him a very hearty welcome, and trust his stay will be long and pleasant.

General.—Scanning the pages of last month's WIRE, one read with great interest the Section for Old Timers and Reservists, which vividly illustrates the many difficulties past members have encountered when they discarded uniform for civilian clothes.

At some future date, I propose to write a short article on "Unemployed in the Salisbury District" and to describe unemployment problems in this area, giving details of cases which have come to notice where men have even paid to be allowed to keep their jobs. One does not realise what the other fellow is doing until one comes in close contact with him.

In Salisbury alone, the figure is close on 600 unemployed, and in the district it is 1100 odd. My advice to members about to leave the Service is to think before they leap, and to remember the advice given a little while ago in THE WIRE: *think it over.*

Cheerio! COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—We extend a cordial welcome to Lieut.-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., who has now taken over command of the unit. We wish he could have found us in the promised new barracks, but as that is looking too far ahead, we must hope the present one will stand up to a little more wear and tear and that the new one will come during his tour of duty.

The Big Dig is now well on the way to being a sports ground, all the digging and trenching being completed and the turf ready to be transplanted at the time when they do those things.

Individual training is again in full swing, the second period taking on all those who couldn't get on the first. Let's hope they all get those higher rates and the extra coppers!

Two of our R.A. Sections have joined Brigades, one at Larkhill and the other at Bulford, so we have started the usual summer exodus.

Gardens have claimed a good deal of attention this last week or two, and I can promise any of the old hands who care to give us a look-up during the summer that they will not recognise the old lines. The daffodils in front of the orderly room show up particularly well this year.

On Easter Monday we chartered a couple of buses, etc., and went to Aldershot to see the Army cup final. We heartily congratulate the 4th Divl Signals on being finalists (Signals have been trying to get there for a number of years) and commiserate with them in that they were not the winners. I saw the game, and it seemed to me that the occasion was just too much for them, for they had one or two golden opportunities which they failed to use. There was nothing much between the teams in the way of soccer skill; if anything, I thought Signals were slightly the better footballers—so keep your pecker up, 4th Divl Signals, and more power to your feet next year!

Sergeants' Mess.—There is nothing much to report this month. Money being scarce after the dinner and ball, we were not able to do much.

We have continued the fortnightly whist drives and dances, the one held on the Saturday of Easter week being a very successful show. We managed twenty hands at whist and two hours dancing.

The dinner members get fewer, owing to wives coming to this health resort. How's the messing now, Shoey?

Another stalwart has rejoined—Sergt Tidmarsh from the P.O. course. We want two more back from courses now, and one from leave or hospital—whichever he likes least after trying both for a little over a year; then we shall have them all in the fold once more.

Now Joe has gone, two or three are having a crack at the garden, but I'll leave it to him to judge if they are better gardeners. But I didn't mention that Joe was back in the fold! Having taken his taste of civvy life and being an independent "gent" on pension and d..... he found he was out of pocket looking for a job. The first thing that came along happened to be a job with Southern Command Signal Company at Tidworth, and

we welcome him with open arms again. I'm sure he will make a good quarter-bloke on the Old Comrades church parade.

The twenty odd mess members and friends who went to Aldershot on Easter Monday were entertained by the Aldershot Mess. We didn't bargain for the enormous crowd who greeted us, nor for the number of old hands who had congregated there, but we were delighted to see so many. We must also let Aldershot know how much we appreciated the arrangements they made for our comfort and the care of the inner man ; the lunch and tea were excellent.

I heard a good deal of talk about a re-union dinner. What does the O.C.A. secretary say about it? After a crowd such as they had at Aldershot, it should be fairly easy.

Of Interest to all who have served in the Middle East.—The final of the Army football cup on Easter Monday was the occasion of a re-union of numerous old Gyppies, Palestinians, and Co., and it seemed to be the general opinion that an annual dinner should be organised for all who served in the Middle East (Egypt, Palestine and Iraq) from 1919 to date.

It is suggested, therefore, that each unit affected should appoint one representative to get into touch with Sergt Terrell, 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, or C.S.M. Price, 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford, so that we can get some idea of the numbers to whom the idea appeals.

The dinner would, of course, be open to all ranks, and London is suggested as the rendezvous. So, will each unit write to either of the above-named and give the following information:—

(a) Names of those interested and of unit representative.
(b) Suggested date on which the dinner be held.
(c) Places alternative to London in which to hold the dinner.
(d) Any suggestions.

It is hoped that those who are now civilians will write direct to the above-named and give the information asked for. We are hoping to find full acceptance from retired members, so please let us have replies early.

Departures.—Corpl Brookes to Egypt on March 19th. Corpl McKenzie to Catterick on April 8th. Sigmn Little to School of Signals, Catterick, on March 25th.

Arrivals.—C.Q.M.S. Paul from 1st Air Defence Brigade Signals on March 18th. Corporals Baker, Kiddle and Knight, L/Corpls Marsh, Cummings and Hollands, and Sigmn Mill, from overseas, on April 7th. Sigmn Lamb from Training Battalion, Catterick, on April 8th. L/Corpl Woodbury from overseas on April 10th.

Promotion.—U/L/Corpl Fox to be L/Corporal on the Corps roster w.e.f. 26/1/31 (vice Corpl Twigger, promoted).

To Reserve.—Sigmn Reynolds on February 21st, Sigmn Miles on February 26th, Sigmn Whittles on March 10th, Sigmn Tucker (on leave pending transfer) on April 1st, and L/Corpl Callaghan (on leave pending transfer) on April 17th.

Transfer.—Pte Ellis, from the 1st Border Regiment, as Signalman w.e.f. 1/10/30.

Courses.—L/Corpls McLaren and Pond passed a drill and musketry course at Catterick. Corpls Mitson and Berriff, L/Cpls Green, McKenzie, Stevens and McLaren, rejoined the unit from No. 9 n.c.o.s W/T course on March 27th. Sergt Tidmarsh and Sigmn Bain from G.P.O. course on April 2nd.

Birth.—To Corpl Hawkins a daughter (Valerie Joy) at Shorncliffe on March 10th.

Marriage.—Driver Phillips to Violet Lilian Macey, at Warminster, on April 4th.

Re-Engagement.—Sigmn Monk, to complete twenty-one years with the Colours, on March 28th.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

No. 1 Company.

First and foremost, we must very heartily congratulate our unit soccer team on their magnificent performance in reaching the final of the Army cup. It only required a little bit of luck in that game to have made just the difference between winning and losing. We are very proud of our team (especially those in this Company: Corpl G. Palmer, L/Corpl R. Spencer, Signalmen W. McClelland, A. Brunt, A. Dalziel, H. Davies, and H. Marshall) which has made history for the Corps. The experience gained this season will probably make all the difference next year, and we confidently expect the Army cup to come to this unit.

A Sound Double.—Jacopo for the Derby, 1931, and 4th Divl Signals for the Army soccer cup, 1931-32.

Arrivals.—L/Sergt Clark, L/Corpl Varley, Signalmen Kuell and Backhouse arrived on April 6th. To all of them we extend a hearty welcome.

Football and Hockey.—B Cable and H Sections still worry along, winning some games and losing others, but results do not cause sleepless nights.

Huts.—The whole Company is now housed in beautifully painted huts, which are much brighter and are more pleasant to live in.

Births.—To R.S.M. Beattie A. H. a daughter (Rita Enid Grace). To L/Corpl Rafferty H. a son (Harry).

No. 2 Company.

General.—The Artillery Brigade Sections are now hard at work, preparatory to joining their respective Artillery Brigades for annual training. G Section will leave us on April 27th to join the 3rd Field Brigade R.A. at Woolwich. E Section join the 8th Field Brigade R.A. at Shorncliffe on May 4th, whilst F Section are eagerly looking forward to a short sojourn in Trawsfyndd with the 92nd Battery R.A., to commence on May 16th.

The Company, or rather the whole unit, travelled to Aldershot on Easter Monday, with a view to assisting the football team in carrying the Army cup to Colchester. No less than five charabanc-loads of spectators, made conspicuous by their Corps coloured rosettes, left Colchester at 7.45 a.m., full of the football spirit ; but, alas! the team and spectators arrived back alone—the cup refusing to leave the pedestal on which it was placed last season by the 1st Battn Sherwood Foresters, who have the luck to clean it for another season. But, before we leave the subject, we must heartily congratulate the team on putting up such a gallant fight and giving so magnificent a display of football. Well played!

Still on the subject of football, we should like to mention that the Company soccer team have reached the final of the Garrison inter-Company knock-out competition, winning the semi-final against the 13th Battery R.A. by the odd goal in five after being two goals down at half-time. The team made a great rally in the second half, the goal scorers being L/Sergt Golder L. and Signalmen Sedgwick C. and Snowball M. Our antagonists in the final are the 7th Field Company R.E. May the best team win!

Departure.—Driver Fidler H. has left us for foreign service (i.e. Catterick, to join the Depot Battalion). We were sorry to lose him.

Arrivals.—We welcome C.Q.M.S. Kendall A. G. and Sergt Coleman M. J. from Egypt, L/Corpl Bully W. G. from India, L/Corpls Conner and Henning from No. 3 Company, and Driver Hill A. from the land of eternal snow.

Trade Training.—Congratulations to Signalmen Garterv J., Geer J. G., Peters H. P., Reid F. W., Scott E., and Thomson A. on obtaining class ii. operator signals ; Sigmn Williams E. J. on passing class iii. operator signals ; and Sigmn Upton H. on gaining class ii. operator visual.

Transfer to Army Reserve.—The cook-house staff will soon be saying au revoir to Sigmn Hills C. A. J. M. on his transfer to the Army Reserve. The best of luck in civvy street, Farmer!

No. 3 Company.

Who said schemes? Why, Redcap! He also said that the Company has been busily employed during the past month in preparing for the collective training season. This has commenced in earnest, and considering the shortage of personnel, one cannot but admire the efforts of all concerned. Don't forget the old motto, " Laugh when we lose and ——" (you all know the rest). Things were made easier by that oft elusive thing Easter leave. Isn't this the period when a young man's fancy lightly turns to the " Blue Dog "? Ah, well! But more anon ; and until next month, and whatever happens, smile, please!

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to the under-named. From India: L/Sergt Lewis, L/Corpls Neeve and Tupper, Signalmen Anderson A., Berkshire, Connelly, Grainger, Horton, Jacob, Knowles, Semmence and Thorne. From Palestine: Signalmen Pike and Steel. May their stay in this Company be happy and long!

Departures.—The under-named, unfortunately, have left us for destinations as stated. Our good wishes accompany them wherever they go. Sigmn Petterson to civvy life. Sigmn Forster W. E. to the A.V.T.C. Hounslow.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

General.—Cheers! All ranks were pleased to see Lieut.-Col. E. de W. H. Bradley back in Scarborough and on the road to recovery.

F Section have returned to Catterick for the training season with their Artillery Brigade. We hope they will winter with us again next season.

A hearty welcome is extended to the draft—Corpls Daw R. and Badham A., L/Corpls Webber F., Smith W. A., Monaghan D., Mulholland J. and Manning G., from India, and Corpl Wright and family from Egypt Signals. You will soon get used to the air of Scarborough: the Karachi of the West.

Easter has come and gone; hence, the gardens are looking well and keenness is being shown in the unit garden competition. Should potatoes be planted eyes uppermost or Australiaise?

Spring drills have commenced, and practice for the King's Birthday parade is commencing soon. Many old friends were seen at Darlington on our trip to support the 4th Divl Signals. Congratulations to them on their fine performance. Better luck next year!

Obituary.—It is with very great regret that we have to report the death of No. 2317533 Driver A. Cave, at York on March 17th, from diphtheria. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents and relatives. The funeral was held at Keevil, near Trowbridge, Wiltshire, the body being escorted to his home by B Battery R.H.A., Trowbridge. Wreaths were sent by the C.O. and officers, the unit, the w.o.s and sergeants, the corporals, and the officers, n.c.o.s and men of L Section. He was a good soldier, with a cheery smile, and a very keen driver. His horses Bob and Mary, which he had for four years, did him credit.

Congratulations to the passes in the 1st class certificate of education examination: Sergt Massey, Sigmn Wilson C. W. ("D" in maths). Signalmen Parris R. H., Faircloth W. G., and Summers G. W. passed in maths and map-reading. Corporal Policella and L/Corpls Henshaw F. and Rodger R. passed in map-reading.

Our schoolmaster, Sergt-Instructor Butler, has now left us for Derby, but we hope he will come back next winter.

Things we'd like to know.—Where is the angling pond? Who is the Jack Hylton of 5th Divl Signals? Who were the two Scotsmen who argued as to who should be linesman in order to get a free trip?

TUBMIN.

Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

Victoria Barracks, April 15th.

General.—There is little of interest to record this month. The Brigade Section training is being carried on to the full extent allowed by the shortage of men. However, we hope to have our numbers up to strength by the middle of next month.

Our sporting activities have been rather quiet this month, and we have confined them to friendly soccer matches and six-a-side games. Cricket, however, will soon be starting, and we hope again to show the regiments what we can do.

Our heartiest congratulations to 4th Divl Signals on reaching the final of the Army soccer cup and on the great game they played at Aldershot. Everybody here awaited the result with the keenest interest, and it was a matter of great regret that financial considerations prevented them going to see the match.

Arrivals.—We welcome the following, and hope their stay will be a long and happy one: L/Sergt Skitt G., L/Corpl Wootton W., Signalmen Dowe W., Griggs W. and Hooper M.

Wedding.—We congratulate L/Cpl McDowall on his marriage to Miss Eileen Finlay on March 4th.

Education.—We are very pleased to congratulate Signalman Shepherd on getting his 1st class certificate, with two "D's"; also Signalmen Turner, Watson, Yates and Baker on getting their 2nds, and Driver Matthews on his 3rd. This, at last, rids us of those who come under the heading of "uncertificated."

UNITS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

General.—The third and final draft from the U.K. arrived safely on Friday, March 20th, and consisted of C.S.M. Adcock and one hundred and seventy-five B.O.Rs. Up to date they have been employed in clothing fitting and the thousand and one little things we can utilise drafts for.

L/Corporal Hutchinson had a very short stay in Jubbulpore (though he will return) as he was chosen to accompany the boxing team to Poona, where they have gone to compete in the Southern Command championships.

Sports.—This month has been a very full one in this line. Details will be seen by turning to the Sports pages.

Boxing.—Hearty congratulations are extended to the members of the boxing team who succeeded in annexing the Deccan District championship for the Signals. They had some hard fights, and great credit is due to L/Corpl Pat Mills for the way in which he took them in hand and brought them up to their present state of fitness.

As District winners, they compete in the Southern Command championships due to commence on March 26th. Details of our successes (I hope!) will be given in next month's notes.

On behalf of the boxing team, L/Corpl Mills wishes to thank the officers, n.c.o.s and men of the 4th Indian Divisional Signals for their help and hospitality. Pat says "It all helped us to win —Tich Hamblin's towel flapping was first class."

The team, as a whole, wish to thank Lieut.-Q.M. Jones and C.S.M. Mayes for the trouble they took in making them feel at home. "Your kindness turned the bed irons into feathers." Thanks are also extended to Mrs. Mayes for the excellent luncheon provided. "Hope you weren't any knives and forks down."

As for the junior n.c.o.s, oh, boy! what a hot bunch they are! Quig, if ever you do chance to be sent out here, try to get posted to Trim. You'll enjoy it—they really drink beer."

Much Ado about Nothing.—Behold, as the year proceeded on its normal course, further changes took place amongst the tribe of Jubb.

The Risalite was sent to the sect of "Q" to imbibe knowledge wherewith the B.O.R.s should not be done down in any matter

The Winners of the Deccan District Boxing Championship.

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen Phillmore and Simmonds, Corpl Brunton, Signalmen Hughes and Williams, L/Corpls Lovell and Phipson, Signalmen Hewitson and Chadderton, Corpl Ellison

Sitting—L/Sergt MacFarlane, Lieut G. I. Burgess-Winn, Lieut-Colonel A. J. G. Copeland, Major A. W. Roberts, M.C., L/Corpl Mills (trainer), L/Sergt Parker

Front row—Signalmen Duncan and Wattle

whatsover, and in his place there came one who was known to all, yea verily, one who can be likened unto a " stone."

He hath knowledge beyond compare of the doings of B.O.R.s, and great was the wailing and gnashing of teeth when he began to " sort them out." Yea, all the scribes, fitters and I.M.T.s of the tribe were bidden to attend the parade of the Great Chief which began soon after the sun was up on the sixth day of the week—none, no, not one, was exempted.

Great was the joy of those who were persistent in their endeavours to attain military knowledge when these fresh faces were seen.

Behold, there came unto the tribe a week of work, for it came to pass that the Commandant and the Brigadier did give forth that they would inspect the wigwams and wearing apparel of the tribe, to satisfy themselves as to the worthiness of everything under their command.

Great was the cleaning, and it seemed as though a great and mighty wind had passed and had taken all cobwebs and such manner of things in its wake. Trade was also brisk in the Q.M. line, for many B.O.R.s on investigation were discovered to be short of hussiffs, etc.

The final day came, and behold, they that careth for the tribe were well pleased.

It came to pass that at the ninth hour on the 7th March that the B.O.R.s did strive against the I.O.R.s for the possession of the Fazal Din trophy ; yea, mightily did they strive in running, feats of strength and jumping.

Behold, when the sun was down it transpired that the B.O.R.s were successful in their endeavours, and once again the cup resteth in the tents of the tribe. Great was the rejoicing thereat!

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

General.—Karachi offers little in the way of excitement these days, and consequently there is very little to report this month.

The unit still maintains a good name in social circles as well as in the world of sport. As usual, two whist drive-dances have been held during the past month, and the organisers are to be commended on the provision of an excellent entertainment. Many old patrons visited us and confessed that they had spent a very enjoyable evening.

The first occasion was notable in that it marked the maiden performance of our new dance band. In view of their youth, their rendering was really quite good and evidently quite palatable to our many and varied terpsichorean enthusiasts. Still, even their harmony could not prevent the Troop's dance from becoming a rugby scrum. This number, by the way, is a very useful outlet when masculinity predominates and the wine flows freely. It certainly gives the few ladies who may be present some idea of what men *can* do when partnered by men.

Several old faces departed with the sailing of the *Dorsetshire* on March 16th, and the usual ablutions marked their going. Nevertheless, the wishes for their future welfare were none the less sincere. In comparison, the arrival of a new draft passed almost unnoticed, an occasional " Were you with——?" or " Way back in '29, etc., etc.," only, being overheard.

Appointments and Promotions.—We congratulate the undermentioned on moving a step further towards that baton: Corpl Cheverton B. to be L/Sergeant ; L/Cpls Brunton-Douglas, King L., Tupper T. A. and Drury C. on being paid ; and also U/L/Corpl Hudson J. on surmounting the first rung.

Reversions.—Our sympathies are extended to Signalmen Iacob F. and Kuell E., who have had to revert to the ranks on being repatriated to the United Kingdom (we trust that it will be but temporarily).

Departures.—Captain D. H. Cunynghame to Jubbulpore, on posting to S.T.C. (India). A popular officer, we wish him the very best for the future.

To United Kingdom on transfer to home establishment: L/Corpls Webber F., Wilcox C. J., Michie J. A., Tupper T. A., and Drury C., Signalmen Harwood A., Hollands J. H., Jacob F. and Kuell E. and family.

To United Kingdom on transfer to the Army Reserve: Signalmen Beck G., Hemingway E., Carter G. and Pyne J. L.

With the departure of the above, Acor suffers a twofold loss —firstly on the playing field, and secondly in social circles. Several were cricket, football, hockey and rugby players of no mean repute. In addition, others performed admirably with sundry musical instruments, while a few concentrated on the whistle of authority.

One in particular maintained the reputation of being the finest hockey custodian in the Sind Province practically throughout his stay in Karachi. He certainly has a fine chest for medals, eh, Babs? He has since, I hear, transferred his attention to umpire's duties. As a precautionary measure, we have duly informed the English Hockey Association. For the benefit of those with whom he may come in contact, this star of the field and Folies Bergere is L/Corpl Webber W. Fortunate indeed will be the unit to which he is posted.

Sigmn Harwood, too, officiated both as soccer referee and hockey umpire within the Karachi Garrison.

Three were members of a dance band quintette who did much to brighten Karachi in general and Acor in particular. Their disbandment leaves a gap which will not be easily filled.

The undermentioned left for leave in the United Kingdom:—Corpls Lewis F. and Baker D., Signalmen Fellows R. and Knight L. C. May their holiday be a pleasant one!

Arrivals.—We welcome Major R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., who joined the unit on March 9th and assumed command on the 10th. Mrs. Helps has already become well liked because of her consideration and thought for the married families.

Welcome is also extended to L/Sgt Finney and family, L/Cpls Francis A. and Harbury W., Signalmen Williams H., Starmore E., Bennett W., Lamont W., Austen E., Chitty W., Golding A., Hadfield T., Matthews J., Hudson H., Amos A. and Matthews J. B.—all from Jubbulpore ; and to Corpl Motteram J., L/Corpl Cooper W. and their families, from United Kingdom.

Pontoons Only.—The undermentioned have taken another plunge towards the L.S. and G.C. medal: Sergt Mills J., Corpl Lee J., L/Corpls Wilcox C. J. and Gibbons E.

In conclusion, gifts of Easter eggs and the proverbial buns from ex-members of this unit in Blighty will be greatly appreciated by those of us who are condemned to swelter for yet another year. No, we didn't ask for fruit. AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

February 26th.

General.—Well! here we are once again. Unfortunately, very little has happened during the month to write home about.

The first musketry party have duly completed their course, amid loud and prolonged cheering from the negro onlookers, with some good results. Sergt Parker, of No. 1 Company, topped the roll with a score of 104, for which a prize of 2,457,360 roubles will be presented to him when Good Friday falls on a Wednesday. However, well done, Badgy! The second party, having passed safely through the pokey drill period, are now attempting to show how the Bisley prize is won.

Signals Week will soon be with us again, and our horsemen are to be seen daily doing their stuff. It is hoped that the Corps will improve on their last year's performance. R.S.M. Kneebone wears a furrowed brow owing to the responsibilities that have been thrust upon him. Our visitors can, however, rest assured that the hospitality shown in days of yore will again be forthcoming. To those units unable to send representatives we extend our sympathy, and hope that next time things will be different.

On the departure of the last draft of the season, the Corporals' Mess are giving a farewell do to their members due for the big boat. Yes, it looks wet!

Arrivals and Departures.—Again, this month, we have many new faces in the unit, and the " glad mit " is extended to the following: Lieuts E. C. Thompson, C. P. S. Denholm-Young and P. G. Docker, who arrived on the 3rd inst. from the U.K. ; Lieut R. L. Carpenter from Waziristan District Signals ; L/Sergt Taylor from 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut ; L/Sergt Pattenden, Corpls Hutcheon and Taylor, L/Corporals Page and Dymond, Signalmen Case, Cant, Blenkinsop, Burdes, Britton, Hill, Holland, Jackson, Sinclair, Green, Snell, Thompson, Davies, Arnold, Whitelaw, Dines, Dixon, Durkin, Evans, Fleming, Hoare, Atkinson, Law, Griffiths, Stockwell and Smith A.—all from the Depot at Jubbulpore ; Sergt Cole from Wazirdist Signals.

In the departure column we have Captain V. J. E. Westropp, who has gone to the Staff College at Quetta ; F/S/Sergt Vanstone

to 1st Indian Divl Signals ; Sergt Dowie (one of the Corps old-timers) to Wazirdist Signals. We wish them all the best of luck in their new homes. In addition, we have the draft for U.K. due to leave these shores on March 16th, and the good wishes of those remaining go without saying.

To Army Reserve—Corpl Price, Signalmen Tutt, MacDonald, Lane, Gillatt, Kelly, Lister, Nash, Briggs, Macauley and Greaves.

To Home Establishment—Sergts Solly and Wright ; L/Sergt Goodman ; Corpls Somers, Benten, Kiddle and Daw ; L/Corpls Dale, O'Brien, Martin, Knight and Dobson ; Signalmen Steele, Greenland, Wood, Smith W., Hatcher, Abbott, Smith F., Major, Lawrence, Robinson R. and Collins.

Congratulations are extended to Lieuts R. G. Yolland and R. Webb on the appearance of pip No. 2 ; to Corpl Steele on his appointment to L/Sergeant ; and to L/Corpl Denton on his promotion to Corporal. Thanks all the same, but I'm on the "tack."

To that 80 per cent. of the S.T.C. Cadre.—Is it because you want to do all the swaggering, old timers? Anyway, we wonder what happened when you returned from India. Esprit de corps! From Sigs. Chitral.

Agony.—Tommy Tunney still waits patiently for a line from Gene Heeney. What about it?

Sigmn Lundie, of this unit, would welcome a line from Corpl Holtham, at present on a vocational training course at Hounslow. Fore! BEKORE.

April 1st.

Once again we take up the mighty pen to write a few notes. Very little, however, has occurred during March which is worthy of recording in our Corps Magazine.

The second musketry party, together with the casuals, have at last completed their annual course, with some exceptionally good results. In addition, our local Tom Mix's have also done their stuff. I will ascertain from the officer i/c musketry whether any of them are really " slick on the draw," and whether they fire from the hip.

Signals Week has come and gone once more. Unfortunately, we saw very few new faces. Some extraordinarily good sport was witnessed, results of which are being published in the form of a Supplement (at least, we hope our friend the Editor will do the necessary). [This is not yet to hand.—ED.]

Arrivals and Departures.—We have had a few additions to our little family during the month, as follows: L/Corpl Shilletto, Signalmen Woodgate, Yates and Haigh, all from S.T.C. ; Signalmen Edwards and Neeves from 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, for posting to the W.E.S. To them all we extend the glad mit.

Our departures are also on the small side, after our losses of last month: F/Sergt Jagger to Quetta ; L/Sergt Morley, L/Corpl Ruffals, Signalmen Banks, Bennett and Rashleigh, either to the home establishment or the Army Reserve ; and Sigmn Case to 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop. To all of them we wish the best of luck.

In addition, Corpl Morley and L/Corpl Ashenhurst have gone on six months payment leave to the Blight cantonment—evidently they are anxious to put on a bit of weight.

Congratulations are due to L/Sgt Searle H. on his promotion to Sergeant w.e.f. 3/1/31 ; to Corpl Iones on his recent entry to the Sergeants' Mess ; to Sigmn and Mrs. Cahill on their latest addition to the messing numbers of the unit ; and to the young gentleman of Headquarters who tried to change his " mug " at the unit library (he hasn't been out too long, either!) BEKORE.

Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals.

Opening Chorus.—As the inauguration of New Delhi caused a new stamp die to be made, the appearance of notes from this Mess should almost cause our worthy friend the Editor to do likewise.

The main reason why the notes have been conspicuous by their absence is that everybody has been anxiously awaiting the decision of the Imperial Conference ; and now that is known, and the taxation is going to effect beer (i.e. food—cigarettes, eats, etc.) all one is likely to get from here is gasps—and dry ones at that!

Had a stranger arrived in this Station about the beginning of March, he would probably have been given the impression that Rawalpindi was the London of the East. During this month we have had Signals Week, Command sports, North India horse show, gymkhana race meetings, pokey dye championships, etc. ; and to crown all, we are due to lose our " worse " halves (ladies, get one back for that!—I'm on your side) who will commence to migrate to the hybernating cantonment Murree—that beautiful hill station.

Recently we held our annual ball, which was a great success owing to the untiring work of the committee ; also the tea to the wives and families of our members, to which everybody present did full justice.

Our latest entertainment is commonly known as Aggie's cock-tail tournament. The first instalment was a good show, and we are looking forward to more.

In closing, we take this opportunity of wishing our friends in Blighty and other cushy stations the best of luck. Au revoir!

BUCK.

Corporals' Room, Signal Units.

General.—This is our first appearance in print, but we shall endeavour to scribe a few lines monthly in future, for the benefit of those who belong to us but are scattered over various parts of India. Also, maybe, there are a few in other units whom we can interest.

Social.—A very pleasant evening was spent by the members present in the Station, on February 28th, when a social was arranged to bid farewell to those lucky members due for the boat this trooper. Good singing, good company, and good beer helped to pass away the evening, and one and all were very sorry when at last " Auld Lang Syne " had been sung.

Bill Moody did try his famous song " The Sergeant-Major's Daughter "—at least, that appeared to be the title ; but I am a bit hazy over it, as Bill rather stutters when in company, and after getting stage fright about ten times, he gave it up as a bad job. Still, he did his best!

Sergt Hatherly, specially imported for the occasion, gave some rousing good old timers, and is to be recommended to anyone needing a tonic. Our best thanks to him for his kindness.

Arrivals and Departures.—As these normally appear in unit notes, we are not going to waste space in repeating them. Suffice it to say that we welcome all new-comers, and hope those who have left us give a kindly thought to us.

It was with the deepest regret that the members bade farewell to Corpl Benton C. A., who has for the last year been our worthy secretary. Many of us wish he could have stayed—in fact, some were for fetching him back from the boat. We were, unfortunately, not able to present him with some definite reminder of his stay with us ; his untiring efforts in producing such wonderful balance sheets and the keeping of the funds deserved some reward. Some were even for presenting him with the piano and gramophone, but this would have taxed his carrying capacity a bit too much.

Signals Week.—A full account of Signals Week will appear under unit notes, so I will content myself with stating that the corporals did their utmost to help in making the Week the success it undoubtedly was. On the day of the finals, we gave a tea in our enclosure to all members, inviting the married pads, who appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves—some go so far as to say we beat the sergeants. Anyway, there were sufficient eats for all, not forgetting the ices, which proved very acceptable when the sun began to stoke up at the close of the afternoon.

Reminders.—To Sailor Haines and others: We do occasionally hear from you through THE WIRE, but a line would be far better. It's the personal touch that counts, you know ; so what about it? Shades of Upper Topa and the Blood Tub!

O.C.A.—It does not appear to be generally known amongst the members that we have installed a pice box, for the benefit of the O.C.A., in the room. If all would save their pice and add them to those already in the box, it would soon be heavy enough to open. The O.C.A. is doing good work, and we never know that we may not ourselves be in need of the Association one of these days. TOMMY.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 2 Company.

March 16th.

General.—With the advent of March, Quetta emerged from its hiding-place under a foot or so of snow, to be met with a deluge of rain and the usual March winds. Notwithstanding the efforts of the sun, it is still rather cold ; winter seems reluctant to leave without wagging its tail.

A scheme was arranged for February 23rd, to enable our new C.S.O. (Lieut.-Col. Morse) to see the unit in action. A heavy fall of snow upset this arrangement, and the scheme was postponed til the 26th. On the 24th the C.S.O. inspected the unit in barracks, and was quite satisfied with all he saw—except, perhaps, a certain pair of boots that failed to respond to a test for flexibility.

Despite the fact that snow still clung affectionately to the maidan, the scheme was carried out in due course and the unit came through with flying colours. At the moment, shortage of men is the chief handicap in running such things successfully.

A great stir was caused in the unit quite recently. Harvey Thorley, who for some months has been catering for the long-faced ones of the unit, marched to the duftah and demanded training and a test for a higher rating. Now, it is remarkable that just as we were beginning to forget that such a person as Harvey Thorley existed, he should emerge from his bran mash and set the Company's ears flapping. Still, a month or two in close harmony with hammer and jumper should cool his ardour and send him back to his feed tins.

At Random.—After the news of the rise in the price of cigarettes had spread round, a certain Scottish sergeant was seen attempting to light a red and blue pencil stump—which I consider rather pathetic, though not nearly so pathetic as our football team playing the Artillery Brigade and losing by 2—6. The R.A. scored in the first minute, and we equalised a few minutes later. The spectator cheered us to the echo. A few minutes from full time, with the score 6—1, we scored again. The spectator moved uneasily in his seat and then went to sleep again. He cannot be blamed!

Three incidents followed closely one upon the other—not unusual happenings, taken separately, but to the mind of the uncharitable, when connected, bearing a sinister meaning. Firstly, the messing fell away, and we were hungry. Then, no coal was issued that week-end, and we were cold. And lastly, the cook orderly and a member of "Q" Branch rolled home with a motor cycle, in which they had half shares. We were intrigued!

Other things have happened. Records have been broken : the moon has risen in the west ; rows of trees have been uprooted, right dressed, and re-planted ; and one n.c.o. and six men were temporarily reduced to the rank of signalman driver and presented with three remount mules apiece, who almost reduced them to pulp. Finally, laughing in the teeth of ridicule and taking his courage in both hands, and a pen in the other, L/Cpl Wainscoat signed on.

Congratulations.—We congratulate the following on being awarded their "Jimmies" for rugby: L/Sergt Jarvis, L/Corpls Cooke and Wainscoat, Signalmen Ettridge, McLean and Battell.

A Suggested Paragraph for Unit Orders.—The undermentioned will parade under their destructor, for braining: Sergeant ——, Corpl ——, Sigmn —— (add names according to taste).

Toots by Timex. No. 2: A Few Generalities.

(*a*) *What is this thing called P.T.?*

There's a period that's set aside for something called P.T.—
I wonder what P.T. really can mean?
There's a table card of exercises for trained soldiers, we
Have often, since we joined the Army, seen.
But table cards don't count here—
They want to see the place clear—
So picking thorns is how employed we've been.

(*b*) *Fertilization.*

There's a row of small trees in Assaye,
Which the C.S.M. spotted one day ;
He decided that Nature
Should grow her trees straighter,
So dressed them as only he may.

(*c*) *Road Demarcation.*

There are heaps of stones and mutti in Taveta and Assaye,
The corner of each path and road to mark ;
There are certain men who'll have to clear these ugly heaps away
And build new ones which show up in the dark,
To guide the "wet end" boys home
When on the razzle they roam
And on their wild night escapades embark.

(*d*) *The "Yoke" Revoked.*

My hope and ambition is busted—
The reason is not far to seek:
It seems that I cannot be trusted
To be my own boss, so to speak.
I can't have vocational training—
I guessed that my O.C. would jib—
So now, there is nothing remaining
For me but to stick it and crib.

(*e*) *Draw Your Own Conclusion.*

Our messing of late
In a very bad state
Has been—'struth! you ne'er saw the like!
We all wonder why,
But—oh, by the by,
The cook's bought an old motor bike.

* * * *

The time-ex lads now look ahead
To voc's at two rupees per head ;
Their hopes die hard—they're better dead ;
Wang-ho blokes, the voc's a hoax—
Strop up!

* * * *

Three treys and kings are not too bad,
With ace, queen high to finish ;
But when you lay your last hand down,
You'll hear a hiss: "Say, bo, what's this—
A pair of socks?"

* * * *

A draft of lads is leaving us
For Blighty, very soon ;
The next we'll hear of them will be:
"The police caught the rest, and a dame caught me"—
That's the crack!

The Pfaffisky Biscuit.—Sigmn Calleyne takes it in its entirety for his originality in choosing a vocational course. He has conceived the remarkable idea of attaching himself to the Gurkhas for training as a machine gunner, with the object of offering his services to Al Capone's gang as an instructor. PFAFFISKY.

Corporals' Room.

By the time these notes appear, many of our old friends will be enjoying the delights of Catterick in the spring and forgetting that such places as Tazak, Manzanai and Kiala Viala ever existed. Among those who left us were Corporals Hickmott, Brown and Couperthwaite, and L/Corpls Monaghan, Neeve, Manning and Andrews. We wish them every success in their new units, and hope to meet them at some future date in the land of the living.

Two very successful dances were held during the last month as farewell do's to those lucky fellows who have just left us. Owing to numerous duties, etc., our old friends the R.A.F. were unable to visit us in any force, but those who did attend were received with open arms. One question only: Who was the author of the song "Fighting with beer in my eyes"?

Two members of the community who were lucky enough to obtain six months leave remarked that the rhythm of the train wheels seemed to imply "Taking you home." We should like to point out that they have also been known to imply "Bringing you back." Still, have a good time, both of you. You can join us at Killa Abdulla.

We welcome to our midst Corpls Ward and Pearsall and L/Cpl Harries, and hope that their stay with us will be a very pleasant one. Old B Divites will remember Corpl Ward, who was with the unit during its tour in Waziristan.

We should like to know.—If Tubby and Alf are D.i.s yet? If Charlie knows what draft animals are yet? How Freddy Neeve dodged the Aliens Act? How Spike felt at Rohri?

Cans, Sweeper's, one quart, mark ii.—By an overwhelming majority of votes, the can was this month awarded to Corporal Ward. Never before in the history of " the can " has such an excellent victory been scored. The tale with which he won it concerned a lineman's horse which, seeing its rider tie a "granny" knot instead of a " reef," bit that part of his trousers which is usually patched (4th Div. Colchester, please note). REPTILE.

1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi.

March 28th.

Signals Week.—The past month has provided us with plenty of entertainment and sport. First of all came Signals Week, and in passing there are one or two events which are worthy of special mention.

The most spectacular event of the week was the remount display given by this unit. The remounts were trained by Indian ranks under the supervision and instruction of Captain C. M. F. White, and it must have taken weeks of hard work to get them ready for the display, which consisted of jumping over despatch riders sitting on their machines with the engines running, various types of " human jumps," jumping through fire, tableaux and various acrobatic feats. Whilst on the subject of horsemanship, Corpl Warner is to be congratulated on winning the B.O.R.s jumping.

In the boxing, the number of entries from this unit was overwhelming, and we carried off all but three weights. These went to our neighbours B Corps Signals. It was unfortunate that, owing to Frontier unrest, more entries were not received from other units in the Command.

The hockey team also put up an excellent show and were only beaten by Peshawar District Signals after a very close game.

Annual Ball.—The dance season, so far as we are concerned, wound up with the unit annual ball in the Ordnance Club on March 20th. This was very well attended, there being about seven hundred present, including Major-General E. A. Fagan, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., D.S.O. (officiating G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command) and Lieut-Colonel F. A. Drayson, M.C. (Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command).

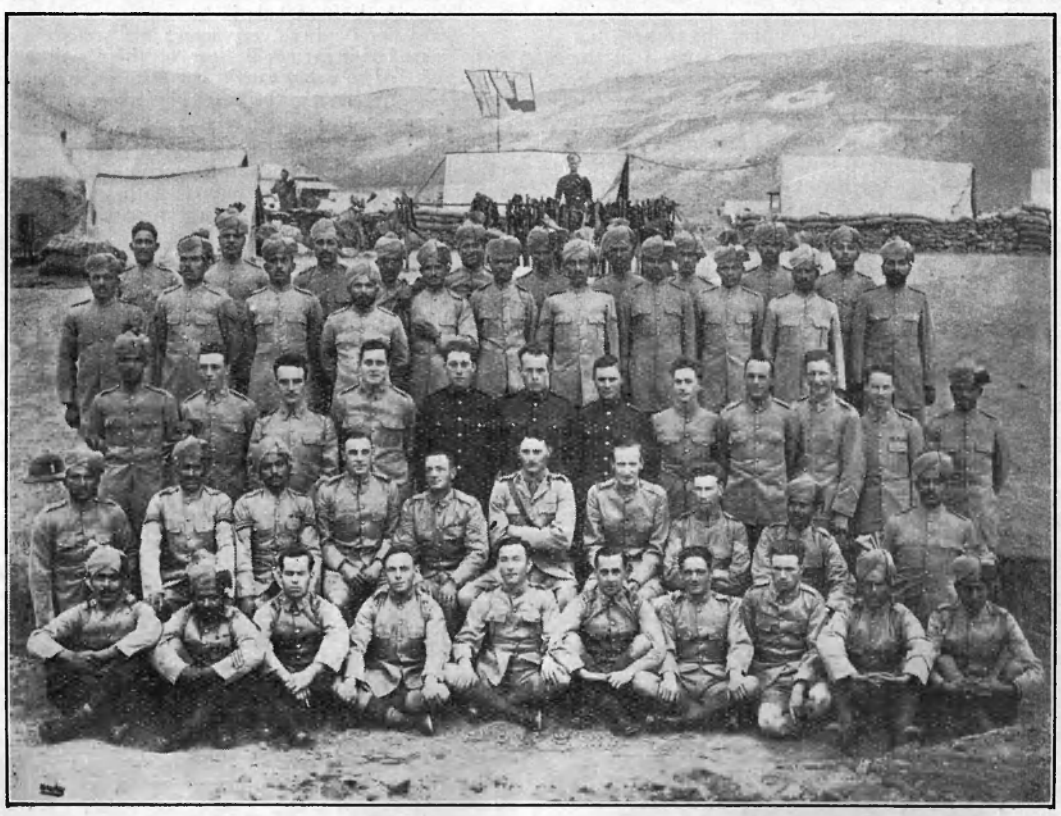
Owing to the management of an excellent working committee, headed by Captain H. A. Spencer, M.C., and C.S.M. R. Tank, the ball was a huge success. Even to the most critical observer, not one single fault was apparent. It was, perhaps, rather unfortunate that the inspection by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India was due on the next morning, as dancers who would normally have lingered on in the hope of an extra dance (or, maybe, a drink) after the scheduled hour faded away somewhere about 2 a.m. to prepare for the big parade.

Remarks on our weekly dances have appeared in this unit's notes from time to time. These may have been a little bit frivolous at times, but our praise was genuine, and it is hoped that they will recommence when the unit returns from the hills. Credit is also due to the dance band, who have given their services free and to a large extent made the dances possible.

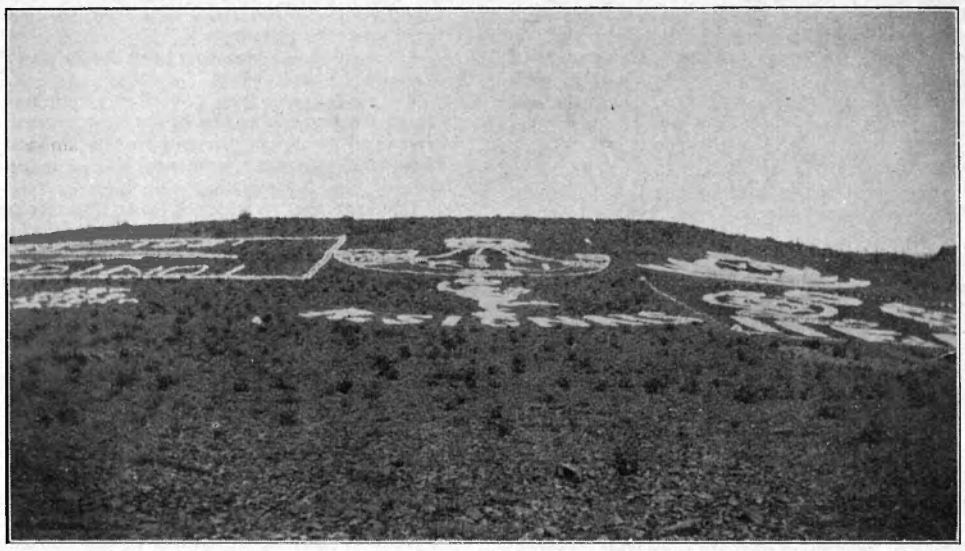
Great North of India Horse Show.—In the great North of India horse show, the unit put up a very creditable performance and more than held their own. Capt C. M. F. White tied for third place in the officers' jumping on " Tilly Whim," and in the jump off he made a faultless round. This was the only faultless round in all the jumping, both for officers and other ranks. Capt White's horse was also second in the handy hunters class. The unit's honours were as under:—

Mule pairs—1st and 2nd.
Equipment mules (team of three)—2nd and 4th.
Cable wagon, etc., mules (team of six)—1st.
Officers' jumping—3rd.
Handy hunters—2nd.
B.O.R.s jumping—Sergt Cutler tied for fourth place, but was beaten in the jump off.
Officers' team jumping—5th.

Indian Ranks Tent-Pegging Team.—The I.O.R. Section tent-pegging team was not up to standard during Signals Week, but found their form for the District tournament, taking second



K Signal and W/T Sections at Karawal Camp, N.W.F., 1930-31.



place. In the open I.O.R. tent-pegging at Sam Browne's Cavalry sports, they were first.

Arrivals.—Capt G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., arrived from the United Kingdom on March 21st for duty with the unit. We hope his stay with us will be a long and pleasant one.

Royal Signals Officers' Gymkhana.—On 15th March the Royal Signals officers held a pony gymkhana in Topa Park. It was a very successful affair, and it is to be hoped that it will become an annual feature in Rawalpindi. There were several events, which were all very amusing both to the competitors and the spectators. These were:—

(1) The bending race, for pairs (lady and gentleman) consisted of a miniature relay race, riding in and out around poles.

(2) Pig sticking, ladies' event. The quarry was a mounted man towing a "pig," whilst the ladies were armed with a "spear" with a round head covered in whitewash.

(3) Lido race. This event was for gentlemen only, and was extremely amusing. The competitors rode bare-back over a fence, and then saddled up and rode over a second fence, where they dismounted and put on a pair of pyjamas. They then rode over a third fence, dismounted, picked up a sun shade, mounted, and rode back over three fences to the starting point.

(4) Dribbling and scuffling, for pairs (lady and gentleman). The gentleman had to play a football with a polo stick to a lady partner. The lady was dismounted, and had to dribble the football with a hockey stick in and out round four posts, circling at the end and returning to the gentleman, who took over the ball and played it back to the original starting line, mounted and with a polo stick.

(5) Gretna Green stakes, for pairs. Two ladies and two gentlemen. The first gentleman rode a bicycle to the second gentleman, and there handed over a baton. The second gentleman was mounted on a horse, with a spare saddled horse, and rode to a line where a lady was waiting. The lady mounted the spare horse, and both rode to a tonga and dismounted. Both ladies got in the tonga, and the two gentlemen pulled the tonga to the finishing point.

Location.—All Signal Sections of the unit have now returned to Rawalpindi from the Frontier and other Stations where they have been holding them back, with the exception of a few men of A and H Sections who are still at Peshawar. On April 5th the unit advance party leaves for Upper Topa, and the main body leaves for the same place about the 25th.

K Signal Section (written before the Section returned)—As this is about the last opportunity the Section will have of writing notes for THE WIRE whilst on the Kajuri Plain, we will endeavour to cram in as much as we can.

Unless anything unforeseen happens, we shall have said good-bye to the Afridis some time before these notes appear in print, having heard from a reliable source that we leave Karawal on or about March 9th. Already there are signs of packing up in the camp. Sandbag walls, corrugated iron roofs, etc., are quickly disappearing. There is a great deal of work to be done before the camp is evacuated.

Have you heard of the Karawal Consolidated Demolition Company Ltd.? No! well, that's us. A few days ago we were given instructions to take down and scatter the garage (oh, yes, we had a garage in the camp). It was rather a formidable affair, but by the time we had finished it looked very little like a garage. After we had removed the framework, we placed all the boulders (of which it was built) in a neat heap round where the garage used to be—and that was that.

Someone thought it would be a great idea if the Brigade left their "trade mark" at Karawal, and the result of that thought is shown on the side of the hill, just outside the camp, known as Pindi Ridge. After a good deal of time and labour had been spent in levelling the side of the Ridge, making measurements, and collecting stones, the Section was rewarded by the appearance of a "Jimmy." I should imagine that it is about the largest "Jimmy" on record, being about 64 feet in length—excluding the crown, globe and letters underneath, which add another 32 feet to the badge. The photograph with these notes will show you what the hillside looked like when all the badges were completed.

Recreation has looked up somewhat during the last few weeks. One or two pieces of ground have been worked on and made into passable football grounds. We have played several matches against the K.S.L.I., R.T.C. and 15th Medium Battery R.A. We played sixteen matches, of which we won twelve, drew three and lost one.

We offer our heartiest congratulation to Pip Powner on obtaining the lance stripe.

TONY RED.

Kohat District Signals.

General.—We have experienced a sudden change in the weather here. At this time last month it was bitterly cold and the snow was quite white on the nearer hills: at present, we have already cast our fur coats, the new draftees have become very sunburnt, and we are preparing for the worst.

We must comment on the beauty of our gardens this year, for we have never had a show quite like it. We carefully studied Barleux's lucid notes on this matter, and the result was charming. The whole of the stretch of lawns and gardens in front of the sergeants' mess and the married quarters is a riot of colour in sweet peas, stocks and violas, etc. (we tremble to think what would have been their fate if Sergeant Crichton had not been transferred some time ago; his natural food was sweet peas and rhododendrons.)

S.O.-in-Chief's Visit.—The Signal Officer-in-Chief, Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., paid his annual visit to the unit on Friday, March 13th. We did not posh up any more than usual (ahem!) but were inspected at our normal workaday jobs. We hope that he was not only impressed with the new barracks, but that he was pleased with us as an efficient unit of our Corps. We were sorry to know that the S.O.-in-Chief was detained in hospital at Rawalpindi after leaving Kohat.

We await with keenness the inspections by the G.O.C. Kohat District and by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief, both of which occur very soon.

The last month has been spent in one or two "flying columns" (J Section would like me to put that in block type, but what's a mere 26½ miles, after all?) and in making a good start with the individual training. We have thirty men getting their noses really down to the dots and dashes and at the same time keeping one eye open towards Upper Topa.

Arrivals.—We welcome among us 2/Lieutenants H. Worrall and W. B. Rowett from home. We hope that Kohat and K.D. Signals will give them a good impression of India and the Signals in India.

We also extend the flipper to the following (may they prove worthy of the Station to which they are called!):—L/Corporals Stringfellow and Kelly J. A., Signalmen Madgewick, Clarke, Wilding, Thomas, Stears, Humm, Whitehead, Mackie, Yerrell, Simpson, Greenhalgh, Smith R.A. and Tyrell. Some of these have come to us from Scarborough. Ugh! what a contrast!

Departures.—Weep, ye sons of Mercury! Howl, ye men of Kohat! We have lost our prima donna, Sergt Albert Hawley, and our animated barrel, Sergt Kate Carney. These, with the undermentioned, went home per the *Dorsetshire* on March 17th—but for some there will be a returning and a time of recompense. To home establishment, the above, Corpl Shaw, L/Cpl Cummings and Sigmn Baxter A. To six months furlough, Sergt (and Mrs.) Stevens, Corporals Leary and Hamilton, and Sigmn Hayes.

Signals Week, Rawalpindi.—We sent a British football and hockey team and an Indian hockey team to represent us. Many of the unit also went down on leave, to shout for us and generally enjoy themselves. We were unfortunate in that no laurels came our way: nothing except a few ashes from the fire and an unbounded enthusiasm over the Talkies. More of this will be ably reported by the Rawalpindi units.

Sergeants' Mess.—It is beginning to get a little hot for shows now, but our whist drives still continue and we generally manage a nice evening, with five or six tables filled. With the warmer weather, we are finding the verandah and lawns extremely handy.

On March 17th our best effort since Christmas took place, i.e. "Paddy's Night." The mess was appropriately decorated in a colour scheme of green, yellow and gold, with a profusion of golden harps and shamrock to assist (or perhaps to aggravate) that Irish feeling. In addition, there were a number of Gaelic inscriptions dotted here and there. Fortunately, they were not noticed a great deal, for not only were they a strange language in a strange land, but there were only one or two sons of Erin present to interpret them. One of these signs was placed over the bar—*over* the bar, mind you! In spite of that we paid homage to St. Pat in the real Signals style. Our visitors, of whom over half were officers of the Station, entered into the spirit of the occasion and helped to make the show a huge success. The attendance was gratifying and conducive to efforts on an even larger scale for the next show.

Someone suggested that we should be topical and have a "Gandhi Night," but we can't do that because Gandhi is only a corporal in this unit (apologies to Corpl J———).

We offer our congratulations to L/Sergt Hamilton on attaining that rank. At present he is on the deep blue sea en route for leave at home. We must get busy and have the quarters cleaned by the time he returns!

Corporals' Mess.—We are settling down for the summer. The main exercise for us on P.T. is "Arms bend." This is to get us well into training for our hot weather lubrication exercises. I expect a few members will hie away to the khuds to do some instructing, and a few to sweat on higher ratings (here's our best wishes).

A few of us—a chosen phew!—will be left here to do a spot of work. Phew! phew!

We are sorry to lose two of our number (reported elsewhere) who have reverted to the Blighty cantonment, and two who have scrounged home on six months leave (how sweetly the music of appeal must flow from your lips, Ham; do tell us how you did it).

The sergeants entertained us to a games tournament and social the other week. We had an extremely pleasant evening, and I think honours were pretty even at the end.

Entertainments.—Dances would, perhaps, be a more appropriate heading, as the majority of our unit entertainments this month have been in the form of dances.

The main shows have been a "St. Pat's" dance held in the sergeants' mess, and a fancy dress carnival in the S. and D. Club. This latter was a really tip-top show. The gentlemen who undertook to judge the dresses were not to be envied, as it must have proved decidedly difficult to select the best or most original costume amongst such an excellent turn-out. Our own band officiated. Dressed as convicts and chained together, they were ably guarded by their leader, Sergt Bardoe, as the warder. Most of the music was played in "What yer in for" time.

Since the arrival of C.S.M. Eyres, the unit has entered into a new life which will go down to posterity as the whist drive era. The Sergeants' Mess hold a weekly drive, and the attendance is normally good. It also has the effect of drawing us together for a little after-whist commiseration and keeping us from the rut of that "nothing-on-this-evening" feeling.

The Men's Mess has followed the lead set by the sergeants, and anticipate holding a weekly whist drive, with a conservative estimate of ten tables. Two whist drives have already been successfully held. Unfortunately, there are so few ladies—hardly enough to supply even one per table. These evenings are becoming quite attractive, and as they become more widely known, so the attendance should increase, together with the bar profits. It is only fair that our C.S.M. should be thanked for his untiring efforts in organising and running our whist drives.

Pipe Band.—The pipe band of the S.T.C. (India) visited us with their enchanting strains late in March, playing at functions on odd occasions and "Retreat" on two nights during their stay. It was a pleasant interlude. He must indeed have been a "strong-fellow" whom we saw casually overhauling a gramophone on one of these occasions. Of such stuff was Nero, who fiddled whilst Rome burned. Was the inspiration to overhaul the gramophone gotten *from* the music of the pipes or *because* of the music?

L/Corpl Bell J. L. has left us for Rawalpindi, where he is attached to the Border Regiment while undergoing a course.

Jocularity and Agony.—We've got a Scotsman who dared to display a recipe for haggis in his room, particularly requesting Englishmen to take note. How generous these Jocks are with their "tips" sometimes! (Note: Haggis as an entree will mak' ye digest without gourmandising. Throw away the pips, please.)

We gladly welcome Sigmn Mackie to the unit, because he'll make a good interpreter for Corpl A——s.

If Sigmn Garbutt (a despatch rider, believed to be in D.I.K.) will write to Sigmn Gorman of this unit, this appeal will have proved its worth, inasmuch as a Scotsman will have been saved an anna stamp.

Of the Clan Mackinnon, Signalman 2317905, late No. 77 Squad: Jock, please do not sacrifice me on the Passover altar. Ever pining.—Jim Harmer.

Will Sigmn Winter F. A. please communicate with L/Corpl Smith of this unit?

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

March 19th.

General.—We have just had the pleasure of entertaining the boxing team from the Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore. They certainly helped to liven us up during their very short stay, and we congratulate them on the very good show they put up. Everyone in Trimulgherry and Secunderabad knows who won the Deccan District tournament, and they also know the chorus of that song "When it's moonlight in the Rockies."

The unit managed to put up two entries in the individual contests, and both of them reached the semi-finals. They were (and still are) Sergt Hamlin and L/Corpl Costello. I have mentioned their names so that you can steer clear of them in future!

Many old members of the Div. will be sorry to hear of the death of Tarzan. He was killed whilst fighting another member of the canine tribe, about five times his own size. Tarzan has been with the unit in Kohat, Jubbulpore and Trimulgherry, and present members of the unit will undoubtedly miss him.

In Passing (to whom it may concern).—Bye-bye-bye-good-bye ; or how to become a semi-finalist. What did Brunton do with the tiger's skin? Where and what is this 97 that we hear so much about? Who is the only person allowed to " left about turn " on parade? S-s-sh! " The Squeaker." And so am I.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to 2/Lieut F. J. G. Lyle from Scarborough, and to the ten B.O.R.s who joined us from England via Jubbulpore.

Home Again.—Nine other ranks left for England, for various reasons, on the 17th of this month: L/Sergt Macfarlane, Corpl Cosstick (cheerful to the last?), L/Corpls Ede and Neale, and Signalmen Bingham, Lauder, Merchant, Stephens and Fraser. All we have to do now is wait for the next one.

An Ode (or Odour).

To ——?

From time immemorial,
So we are told,
Wise men and seers
Have essayed to unfold
The secret of how,
Without attention,
To make things go
For ever and anon.

Bacon and Lodge,
With earnest devotion,
Failed to discover
Perpetual motion.
In the life beyond,
Looking below,
They are at peace,
For now they know.

At last, 'tis found
In our Q.M. stores—
Secret no longer—
Two oscillating jaws.

W.F.K.

No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

March 24th.

General.—Having finished our last camp, we are now settling down to the hot weather routine. Signalmen Giles, Lawson and McMeechan have gone to Ranikhet with expectations of passing a B.ii. operator signals course. Our best wishes go with them.

On the Eastern Command staff exercise the Troop, with the aid of the Muttra Brigade Artillery Signal Section, had the onerous job of manning the Corps office. We have since heard that the exercise was a tremendous success ; waste paper baskets were conspicuous by their absence. Good old Slippery Sam! At the termination of the exercise, parties were allowed leave to visit New Delhi and the Talkies. From the general run of conversation, the nibs found Old Delhi more congenial (gather ye rosebuds while ye may).

The Indian ranks have *got* to go on another few months leave, and we have it on good authority that the calendar is being revised to enable those staying behind to groom three (or more) horses per diem. It is estimated that a new day of thirty-six hours will be required.

Arrivals.—Nine new remounts have arrived from the Remount Depot at Babugarh, and eight B.O.R.s from the S.T.C., Jubbulpore. Among the latter Jubb. has parted with an old S.T.C. barrack-room fixture, slightly the worse for wear but none the less serviceable (aren't you, Paddy?) The others are Signalmen White C. (Speedy), Wright V. (Gripper), Wilson C., Mays, Martin and Payne ; and last, but not least, a super-hyper shikar in Kells J. All good wishes for a long and pleasant stay in this unit.

C.Q.M.S. Hudson from Port Sunlight (save the wrapper and share in our new free dhurri scheme). Welcome, Soapy!

Departures.—To No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sergt Richardson and wife. We had visions of Richie applying the famous grip in the handy hunters jumping competition and winning the piala, but (un)fortunately Records deprived us of a superb exhibition of equitation. Never mind, Richie ; you still have the brass cup.

Further unrest is reported in the Frontier Province. No doubt this is due to " Cyclone " Taylor's arrival in B Corps, Rawalpindi. Gone, but not forgotten. Good wishes, Buck!

Oyez! oyez! Be it known and appreciated that one P. R. H. Neves, better known as Captain Eck of wireless fame, has been posted to the W/T Experimental Station to continue his researches. He will probably be able to unearth the atmospherics (neatly done up in brahn piper) as required by Susti Singh.

Things We Want to Know.—If Bolo Ram has enough sea-room for lung exercise? If the black-bug is competing in the handy hunter competition? If the Laird and Zack are on the tack?

Awards.—This month's chatthi goes to Purana Nimak: " I'm only taking photographs of the Clock Tower in the Chowk." We believe you, but——

Agony.—Will Tich Perkins and the Angell Brothers please write to Sigmn A. Stevens?

This Week's Fairy Tale.—R.A.I. para. 534. STEVE.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

April 5th.

General.—Since our last notes, we have been very busy with Brigade and other schemes ; and by the time these notes are in print, we shall be carrying out our individual training in full force.

Schemes.—Everything seemed to go exceedingly well on the Brigade schemes, and when they were over we enjoyed one or two runs of our own. Anyhow, very soon we shall be going to the rest camp at Alexandria, where we hope everything in the way of work will be forgotten for a fortnight.

We had a very good scheme about a fortnight ago, and between us we managed to see a good deal of the country. I think everybody enjoyed their three-day trip, especially the Port Said party. One party went by way of the Saggana Pyramids to Beni Suez, but I am sure that the party who went via Ismailia to Port Said had the better time, especially as they were able to bathe in the sea every morning and go sight-seeing in the town.

The trip to Beni Suez was marred by an accident, and of course this meant some delay in returning to Helmieh. The party had gone about eighty miles when the good old Terrier decided to have a rest and ran into a bridge. It so happened that he hit it with such force that it took about three hours to move the car back three yards. We were obliged to call in the assistance of the R.A.O.C., but just as they were starting off to our rescue someone discovered that the breakdown lorry was unable to move without War Office authority. This astonishing situation caused great delay, as repairs had to be done on the spot under great difficulty, but the Ordnance fellows did magnificently. In spite of this accident, the scheme went off quite well indeed, and speech and telegraphy were possible the whole time, although the distance was somewhere near 150 miles.

Queries.—We should like to know (just to clear up matters) why we always have music at meals here. It was not nearly so noticeable when we were in England.

Is it true that the first act in beauty culture is to remove the moustache? We don't really know, but we suspect that this fashion prevails behind the Imperial cash desk. Be warned, all ye who enter there, and remember Samson before it is too late.

YATIM.

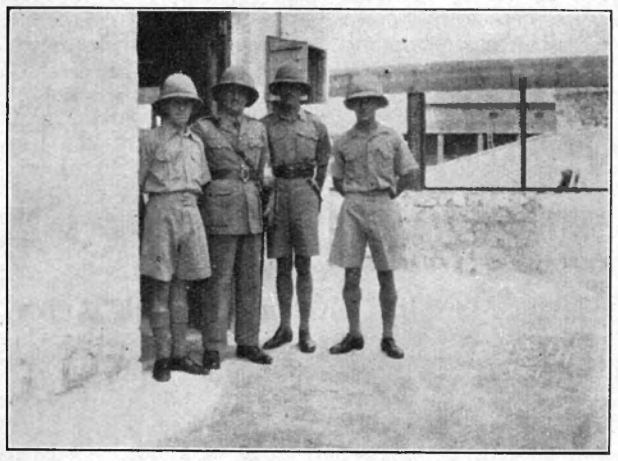
Aden Signal Section.

March 23rd.

General.—In the early morning of March 2nd (about 05.30 hrs.) H.M.T. *Dorsetshire* arrived in Aden Bay. Capt P. Jennings, M.C., and the following Signalmen disembarked: Walsh J., Bird

D., Cunningham N., Gent H., Marsland J., Fish J., Parnell H. and Danson F. They were met on the quay by Captain W. F. Sugrue, Sergt Beverley and many members of the Section. All ranks were sorry to hear of Capt Jennings' accident during the severe storm off Malta, and were glad to see his cut face healing so well.

Captain W. F. Sugrue handed over command of the Section on March 16th, and a very enjoyable farewell dinner was held on March 18th at the R.A.O.B. Lodge. Sergt Beverley proposed the health of Captain Sugrue and the seven men who are proceeding to Egypt Signals. He said the Section were sorry to lose their late O.C. and also the men who were leaving, as it was chiefly due to Captain Sugrue's interest in sport that we competed against unit teams from the whole Garrison in the Bhicajee hockey cup (knockout) last year and finally won it.



C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Walker A. R., Captain P. Jennings, M.C., Captain W. F. Sugrue, and Sergt Beverley E.

Captain Sugrue, replying, said he had been very happy at Aden and was really sorry to be going home again. He liked hot climates, and hoped he would soon be abroad again. He thanked all ranks for their excellent services whilst he was their O.C., and remarked finally that the senior A.O.C. at Aden (Group Captain C. T. MacLean, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.F.) had, only that morning, congratulated him upon the very polite way in which the Royal Signals exchange operators always spoke, and the helpful manner in which they operated the Steamer Point and Khormaksar exchanges for the R.A.F.

Our new O.C. (Captain P. Jennings) and the seven Signalmen from U.K. were then given a hearty welcome to the Section by those who were remaining. Replying, Captain Jennings said that there were two outstanding points which struck him immediately on arrival. The first was the smart appearance of the men, and secondly the amount of technical work the Foreman-of-Signals (C.Q.M.S. Walker A. R.) had carried out to rejuvenate an old and rather antiquated system of telephones installed by the Indian Signals several years ago. Continuing, Capt Jennings said he felt sure that everyone would pull together in both work and play, to keep the system and the Section as efficient as possible ; so that when the time came to hand over the Aden communications to the Bombay section of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs, everyone could feel satisfied that the Aden Signal Section had not let the Corps down whilst on loan to the R.A.F.

On Saturday, March 21st, the *Dorsetshire* again called at Aden, this time going in an opposite direction, and Capt W. F. Sugrue and Sigmn Prater embarked for the United Kingdom. Signalmen Gee, Nash, Woolnough, Hart, Herbert and Hall—not forgetting L/Corpl Bartley—also embarked for a short tour amongst the Pyramids. With them went the good wishes of the Section.

Personal.—The correspondent of 1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown, gathers that Aden is a replica of "the promised land." Far be it from me to persuade him otherwise, but may Mr. Records punish him by sending him here for a spell! We will certainly look after Sigmn Marsden—we are short of goalkeepers.

Answers to Correspondents.—No, William, the emma emma flag at Port Said is not visible at Cairo. I do not think it is necessary, anyway.

Winnie (Barrack Hill): The kiss curl can only be cultivated with patience and care, but I should not advise it with your style of forehead.

Wally (Egypt): Crushed strawberry colour for civvies would not suit your complexion. People like to tell at a glance where the collar ends and the face begins. SEASHORE.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, February 14th.

General.—The trooping season has come and gone, and we have said goodbye to many old friends and welcomed many others.

The following are the departures: C.Q.M.S.s Smith, Clarke and Harris, L/Corpls Webb and Wilkins, Signalmen Ashcroft, Earl, Johnson and Perry, to that magic land Blighty. Corporal Lewis, Signalmen Ambrose, Keeble and Stock to the gay burgh, Shanghai.

A hearty welcome is extended to the following arrivals (may their stay be glorious!): C.Q.M.S. Potts, Sergt Colley and family, Sergt Farley and family, L/Corpl Huggins, Signalmen Cameron, MacLaughlin, Paris, Convey, Scott, Pitman, Whiting, Maguire, Powley, Taylor and Ghost.

Christmas Festivities.—People at home are inclined to pity the soldier abroad, but after our last reception I am inclined to think their sympathy is a trifle wasted.

On December 19th the unit held a "slap-up" party for the children, which was certainly a great success. Corpl Wyse made an excellent Father Christmas. For the boys, of course, Christmas was (to say the least) lively, starting with pitch and toss in the morning before our swell breakfast, and ending with pitch and groan about 3 a.m. the following morning. The catering did credit to all concerned, and special recognition must be accorded the organisers and Sigmn Brown (of the commissariat department) and his faithful henchman Sigmn Bolton (our worthy mess marker). The C.S.O and our officers paid us a visit to see that we were quite comfortable. This was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations.—To C.Q.M.S. Pearce (1st class education) and C.Q.M.S. Clarke (1st class education, "D" in maths.)

New Year Honours List.—U/L/Corpls Bolton, Higgins and Maguire.

Presentation.—We are very grateful to Major A. L. Harris, M.C., C.S.O. China Command, for the very handsome inter-Section trophy he presented for competition.

Shanghai Signal Section.

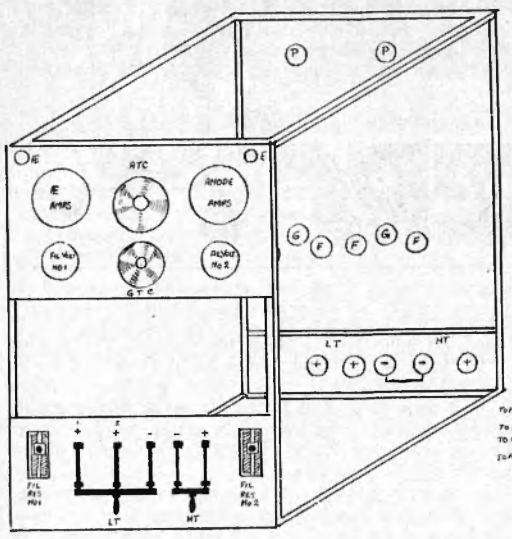
March 27th.

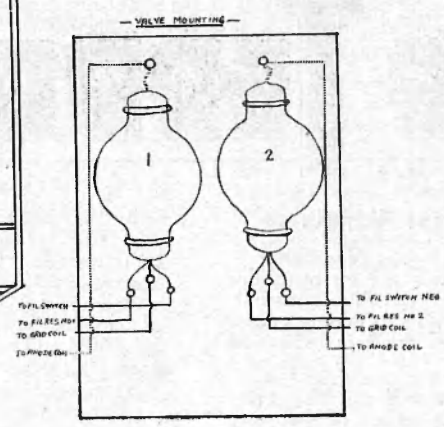
General.—After a long period of snow and rain, the weather has now taken a turn for the better. No one is better acquainted with the fact than the "darsey," who is hard at it working overtime in preparing drill, topees and summer wearing apparel for the exceptionally hot summer which is predicted for us. The swimming bath met with an accident in the collapse of the roof, caused through the weight of the snow, but is now in working order again and waiting patiently with hungry mouth for the first consignment of water.

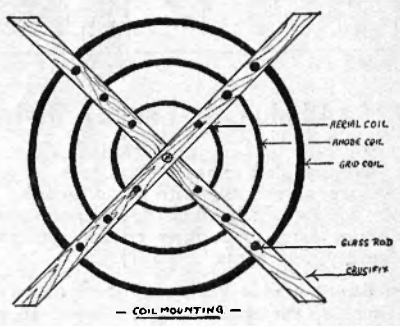
H.M.T. *Neuralia* sailed this morning with the 2nd Battn Green Howards for Bombay. The next trooper for this port of call is eagerly awaited by Shanghai's veteran soldiers, the Signals. Egypt Signals, please note—and don't forget to cheer when we pass.

Birth.—To Sigmn Rouse a son. Good luck, George! Another lineman for the Section, eh?

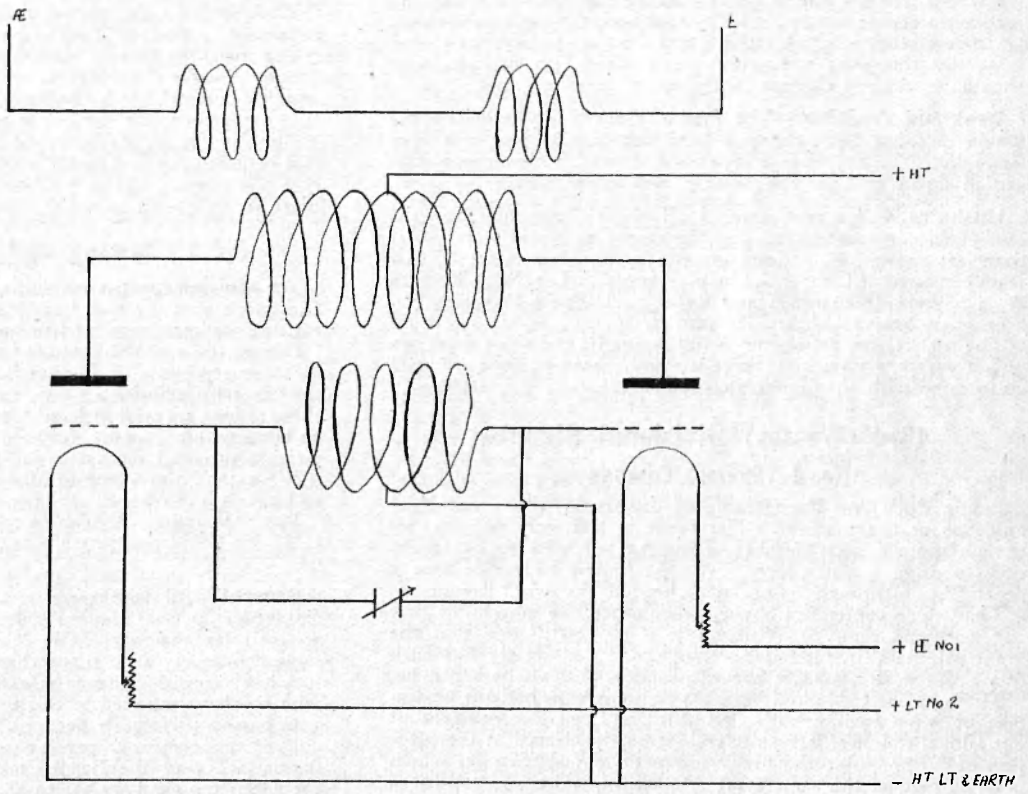
Short-Wave Transmittter.—This transmitting circuit, known as the Mesnier, is remarkably simple in construction and operation. The circuit is self-rectifying. At present we are using two A.T.250 valves and applying a plate voltage of 2000 volts A.C. direct from the mains through a step-up transformer. Although raw A.C. is applied to the plates, a remarkably good R.A.C. note is transmitted.







COILS:-
AERIAL 3 TURNS 1/4"
COPPER TUBING - 2 COILS 3" DIAM.
PLATE 8 TURNS 1/4" CT. 4" DIAM
CENTRE TAPPED TO POS. HT
GRID 5 TURNS 1/4" CT 5 1/2" DIAM.
CENTRE TAPPED TO NEG HT



No chokes or resistances are required other than the filament resistance to each valve. The grid tuning condenser should be a fairly well spaced transmitting type of .0003 capacity. An ammeter and condenser should be added to the aerial circuit and a milliammeter in the plate circuit.

Using a very small capacity G.T.C. we are able to tune from 30 metres (10,000 kcs) to 60 metres (5000 kcs) but the range could be increased by the addition of a large condenser.

The lay-out of the set will test the ingenuity of the constructor. Leads must be kept as short as possible. A fairly sound scheme would be to mount the transmitter in a box frame, having the valves mounted in the rear panel and the instruments on an ebonite panel in front of the box frame. Switches and filament resistances could be mounted on another strip at the bottom of the frame, as per diagram. Coils are mounted on glass rods, supported by two crucifixes. This is the most difficult part of the construction.

The circuit is operated locally by amateurs with remarkable results, using less power—10 watts. The majority using this circuit transmit on a " Zepp " feed antenna.

One Pliers, Please.—Storeman: " I believe you borrowed a pair of pliers yesterday." Dash: " No fear, I didn't. I only borrowed one." (We are thankful to say that Dash is not in the Signals.)

DEBROY.

[**For conclusion of Foreign Notes see foot of page 199.**]

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Burlington Street, Manchester.

We are glad to say we are busy. Not only are we busy, but we are *very* busy—with camp so near, perhaps this is natural. At any rate, it has been found necessary to hold training events in one form or another on six consecutive Sundays (who said Sunday was a restful day?)

Camp.—This year, we go forth to Cartmell on May 24th. Going so far north as this at such an early period of the year, which has so far shown very few signs of getting any warmer, we would strongly advise those who feel the cold to indulge in fur-lined sleeping suits, as it looks as though they will need them. Of course, they can sit on a Primus stove if they prefer to! Naturally this does not apply to the Cold-Tub Brigade, who should be in their element in the early morning frosts.

Week-End Training.—The first of these this year where the whole unit has been out was held last Sunday and was very successful. Things went a little slow at first, but everyone soon settled down and got the fleeting message moving.

Musketry.—The unit entered all three Companies for the Wakefield cup competition, and the scores all round were better than last year. No. 3 Company put up the best score. Their team consisted of Lieut J. Cobbing, 2/Lieut T. Lea, Sergt Redfern A., L/Sergts Brennan W. and Ryder J., L/Corpl Woollam W., Signalmen Spencer H. and Chilton R.

The unit is now almost up to full strength, and since there are only a very few vacancies, there is every reason to hope we shall go to camp with our numbers complete. JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

Riding drills and the training of drivers M/T are our chief anxieties at the moment. The horse is still very popular, although quite a good number of applicants desire to be taught how to drive a motor lorry. We are hoping to get at least a dozen "put through"—no, not through the wind-screen.

The C.O.'s conference having taken place, we now know that our week-end camp at Whitsuntide is a "cert," and that the grant will stand it. It has been suggested that we try Exmouth this time, so if a suitable site is available, that's where it'll be.

Those of our Cable and Wireless Sections who had the advantage of intermingling with the 3rd Divl Signals contingent at our annual training, last year, are extremely pleased at the prospect of further intermingling at our next annual training, which is to be held in the same spot. As we all said then, "What a splendid idea!" and it is a good decision on the part of the authorities who control our military destiny that we are to have some more. I am sure the feeling between parent and child will be as happy as it was last year. Although we shall not have Captain Goddard again, with his pleasing manner and ever-ready style which we so much appreciated, we shall, no doubt, get someone like him. Anyhow, whoever it may be, he'll be welcome.

OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

Training is going on very well in this part of the world, and the youngsters are making great efforts to beat the old 'uns. I might say they have something to beat when one thinks of the "ancients" of this Company who are still going strong.

By the time these notes appear, our first Section camp will be very near. The boys who are to form the Section are getting quite impatient to "get at it," but I wonder if they will be so keen when the wind howls and the rain pours at 'Okey. What a divine spot in wet weather! But I mustn't write disparagingly of fair Devon, or Old Spark and other Devonians will be after my blood. (The attention of Pip is drawn to the words of the song "Glorious Devon."—Old Spark.)

A new club has sprung into life—the Signals cricket club—and we live in hopes of having many good games with the Sotonian local teams. So far, our efforts to get a fixture with Hampshire have not been successful.

The football team played their last match last week. It has been quite a successful season, especially for a first year, and it is the intention to join a local league next season.

Sergt George Cle——ly is in strict training for annual camp, and has thrown out a challenge to take on all comers by then. It is a joy to watch him. He recommends kippers for training.

Our Fred is in the midst of his struggles with indent forms and estimates, and is really enjoying life at present. He hopes that the powers-that-be will invent more schemes and umpteen more Army Forms to enable him to keep busy. PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

We apologise for the non-appearance of our notes in last issue. Old Spark kept the mail bag open until the last moment, but the 16th of the month seemed to have come round too quickly.

During the past two months there has been a marked improvement in recruiting in Plymouth, and we are hopeful of taking the largest number to camp that this Company has yet had. Preparations are well in hand for our Whitsun week-end training, and many are looking forward to renewing acquaintances in Teignmouth and district.

We extend a welcome to Miss Harris, with our congratulations to Captain and Mrs. P. A. Harris on the happy event; to Capt. "Pop" Harris on his return to duty at Plymouth; and to Mr. C. G. H. Govier, with our best wishes for a happy stay with the unit. THREECOY.

General.—All who were serving in the unit when Captain Cyril Murray was adjutant will be pleased to note that he has attained his majority. The "old gang" dwindles away, but quite a number can join together in a message of congratulation.

A very cordial welcome is extended to Mr. C. G. H. Govier, who has been gazetted to this unit. He has been posted to No. 3 Company (Plymouth Section).

I've just received, per air mail from India, a letter from Sigmn Selley of the Royal Corps, who is stationed at Quetta. He sends his good wishes to all his old friends in the unit.

Charlie Rew, a former C.S.M. of No. 1 Company (now in Canada) writes to say that he's holding his own notwithstanding the bad times which have haunted his part of the Dominion for the past two years. He sends "Cheerio!" to old pals, and ends by saying, "I'm still keeping well in the kink."

I often get letters from people in various parts of the world, asking me to take off the mask and reveal my identity.

One recently came addressed to "Old Spark, Wessex Signals," and it proved to be from one now holding high rank at an Army Vocational Training Centre who had (he said) been reading in THE WIRE some interesting bits concerning the Wessex Signals. He (the writer) was at one time a very "live wire" in the Wessex Divisional Engineers (pre-war) of which the Wessex Signal Company formed part.

Another letter, which came from Brussels, was from an old war-time Wessex signaller, now attached to the British Embassy.

I mention these facts as further instances of how THE WIRE travels and what good company it gets into. OLD SPARK.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

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

Apologies are tendered for the absence of notes last month. Probably, from the printer's point of view, this was as it should be, as our contemporary with No. 2 Company at Brighton more than made up for the amount of space we saved.

Training.—A very successful Easter week-end was spent at Ashford, and although we had the usual complement of rain, quite a lot of useful work was got through. A combined line and wireless scheme and a class for recruits kept all ranks fully occupied, and everybody left Ashford well satisfied.

Sport.—We do not know whether to congratulate or to condole with our parent unit, the 4th Divl Signals, on their display in the Army Cup final. They must certainly be congratulated on their high standard of football and the way they stuck it when everything seemed to be against them. A fine game, played under distressing conditions—with a little bit of luck, that so often decides these issues, on the other side. The writer of these notes met so many old friends there that he fervently hopes that the 4th Div. get into the final again next year.

Promotions.—The undermentioned are congratulated on having taken one more step up the ladder: Sergt Marchant, L/Sergts Fowler, Howell and Stone, Corpls Watson and Walton, L/Corpls Knapp and Walker.

Attestations.—Twenty-six recruits have so far come into the fold this year. We offer them a hearty welcome, reminding them that it is the first year which is the worst, and that most men of this unit, when their four are up, come and ask for more.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—To Nos. 1 and 3 Companies: 16th—16th—16th—16th of each month. Lest you forget!

Everyone expressed disappointment at the non-appearance of notes from Headquarters.

Now tune in to Brighton, please. Lest readers should get mystified, let me explain why I am broadcasting on a different wave-length than before, and that in consequence notes will be shorter than usual. The room where my writing activities usually take place is now in a state of siege through spring renovations (women must have their way, sometimes) so I have had to change to another part that is more normal.

Easter Training.—We have arrived back from our Easter training at Ashford, where we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The attendance was remarkably good, no fewer than fifty per cent. being present. This is very gratifying to everyone concerned. Now we shall look forward to an even greater attendance at Whitsun training.

The weather was very unkind to us, and it rained nearly the whole time, but even that failed to damp the spirits of the men. We found the drill hall of the 97th Brigade very comfortable—in fact, ideal for the housing of Divisional Signals. It was whispered that the warrant officers and sergeants were more than comfortable, and the service only rivalled by Lyons. Well done, Bill! I think you will walk straight into the messing job at annual training.

We were very pleased to see the old-timers present, including Spagger, and to notice that the latter actually arrived home complete with cap this time.

On Saturday we were honoured by a visit of the Divisional Commander, Major-General H. R. Peck, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who during his tour of inspection was greatly interested in what he saw. His comments were greatly appreciated by all concerned. On the Sunday we had our late commanding officer, now D/C.S.O. Colonel A. S. Angwin, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., in our midst.

The Company was asked to provide two Brigade signal offices, together with personnel to work the Battery ends. These were provided by E and F Sections, under the command of Lieuts. Freer-Ash and Seton respectively. I think they were successful in their undertaking, being through to all Batteries before time and maintaining communications throughout the day.

The opportunity was taken for trying out mechanised cable laying, and this proved successful, but the detachments need more practice.

An operators class was in progress under Captain Ford, and some of our recruits greatly benefited by it. I am sure they came away with more knowledge of signalling than when they arrived there.

Heard at Ashford.—Scene: C.O.'s inspection, first morning after arrival. C.O. (checking a sergeant for not wearing his lanyard): "Where's your lanyard, sergeant?" Sergeant: "My boy's a scout, and he went to camp first." And the C.O. passed on! However, Pete, you'll never spring that one again.

Musketry.—The shoot for the Lord Wakefield trophy took place on March 22nd. The result is awaited with interest. We start on the open range at Mile Oak on Sunday, April 26th, when we hope to have a good attendance. NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

H.Q., Phœnix Street, Derby, April 14th.

Although this is not the Sports Section, we would like to condole with our comrades of the 4th Divl Signals in not winning the Army Cup, but congratulate them on the splendid fight they put up against such teams as the D.L.I. and the Foresters. Although we are in the home of the Foresters, we never forget that we are Signals, and we are proud to think that a comparatively small unit like the 4th Divl Signals should be so near to bringing such an honour to the Corps.

Training.—A tactical scheme without troops was held on March 22nd. This proved to be most interesting from start to finish. To go into detail is out of the question here. We thank Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., and the officers of 1st Divl Signals for coming and giving us such good help and instruction; also Colonel Hetherington, Captains Simpson, Walker and Baines, of the local Territorial units, for their valuable assistance. We trust they were to some extent recompensed by the large number of our officers, w.o.s and sergeants attending, and the interest taken by them in the scheme.

We were very pleased to hear from our old P.S.I. and comrade, C.Q.M.S. Gaffney, who is now enjoying the sunny climes of Egypt. It is rather a long time, Wally (thirty years) since I was there, but I still remember the happy times I had, and I hope your stay will be happy, too—although we all know you can be happy anywhere.

Our hearty congratulations to Sergt Lombard on gaining that coveted and essential certificate for promotion, the 1st class certificate of education (another good old Wally); also to Signalman Wilson C. W., late of No. 2 Company. MEREBIMUR.

47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, High Street, London, S.W.6

After a long period of silence we have again got on THE WIRE wave-length, and now hope to keep in constant touch.

Training.—Section and recruit training continues, and in spite of weather conditions much good work was done during the Easter holiday. No. 2 Company went to Aldershot, being accommodated by 1st Divl Signals at Mons Barracks, and our best thanks are due to them for the excellent manner in which they looked after us. The Rutlish School Cadet Contingent were also represented with No. 2 Company, and worthily upheld the reputation of the Corps. They appeared to thoroughly enjoy their visits to the R.T.C., R.A.F. and Command wireless station.

An excellent four-day scheme was carried out by A Section in conjunction with the A.D.M.S. 47th Division in the Aldershot district, much ground being covered in the process.

We understand that annual training will take place in the neighbourhood of Eastbourne, and it is understood that the bathing will be more appreciated than was the case at Rushmoor last year (the Sergeants' Mess excepted).

G.O.C.'s Inspection.—On March 16th the unit was inspected by Major-General D. D. F. Oldman, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., our new Divisional Commander. At least 80 per cent. of the unit were on parade, D Section (the Rutlish School Contingent) being mentioned for their smartness and steadiness,

Levee.—2/Lieuts E. C. Codd, P. R. Mann and G. L. Davies had the honour of being presented to His Majesty the King at the Levee on March 24th.

Social.—The unit dances continue successfully. Special mention must be made of that held on St. Patrick's Night, when a very large number attended and the drill hall was crowded.

Appointments.—After keen competition in the recent examination for junior n.c.o.s, we congratulate the undermentioned on obtaining the first four places and their subsequent appointment to Lance-Corporal: Pettifer R. C. E., Burrows L. J., Burnett E. F. and Rowse E. J.

Departures.—Owing to the premature disclosure of his age, another of our stalwarts has retired. Sergeant S. Meager has a record of many years faithful service to his credit, and though removed from the active list, drill nights still find him at headquarters, shadowing the R.S.M.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

General.—Very soon we will be having our noses to the grindstone again, for individual training re-commences on April 28th, and we are looking forward to giving our trade ratings a buck-up.

Our recruits are coming along splendidly, and considering the rather confined area in which they are carrying out their first drills, we think they are doing remarkably well.

We are one and all eagerly looking forward to the annual camp at St. Andrew's, which commences on July 18th, and No. 1 Company is confident, to a man, that it will be able to hold its own once again.

N.W.F. 1930.—We were absolutely thrilled to death with the "N.F.W. 1930" article, and the "to be continued in our next" held us spellbound. The author would almost lead us to think that the signalmen on Kajuri Plain are having a splendid picnic, but we stay-at-homes can hardly believe that. We all raise our hats to the lads who are holding 'em back. It must be stoking up again where the golden Bara river wends its weary way through the red-hot nullahs of Kajuri.

Appointments.—We offer hearty congratulations to A/R.S.M. Quick P. on his appointment to that rank. May his stay with us be a long one! We'd hate to lose him now we've got to know his "fizzing" ways so well, and hope that, although he has been posted to unit headquarters, he will still take a fatherly interest in us (too fizzing true).

Arrivals.—We extended the hand of welcome to Sergeant Thomas R. H. P. (our new P.S.I.) on April 2nd. We trust he will enjoy his stay with us, although at the moment it is apparent that he is experiencing considerable difficulty with the language question. It is rumoured that he is contemplating joining the ranks of the benedicts and already has his eye on a certain convenient married quarters. Isn't it surprising how soon these ex-India wallahs get roped into the net!

Boxing.—We congratulate Sigmn Rafferty M. on his achievement in donning the kilt, by temporarily transferring to the 4th Gordon Highlanders T.A., for the purpose of walking off with the silver cup in the novices boxing competition recently held by that unit (another dark horse for our own boxing team!)

Sergeants' Mess.—The least said about this, the better!

Gem.—P.S.I., who has been teaching "Ranks in the Army" (to recruit on parade): "How would you recognise a C.Q.M.S.?" Recruit: "By his eye-glasses, sir!" LANKA MK. II.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals and Supplementary Reserve.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow, April 13th.

General.—Recruiting has been going well during the winter season, and the Glasgow Sections of the Divisional Signals should arrive at camp up to strength. Sections commenced training in earnest on April 15th, in preparation for annual training. Troon again becomes our destination, and the unit is to occupy the same camping ground.

Officers' Ball.—A huge success, with a company of about eighty, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed themselves,

Sergeants' Mess.—The annual dinner took place at Jardine Street on March 20th. A large company of past and present Mess members sat down to a dinner and social evening. The guests included Colonel J. S. Muirhead, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., and our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel F. L. Robertson, M.C. During the evening the C.O. presented ex-C.Q.M.S. George Crawford with a gold medal, on behalf of his fellow Mess members, as a token of appreciation of the services he rendered as president of the Mess committee. In reply to Colonel Robertson's words of congratulation, Mr. Crawford said he wished the authorities would raise the age limit to seventy, as in that case he would still be a proud member of the unit. He concluded his thanks with a few verses of "Those Golden Kippers."

Congratulations.—To Sergt and Mrs. Sinclair on the arrival of "young Gordon." May I register him as a future member of the Signals Old Comrades Association, Colin?

Signals Old Comrades Association.—Yes, Mr. Secretary, it is coming—that Glasgow Branch; and judging by the response made up to the time of writing, it is going to be "alive." [Splendid! Further reports anticipated with the greatest interest. —ED.] LOWSIGS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff, April 14th.

General.—The Trade Board has been busy with those attending the individual course. Some good results were obtained in all branches. The attendance was well maintained throughout the course. The officers, also, have benefited a good deal by the series of lectures that have been in progress during the winter.

Company training is in full swing. Special classes for prospective M.T. drivers are being held under Captain F. T. Arnold, Officer i/c Transport, and the recruits of the unit have been formed into one class for instruction under Sergt Green.

A tactical exercise for selected w.o.s and n.c.o.s is being held on May 9th/10th at our summer residence, Lavernock. Given fine weather, the personnel attending will ensure that full benefit is taken of the exercise.

Shooting.—Although the official results of the Sir Charles Wakefield cup have not yet been published, our own figures show a marked improvement in the three Company teams. No. 1 scored a total of approximately 504 (an increase of over 100), No. 2, 610 (an increase of 40), and No. 3, 527 (an increase of over 100). Five of the No. 2 Company team maintained an excellent average, which compares very favourably with the leading teams in last year's competition, their scores being: Corpl Pinnel 90, Sergt Llewellyn 88, Sergt Doyle 87, Corpl Milton 85, and Sergt H. Baxter 81. We expect to see a substantial rise in our position when the official returns are published.

Practice has commenced on the miniature range for the Webber cup, open to all T.A. units in Glamorgan, and the unit Salmon trophy. We are looking forward to going one better than runners-up in the Victory shield at Porthcawl, on Whit Sunday, on the open range.

Social.—The final social evening of the season in connection with the w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess was held on Saturday, April 4th. There was a good attendance, and after the whist, dancing was indulged in until midnight.

This Month's Best.—Heard on the Trade Board. Instructor (holding spike of Lucas lamp): "What is this called?" Signalman: "Earth pin, sir." Instructor: "When is it used?" Signalman: "When it's foggy, sir."

By the Way.—Walking into H.Q. office recently, I had the impression that Heath Robinson had joined us, judging by the numerous diagrams and sketches in the waste paper basket; but I was informed that efforts were being made to invent a mechanical No. 6 for the cable wagon, in replacement of the horse!

THE LEEK.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals.

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1, April 8th.

After an absence for a considerable period, we're blue again—sorry! we're in again—but what we are going to write about now we *are* in, I haven't the foggiest notion. Still, here goes, just as if we had been sending in notes regularly for months past,

General.—On March 26th we concluded a very successful series of courses for linemen and operators. Forty-five n.c.o.s and men attended and, we hope, profited by them. That doesn't sound a lot, but it is only a little short of one-third of our total strength, so that it was really a very praiseworthy effort.

Referring to our shortage of numbers, this has been for some time, and still is, a very serious problem. Our commanding officer and adjutant have been putting in untold hours in an endeavour to solve it, and I believe it will not be long before they do so; and a considerable improvement in our strength is confidently anticipated between now and annual camp.

We have just concluded a very happy week-end at Aldershot, where seven officers and about seventy other ranks were accommodated with our parent unit and old friends the 2nd Divisional Signals. Although the weather was not particularly kind to us, a very instructive time was spent in operating, both line and visual, C and A sets, and the mechanical cable layer—all of which, together with instructors, were supplied by 2nd Divisional Signals. In addition to this, the officers spent Sunday on a tactical exercise without troops, and as they have all returned to London, presumably the exercise was brought to a successful conclusion.

Whilst on the subject of Easter, I must not forget to mention the great pleasure *and* disappointment some of us had on Easter Monday in watching the 4th Divisional Signals play the Sherwood Foresters in the final of the Army Cup. We saw a jolly good game, and with the least bit of luck we should have had the pleasure of seeing yet another Army trophy going to Signals; but it was not to be, and Signals had to retire beaten but by no means disgraced. Congratulations, 4th Divisional Signals! We wish you better luck next time.

It's a funny thing how one great event reminds one of another. I refer to the other football match which was played at Aldershot during the Easter week-end, but I will leave 2nd Divl Signals to report on that if they dare.

Sergeants' Mess.—On Saturday, March 28th, we held our annual dinner at headquarters, at which about 110 members and guests sat down. The committee responsible for the arrangements were C.S.M. Tyrrel, C.S.M. Lloyd, C.Q.M.S.s Smith and Waite, and Sergts London, Smith and Webb, and they are to be congratulated on a most excellent show. R.S.M. Grant was in the chair, and (as the Society papers would say) amongst those present were Colonel J. Waley Cohen, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D. (our hon. colonel), Colonel H. F. Fox, T.D. (our late C.O.), Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Ozanne, M.C. (our present C.O.), Major H. Lloyd Howard of the 47th Divl Signals (an old C.O. of the unit), Major W. Knight, T.D. (late S.R.), Major J. P. Appleby (S.R.), Captain L. D. Goddard (our adjutant), Captain F. C. McMurray, Captain A. C. C. Willway, and R.S.M. Edwards, R.Q.S.M. Bayliss, C.S.M. Wensley and Sergt Carey from 2nd Divl Signals, and many others.

R.S.M. Grant proposed the toast of "H.M. the King." R.S.M. Sewell proposed "Our Officers," which was responded to by Lieut.-Col. Ozanne, and C.S.M. Tyrrel proposed "Our Guests," which was responded to by Major Lloyd Howard.

After the dinner the hall was cleared and the company danced from about 10 till 11.45 p.m., after which "Auld Lang Syne" and "The King" were sung, and a wonderful show was brought to a close.

About twenty members of the Mess attended Easter training at Aldershot, and spent an instructive and enjoyable time with our old friends there. We wish to thank R.S.M. Edwards and the members of the Aldershot Mess for the excellent way in which they entertained us during our stay, and especially to congratulate them on the wonderful catering show they put up on Easter Monday, when they entertained about 180 members and friends to lunch and tea on the occasion of the Army Cup final. (C.G.R.B. was in his element, and certainly knows the secret of successful entertaining.—N.G.)

We left behind us at Aldershot R.S.M. Sewell and C.Q.M.S. Smith (of the S.R.) and C.S.M.s Lloyd, Ellet and West, and C.Q.M.S.s Webb and Mennie, who are spending a further period of attachment at Aldershot in an endeavour to become "good boys." We hope it kept fine for them (they will be back with us again before these notes appear in print).

We also wish to thank the members of the Corporals' Mess at Aldershot for the fine evening's entertainment they gave us on Saturday night. We very much appreciated and enjoyed it.

My pencil seems to have run on and on, and I expect the Editor will be pretty drastic with his blue pencil; so, having thought of yet another nom de plume, I will pack up until next time.

GEE HEN.

UNITS ABROAD—continued.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, April 9th.

General.—"Oh, to be in England now that spring is there!" does not seem to appeal to many of our correspondents in THE WIRE. That's the worst of dodging it at home. Anyway, we have returned to our perpetual sunshine now that the fleets have left us.

The Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleets have sailed for their respective homes, and in consequence sport has abated somewhat. We were treated to some very fine displays of football and boxing while they were here, and we wish they would come more often and give us displays in other sports.

Now that the football season has finished, we are looking forward to cricket and rowing—of course, we in Gib are great sea serpents!

We had rather a nasty shock on Good Friday, when H.M.S. *Glorious* (aircraft carrier) came in after her collision with a French liner. One would not think it possible for such a ship to be twisted so!

We have found another scribe in our midst, and are indebted to him for his article on "The Rock" which we hope is being published in the current issue of our Magazine. [This is not yet to hand.—ED.]

H.M.T. *Lancashire* called in here the other day, and a few old faces were noticed on board.

Departures (Permanent and Semi-Permanent).—We have said farewell to the following since our last notes were written, and incidentally the office staff have been heard sighing with relief at having finished drafting returns and the rush tactics for another trooping season.

L/Corpl Marsh, Signalmen Bell and Clapp, left per the *Lancashire* on April 1st. L/Corpl Smith and family are due to leave per the s.s. *Narkunda* on the 13th. We wish them all the best, and hope they will call in and see us on their way out East very soon.

Signalmen Rawlinson and Waller are attached to H.M.S. *Tourmaline* during the period of the Local Defence Flotilla's spring cruise—in other words, a Cook's tour round sunny Spain.

Re-Engagements.—Sigmn Hicks F. W. (Hair-Pin) of boat house fame, to complete twenty-one years with the Colours (the old-timers will do it!)

Inspection Forthcoming.—In anticipation of the annual inspection by H.E. the Governor and C.-in-C., the barracks are at present undergoing the usual spring clean (no, we do not require any Hoovers, thank you!)

Birth.—To L/Corpl and Mrs. Smith, a daughter (Emily Barbara). Hard luck, that marriage allowance being reduced!

This Month's Best.—Scene: the Messing Office. Signalman (to Messing Corporal): "The tea was not very good this morning, corporal." Corporal: "What! moaning about the tea again?" Signalman: "Yes, I should think so! how would you like to drink Shamrock tea?" Corporal (perplexed): "W-w-what d-d-o you mean?" Signalman: "Why, that tea made with three leaves."

Heard in the N.C.O.s Mess (after reading the extensions in THE WIRE).—"If the author of 'Old soldiers never die' wasn't in the R.E. Signals, well, he should have been!"

Agony.—Am still waiting, D.L.—Egypt. L/Corpl Rowe C.: Have heard that you re-engaged.—B.

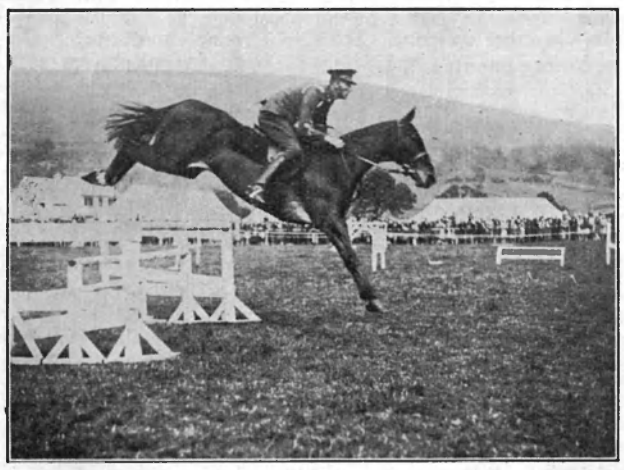
GIBSIGS.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Football.—On March 16th, after much apprehension (what with York being placed out of bounds owing to spotted fever, and a heavy downpour of snow), we witnessed a most thrilling match at Darlington between the 4th Divl Signals and the Durham Light Infantry, in the semi-final of the Army cup.

Plenty of support was afforded by the Signal Training Centre, the 5th Divl Signals, and the 4th Divl Signals themselves. Buses could be spotted as far as the eye could see along the route, and everyone who attended agreed that he had his money's worth of thrills and was given a treat of good hard clean soccer. The manner in which the Signals recovered after being two down in the second half, and then went on to take the lead which was maintained to the end, was an object lesson in the spirit of enthusiasm which pervaded the whole of the team. With a team such as this, in which every man gave of his best towards winning, it is not necessary to mention individual efforts. The team are to be congratulated on passing into the final of the Army cup for the first time since the inauguration of the Corps, and especially on disposing of such a clever side as the D.L.I., who have been "Cock of the North" for some time. We know the D.L.I. can score goals (as the Training Battalion will agree) for they afterwards descended, thirsting for blood, on the T.B. ground and peppered them with sixteen!

The Army final at Aldershot, on Easter Monday, produced another thrilling match, but unfortunately Signals hadn't their best shooting boots on for this great occasion. There was strong support from past and present members of the Corps from all over the country. The weather was not good, there being a drizzling rain most of the day. As an accurate account was given in *The Times* on the following day, and the result was passed to all Signal units by their representatives within a few minutes, there is no need to repeat it here. We can, however, express our appreciation of the 4th Divl Signals' achievement in passing from junior football to Army cup finalists in one year—which must, no doubt, be something of a record, especially for a unit so small numerically. We hope to hear more of them in the future.



C.S.M. Young, on "Baby," clearing the triple bar in a competition at Reeth last year.

[*Photo by Lieut Ponsonby*]

Jumping.—We heartily congratulate the jumping team on winning the Northern Command championship for the third year in succession. On March 21st our team, comprising C.S.M. Young on "Baby," Sergt Green on "Judy," L/Sergt Bennett on "Chance," and Corpl Donahue on "Roger," competed against the 21st Field Brigade R.A. and collected 19¼ faults against 28 of the R.A. on the two rounds. The best performance of the day was that of "Baby," with C.S.M. Young up—he had two clear rounds, and never looked like touching so much as a lath. Sergt Green on "Judy," on his second run, landed plump into the centre of the triple bar, and only by skilful horsemanship did he save himself from being thrown. We hope the team will be in good fettle next month and give a good account of themselves at Olympia. We all wish them every success.

Athletics.—Training for athletics will have commenced under L/Sergt Morris W. J. ere these notes appear in print, and we hope to find some new talent this year to replace our losses during the last few months. Anybody who has any wish to perform in any event should make himself known as soon as possible.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Boxing.—Congratulations to the Battalion novices team who put up such a good show in the Catterick Garrison novices open competition: three finalists out of five entries.

Sigmn Warburton won the feather weights in excellent style. Sigmn Grace was runner-up in the light weights, and Signalman Rogers in the welter weights. Signalmen Lunt and Wilson were beaten in the semi-finals of the middle and light heavy weights respectively, but both showed good form against more experienced fighters.

Football.—D Company have done exceptionally well this year at both soccer and rugger. "A" soccer team headed the table in the inter-Company competition, and "B" team also headed the table of the second string, both teams being unbeaten throughout the season.

The second rugger team went through the season without having a point scored against them. The first team tied for second place with Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Soccer.—The Inter-Company League games have now been completed. Our first and second strings were runners-up to D Company in their respective leagues, while the third team, appropriately enough, occupied third place. Had it not been for an unfortunate stoppage of the referee's watch resulting in eight minutes overtime being played, we should have beaten D Company first team and headed the table. Still, we have gathered in a useful ten points towards the Mackworth trophy.

F v. D Company—1st team, 3—3; 2nd, 2—5; 3rd, 6—1.
F v. E Company—1st team, 2—3; 2nd, 6—1; 3rd, 2—3.

As already mentioned in our Company notes, "A" team won the Garrison boys' cup, beating the East Lancs. boys by 6—2. The runners-up seemed to be stones heavier than our team, but the latter were far superior in tactics and at half-time had established a useful lead of two goals, scored by Bennett and Bird. On changing over, the Signals soon went further ahead. Buckman crowned a solo run with an excellent goal, and then got

another from a goalmouth scramble. Bennett added a fifth, and an East Lancs defender put through his own goal, making the score six. Signals then rested on their oars, and their opponents managed to get a brace by way of consolation. The cup was presented to L/Corpl Boy Buckman (captain) by Major-General Kirke, amidst great enthusiasm. We tender our best thanks to the several hundred supporters from the S.T.C. who turned up to give the Signals boys their enthusiastic support.

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Hockey.—The Company won the inter-Company hockey trophy by defeating No. 2 Company by one goal to nil.

Football.—A team comprising Corporal Staerck; Signalmen Summers and Wright; L/Corpl Lindsay, Sigmn MacDougall and L/Corpl Cooper; Signalmen Kelly and Hogan, Sergt Drudge, L/Corpl Debell and Sigmn Thompson, represented A Section in a match versus E Section.

For the first twenty minutes E Section had the best of the game, but failed to score from two corner kicks. Play swung from end to end, A having some very bad luck and Drudge shooting wide on two occasions. After a great deal of mid-field play, in which A were pressing hard, Debell, receiving the ball from Thompson, ran through and scored. Half-time arrived and E had not equalised. In the second half Debell netted two more before E got their first and last goal, and the game was played to a finish without any addition to either score. Result: A Section 3, E Section 1.

At a later date, A Section met their Waterloo when they played No. 6 Artillery Signal Section. The match was full of incident and the final score was A Section 2, No. 6 Artillery Signal Sec. 3.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

Congratulations to the hockey eleven! In the final of the Air Defence Brigade hockey cup they beat A Company S/L Battn R.E. by one goal to nil. This was the hardest match seen for many a day. At the end of time the score sheet stood blank. Extra time was played, and still no score. Spectators had shouted themselves hoarse and were croaking their views about it. Somebody suggested tossing for it! A movement in midfield, and we knew that even further extra time was to be played.

Spectators were silent now—the battle of the mighty had begun again. Signals pressed hotly, and a furious scuffle near the Sappers goal nearly bore fruit. The teams crossed over (some crawled!) and excitement knew no bounds. Somebody on the line began chanting Kipling's "Hold On," and this A.D.B. Signals did right well. Time and again they swept down the field, but always the Sappers pushed them back. A minute to go—was there never to be a definite result? Then a last despairing rush, a heap of struggling humanity packed in the Sappers goal, a mighty shout of "Through!"—and we had won. Not a moment too soon, for the umpires played quite a natty duet on their whistles. A great game—for the spectators!

After this, there was much rejoicing in the camp, bright faces and smiling eyes. We had won the cup! But, alas! Fate stepped in, and there was much discontent and grumbling among the tribe of Signals. It transpired that the tribe of 2nd A.A. Brigade R.A. (Portsmouth) felt neglected, and they moved bodily to Blackdown and demanded that another final should be played. The reason for this ultimatum was not generally known, but another final *was* played.

The teams met on a perfect day of English spring. The game opened gently, as though the 2nd A.A.s were sorry they had demanded the match. Both sides showed considerable skill and perfect passing. Half-time arrived without any score. The second half was much the same as the first. We scored one goal, which was disallowed, the umpire ruling that the ball had passed through the side of the net (as this had come apart from the post). Full time—no score. Was history to be repeated?

Extra time was ordered. In the first half we went away with a rush and quickly scored, and the teams crossed over with Signals leading. Another goal came our way upon the resumption, and this proved to be the last scored, so we ran out the eventual winners by two goals to nil. Credit is due to the whole team, as on both occasions they all played like veritable heroes.

Team—L/Corpl Purdy; Major Richards, R.A. and L/Corpl Cook; Corpl Blight, Lieut Sanders and Sigmn Cousens; Sigmn Greenstreet, L/Corpl Fawcett, L/Sergt Bloodworth, Signalman Tinkler, Captain Wasey. Reserve: L/Corpl Wyman. Against the 2nd A.A. Brigade R.A., L/Corpl Wyman came in for Sigmn Greenstreet (injured).

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

Boxing.—On the night of March 26th a boxing match was held between the 1st King's Dragoon Guards and this unit, with a special contest between Sergt Birkett (1st K.D.G.s) and Sergt Childs (3rd Divl Signals).

The match was timed to start at 8 p.m., and at 7.50 the hall was packed with a mildly excited crowd. Our C.O. and all available officers were present. Until the first fight was announced, the K.D.G. dance band entertained us with popular songs and dance music, which they rendered in their own inimitable style. There were ten fights and the special contest already mentioned, making a total of eleven.

The first fight was between Tpr Barton and Sigmn Crebbin. Both men entered the ring looking wonderfully fit. In the first round we saw some very good fighting, both men getting home with one or two good hits. The second round was very close, and the third and last saw Crebbin a close winner on points. This welter weight fight was very close all round, and both contestants put up an excellent show.

The second fight, middle weight, was between Tpr Howard and Sigmn Darlington. This was also a very good and close fight, which resulted in a win on points for Howard.

The third fight, another welter weight, was staged between Tpr Eburn and L/Corpl Munn. This was a very good fight, and some first-rate in-fighting was witnessed. Eburn won this fight on points.

The fourth fight, feather weight, was between Tpr Johnson and Sigmn Richards. Johnson was unfortunately disqualified.

The special contest, middles, was between Sergeant Birkett (K.D.G.) and Sergt Childs (3rd Divl Signals). This was a very good fight indeed, and both men caused considerable amusement by their laughter during the rounds. Sergt Childs was eventually judged the winner on points.

In the sixth fight, middle weight, between Tpr Potter and Corpl Walby, the former won on a technical knock-out.

The seventh fight, welter weight, was between Tpr Shirley and Sigmn Percival. This was another very good fight, and Percival won on points.

The eighth fight, between Corporal Warrener and Sigmn Lovegrove, was another welter weight, and Warrener won on a technical knock-out.

The ninth fight, also welter weight, between L/Corpl Dale and Sigmn Stringer, was a very close fight indeed, Stringer winning on points.

The tenth fight, light weight, was between Tpr Thomson and Sigmn Lane. Thomson won on a technical knock-out.

The eleventh and last fight, heavy weight, was between 2/Lt. A. B. Whatman (Royal Signals) and L/Corpl Carter (K.D.G.). This was a good and very close fight, which eventually resulted in a win for Carter on points.

The Signals lost the contest by one point (16—17) which was a very creditable performance for a small unit.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Cross-Country.—We competed in the Army cross-country race at Borden, on March 17th, and gained third place. We congratulate the team, for they trained hard; and but for the fact that Sergt Iveson was unable to train, that Sergt Cotterell could only do so in the last fortnight, and that Sigmn Hall was unable to run, we should undoubtedly have finished first or second. Had one of the members of last year's team buckled in and trained instead of being lazy and crying off, I feel sure we should have won the race and put another feather in Signals' cap. However, we must hope for better things next year. Our luck seems to have been out in the past, but if those fellows who can run will get in training early and let us see what talent there is in the unit, I'm sure we shall go one better another time.

The first three teams and points were: 1, 2nd Battn D.C.L.I., 401; 2, 2nd Battn The Buffs, 439; 3, 3rd Divl Signals, 453.

Our team was: Sergt Cotterell, Corpls Broadley and McKenzie, L/Corpls Beale and Pells, Signalmen Ward, Greatorex, Hudson, Hawthorne, Robinson, Strickland, Pipe, Rushmere and Kirk, and Driver Stokes. The first three of our men were Corpl Broadley (3rd), Sigmn Ward (14th) and Sergt Cotterell (21st). Corporal Broadley and Sigmn Ward won their Army colours.

Hockey.—No. 2 Company were knocked out of the inter-Company, Battery, etc., Garrison tournament by the 14th Light Battery R.A., by three clear goals, in the semi-final. We were chagrined, in the second half, to see shot after shot go just one or two inches wide of the mark or hitting the goalie's pads. With the advent of new arrivals we have now a very strong team.

The first round of the inter-Company tournament was played on April 14th. No. 2 Company beat No. 1 by 2—1. It was a very good game and surprismgly even, as No. 2 Company have quite a number of regimental players and certainly looked (on paper) as if they would win easily. However, what No. 1 Company lacked in renowned players, they made up for with plenty of grit, and it took No. 2 Company all their time to win.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Soccer.—The following are the results of games played since our last notes were sent:—

Beat 1st Battn Durham Light Infantry, semi-final Army cup, by 3—2.
Beat 2nd Battn Northamptonshire Regt., Border League, by 3—1.
Lost to Stowmarket, Border League, by 1—2.
Lost to 1st Battn Sherwood Foresters, final Army cup, by 1—2.
Lost to 17th Field Brigade R.A., Border League, by 0—5.
Beat 1st Battn Middlesex Regt., Border League, by 2—1.
Beat 2nd Battn The Black Watch, Border League, by 3—0.

It will have been seen from last month's notes that the semi-final tie against the Durham Light Infantry was delayed owing to snow. This meant an enforced stay for a week with the Training Battalion at Catterick, and the match was ultimately played on March 16th on the Darlington Football Club ground. A week of idleness might well have proved injurious to the team, and we are very grateful to Corpl Penn (of the Depot Battalion) for the very hard work he put in at the gymnasium to ensure that eleven fit players took the field.

The match was a typical Army cup tie and, we believe, a big surprise to the majority of the spectators. We had been led to expect meeting opponents capable of over-running us, and the football displayed by them in the first half justified that view. For sheer football the Durhams were easily the better team, but when they had obtained a two-goal lead, they reckoned without the courage and determination of Signals—a mistake made in many instances by our opponents during the present season. The recovery of the unit eleven was, indeed, a great performance. It was good to see the enthusiasm displayed, not only by the old timers of the Corps but even by the newly-joined recruits. The win at Darlington meant that, at last, Signals were to be represented in the final at Aldershot.

Almost the whole unit travelled to the latter match, and hopes ran high that the cup would belong to the Corps for a year. The " ifs " and " buts " of this game will doubtless be debated for years to come by those who saw it. There can be only one conclusion: that, but for sheer bad luck on several occasions, the victory would have been a comparatively comfortable one for us. Chances, however, were missed which normally would have been accepted, so that by two " gift " goals to one very fine shot by Oades, the Sherwoods retained the cup for a further twelve months. In view of the fact that the Sherwoods were, without doubt, the easiest proposition we met in the Army cup, the result is to all of this unit, and more especially to the team, a very big disappointment. Our disappointment, however, should not minimise the achievements of the side, which have only been rendered possible by the will to win and the ability to play on when all has seemed lost.

It has been very gratifying to receive cables and wireless messages from Egypt, S.T.C. India, and Hong Kong, and we take this opportunity of thanking them for their good wishes and great interest.

Our thanks are due to A Corps, who very kindly looked after our team during their stay in Aldershot, and to Aldershot Signals for their wholehearted support.

By the 3—0 win over the Black Watch, on the 11th April, the unit have won the Garrison Senior League cup.

The 5—0 defeat by the 17th Field Brigade R.A., which happened immediately upon our return from Aldershot, has jeopardised our Border League championship chances. The issue is now confined to Stowmarket and ourselves, as will be seen from the positions of the four leading teams:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts
4th Divl Signals	21	16	4	1	67—35 ...	33
Brantham Athletic ...	25	13	6	6	101—80 ...	32
Stowmarket	20	13	4	3	80—38 ...	29
17th Field Brigade ...	20	11	5	4	83—46 ...	26

We have still five matches to play against six by Stowmarket, so that the result cannot be forecast.

The unit is still interested in the Pearson charity cup and the Ipswich Hospital cup. The semi-final of the former, v. the 1st Battn Middlesex Regiment, will be played on Thursday, April 16th, and the semi-final of the latter, v. King's Lynn, on Wednesday, April 22nd, at Ipswich.

A photograph of the first Corps Army cup finalists wll be published in the next issue of THE WIRE.

No. 3 Company.

Hockey.—Our Company hockey team met the H.Q. Company 2nd Battn Northamptonshire Regiment in the Garrison knock-out competition, and unfortunately lost by 0—3. Against a really good team we put up a stern resistance, and the score does not indicate the closeness of the play. To the visitors we extend our heartiest congratulations, and trust they will go on to win the trophy we coveted.

Section Games.—Our three Sections are at present playing off their hockey and soccer matches in hand. By next issue I hope to be able to publish their final positions in the league.

Boxing.—Prior to the Easter break, under Company arrangements, we staged a boxing tournament. Patronised by our O.C. and officers, and ably conducted by C.S.M. Hailes, Sergt Judge and Corpl Hancock, the fistic contenders for Company honours provided two jolly good entertainments. Judging from the talent displayed, we have a good representative team in the making. Below is appended a list of the winners and runners-up in the various weights:—

Bantams—Sigmn Simpson beat Sigmn Fitzpatrick on points.
Lights—L/Corpl Adamson beat Sigmn Clavering on points (both commended by the referee on an excellent display).
Feathers—Sigmn Shillibeer beat Sigmn Rose on points.
Welters—Sigmn Oades beat L/Corpl Milne on points.
Middles—L/Corpl Whitefield beat L/Corpl Stonehouse, after a great fight, by a very narrow margin.
Light heavies—Sergt Judge beat Sigmn Kirby on points.
Heavies—Sergt Judge knocked out Driver Steen in the first round.

A demonstration, followed by two exhibition rounds, was ably given by Sergt Judge and Corpl Hancock.

Rugby.—We played Ipswich on Reed Hall ground on March 21st. Ipswich were unfortunately unable to turn out their full team owing to 'flu, so L/Corpl Milne, Signalmen Sims, Gartland, Topping and Westwood played for them. Our team showed a marked improvement, the forwards being excellent. The score at half-time was 15—0 in our favour. Sigmn Manson, who is developing into a very good front row forward, forced his way over the line on three occasions, and Signals won by 26—0 points.

Colchester were played at Lexden on March 26th. Colchester had out their best team of the season, and unfortunately we were without Signalmen Snowball, Leslie, Briggs and Galbraith. Colchester scored ten points in the first ten minutes, and then Driver Brooks scored a very good try, but at half-time Colchester led by 21—9 points. Their outsides passed very well, but our defence was not as good as it should have been, and we lost by 9—31 points.

Colchester "A" XV. gave us a match at Reed Hall, half-an-hour after the 1st XV.'s had finished. In order to complete their side, Colchester played the two outsides who had practically won the previous match. At half-time the score was five points against us. However, weight and pace told in the end, and Colchester "A" won by 19—0 points. Our outstanding players were Signalmen Walton, Sims, Gartland and Topping.

The rugby players of the unit very heartily congratulate the soccer team on reaching the final of the Army F.A. cup. Next season we hope to follow in their footsteps and to reach, anyhow, the semi-final of the Army rugby cup.

Hunting.—About ten officers of this unit have enjoyed hunting with the Essex packs during the past season. Although not in "shire" country, Colchester provides plenty of hunting, as it is situated practically at the junction of several packs. The keen sportsman can choose any day of the week, except Wednesday, on which to go out. Altogether, we have had nearly two hundred hunts between us with the various packs. Every Saturday a large contingent has always "boxed" down to the Essex Farmers country, which is almost a piece of Warwickshire in the middle of Essex—all grass, which usually carries a good scent, especially in the afternoons; it is also a good country to ride over.

To end the season, we have run our horses in several point-to-point meetings. At the R.E. meeting at Aldershot, Lieut C. D. Gardiner was third on "Lady Jazz" and Lieut-Colonel G. E. Sampson fourth on "Funny Face." Lieut H. N. Crawford was lucky to win the Subalterns cup, being second on Lieutenant W. Ponsonby's "Kissing Time IV."

At the Essex and Suffolk Hunt point-to-point, our unit won the Garrison team race, in which three from each unit had to start, the first two home to count. There were sixteen starters. Lieut C. D. Gardiner on "Lady Jazz" rode an excellent race to run "Make Believe" (R.A.), already a winner of several point-to-point races, to a close finish. Lieut H. N. Crawford was fourth on "Amannullah," and Lieut J. H. L. Crichton fifth on "Funny Face." Captain V. C. Holland had bad luck, his horse pecking badly on landing over the water and giving him a nasty fall. The trophy was duly brought back to the mess and filled!

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Congratulations.—Well done, 4th Divl Signals! Owing to the distance, we were unable to watch the final of the Army cup, but it would appear to have been a wonderful match. May Records not treat your team too roughly next trooping season!

Many congratulations to the 3rd Divl Signals on gaining third place in the Army cross-country championships. With the Duke of Cornwall's tucked away in Gibraltar, you may be able to have the unit's name engraved next year on the Army cup.

Well done, Corpl Broadley!—a real good show to have fought your way into sixth place in the National cross-country. Congratulations on being selected to run for England in the International!

Football.—Our Easter programme was carried through in beautiful weather, and everybody enjoyed the friendly game against the Huddersfield team of Old Almondburians on our ground on Easter Monday morning. We just managed to beat them by 2—1.

Our Saturday League team, after a hard fought game, lost to Filey Town in the semi-final of a challenge bowl by 1—2, after making a draw of 2—2 on the previous Saturday. There is little to record regarding league games. We are still third from the top.

The leaders, Whitby Albion Rangers, have not lost a game this season. On Saturday, April 11th, we played them in the final of the League cup, on the town ground at Whitby. We all saw a fine game before a large attendance. At half-time we were leading by 2—1, but shortly after the recommencement the Rangers equalised and eventually beat us by 4—2, though our defence played a fine game. At the end of the game the League committee asked Lieut-Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley to present the cup to the winners. His speech was received with great enthusiasm.

Our Wednesday League team beat G.P.O. by 5—0. We have one more game to play, against Alliance. This match will decide which of the two teams shall be the league champions, which honour carries with it a magnificent shield and gold medals. The game will take place on the Alliance ground on April 22nd, so the result must be reported next month.

Hockey.—As predicted in last month's notes, the final of the inter-Company shield, between Nos. 1 and 3 Companies, produced a keen hard struggle, which resulted in a win for No. 1 Company by 3—1 goals. In the series of three games, each of these Companies scored a win and a draw, so they have ended up all square as regards points for the hockey shield.

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DEPOTS: GUILDFORD & HASLEMERE

On Saturday, March 21st, we played our last away match of the season, v. St. Mary's College, on the Scarborough cricket ground. The weather and ground conditions were perfect for this match, and though we were only able to turn out a team largely composed of reserves, we managed to win a very keen game by 3—1 goals. The reserves on this occasion gave the regulars some anxiety as to their positions in the unit team, and with such talent in the unit we are looking forward to going one better in next year's Army tournament.

In our last fixture of the season, we played Scarborough College at home on Wednesday, March 25th, and after a very even game we had to admit defeat by 0—1.

The season having now ended, we can look back on it as a fairly successful one. In our friendly fixtures we more than held our own with the opposition, and in our Army ties—of which full accounts have already appeared—I am sure you will agree we gave quite a creditable first-year performance. There now only remains the distribution of the season's honours in the award of "Jimmies." I may mention that those who do not receive a "Jimmy" for this year need not be discouraged, but should endeavour to go all out with a view to gaining one next year. As captain of the unit hockey team, I take this opportunity of thanking all players who have assisted throughout the season and helped to make the season the success that it has been.

Rugby.—At last our team has broken its run of defeats, and now has its tail well up.

We played Bridlington "A" on their ground on March 21st. We were able to field our strongest team, and the issue was never in doubt. Bridlington played well and for the first half succeeded in keeping us out, but 4th Divl Signals hammered away, and soon after half-time Sigmn Hughes (right centre three) darted through and scored a good try. Sergt Fegan converted. For some time after we pressed hard and a prolonged tussle took place almost on Bridlington's goal line, back and forth across the pitch. Eventually Sigmn Tumilty (forward) got the ball, put his head down and fought his way over the line, carrying half the opposing scrum with him. Sergt Fegan again converted. The struggle was resumed near the goal line for five minutes, until Lieut Usher (forward) gathered the ball and, well backed up by the rest of the scrum, got over between the posts. Sergt Fegan once more converted. Ten minutes of very even play followed, which terminated in a good run of three-quarter play and a try by Sigmn Reay (left wing three) right in the left corner. Sergt Fegan also converted this one. The final score was 20—0.

It was a good game, played hard. Mention should be made of Sergt Fegan's goal kicking, which was deadly accurate every time. His conversion of Reay's try, two feet from the touch line, was a really beautiful shot, applauded by Bridlington as heartily as by ourselves.

Tennis.—Keeping pace with Father Time, we now find ourselves at the commencement of another tennis season.

A unit tennis club has already been formed, and those in possession of the necessary gear took advantage of the good weather of the Easter period to set the game in motion by putting in some light practice.

We have been very fortunate this year in becoming affiliated with the Burniston Road Bowling and Tennis Club, who possess three hard and three grass courts.

No fixtures for the season have yet been arranged, but with a membership of forty and the following committee (also the help of the weather clerk!) a successful season is being looked forward to. President, Lieut.-Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C. ; treasurer, Captain L. W. Schneider ; secretary, Sergt Brandon J. G. ; selection committee, Sergt Washford, Corpl Weeks, L/Cpl Baker and Sigmn Lowings ; team captain, Corpl Weeks.

Billiards.—We have not said much before in our notes about the old green baize, but at present we are suffering from a huge boom in this line, several budding Lindrums having been observed tapping the ivories around the table—thereby forcing us to say a few words.

At present we are running an all ranks handicap (150 up) with prizes of a 10/- chit on the N.A.A.F.I. for both finalists. Great is the strife for these chits—so much, indeed, that certain people have already been heard counting the number of bottles they can get for 10/- (what did you say, Bonny?)

This month's handicap is well on its way to completion, and we will publish the result in next month's notes.

Last month we went a few steps higher and had a shot at the Army championship. Our representative, Sigmn S. Drury (late of Egypt fame) was unlucky to be drawn away for the semi-final of the Northern Command championship (the winner of which went into the finals of the Army championship). He was drawn against R.S.M. Foster, of the 2nd East Yorks Regiment, and the game of 500 up was staged in Catterick at the Corporals' Mess, East Surrey Regiment. There was a huge attendance, and judging from the applause given to both players at the conclusion, the game must have exceeded even their expectations of what Army billiardists could serve up when put to it.

The game progressed very evenly and keenly right from the start, with neither player giving much away (no, we're not Scotch) but in the end the obvious experience of R.S.M. Foster told its tale and he ran out a worthy winner. Hard luck, Baldy! better luck next time.

The only breaks of note were 48, 40 and 40 by R.S.M. Foster, and 42, 41 and 40 by Sigmn Drury.

The final score read: R.S.M. Foster, 500 ; Sigmn Drury, 460.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Sports.—The S.T.C. (India) annual dismounted sports were held at the usual venue—the Garrison recreation ground—from 2nd to 7th March.

Interest beyond the ordinary was attached to the sports this year, owing to the fact that the Fazal Din half-Company trophy was in the possession of the Indian ranks for the first time in its history. "B" left half-Company had deprived "A" left half-Company of the honour last year.

With the return of Corpl Ellison from Poona and the attachment of Sergt Cutler from Rawalpindi, the British ranks had reason to be rather confident of their ability to wrest the trophy from its present holders. The following results go to prove that our confidence was not misplaced. Sergeant Angell succeeded in gaining the Victor Ludorum cup with sixteen points, Corporal Ellison being his nearest opponent with twelve.

Cross-country.—1st, B Company left half, 110 points ; 2nd, C Company right half, 189 ; 3rd, C Company left half, 208 ; 4th, B Company right half, 219. Individual placings: 1, Signalman Ganga Singh (B left), 21 minutes ; 2, Sigmn Mohammed Ibrahim (C right) ; 3, Naik Dalip Singh (B left) ; 4, Sigmn Said Gul (C left).

220 yards hurdles.—1st, Corpl Ellison ; 2nd, Sergt Angell ; 3rd Corpl Holden ; 4th, Sigmn Cale. Time, 30 4/5 sec.

Three miles.—1st, Sigmn Ganga Singh ; 2nd, Naik Dalip Singh ; 3rd, L/Corpl Strickson ; 4th, Sigmn Karim Khan. Time, 17 min. 40 2/5 sec.

Half-mile.—1st, Sigmn Mohan Singh ; 2nd, L/Naik Ranja Singh ; 3rd, Sigmn Arjan Singh ; 4th, L/Corpl Fletcher. Time, 2 min. 20 4/5 sec.

100 yards.—1st, Sergt Cutler ; 2nd, Sigmn McVey ; 3rd, Sergt Angell ; 4th, Corpl Ellison. Time, 10 2/5 sec.

Hammer throw.—1st, Sergt Ellis ; 2nd, Sergt Parker ; 3rd, Sergt Angell ; 4th, L/Corpl Lovell. Distance, 81 ft. 11 in.

Putting the shot.—1st, Sigmn Manzin Hussain Shah ; 2nd, Sigmn Softly ; 3rd, Sigmn Saban Din ; 4th, Sigmn Mausam Khan. Distance, 29 ft. 10 in.

Long jump.—1st, Sigmn Gurbax Singh ; 2nd, Lieut G. S. Knox ; 3rd, Sergt Bramwell ; 4th, Naik Daya Singh. Distance, 17 ft. 3¾ in.

One mile.—1st, Sergeant Ellis ; 2nd, Sigmn Ganga Singh ; 3rd, Sigmn Mohammed Asgar ; 4th, Sigmn Puran Singh. Time, 5 min. 3 sec.

220 yards.—1st, Sergt Cutler ; 2nd, Sigmn McVey ; 3rd, Sergt Angell ; 4th, Sigmn Clements. Time, 23 4/5 sec.

Pole jump.—1st, Sergt Angell ; 2nd, Sigmn Cale ; 3rd, Naik Mahboob Ali Khan ; 4th, Sigmn Munshi Ram. Height, 9 ft. 1 in.

440 yards.—1st, Lieut. G. S. Knox ; 2nd, Sigmn McVey ; 3rd, Sigmn Ranja Singh ; 4th, Sigmn Mohan Singh. Time, 59 sec.

120 yards hurdles.—1st, Corpl Ellison ; 2nd, Sergt Angell ; 3rd, Corpl Holden ; 4th, Sigmn Rajalingam. Time, 18 2/5 sec.

High jump.—1st, Corpl Holden ; 2nd, Corpl Ellison ; 3rd, Sergt Bramwell, Sigmn Gurbax Singh and L/Naik Abdul Aziz (tie). Height 5 ft. 2 in.

Mile relay.—1st, A right ; 2nd, A left ; 3rd, B right ; 4th, B left.

Boxing.—The S.T.C. (India) boxing team have brought an old trophy back to the Corps in the Deccan District boxing championship. Last year, when we were the holders, we unluckily lost in the first round to the Manchester Regiment. This year the tournament was held at Secunderabad, and when we were again drawn against the Manchesters in the first round, it was realised that we were up against a very tough proposition.

For some time previous to the commencement of the tournament, the team got down to some real hard training under the able management of L/Corpl Pat Mills, and they went to Secunderabad in the pink of condition.

The team rose nobly to the occasion and beat the Manchesters by one point, thus avenging last year's defeat. In the next round (semi-final) they beat the Suffolk Regiment by two points. In the other semi-final, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment beat the Royal Dragoons by one point.

The final was duly won by the S.T.C. (India) from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Two of the individual titles were also carried off by the Corps. Sigmn Williams J. J. won the feathers, and Sigmn Hughes J. J. the bantams. Sigmn Hughes will be remembered by old members of the Corps (of Maresfield days) as runner-up in the amateur championships in 1924 and 1925. He has now proceeded on a well-earned six months furlough in the U.K.

In the first round, v. the Manchesters, Sigmn Hughes beat McLoughlin, Sigmn Williams beat Walker, L/Corpl Phipson lost to Armitage, L/Corpl Lovell beat Makin, Sigmn Collett lost to Roscoe, L/Sgt Parker lost to Ormshaw, L/Sgt MacFarlane won, and Sigmn Bowker lost. The contest thus ended in a draw, and in order to come to a decision the extra light weights were brought in. Corpl Brunton, our representative, made no mistake and won on points.

In the semi-final, v. the Suffolks, Sigmn Hughes beat James, Sigmn Williams beat Hubbard, L/Corpl Phipson was knocked out in the second round, L/Corpl Lovell lost, Sigmn Hewitson lost, L/Sergt Parker beat Jermy, L/Sergeant MacFarlane beat Nicholls, and Sigmn Bowker beat Ward.

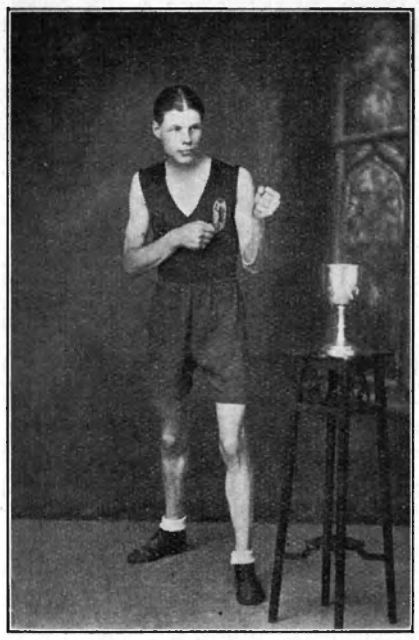
In the final, v. the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Sigmn Bowker was disqualified in the third round, L/Corpl Lovell won on points, Sigmn Hewitson lost on points, Sigmn Hughes knocked his man out in the second round, Sigmn Williams knocked his man out in the first round, L/Sergt Parker won, and L/Sergt MacFarlane won.

Individuals.—Fly weight, runner-up, Sigmn Duncan. Bantam, winner, Sigmn Hughes J. J. Feather, runner-up, Sigmn Williams J. J. Light, winner, Sigmn Williams J. J. Middle, runner-up, L/Sergt Parker.

Late News.—Having won the Deccan District championship, the S.T.C. (India) automatically go into the Southern Command championships, together with the following winners of other Districts in the Command: Somerset Light Infantry (Madras), Royal Ulster Rifles (Poona Independent Brigade), Beds and Herts Regiment (Mhow).

The holders of the Southern Command championship are the Beds and Herts Regiment. They very nearly won the all-India Mussoorie team championships last year, losing by a very small margin to the Royal Irish Fusiliers in the final.

The draw has resulted as follows: S.T.C. (India) v. The Royal Ulster Rifles, and Somersets v. Beds and Herts Regiment.



Sigmn Williams J. J.
Deccan District Light-weight Champion, 1931

L/Sergt MacFarlane G.
Southern Comd. Light-Heavy-weight Champion, 1930

Sigmn Hughes J. J.
Deccan District Bantam-weight Champion, 1931

Intimation has just been received from Poona that the S.T.C. (India) have beaten the Ulsters by 14—13 points. A great performance! The following are the results:—

Sigmn Duncan lost to Milligan, a heavier man.
Corpl Brunton lost to Ewing, a much heavier man (the referee says this was the finest Army fight he has ever seen).
Sigmn Williams lost to Sergt McKnight (all-India champion)—a close thing.
L/Corpl Phipson beat Cotter. Fight stopped in the second round
L/Corpl Lovell lost to Ramsay—difficult to judge.
L/Sergt Parker beat Herry. All over him.
L/Sergt MacFarlane beat Milligan easily.
Sigmn Bowker beat Haughey. A wonderful hard-hitting show.
L/Corpl Hutchison beat Ruddock comfortably.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Competitions are the order of the day, and great is the excitement thereof. In the Garrison Football League we still maintain our position at the head of the table. At rugby we have proved our superiority over the British Battalion stationed in Karachi. In the inter-regimental tennis championships, Sergt Shardlow plays Sapper Gonsalves, of the K.C.A.F., in the final. Unfortunately we cannot report the same of our prowess at hockey, as on one occasion only did we survive the second round.

Shooting.—In the recent Brigade rifle meeting, only two members of this unit gained awards. They were Lieut Smijth-Wyndham and L/Sergt Anderson. The former obtained three firsts and the latter a fourth. In the team shoot, we were early eliminated by the ultimate winners.

Billiards.—A handicap tournament, open to all ranks, has just been completed. Some fifty odd entries, including officers, were received, and the ties were watched and criticised with a keenness that proved how popular is this sport within the unit.

Many and varied were the exhibitions offered. Some demonstrated how easy it was to bounce those composition balls, and others their unfamiliarity with the cue rest. However, the general run of the play was quite good, and some of our star players gave creditable performances whilst engaged in working off their minus handicaps—not an easy thing in 150 up. The majority of the games were evenly contested—a fact which speaks well for the efforts of the handicappers.

Corporals Curtis and Jerram met in the final tie of 250 up, both starting from scratch. The former won on the post after the latter had led practically all the way—Curtis 250, Jerram 247. The winner was awarded a small silver cup (kindly presented by Corpl Baker) together with a prize of Rs.35. The runner-up received Rs.15.

A cue and case was presented to L/Sergt Andrews for the highest break (27).

General.—At football, the first eleven have played five games, winning two and losing three, scoring nine goals to their opponents' ten. The second eleven have only played one game—a draw of two goals apiece.

The first hockey eleven, of seven games, have won three, lost three, and drawn the other, with a goal record of 19—14 in their favour. The second eleven have won two and drawn one of the three games played, scoring seven to five goals.

Only one rugby game has been played, this being won by 3—0 points.

Football.—In the Karachi Garrison League, A Corps Signals (in their last league game) met B Company Royal Sussex Regiment on Napier Barracks ground on March 23rd. Under the impression that the game was to commence at 5.15 p.m., Signals turned out in good time, but 5.15 came with no sign of their opponents. The latter turned up later and stated that they were informed that the kick off was to take place at 5.45 p.m. Thus, the punctual Signals were rewarded with a long wait, and furnished a bored audience with an exhibition of a rather lazy form of punt-about. The referee failed to put in an appearance, and a substitute officiated in his stead, starting the game at about ten minutes to six.

The site of the ground offered no advantage to either side, as both wind and sun acted in a crosswise direction over the playing area.

Signals won the toss and elected to have the sun and wind on their right flank. B Company kicked off on a dusty pitch in a dazzling sun, and immediately showed that they meant business. However, Signals gained possession, and their forwards instituted what looked to be a dangerous raid and were unlucky not to gain an early lead. B Company now attacked, but a nice pass was intercepted and the Signals inside-left was put through for a vain solo effort.

Play was for the most part on the Signals left, wandering but occasionally over to the other side of the field. B Company raided incessantly, but the Signals defence was too good for them: the Sussex forward combination, though excellent, was of no avail against the calm surety of the Signals backs and

halves. The Signals pivot showed exceptional constructiveness, but his forwards could not imitate his example and finish off his openings successfully. The B Company goal suffered a heavy bombardment from the Signals, who did everything but score.

From a smart clearance B Company transferred play to their opponents' territory, and the Signals custodian was tested and found secure. Soon afterwards the B Company left came into the picture, tricking the defence and leaving his inside an easy shot, which gave the Signals goalie no chance whatever and placed B Company one up.

From now onwards the Sussex left, fired by his previous success, dominated the game and got through repeatedly. His side obtained several unfruitful corners through him. Then Signals got away, but their centre ballooned over the bar. B Company's goal kick travelled to their left wing, who instituted another fine run. The Signals tackle proved ineffective, and B Company increased the lead with a shot that the Signals goalie had hard lines in failing to save.

Signals kicked off once more and made desperate attempts to reduce the lead, but were unsuccessful, missing several likely chances in quick succession. They passed well but lacked ball control. Their defence was unsteady and worried by their opponents' raids, and their inside forwards failed to fall back to their assistance, and B Company dominated the game. Signals were tiring and tackling weakly, and were apparently demoralised by the two-goal lead of their opponents, who combined well and ever looked dangerous.

The game was stopped because of an injury to a B Company player, who was taken off, to resume later. In the meantime their ten proved quite a match for the Signals eleven. The Signals manœvring was slow and ineffective against the lusty tackling of B Company, whose passing was as decisive as that of the Signals was erratic.

The Sussex left was again a star performer and he effected numerous raids into Signals territory. Following an uneventful spell of midfield play, half-time arrived with B Company easily worth their two-goal lead.

Signals took the opportunity to rest and hold a tactical conference, and on the resumption it was obvious that they were out to do or die. They attacked straight from the kick off, but were guilty of weak shooting. B Company, in turn, looked dangerous but gained nothing. Play swung from end to end. Signals rushed, and the B goalie fell whilst gathering the ball and was injured in the resultant melee through retaining his hold on the ball whilst on the ground. He was carried off, and the game resumed. The play for a while was rather rough-and-tumble, the B Company players endeavouring to avenge their goalie's injury, and some players on both sides were rightly cautioned.

Nevertheless, B Company were more than a match for the Signals. Their substitute goalie relied on his feet and cleared with a big kick what looked to be a certain goal for Signals. The regular goalie was greeted with an ovation on his return to the field. Shortly afterwards Signals again missed a glorious opportunity of a possible reduction of the lead, and (undoubtedly affected by their ill-luck) from now on they were a beaten team. Their custodian alone appeared to be trying, and it was he and the backs alone who prevented B Company from increasing their lead in the last stages of the game.

Full time arrived with the score unaltered, and B Company walked off deserving winners of the match—the winning of which meant much to Signals, although their exhibition belied it.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Boxing.—In the first round of the Rawalpindi District boxing tournament our team met the 1st Battn. East Surrey Regiment, the winners of last year's tournament. On the conclusion of the eight bouts, the result was a draw (12 points each) although L/Corpl Clarke and Sigmn Newbury had been very unfortunate in not winning their fights. The extra fight was lost after a very game display by Sigmn Airey.

Heavy weight—L/Sergt Tanner (R.Signals) beat Pte Castledine on points.
Light heavy weight—Sigmn Delaney beat Corpl Reeves on points.
Middle weight—Sigmn Cleaver lost to Corpl Foulkes on points.
Feather weight—Sigmn Allan lost to Corpl Bowles on points.
Bantam weight—Sergt Payne beat Pte Block on points.
Welter weight—1st string: Sigmn Hogarth v. Pte Smith. Fight stopped in favour of Hogarth. 2nd string: L/Corpl Clarke v. Pte Baker. After leading all through, Clarke was disqualified in the third round for holding.
Light weight—Sigmn Newbury v. L/Corpl Taylor. Although well ahead on points, Newbury stopped an unlucky blow which sent him to the ground at the end of the second round. The fight was stopped in favour of the East Surreys, although many considered that the gong would undoubtedly have enabled Newbury to return in the third round and win comfortably. His subsequent success in the individuals seems to corroborate this opinion.
Light weight (extra)—Sigmn Airey lost to Pte Cooper on points.

L/Sergt Tanner, Signalmen Delaney, Cleaver, Newbury and Stirk entered for the individual championships, while L/Corporal Clarke (over weight) and Sergt Payne (unable to pass the M.O.) were unable to box. Of the five who entered, three were successful in winning their weights. The following details are taken from the columns of " The C. & M. Gazette ": —

SEMI-FINALS.

Feather weight—Sigmn Stirk lost to Corpl Bowles (East Surrey) on points.
Light weight—Sigmn Newbury beat L/Corpl Mares (K.S.L.I.) on points. A fast pace was maintained throughout. Newbury, though the lighter man, did most of the attacking. A splendid fight.
Middle weight—Pte Coleman (K.S.L.I.) beat Sigmn Cleaver on points. Cleaver made abortive attempts to get the better of a sturdier opponent.
Light heavy weight—Signalman Delaney beat Pte Coleman (K.S.L.I.), who (after two warnings for laying on his opponent) was disqualified.

FINALS.

Heavy weight—L/Sgt Tanner beat Pte Castledine (E. Surrey). Castledine's blows went wide. Tanner's accurate hitting won the fight.
Light weight—Signalman Newbury beat Pte Moore (Borderers). Newbury once more gave a fine display.
Light heavy weight—Sigmn Delaney beat Pte Sullivan (East Surrey). Although Sullivan had the advantage in height and reach, Delaney won on points.

All members of the team are to be congratulated on doing extremely well in spite of the difficulties which Frontier disturbances put in the way of effective training.

Hockey.—From its inception, the Combined hockey team produced a standard of play that has not been reached by Signals in Rawalpindi for a considerable time. Two tournaments were entered, but owing to both wing men (Corpl Worth and Sigmn Wilson) leaving Rawalpindi just before the opening rounds, our high hopes of success were hardly realised. Nevertheless, in both tournaments the team made its mark, and Royal Signals, Rawalpindi, are now to be reckoned with in the hockey world.

In the first round of the Rawalpindi hockey tournament, we met the I.A.O.C. Being runners-up in this tournament last year, the Ordnance expected an easy passage to the semi-final but were surprised at losing by 0—1. Sigmn Walker netted our winning goal.

Such was the luck of the draw that we met the holders, 1st Battn. K.S.L.I., in the semi-final. Participating in one of the best games of the tournament, we lost by 1—3. Sigmn Edginton obtained our only goal.

We were drawn against the Motor Transport Depot, Chaklala, in the first round of the Rawalpindi New Year hockey tournament, and in winning by 3—1 we recorded our first success in an open competition.

This win enabled us to meet the H.R.S. Chaklala, which (boasting three all-India players) is one of the leading teams in the Punjab. We include here the report that appeared in " The C. & M. Gazette ":—" The Signals met the H.R.S., Chaklala, in the semi-final of the New Year hockey tournament, and lost by two goals to one. The game started at a brisk pace, each side visiting the other's territory in quick succession without gaining any material advantage. Short corners were awarded both sides, none of which was taken advantage of. The Signals made a great combined run, and the centre forward (Walker) receiving a pass from the outside right (Gear) flicked the ball into the net. At the interval, Signals were leading by one goal to nil. The

fast pace of the first half was maintained after the resumption, the Signals doing the greater part of the pressing, but although they had many opportunities, they failed to add to their score. The H.R.S. rallied and Afzal, the inside left, broke through and equalised the score. Thereafter the exchanges were very even, but after twenty minutes the Shop outside left made headway and, passing the ball to his centre forward, the latter found the net with a hard shot. The game ended without any addition to the score. Royal Signals: Sigmn McCurry ; Sergt Solly and Sigmn Cleaver ; Sergts Foley, French and Parker ; Signalmen Gear, Edginton and Walker, L/Corpl Moody, Sigmn Banks."

The following friendly games have been played: 1st Eleven, v. H.R.S., Chaklala, lost by 1—7 and drew at 2—2 ; v. 4th Brigade R.A., won by 7—1. 2nd Eleven, v. I.A.S.C., won by 2—0 ; v. B Company H.R.S., won by 1—0.

Although we have been obliged to cancel our entry in the Lahore charity hockey tournament, owing to the fixtures coinciding with Signals Week, an entry has been made in the Rawalpindi Civil and Military hockey tournament. By constant effort, we are bound to win " Piyala " sooner or later.

Soccer.—In the first round of the Rawalpindi District football tournament, we defeated the 3rd Light Pack Battery R.A. by six clear goals. A feature of this match was the return of Corporal Kiddle and L/Corpl Sinclair to the team after being absent some six months owing to injuries.

The following friendly games have also been played:—1st Eleven, v. 2nd Battn Border Regiment, won by 3—0 ; v. 4th Brigade R.A., won by 2—0. 2nd Eleven, v. 2nd Eleven 2nd Battn Border Regiment, won by 2—0.

Tennis.—In continuation of my notes of January on the Army tennis championships. In the doubles, Corpl Smith and Sigmn Ranson represented the unit, but they made their exit in the second round. In the singles, Sigmn Ranson lost to Capt. Clapp in round one, while Corpl Smith reached the second round before meeting his " guvnor." In the second round of the Delhi open doubles championship, Corpl Smith (partnered by S/Sergt Wells, I.A.O.C.) went down in really gallant fashion to Brooke-Edwards and Michelmore, the all-India doubles champions, by 6—8 and 8—10 after leading by 5—3 in the second set. This must be reckoned a good performance.

The Club's annual doubles handicap championship is due to commence shortly. " Crash " is not playing ; therefore the result is open to conjecture!

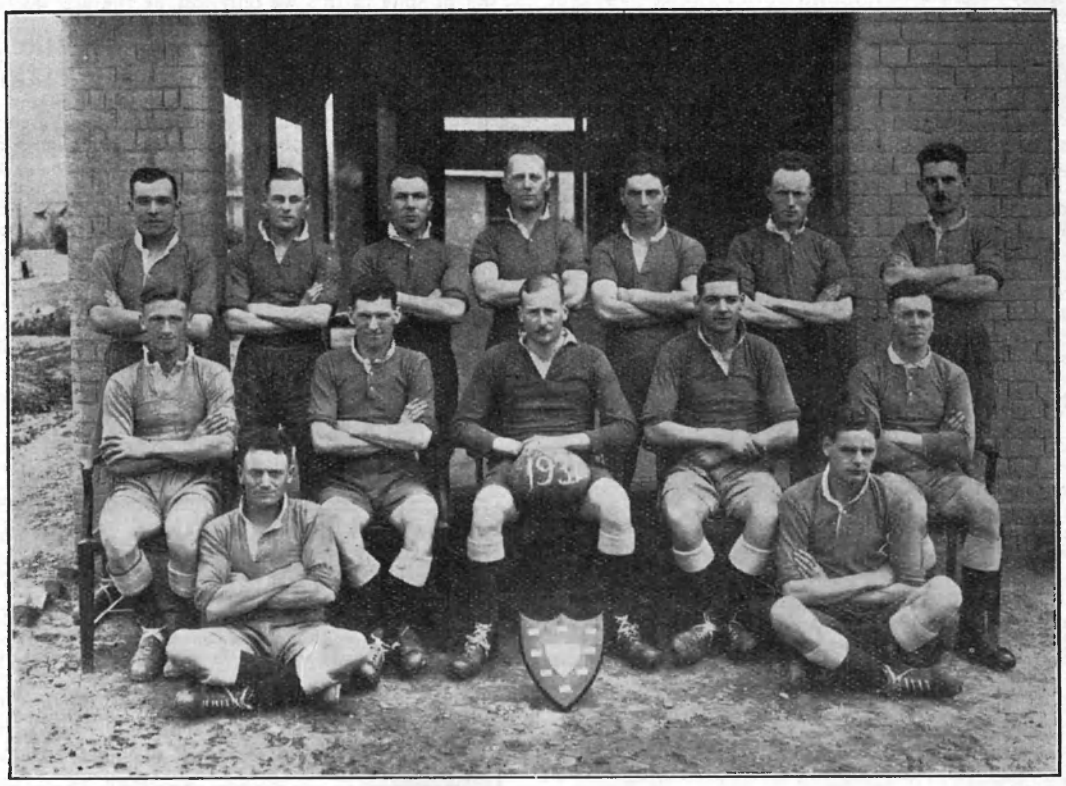
Later.

Sport.—As usual, our football team's luck held in the recent Northern Command tournament. Round one found us pitted against the 2nd Battn K.O.Y.L.I., whom we easily defeated by four clear goals. Round two saw the Gordon Highlanders extend us to the last inch. We eventually won by the odd goal in five, L/Corpl Jarvis netting the winner from the " spot " just two minutes from time. In the semi-final, old friends in the K.S.L.I. provided the opposition, and here our boys failed by 1—2 after a gallant fight. In this game the Corps outplayed our opponents for fully three parts of the game, only to have a very doubtful penalty given against us, from which the Shropshires made no mistake. Still, we must not begrudge our opponents their victory, but our time must come, and then we look forward to winning the issue.

Inter-Section and inter-Company hockey matches are being played regularly, with a view to team building. The results are too numerous to record. We have also played the Welch Regiment on several occasions, but they have always proved themselves just a goal or two too good for us. However, what does it matter who wins?

Kohat District Signals.

Cricket.—v. Kohat Yokels. The Signals batted first and had lost half their wickets for 60 runs when Lieut Vulliamy and L/Corpl Bunce came together and saved the situation. Under the circumstances, 182 was quite a sound total. Lieut.-Colonel



Kohat District Signals Rugby Team.

Standing (left to right)—L/Corpl Reed, Signalmen Husband, Brown, Court, Hirst and Peck, L/Corpl Gay
Sitting—Sigmn Richards, L/Sergt Wagg, Lieut Kealy, Corpl Middleton, L/Corpl Morris
Ground—L/Corpls Goodman and Smith

Inskip bowled very well for the village, taking six wickets for 20 runs. The Yokels made a bad start, losing their first three wickets cheaply. Then Captain Morgan (with a sound 52) and Major Hingston made a stand, carrying the score to 91 before the latter, who had demonstrated the local all-round-the-meadow (or " cow shot ") to good effect, was bowled by Lieut Vulliamy for 32. The next four wickets fell quickly and, despite the efforts of the last pair, the innings closed at 162, leaving the Signals winners by 20 runs.

SIGNALS.

Sigmn Richards c and b Inskip	11
Sigmn Greenhalgh c and b Inskip	8
Sigmn Marshall b Inskip	5
2/Lieut Worrall b Dracup	12
Sigmn West b Inskip	0
Lieut Vulliamy c and b Chitty	56
L/Corpl Smith lbw b Davis	1
Major Henderson not out	5
L/Corpl Coton b Davis	4
L/Corpl Bunce b Inskip	40
Sigmn Taylor b Inskip	0
Extras	40
	182

KOHAT YOKELS.

Lieut-Colonel Davis c Worrall b Coton	1
Captain Smith b Taylor	2
Lieut-Colonel Inskip b Taylor	5
Captain Morgan b Coton	52
Major Hingston b Vulliamy	32
Captain Dracup c Worrall b Vulliamy	0
Captain Palin b Worrall	11
Captain Michelson b Worrall	0
F/O Stowell run out	2
Captain Chitty not out	19
Captain Sherwood lbw b Coton	13
Extras	25
	162

Hockey.—We have suffered many reverses this month. Without making excuses to mitigate the magnitude of our shortcomings, I must say that we have been extremely unfortunate. Minor injuries have been fairly frequent, and although the teams have played consistently, goals have persistently eluded them.

During Pindi Week we met the Peshdist Sigs. in the Northern Command Signals hockey tournament. After an extremely well fought game, we had to admit defeat by the only goal scored.

The following are the results of matches to date:—v. 4/10th Baluch Regiment, won by 8—2 ; v. 1/19th Hyderabad Regt., lost by 2—4 ; v. Kohat Shining Rovers, won by 4—2 ; v. 1/19th Hyderabad Regiment, lost by 2—4 ; v. Peshawar District Signals (at Rawalpindi) lost by 0—1 ; v. 4/12th F.F. Regiment, lost by 2—4 ; v. 4th Hazara Mountain Battery, drew at 1—1 ; v. Guides Infantry, lost by 1—8 ; v. S. and D. Club, won by 7—0.

Rugger.—The team has only done two things this month. They went over to Peshawar to play Peshawar District Signals. It was a good game, but we had a sadly altered team and being unused to the short ground, we lost by 0—8.

The other event was that a photograph was taken. This (our notes of last month telling of our winning the Kohat District rugby shield) is enclosed. L/Corpl Bell, our useful back, was absent from the photo owing to illness.

Soccer.—Very little has been played during the month. On the Feast of Id, a local team of Indians gave us an excellent game and an excellent tea. We lost the game, but won easily on the tea.

The team that represented us at Rawalpindi was drawn against the 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop. We won by 2—1 goals.

Drawn against B Corps Signals in the final, we lost heavily by 1—5.

No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

Hockey.—S.T.C. (India) have posted to us two good hockey players in Signalmen Payne S. and Wilson C., and we hope to win the Hot Weather tournament this season.

Since our last appearance of notes we have played the following matches:—v. Meerut District, won by 5—2 ; v. 10th Hussars, lost by 1—2 ; v. 3rd Indian Divl Signals, lost by 0—4 ; v. Company of the Black Watch, drew at 0—0 ; v. No. 12 Field Brigade R.A., drew at 0—0 ; v. I Battery R.H.A., won by 3—1.

Tent-Pegging.—At the 2nd Lancers and the 10th Hussars, our team took third place. At I Battery R.H.A., our Indian file predominated and took first place, beating the 10th Hussars, 3rd Divl Signals and the crack Indian regiments. The team is as follows:—Lieut D. M. Smyth, T.S.M. Brown, Corpls Thomson and Hill, L/Corpl Wolfe, Signalmen Mohd Khan and Fazal Illahi, and Naik Nisar Ali Shah.

Running.—Sigmn Lawson J. took third place in the 880 yards at the 2nd Lancers regimental sports, and our relay team finished third at T Battery R.H.A. sports. With a little training our team should do well in the future, as the above results were attained without training.

G Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, Cairo.

Sport.—We have been concentrating recently on athletics, and have been training hard morning and evening. The Troop took part in the 12th Royal Lancers athletic meeting, and we were pleased with the results, as follows:—220 yards, 3rd ; 880 yards, 2nd and 3rd ; one mile, 1st and 3rd ; three miles, 2nd and 4th ; high jump, 1st.

The next event was the Egypt Signals tabloid sports meeting, which went off successfully, and the week before last they had their individual sports competitions. We did not shine in either of these, unfortunately, but we have very little chance of training for field events at present. At the second meeting, Egypt Signals very kindly entertained us to tea.

We also took part in the Regiment's inter-Troop shield competition, and played the Band at soccer. They had one or two regimental players and were on the top of their form that day, but in spite of this we only lost by the odd goal in three.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Cricket.—We have entered in both the Garrison and Civilian Leagues, and our team is shaping well. Sigmn Williams is a tower of strength, not only to us but to the Army as well, and was instrumental in the latter winning the triangular contest with the Navy and the Hong Kong Cricket Club. He is the fastest bowler in the Colony, and in addition a very attractive forcing batsman ; and we hope he will be included in the inter-Port team.

The following are awarded " Jimmies ":—Lieut Gough, Sergt Lockyer, L/Corporals Saunders, Penny and Higgins, Signalmen Williams, Gillett, Chaffey and Michael.

Football.—Our football team finished up strongly in the league, and are a great credit to us. The following are award " Jimmies ":—L/Corpl Penny, Signalmen Gillott, Whiting, Cotton, Chaffey, Yates, Browne, Williams and Walker.

Hockey.—We hope to report good progress under the sound leadership of Sigmn Williams.

Tennis.—We are developing a good team for the Garrison League, and hope to do even better this year.

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association ?

If not, join now !

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in finding civil employment. See how the Association helps its Members in that direction, as shown on page 168. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XII.—No. 136 JUNE, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

We have been asked to call special attention to the Aldershot Re-union leaflet which appeared with last month's Magazine and which is again provided with this issue.

There is every indication of a very large gathering of Old Comrades taking place on the dates mentioned, and in order that our Aldershot friends may have some idea of the number they will be asked to cater for, will those who contemplate being in attendance kindly send a post card *at once* to the Hon. Secretary, Signals Association, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, stating:—

1—Whether they intend to be present on both days; or

2—Whether they are attending the Church Parade on July 19th only.

Accommodation can be arranged in barracks for those who make *early* application, but as this is limited, it cannot be guaranteed to those who do not send in notification as stated above.

For the information of those living in or near London who are not already aware of the fact, there is an hourly service of coaches running daily from the Lupus Street Garage, Westminster, which deposits passengers almost at the door of Mons Barracks, Aldershot, for a *period* return fare of 5/6. The journey takes approximately two hours, and the holder of a "period" ticket can return on the Company's coaches at his own convenience.

The Lupus Street Garage can be reached on a No. 24 bus travelling towards Pimlico.

❀ ❀ ❀

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.

❀ ❀ ❀

We tender hearty congratulations to the 4th Divl Signals soccer team on their splendid achievements during the past season. Truly a record to be proud of!—and we wish them even greater success in 1931-32.

A photograph of the team will be found overleaf.

❀ ❀ ❀

Wireless operator students who contemplate making application for a course of instruction at the London Radio College, Brentford, with a view to training for a Postmaster-General's certificate of qualification, are asked to note the following revised terms for such instruction, which have been issued for general information by the Commandant, Army Vocational Training Centre, Hounslow:—

London Radio College, April 1st, 1931.

AMENDED CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

The London Radio College is prepared to accept as students, men from His Majesty's Services under 25 years of age, on the following terms and conditions:—

(1)—Candidates must have served in the Signal or Wireless Section of their respective Service, and be able to accurately send and receive messages in Morse code at a speed of not less than twenty words per minute.

(2)—Students shall undertake to attend the course of instruction for a period of not less than six months, for which a fee of £19/19/0 (nineteen guineas) shall be paid on enrolment. A student desiring to withdraw from the course shall do so before the end of the first month's training, and he shall then have £15/15/0 (fifteen guineas) of the above-mentioned fee returned to him. Withdrawal at a later date shall not entitle a student to any refund of fees. Should it be necessary for the training to be continued beyond the six months period, a further fee of £3/3/0 (three guineas) per month, payable in advance, shall be incurred. (See also paragraph 5.)

(3)—Students shall attend regularly and punctually and be of good behaviour. They shall conform to the schedule of instruction laid down for them, and shall observe the rules and regulations of the College.

(4)—On reaching the necessary standard, the student shall enter for the Government examination, and if successful, the London

Radio College (subject to paragraph 5 below) undertake to nominate him for an appointment as a sea-going wireless operator at the standard rates of pay.

(5)—On being appointed as a sea-going wireless operator, a further fee of £12 (twelve pounds), payable by six monthly instalments of £2 (two pounds) each, shall be made to the London Radio College. These payments to be made by means of an allotment from salary.

❀ ❀ ❀

Mr. R. T. Russell (Bob) ex B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, India, wishes to inform his many friends throughout the Corps that he has succeeded in obtaining employment with the Engineering Department of the G.P.O. at Bristol.

❀ ❀ ❀

"The Wire."—You may be serving overseas, and would like your friends and relatives to follow your movements and read of your activities!

You may be contemplating discharge, and keen to keep in touch with your old associates!

You are possibly an Old Comrade who occasionally sees a copy of the Magazine!

——Then, why not send in your subscription and let us provide the Journal which keeps *all* its readers in contact with the Corps and its many activities?

❀ ❀ ❀

Just as we were going to press with this issue—already expanded to 44 pages—the "Supplement" referred to in last month's notes of B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, came in by the foreign mail. We regret, therefore, that this illustrated contribution must be held over till next month, when we will endeavour to produce it in its entirety.

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes

Aldershot Branch.—The Aldershot Branch of Signals Association are holding their FIRST ANNUAL RE-UNION at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, on Saturday and Sunday, July 18th and 19th—to which ALL Old Comrades who served in the past, either with Signal Service R.E. or with Royal Signals, will be cordially welcomed.

Will all who intend being present kindly notify the Hon. Secretary, Signals Association, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, *as early as possible*, so that necessary arrangements can be made for their reception. (See leaflet supplied with this copy of the Journal.)

Salisbury and District Branch.—To those who value old friendships, there is something very attractive in the word "Reunion," and we are all eagerly looking forward to the Old Comrades gathering scheduled to take place at Aldershot on July 18th and 19th.

It is earnestly hoped that sufficient names will be forthcoming to enable the Salisbury Branch to charter a conveyance for the occasion, and members desirous of participating in this outing are asked to *at once* notify Mr. F. Cole, the Branch Hon. Secretary, stating:—

1—Whether they wish to be present on both days; or
2—Whether they wish to attend the Church Parade on Sunday, July 19th, only.

Until it is definitely known how many are joining the party, it is impossible to estimate the cost per head, but we shall want at least twenty-five—so think it over!

We cannot possibly let an occasion such as this pass without a strong representative contingent from Salisbury. The invitation is not necessarily confined to members. All ex-Royal Signals or ex-Signal Service R.E. personnel are welcome, and they may be sure of meeting many old friends on arrival.

Members of the Branch are asked to pass the information along to those who do not usually see the Corps Journal, or to supply me with names and addresses, so that the necessary communications can be sent out without loss of time.

Aldershot want some indication of how many they are to cater for, so come along, you fellows! We simply MUST be on parade for the occasion!

Further particulars may be had by return of post on application to—

Yours faithfully, FREDERICK COLE,
Hon. Branch Secretary.
3 Haviland Cottages, Quidhampton, Salisbury.

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-N.C.O.	P.O. Lineman
2—Ex-Signalman	Bus Conductor
3—Ex-Sigmn and wife	Married Couple (Domestic)
4—Ex-Signalman	Kitchen Porter
5—Ex-Signalman	Electrical Wireman
6—Ex-Signalman	Electrical Wireman
7—Ex-N.C.O.	Electrical Wireman
8—Ex-Signalman	Electrical Wireman
9—Ex-Signalman	Electrical Wireman
10—Ex-Signalman	Electrical Wireman
11—Ex-Driver	Porter
12—Ex-Signalman	Porter
13—Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Dept.
14—Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Dept.
15—Ex-Signalman	P.O. Engineering Dept.
16—Ex-Signalman	Labourer
17—Ex-N.C.O.	Warehouseman

THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from:—
Lieut J. D. L. Morris, Royal Signals, Meerut, India.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Aldershot.
2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta, India.
48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals, T.A., Birmingham.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £2/5/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
3—Ex-Signalman, Merton. Domestic difficulties. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
4—Signalman, Aldershot. Involved in an accident which proved fatal. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds to assist parents.
5—Ex-Signalman, London. Temporary difficulties. £1 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
6—Ex-N.C.O., London. Accommodated with a loan of £15 as hospital training fees.
7—Ex-Signalman, Aldershot. Domestic difficulties. £4 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

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

Corps Promotion Roster.

For convenience, and to save space, this has been placed on the last page of this issue.

Royal Signals Band Tour for 1931.

May 29th to June 21st—Glasgow and Dunfermline
June 24th—Scarborough
June 29th—Bulford
July 5th to 11th—Bath
July 12th—Colchester
July 18th—Aldershot
July 26th to August 1st—Southend-on-Sea
August 2nd to 9th—Ryde (Isle of Wight)
August 10th to 30th—Torquay
August 31st—Return to Catterick

4th DIVISIONAL SIGNALS FOOTBALL TEAM, ARMY CUP FINALISTS, 1930—31

Back row (left to right)—Corpl Robson L. and Sigmn McClelland W.
Centre row—Sergt Terrell W., Sigmn Marshall H., Sigmn Oades B., Sigmn Dalziel A., Corpl Ball T., Sigmn Davies H. and Sergt Wells A.
Front row—Capt. L. B. Nicholls, L/Corpl Spencer R., Lt.-Col. G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., Corpl Palmer G. and R.S.M. Beattie A. H.
On ground—Sigmn Brunt A. and Corpl Edge T.

Corps News—Officers

MOVE—

Captain M. Duncan from Catterick to Aldershot (A Corps Sigs)

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS War Office, 14/4/31.

The undermentioned are seconded for service under the Government of the Dominion of Canada: Capt N. H. Edes, 4/4/31; Lieuts. E. J. H. Moppett, C. H. Lyddon, I. F. Meiklejohn, and E. R. N-W. Nanney-Wynn, 27/3/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

49th (W.R.) Divl Signals—Stanley Scott to be 2/Lt., 15/4/31.

50th (N.) Divl Signals—Capt. J. F. C. Park resigns his commission and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 1/3/31.

52nd (L.) Divl Signals—J. P. Needham to be 2/Lt., 15/4/31. J. B. Lindsay to be 2/Lieut., 15/4/31.

56th (1st London) Divl Signals—A. J. Sones to be 2/Lieut., 15/4/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS War Office, 17/4/31.

55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—Capt. F. J. Behn, from 5th Battn King's Regiment, to be Captain, 18/4/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS War Office, 21/4/31.

47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—Lieut.-Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., to be Brevet-Colonel, 21/4/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS War Office, 28/4/31.

43rd (W.) Divl Signals—T. G. Little to be 2/Lieut., 29/4/31.

56th (1st London) Divl Signals—Lieut. H. J. Rudgley (late Lieut. King's Own Regiment) to be Lieut., 29/4/31.

War Office, 1/5/31.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt. H. R. Holland, M.B.E., is cashiered by sentence of a General Court Martial, 24/4/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

56th (1st London) Divl Signals—Captain F. C. McMurray to have seniority 16/1/26, next below Capt A. C. C. Willway, retaining his present seniority in the T.A., 2/5/31.

Lieut. G. M. Welsford to be Captain, 21/3/31.

INDIAN ARMY— India Office, 1/5/31.

The undermentioned appointment is made:—To be Captain: Capt W. J. H. Bull, from R.Signals, 20/2/31, with seniority as Lieut. 27/10/16 and as Captain 27/10/19.

War Office, 5/5/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned to be 2/Lieuts., 6/5/31: F. T. Britton, C. P. Ingram.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut.-Colonel (Brevet-Colonel) D. Hey, M.C., T.D., retires on completion of tenure of appointment as D/C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Northern Command, and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 4/5/31.

Lieut.-Colonel (Brevet-Colonel) A. MacLeod, retired T.A., to be Lieut.-Colonel (Brevet-Colonel) with previous seniority, and is appointed D/C.S.O. for T.A. duties, Northern Command, 4/5/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS War Office, 8/8/31.

The undermentioned are seconded for service on the Staff in India, 1/4/31: Major G. L. G. Pollard, M.B.E., Major W, T, Howe, O.B.E., Captain B. S. Watkins,

Captain W. A. Scott, M.B.E., remains seconded for service on the Staff in India, 20/3/31.

Captain B. Hussey, M.C., is placed on the h.p. list on account of ill-health, 28/4/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS War Office, 12/5/31.

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut C. N. Stafford to be Lieut., 31/3/31.

E. N. Robson to be 2/Lieut., 13/5/31.

- Plain Tales -

Statistics.—Do you smoke cigarettes? If you only smoke ten a day, you deliberately throw away over £3 per annum in "butt ends." If you smoke twenty a day, this sum is actually doubled. In twelve months, the ten-a-day man will throw away enough tobacco to make a cigarette nearly twelve yards long, or about 122 packets of ten (not applicable to Scotland). It has been discovered that a man aged forty-five, who has been smoking regularly since he was eighteen, must have been smoking for approximately twenty-seven years. The weight of the tobacco he has wasted, together with the size of a pipe required to take it all at once and the number of cameras he could have had with the coupons, may be obtained from any fully qualified night watchman.

* * * *

A New Leaf.—A few days ago I was idly turning the pages of the 1929 bound copy of THE WIRE, when the following arrested my attention: "Surely there are members of the Corps who can write articles! I don't mean nonsensical ones, but such as would be of real interest to everyone, whether a soldier or a civilian." How very, very true! I hung my head, and a tear dripped on to the back of my hand. I shook it off and jumped to my feet. Then I sat down again, because I never stand up when it is possible to sit down. However, these words went to my heart, and I am determined to make these notes even more serious and of greater educational value than they are at present.

* * * *

Biographies.—Very serious and dignified. Of real value to candidates seeking positions as assistant bricklayers.

CORREGGIO.—An Italian painter of great merit. Born at Modena in 1494, his mother being present at the time. Died in 1534. He never served in the R.Signals.

REMBRANDT.—Another painter. Dutch, this time. Born near Leyden (where the jars come from) in 1606. Died in 1688, approximately 82 years of age. He never served in the R.Signals, either.

SWEETING J.—Famous jockey. Born in Somersetshire about 1890. Being an old soldier, cannot die. Certain breweries in Devizes went into liquidation when this celebrated quartermaster left the district. A foxtrot was written in his honour in 1926: "Lovable and Sweet."

* * * *

Birth of the Blue (and White).—I was very interested in the letter from Major Pells, published in the April WIRE. What I really wanted to know, however, was the date on which Royal Signals was declared a separate Corps. I want to pin it down to one day. In 1920, I was still wearing the Royal Engineers badge. I can think of several officers who *ought* to know. As a matter of fact, *I* ought to know, because I was on the staff of H.Q. S.T.C., and with Harry Ring, Jerry Legg, Chas. Cronin and a few more stalwarts, worked twenty-five hours a day as a direct result of the change over. Still, there you are. I don't know! [28th June, 1920. See Army Order 275, dated 2nd June, 1920. —EDITOR.]

* * * *

Tips to Rabbits.—Before starting to play tennis, or what you fondly imagine is tennis, it is advisable to have some good excuses cut and dried in case you lose your set. Speaking from experience, I—br-r-r-r!

A number of beginners seem to be in some doubt as to what constitutes a foot-fault. Size nine shoes on a man 5 ft. 4 in. in height is quite definitely a foot-fault. If your shoe is over the base line when you serve, that is a foot-fault. If it is over the net, it is a leg-fault. If your foot happens to strike either your partner or your opponent in the teeth, and he fetches you a fourpenny one with his bat, that's your fault.

Sticking pins in the balls or cutting your opponent's racket strings is not considered good form, and may, if indulged in, lead to much unpleasantness and possibly bloodshed, which is bad for the court, the club and the members, and all that sort of thing. See?

* * * *

Tropical Gardening.—I have told you before that, in India, a considerable amount of gardening has to be carried out in pots. Flower pots, plant pots, tubs and so on. Even where you find the soil good, it is still advisable to stick to your pots—so that when you have to leave your quarters, you can take your garden with you.

These pots can be obtained in a variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from the huge palm pots (rather like very large pots for palms) down to the little hanging chattis which resemble two-handled bowls without handles.

These chattis should be hung from the verandah beams in such a way that when the Garrison Engineer comes to see the broken floor that you reported the year before last (more libel) he will bump his topee on one. You will then be able to buy another chatti. The chances of getting your floor repaired will be appreciably decreased, but you should not worry.

A suitable creeping plant must be selected to adorn the hanging pot. Nothing looks nicer than a row of campanulas hybrid with a background of primulinas extraordinaire, but care has to be observed when spraying with parasite killer. Each petal must be treated separately, and since each plant has at least twenty thousand petals, it will be at once appreciated that patience is worth two in the bush, if not more.

If you are one of the fortunate ones and have access to some rich loamy soil, you will find a spade of inestimable value. A spade is a sort of tool like a fork with the prongs joined together. Only one is really necessary, and even this may be dispensed with if the man next door won't lend it to you. Avoid two spades. This is simply asking for trouble, and will probably result in your having to use one as well as the wife. Try "no trumps" instead.

For sale, one mechanical thingymajig or fertilizer carrier. Incredible condition. Two seats at back for sailors and other people who don't care. Owner going shooting. Apply at the converted cookhouse near H.Q. S.T.C. (India) on the second Friday in any month.

* * * *

Pour la Patrie.—Our wonderful new serial story, continued. We don't know why.

Pierre sat in the shade of a dried fig tree, writing a lettre to his mother with one hand and singing snatches from "Faust" with the other. By his side was a huge pile of technical books. It must not be supposed that Pierre was a studious man. The books were being used to press some snapshots he had printed that morning. He looked up as a bicycle bell sounded on the still air.

Le Capitaine Pourboire brought his riding crop down smartly and would have struck Pierre a severe blow, but that wily individual put his foot in the adjutant's solar plexus just in time.

"You want me, sir?" said Pierre, saluting.

"Yes. Take this message to Mademoiselle Caraway. She is a bit seedy this morning, I hear."

"Another rough night, I expect, sir."

"You mind your own business, pig." Le capitaine flung the lettre at his bat-homme, kicked him heartily, and galloped away on his bicycle. He was a little mad on the subject of bicycles, and was scarcely ever seen without one, and sometimes two. He always rode upstairs and went to bed on a bicycle when he was in Paris, much to the annoyance of the concierge, who had a horror of machinery in any form. I mention this because it has no bearing at all on what follows.

"Let me see that lettre," said le Majeur Maggotte, stepping out from behind a Turkish Delight bush. "I bet he is trying to upset our plans."

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE.

Mlle. Pauline Caraway (her mother was a Pippe) reclined gracefully on the arm of a huge leather chair, with one foot draped negligently over the chandelier. She refused to move her quarters, in spite of the fighting that was nearly always going on in the district. Her origin was somewhat obscure, but of her present charms there could be no diversity of opinion. At least, this was how le Capitaine Pourboire felt about it. He was hopelessly enslaved.

"Popsy," he said in a passionate voice. "Give up all this and come with me. I can get a tent and a couple of groundsheets."

"You mean us to live in the desert!" Her voice rose to top F, hung there a moment, and then slipped.

Pourboire was not a patient man. He jumped on his bicycle, rang the bell violently, and flew at the woman. He bit her nose fiercely and was manœuvring to bite her ear, when a thunderous knocking on the silk curtain in the doorway caused the loving couple to spring apart.

"Who is in here?" asked a strange voice.

"Nobody," replied Pauline swiftly. The voice was heard mumbling as the owner wandered out into the blazing sunshine, apparently satisfied.

"Vite, my cabbage," said Pauline. "Tell me this great plan of revenge against the dervishes."

Pourboire struggled with his conscience. "Pauline, my little onion, I can't tell you." He commenced to cry into the ashtray.

"Then get to blazes out of my house!" screamed the lovely spy. She threw two chairs and a gramophone at the now terrified officier, and he scrambled on his bicycle, panic-stricken. Pauline listened carefully. There was a swish of rubber as the bicycle skidded round the umbrella stand; then, suddenly, a burst of rifle fire shattered the silence.

A cold sinistre stillness descended on the maison. A queer twisted smile appeared on the face of the hard-hearted woman, and she proceeded to cut up a huge pile of newspapers. I don't know why.

BARLEUX.

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The Malta Command Administrative Telephone System.

In the issues of THE WIRE for November and December last, an attempt was made to give some slight idea of the nature and amount of work involved in converting the Malta Command administrative telephone system from magneto to common battery working. In the hope that it may be of passing interest to many and of particular interest to some, a description is now given of the progress of events culminating in the successful change-over on Sunday, January 4th.

In September Mr. Hawley, the Post Office skilled workman, was recalled to England owing to the serious illness of his wife. At this time the five main exchanges were in various stages of erection. None was completed, though some were more forward than others. The conversion of the junction lines at Civil and Imtarfa had not been commenced, and the Union Club was still looking forward to the time when it should have a "real" exchange.

It being necessary to give intensive supervision to all work carried out in the new exchanges, and impossible to cope with more than two at a time, it was decided to concentrate on Royal Air Force Headquarters and Tigne. These two completed, Calafrana received attention, then Hal Far, and lastly Fortress. As each exchange was finished, it was tested and all faults rectified. The junction circuits, only, were not tested, the Fortress ends not being ready. The testing of all five being similar, that of Fortress alone will be described, as here are extra equipment and circuits not found in the smaller exchanges.

Before the Fortress Exchange could be completely tested, all the attachments thereto—Union Club, Civil and Imtarfa—had to be converted.

The switchboard for the first-named is a C.B. private branch exchange which bears a faint resemblance to an Army "10-line cordless." It derives its power for local speech from the Fortress battery, being fed by a single line (actually two 70-lb. bronze wires in parallel) and earth. L/Corpl Cabbett undertook the job of fitting this exchange and installing the local telephones. The board has accommodation for three lines to Fortress and seven to local subscribers, but with two spare local positions which have since been equipped. On the completion of this installation, all that remained was to transfer the Fortress lines, at the appointed time, from the old exchange to the new.

It was decided to modify the original arrangement as affecting Civil and Imtarfa. In the case of Civil, there is some prospect of the acquisition of an entirely new exchange; and regarding Imtarfa, there is the question of maintenance of this distant exchange with a limited staff. The original idea was to fit certain units at each place, to enable their Fortress lines to work to *junction* equipment at Fortress. These, known to the G.P.O. as "Units 41," require a 40-volt battery of Lechlanché cells, and therefore any modification which would obviate the use of this battery was worth considering. It was finally decided to terminate Civil and Imtarfa on subscribers' positions at Fortress, and modify the jacks at the two distant exchanges to enable them to call and work.

A reference to the previous article will show that the condition necessary for a call is a loop at the subscriber's end. Accordingly the modified arrangement required was one which would loop the lines when the plug was inserted in the jack to call Fortress, but leave no current flowing when the jack was free.

At Civil the jacks were only 5-point, i.e. four springs and a bush, so the adaptation is as follows:—

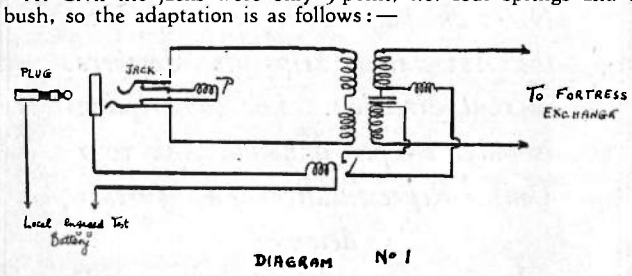

DIAGRAM No 1
ARRANGEMENT AT CIVIL EXCHANGE

The lines from Fortress terminate on one side of a repeating coil which has a condenser in series between its two halves. The other side of the repeating coil is connected to the jack, which has the indicator across its inside springs. The contacts of an extra relay are connected across the condenser. The coil of this relay is connected between the bush of the jack and one side of the "engaged test" battery, the other side of the latter being connected to the "sleeves" of all plugs. When the line is disengaged, the condenser imposes (to D.C.) an infinite resistance between the two lines. Fortress calls by ringing, as in the case of a subscriber; the alternating ringing current causes an induced E.M.F. in the other half of the repeating coil, the resultant current dropping the indicator.

When a plug is inserted, the relay operates and the condenser is short circuited, allowing D.C. to pass round the line circuit.

At Imtarfa it was even simpler, as it was possible to fit jacks having sufficient springs to allow two to take the place of the relay contacts.

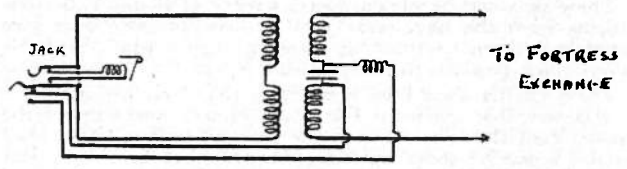

DIAGRAM No 2
ARRANGEMENT AT IMTARFA EXCHANGE

One further complication arose at Imtarfa. The exchange is only manned during the day, and at the termination of the day's work it was usual to plug the three Fortress lines through to certain local telephones. As putting a plug into a jack to call Fortress lights the calling lamp, this arrangement obviously could not be continued. It was necessary to devise such a switching arrangement that in the normal position, the Fortress lines were as shown in the above diagram, and the local phone on to its own jack; and in the night position, the Fortress lines disconnected from the repeating coil, the local telephone disconnected from its jack, and these two pairs of lines connected together. The addition of a condenser in series with the bell of each of these three local telephones was also necessary. Eventually, a satisfactory arrangement was worked out and adopted.

All the oddments having been dealt with, there followed the testing of Fortress Exchange.

When all the wires and cable ends had been attached to soldering tags, contacts of relays, jacks and lamps, etc., it became necessary to make sure that they had been connected appropriately. To a certain extent this had been done from time to time, but it was not possible to test thoroughly until the assembly was completed. The testing may be divided into three parts:—

(a) The testing of all line apparatus as far as the exchange side of the fuses on the main distribution frame, and all local circuits (ringer, howler and cord circuits, etc.)

(b) The testing of all lines to ensure that their insulation resistance was high enough for successful C.B. working.

(c) A test of each subscriber's circuit from the new switchboard to his telephone.

Complete testing can be carried out when the inside of the exchange is completely assembled and connected to the new frame, with the old frame and exchange in parallel. Long before the completion of the inside part, the lines were subjected to a test, using a 40-volt battery. The results were recorded, and work put in hand on doubtful lines with a view to increasing their insulation resistance.

Tests were repeated at intervals, especial care being taken to test on such wet days as came along—faults being more pronounced during damp weather. In point of fact, the wet days at this time were few and far between. The testing of the purely local circuits, such as fuse alarm, ringer starter circuit, howler and night bell, was done at the time of assembly.

Further reference to the diagrams in the previous article will show that the portion of the subscriber's line circuit *inside* the exchange consists of an answering jack, a multiple jack (in most

cases, two), a line and a cut off relay, various soldering tags on blocks on the M. and I.D.F.s, heat coils and carbons, and a number of wires connecting these pieces of apparatus.

The wires form part of various cables between the different points, these cables feeding blocks of twenty subscribers. Thus, if the particular piece of apparatus requires two wires, a 42-wire cable (twenty circuits and one spare pair) is used ; if three, a 63-wire ; and if four, an 84-wire. For purposes of identification, a universal colour scheme is adopted.

	Column 1	*Column* 2	*Column* 3	*Column* 4
1	Blue	White	Red—Blue	Red
2	Orange	White	Red—Orange	Red
3	Green	White	Red—Green	Red
4	Brown	White	Red—Brown	Red
5	Slate	White	Red—Slate	Red
6	Blue—White	White	Red—Blue—White	Red
7	Blue—Orange	White	Red—Blue—Orange	Red
8	Blue—Green	White	Red—Blue—Green	Red
9	Blue—Brown	White	Red—Blue—Brown	Red
10	Blue—Slate	White	Red—Blue—Slate	Red
11	Orange—White	White	Red—Orange—White	Red
12	Orange—Green	White	Red—Orange—Green	Red
13	Orange—Brown	White	Red—Orange—Brown	Red
14	Orange—Slate	White	Red—Orange—Slate	Red
15	Green—White	White	Red—Green—White	Red
16	Green—Brown	White	Red—Green—Brown	Red
17	Green—Slate	White	Red—Green—Slate	Red
18	Brown—White	White	Red—Brown—White	Red
19	Brown—Slate	White	Red—Brown—Slate	Red
20	Slate—White	White	Red—Slate—White	Red
21	Red	White	Red—White	Red

Thus, a 42-wire cable is composed of cols. 1 and 2 " twinned," blue twinned with a white being No. 1, orange twinned with a white No. 2, etc. Columns 1, 2 and 3 tripled form a 63-wire, while columns 1 and 2 twinned and columns 3 and 4 twinned form an 84-wire cable.

Many pitfalls wait for the inexperienced or unwary. Careless fanning out of a 42-wire may result in the white of one pair being mixed with the white of some other. Similarly, in an 84-wire, whites and/or reds may get into the wrong " quad." Added to this, slates and browns may be confused in a failing or bad light, especially after the cable-ends have been beeswaxed. Once the wrong connection has been made, much time may be wasted in locating the error.

For purposes of further explanation, diagrams of a subscriber's line circuit are given (see Nos. 3 and 4).

Various sets are supplied to facilitate testing. The first of these is an ordinary switchboard plug without cord (known as " Plug 14A ") which has a resistance coil of 750 ohms fitted into its end. This coil is joined across the " tip " and " ring," and the " sleeve " of the plug is not used. When this plug is inserted into a subscriber's multiple or answering jack, the line lamp should light. Only certain portions of the wiring and equipment are tested by means of this plug, and it is chiefly used in the daily test of all line relays and lamps. The second (" tester 5A ") can be used, but the most useful for ordinary purposes is the " tester 10A." This is used for proving the subscriber's line circuits from the switchboard to the local and multiple sides of the I.D.F., and for switchboard cord circuits. Each section of a switchboard is fitted with a battery jack, so that test sets for use at the switchboard can be plugged in for power supply.

The following is the method of operating tester 10A (see diagram 5). To test *line* relays, join battery to test set by inserting the battery plug in the battery jack on switchboard, depress keys

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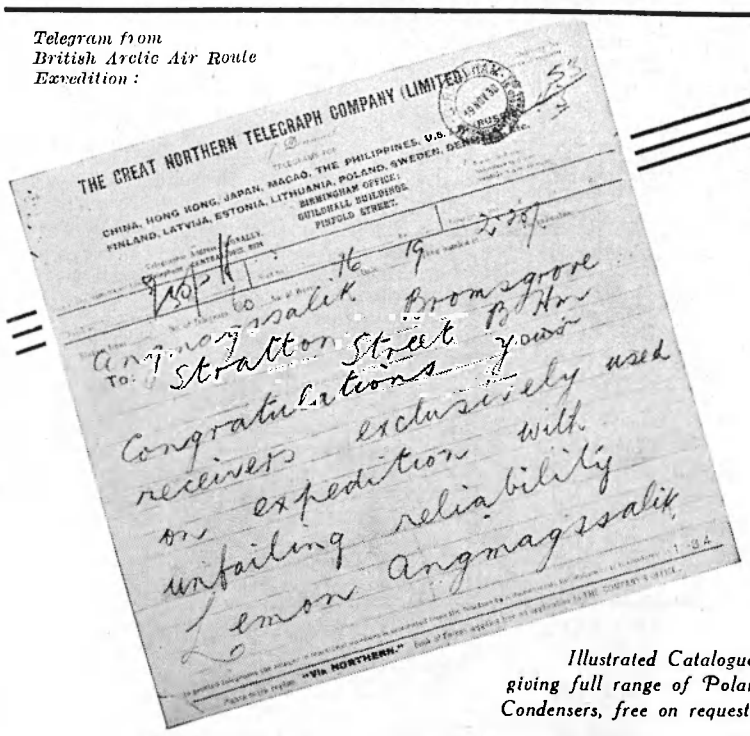
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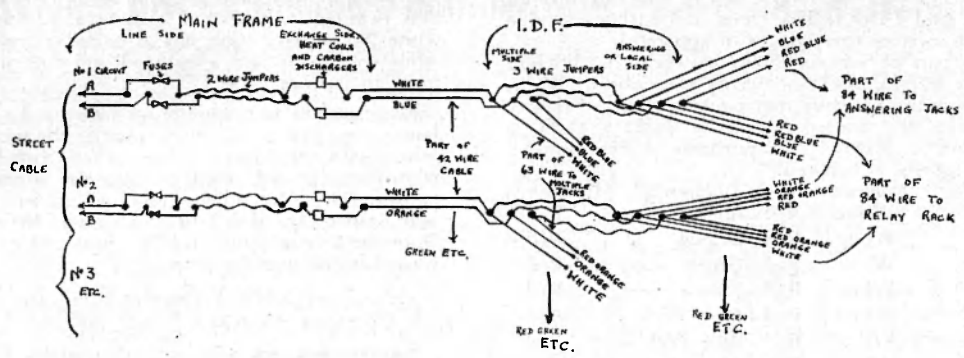


SUBSCRIBERS LINE CIRCUIT THROUGH MAIN AND I.D.F.

DIAGRAM 3

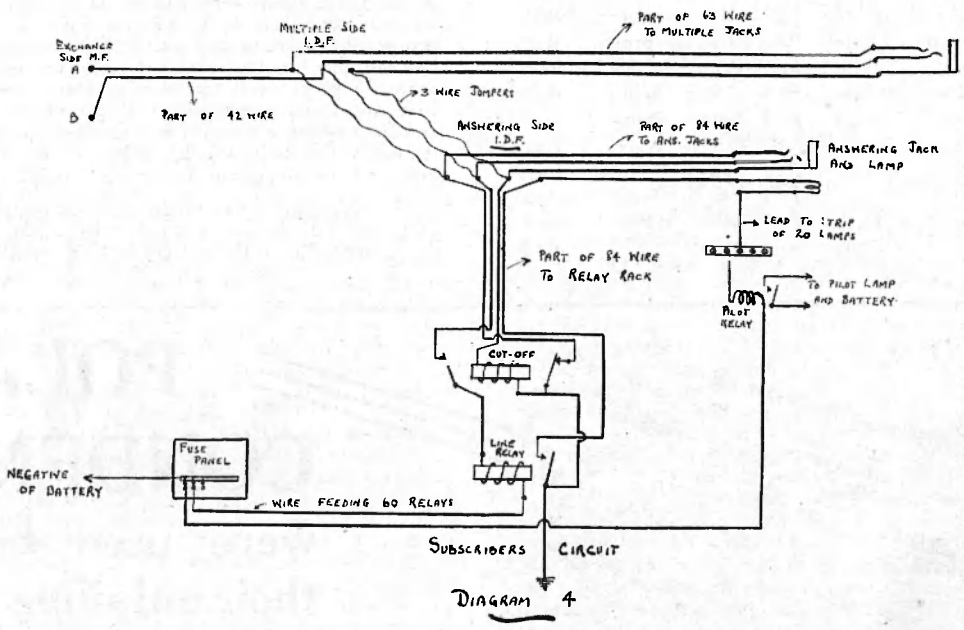
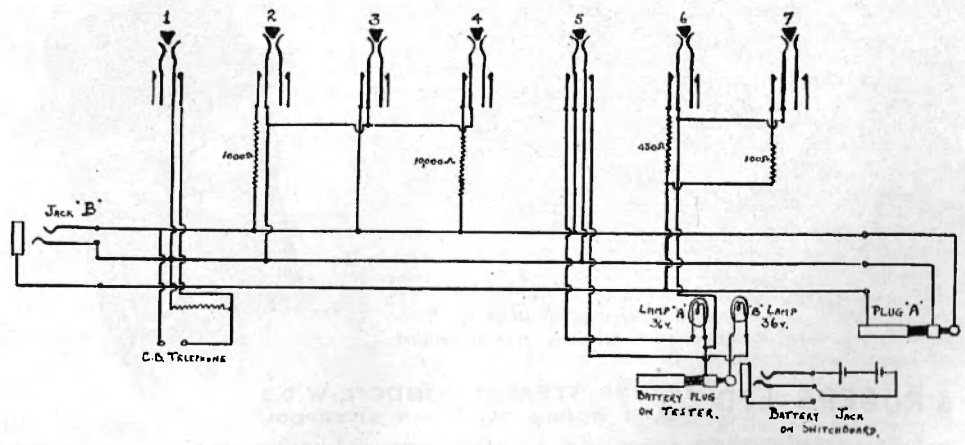


DIAGRAM 4



TESTER 10A.

DIAGRAM 5

2 and 3 alternately, and the line lamp should glow. Depressing key 2 joins a resistance of 1000 ohms across the A and B lines, while depressing key 3 short circuits the two lines. The adjustment of the relay should be such that it operates in both cases.

To test cut-off relays, keep keys 2 and 3 depressed and operate keys 6 and 7 singly and then together. The line lamp should be extinguished with each condition.

The diagram will show that depressing key 6 connects the battery negative via the 450 ohms resistance to the sleeve of the plug and hence to cut-off relay coil and earth. Key 7 joins battery through 100 ohms, while the two together constitute a resistance of about 80 ohms. A badly regulated relay is shown up by varying the resistance in this manner.

Cord circuit testing will be dealt with later.

The first stage in the testing was to try each line relay from each subscriber's jack, answering and multiple, by means of the tester 10a. Faulty lamps and bad contacts were discovered and rectified, and instances of cross connection in the wiring were shown up.

The 84-wire cables between the local side of the I.D.F. and the answering jacks and relay rack are used as follows:—Answering jack to I.D.F., white to short spring, blue to long spring, red-blue to bush, red to lamp—and so on throughout the twenty circuits fed by the one cable. The corresponding colours in the other 84-wire cable continue the connections to the appropriate parts of the line and cut-off relays.

The numbering of an exchange commences from 0, and therefore if on plugging in to No. 3 jack No. 4 lamp lights, the fault may be due to the brown being crossed with the slate, or brown and its white being crossed with slate and its white, or the two reds reversed. An examination of the relays shows which line relay is pulling up, thus localising the fault to one or other circuit, and all that remains is to find where the cross has occurred.

Should it be the wrong relay, the fault may be only the reversal of a colour, or of both the colour and its white. In either case, putting the colours alone on the correct positions will apparently rectify matters, but it may be that the white alone is reversed or crossed. Further reference to this fault will be made on reaching the stage in testing where its effect is felt.

Returning to the test, should it be No. 13 lamp which lights on plugging in to No. 3 jack, the fault will be found on the relay rack, where No. 3 line relay is directly above No. 13—the relays being arranged in rows of twenty, but alternately line and cut-off. Thus, one 84-wire cable supplies two rows of relays.

Having corrected all faults on the line relay circuits and lamps, the circuits are all re-tested with the tester 10a, this time keeping keys 2 and 3 depressed and operating keys 6 and 7. This tests the wiring from the bush of the jack to the coil of the cut-off relay and thence to earth. Failure to extinguish the line lamp indicates a fault. Inspection of the relays shows whether the particular cut-off relay is operating or another. *No* relay operating indicates a disconnection; a wrong relay, a reversal of " red-colour(s) " wire.

Eventually, all line and cut-off relays operate and all line lamps light, when the appropriate conditions are established by means of the tester 10a. Hosts of other minor faults are possible, such as badly soldered connections, dirty relay contacts, or bent soldering tags on jacks or relays causing contacts.

So far, testing has only been taken as far as the multiple side of the I.D.F. There still remain the 42-wire cables to the M.D.F., heat coils and lightning dischargers, and main frame " jumpers." These can be tested by looping the jumper tags on the line side of the main frame, the resultant pulling up of the line relay proving continuity. The subscriber's line circuits are now in correct order as far as the main frame. Before they can be tested further, it is necessary to prove all the cord circuits. In all switchboards, the function of the cord circuit is to establish connection between the pair of lines of one subscriber and those of another. Provision must also be made to enable the operator to put his telephone across the connection at will, to ring a wanted subscriber, and to know when a conversation has finished. The " B " cord circuit is in use in Malta. It makes use of repeating coils for passing the speech energy from one subscriber's circuit to another.

(To be continued)

N.W.F., 1930.

[Continued from May Number.]

Well, it's no use blaming me! The Editor ought to have more sense, and refuse to print it. In spite of all homicidal threats I am determined, with that same determination which has taught the Afridi that the Royal Corps of Signals is asbestos-lined, to carry on to the bitter end.

Righto, George! Raise the curtain on the third act.

Fast falls the canopy of night o'er Kajuri. A little group of men anxiously scan the dusky road. " Will they come?" is the uppermost thought in our minds; but the still small voice of common-sense is active in each one, and we realise that we are hoping for the impossible. For days the rumour has gained strength, and now we are waiting—waiting. The air is tense with expectation and half-born fears. Standing with the silence of a soul face to face with its Maker, we watch a shadow crawling along the skyline like some monstrous bug. For an eternity we fight with our emotion. The hour is at hand, but we await our fate without a tremble, though many of us feel like laughing hysterically. The minutes pass, and the shadow ceases moving. A figure leaps from its enveloping gloom with a pent-up cry of triumph: " O.K. boys! The issue fags are here."

Cheer upon cheer rent the air as we crowded around the lorry to view the gift of the gods: " Silver Clouds "—not exactly in the De Reske class, but the thin end of the wedge, proving we were positively on active service, and that every week the " drinks " would be on the Government to the extent of four packets of fags and two boxes of matches.

For thirty minutes a laughing throng of soldiers crowded around our tent, collecting the smokes, and I alone appreciated the tragedy that was being enacted. The very fibre of the quartermaster's soul was wrung in an agony of torment, as tin after tin of cigarettes was given away without even the consolation of a signature. I shall never forget the look of utter despondency in his eyes as he turned and shared the remaining last eight packets with me—and, probably, only a quartermaster will ever realise the terrific mental strain he must have gone through.

However, the war went on as usual, and every day found it increasingly difficult to engage the enemy. Scheme after scheme was tried out without much success, until at last H.Q. was forced to tactics unsuspected of a civilised army.

The whole thing was kept a secret until one day when the 9th and 2nd Brigades went out on an operation. As usual, no opposition was met with; the Afridi villages were captured and found deserted. Then the diabolical ingenuity of H.Q. was made manifest. Orders went round that every charpoy in the villages was to be burnt. Reader, I ask you to stop and consider what this meant! Imagine coming in from coal fatigues and finding your bed a heap of cinders! Well may you wipe away that tear which starts unsuspectedly from your violet orbs.

That night, in the stricken Tirah territory, an extraordinary general meeting of the Afridi maliks was held and a resolution passed, deploring the recent action of H.M. Indian Army, with a rider to the effect that it was time that someone did something about it. Someone did—in this manner.

First, let me explain the general situation. Had you visited Kajuri about this time (personally, I can see no reason why anyone who is not a halfwit should visit the place then or at any other time) you would have thought that a huge navvying scheme was in progress. Fully one-half of the troops' time was spent in making roads, for which duty the soldier received an extra sixpence per day, thus giving to the operations the sobriquet " the Woolworth war." Numerous steam rollers were in use, and the Afridi War Council decided that from a strategical point of view, and incidentally avenging the great charpoy outrage, a fine piece of work would be to put those rollers *hors-de-combat*.

Days passed (with a few nights in between) and one bright December morn the steam roller drivers awoke to find that the steering chains, injectors and other vital parts were missing from their charges. Considering that this took place at Ilm Gudr, miles behind our Brigades, the Afridis had done a neat piece of work, and popular opinion was that the enemy's persons were remarkably free from flies. Of course, something had to be done about it. Consequently, on another part of the plain, a few decoy steam rollers were left out all night (according to the warning reports that went out to all units) as booby traps.

Interest in this stunt was very keen, and speculation was rife as to when some poor benighted Afridi was going to bite. Nothing happened for a few days, and every morning the trap was sprung, to allow the rollers to work, and reset at night. Then one day the rollers were examined as usual, but no bodies were found, and the drivers commenced stoking up for work. Suddenly a noise like the Fifth of November rent the air, and our decoys were found to be suffering from a severe dose of internal bombing. It was discovered that cocoa-tins full of nails and bullets had been placed in the fireboxes of the rollers, and as such bombs are not found in our arsenals, it was conceded that " an enemy hath done this."

Circumnavigating our booby traps was clever enough, but to make us buy our own chicken was a masterpiece. I noticed that, w.e.f. that date, steam rollers were not put into use as booby traps. No, sir! not when the enemy won't understand who the booby is to be!

Operations at Karawal, November 17th, 1930.
"C" Office unloading and erecting

Christmas was now drawing near, and the war was forgotten in the preparations for the festival. A little enclosure was fenced off with barbed wire, and ducks (or they might have been drakes) were entertained lavishly with all sorts of food. A few days before *the* day, the barrels arrived and were secreted in the messing bloke's tent for security—although I doubt whether the security was such as it should be, knowing the messing bloke as I do.

Christmas Eve found all hands busy, and during the morning loud cackles of disillusion came from the poultry pen, as necks were stretched to the full extent of the right arm and given a couple of smart turns to the left. At night, our fitter, assisted by a few others, wired up the messing tent with some motor lorry electric bulbs run off the S/W station batteries, and decorations soon converted a mud-hole in the Kajuri into a fair representation of the Crystal Palace on a gala night. The main " motif " of the decorations was a huge medal, about 5 ft. high, with a suitable inscription, hung on the end wall of the tent.

I wish I could really describe Christmas Day. I know about eighty of us sat down to a dinner which was a culinary masterpiece ; in fact, several infantry guests were heard to talk of transferring to the Signals to have a feed like that once a year! After the dinner was cleared and the real food poured out, we settled down to a couple of hilarious hours, our attached guests having a go at a song or a turn, and we retaliating.

Half-way through the agony, the Administrative Commandant of Bara Fort looked in, and after having a drink he was called upon to give a song. He replied that his voice was not all it should be, and obtained a deputy in one of our sergeants who was keeping the wine of life flowing freely.

Here let me say that I libel no man, and that up to now this narrative has been free of names. Nevertheless, in the cause of humanity, I *must* warn everyone of this sergeant. Popularly known as Beefy Smith, he is a prominent member of Peshawar District Signals. Looking at him for the first time (it takes about two hours to do the job thoroughly) he appears a cheery member of the genus homo, but he is a menace to civilisation. Let me explain. Without giving any warning, he agreed to deputise for the Commandant, and as a preliminary quaffed a dozen or so pints to oil his larynx.

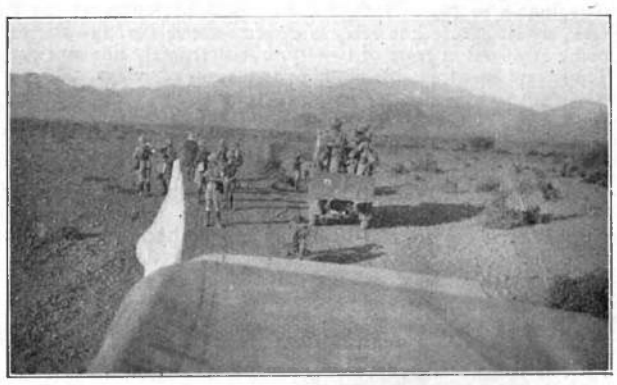
I suppose most of you think you have heard " Sonny Boy " sung a few times. Let me assure you that you have not: at least, not like Beefy's " Sonny Boy." A terrific gap appeared in his face, and for a moment we were all frozen with fascination. Then, with a blast which blew down one wall of the tent, he started. The Commandant staggered backward, horrified at what he had unwittingly let loose, and for a minute a hand of terror ruled the tent. Six miles away, Afridis ran for their lives, waiting for the hills to fall and obliterate them. When we realised what had happened and that it was only his voice, we gained courage and crawled from under the tables.

His face was moving in horrible contortions, and 100 per cent. of the audience were paralysed with wonder and mirth. By tea time order had been restored, and a photo was taken of the survivors. The " snap " turned out a corker, but owing to the fact that several are married men and that I have no desire to ruin their conjugal happiness, I am afraid that WIRE readers must for ever miss this treat!

Our O.C. and the O.C. Construction Section came along during the evening, and although two empty " niners " did their utmost to cast gloom over the proceedings, the party took on a new lease of life. The climax arrived with the presentation of the huge medal to the O.C. He manfully accepted it and made an appropriate speech from behind it, and immediately went off to the officers' mess to show his well-earned " decoration."

Boxing Day was rather in the nature of an anti-climax, owing to the sergeants taking a much-needed rest in Peshawar while the rest of us carried on with the war. But this Christmas will remain in my memory as one of the jolliest I have ever spent in the Army (no, George, I shan't tell you my number). Roll on, the time when we have a similar one.

Things soon settled down to normal, and once again we got on with the war. I know thousands of you must be frothing at the mouth at the constant reiteration of that phrase, and I seem to hear you say " I'm so-and-so'd if I've read anything about a so-and-so war yet." Well, dear reader—this is in strictest confidence, mind!—I don't think there *was* a war on, really. I wore out a pair of binoculars in looking for it, and the most dangerous thing I ever saw was a Brigade trekking nine miles in one day. This, of course, is a practice I strongly condemn, but while our Army can perform heroic feats such as this, why should England tremble?



Operations at Karawal, November 17th, 1930.
"C" Office on the move

Anyhow, we were given to understand that there really was a war on, so when you encounter the phrase again, remember. When I say we got on with the war, there may not have been a war on ; I am merely quoting the Higher Command—and when they say the war is on, to all intents and purposes we must get on with the war whether, in a fundamental sense, there is no war on, or whether there is really a war on. See?

So we g.. .. ..r, and on the 31st December, 1930, two Brigades moved out, with plenty of artillery, to see the New Year in in proper style. This was the biggest do we had had to date, but I shan't tell you about it now, because I'm sure you must be fed up with all these horrors of war. Some other time, when you are feeling better.

(To be continued)

Time Expired and Reservists

The Editor of THE WIRE.

Dear Sir,—It will no doubt interest past and present members of the 1st Indian Divl Signals and 2nd Cavalry Brigade Troop to learn that ex-L/Corpl A. E. Davy has sealed his fate with a wedding ring and an "I will," the bride being Miss Irene Coomber, of Tonbridge, Kent.

The ceremony was performed at St. Luke's Church, Eltham, on Saturday, April 4th, and according to the accompanying snapshot the bride and groom seem to have enjoyed it.

The reception afterwards was attended by nearly seventy guests, among whom were Messrs. Stevens, Frape, Watson and myself—all past members of the Corps. Dave's old pal Mr. Heavenly Nectar was also very much in evidence, and proved to be very popular with the gathering in general.

Space prevents my giving a detailed description of the many useful presents received, but they made a very imposing show.

Kind salaams to all old friends.

H. E. HODGES, ex-Signalman (Sialkot).

A Few Hints for Families Drafted to India.

Many families at home will probably be making a trip to India during the next trooping season.

I have just arrived, and I will endeavour to broadcast a few interesting hints, while they are fresh in my mind, whereby a married man and his family may find the journey, and perhaps the settling down at this end, a little easier.

Conversations I had at home varied greatly, according to the various stations or units with which friends had served; so it is only possible to generalise here.

"What shall I pack? and what shall I throw away?"—that is the wife's first thought. And let me advise here straight away: Bring out whatever will cost money here to replace. Practically everything needed to fit out quarters at home is necessary here, such as china, cutlery, glassware, Primus stoves, pillows and cushions, passe partout pictures, cretonne curtain material, etc.

China is particularly dear, a single dinner plate costing over a rupee (i.e. 1/6) and a very common milk jug about two rupees.

Pack every item in a sheet of newspaper, and "space" them amongst the clothes in your cases—and they will come through safely.

Do not bring saucepans, as the native cook you will probably employ will want to use a totally different type made in sets of six. They are of aluminium and are sold by weight.

A two-pint tin kettle will prove handy, and it will be wise to save all tins which have lids, about the size of a 4 lb. biscuit tin up to the larger sizes. They will prove valuable for keeping food, etc., from getting dry or contaminated.

Pack some summer frocks, dance frocks, etc., in the "wanted on voyage" baggage, as these articles are needed on the boat. Bring your winter clothes out, as they will also be needed.

Do not spend a large amount on a topee; much rather let hubby get one each for the family from the Embarkation Office at Southampton, and pay for them through his accounts.

If you have a couple of deck chairs, label them and take them on the boat with you. The deck and deck forms are terribly hard for a three weeks trip!

Families always arrive at Southampton the day before the boat sails, and are allowed off on both days for a few hours shopping. It will be wise to buy for the wife and children some rubber-soled shoes for the deck. Toys for the younger children are a necessity, and amuse them for hours. It is a good plan to pack them in the "wanted on voyage" baggage, access to which can be obtained after the first day or two out, and afterwards for an hour three times a week.

Upon arrival at Bombay, husbands have to sort out all the baggage in the Customs shed, and if it is labelled with the owner's name, no difficulty will be found, as everything is stacked alphabetically. Blankets and enamelled plates and mugs for the train journey will be issued, and meals provided for families, at the Ballard Pier Restaurant.

Coolies will be employed to move the baggage to the railway dump. If paid at the rate of one anna per package per trip, they are doing well. Do not pay them the four or five rupees they ask, but at the same time try to be fair.

I am afraid I cannot give much advice regarding train journeys, as I imagine the conditions vary considerably. It took two days to get here (Meerut) under very comfortable conditions. In fact, the travelling was superior to a journey made from Catterick to Southampton. On the other hand, a week's railway journey would probably prove monotonous to anyone. Meals from the kitchen car are served at small wayside stations, and there is the chance to get to the canteen on the train, where tinned goods and fresh fruit may be purchased.

Wherever one is posted in India, it appears to be the general rule that a family, upon arrival, shall be provided with their first meals by another family until they settle down in their own quarters. It is, indeed, a welcome to sit down to a homely meal, and one makes a mental vow to do the same for someone else when the time comes.

Finally, let me advise all married men posted to India to endeavour to save money through their credits, and draw as much as possible a week or so before sailing. Pay day on the boat is not so interesting financially as it is at home, as it is possible that only 10/- a week will be paid out—and that goes nowhere with a family.

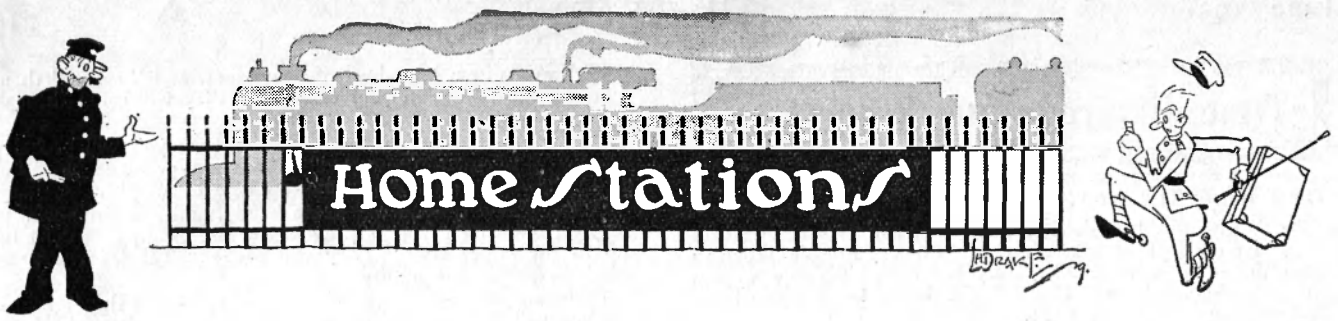
Again, upon arrival here at the station to which one is posted, it is absolutely essential to have ample funds to purchase the necessary provisions to stock the larder. There are also other incidental expenses connected with getting a home together. So come prepared with a few pounds to last you until your accounts are through.

Numerous articles of clothing have to be obtained from store: some on free issue, some on payment. Then the tailor and the laundry add their charges before they can be worn. That is the reason why full pay is not drawn on the boat: to create a credit to which the payment issues may be charged.

Marriage allowance (Rs.30 for wife, Rs.10 for child) is drawn monthly, and there is no C.R.A. Vegetables, wood, flour, etc., are drawn in lieu.

If warned for India, cut this out for reference, and I trust it will prove useful to a few families during the coming trooping season.

Meerut, April 14th, 1931. F.E.N.



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Headquarter Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—Yes, everything is, by general appearances, quite smart. The " paint and polish boys " have been enjoying themselves in preparing for the Commandant's annual inspection, and I am sure credit will be due to the Wing for the smartest huts in the lines. At least, we hope so, as all hands are on deck for the occasion ; next month, results will be published.

Arrivals.—Corpls Benten and Cosstick and L/Corpl Andrews, having been posted to the home establishment from the land of sunshine, have joined us. We all wish them a long and pleasant stay.

Corporals' Mess.—In a state of collapse? Next month, it is to be hoped, I will be able to say something more about the Mess, as no doubt old members will be interested. At the moment the place is under renovation, and someone said we may have lady waitresses if the dining-room suits them. Other than this, I am afraid nothing can be said now.

Personal.—Congratulations to Tom (Quetta) from Jack (Catterick) on his ever increasing ability in India. W.J.T.R.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

We are now in the throes of annual inspections. The C.O. has inspected the Companies of the Battalion and expressed his pleasure at their turn-out. The Commandant's inspection is taking place next week, when we all hope to surpass ourselves.

F Company still retains the Mackworth trophy, which was presented to them by Mrs. Prickett in the " blood tub " on May 14th. This being the third year in succession that they have held the trophy, they are to be highly commended ; but still, one cannot but hope that by the end of this season, another Company will have earned the right to be known as the champions.

That dreaded scourge, spotted fever, seems to have died out, but all precautions are still being observed.

The C.O. has very kindly consented to open the new corporals' room on Tuesday, May 19th, when the occasion will be celebrated with appropriate honours.

Afterthought: it seems that the watchword of a certain quarter-bloke is " Keep moving."

D Company, Training Battalion.

Four hundred and seven apologies, Mr. Editor. It was a paltry C.iii. clerk who ruined my lovely joke. I had an idea that somebody had " followed copy blindly," but in future nobody under class i. will have the " privilege " of typing my notes. Don't take it to heart ; I'm not angry with you! That's that. Somebody else is after me somewhere. Oh, yes!

To Sigs. Chitral.—Yes! esprit de corps. Here I am, trying to save you from making yourselves look ridiculous when you come home, and that's all the thanks I get! I expect you are right, but why not learn from our mistakes? Cheerio and bon voyage!

Brains.—Congratulations to the following on gaining 1st class certificates of education:—Sergeants Binham and Gale, Signalmen Robertson, Lee and Myham. It isn't the favourites who win the big races,

Inspections.—When these notes appear in THE WIRE, spring drills will be over (and, I expect, musketry started). We were complimented by the C.O. last week, and we are confident that we will receive a like honour from the Commandant after his inspection on Tuesday, May 19th.

Arrivals.—We welcome Corpl Blight from Air Defence Brigade Signals, Corpl Dicker from Jamaica, and L/Corpl Penny from China. Shake in, my sons, shake in!

Departures.—Our best wishes go with the following:—L/Sgt McMillan to Air Defence Brigade Signals, Corpl Busty Foster and L/Corpl Harrison down the " khud " to E Company, and Sigmn Gunn on transfer to the Army Reserve. Sergt McIntosh (affectionately known as B.L.) and L/Corpl Darky Broadhead will be moving very shortly to 3rd Div. and A Corps respectively.

Marriage.—L/Corpl Chadwick has done it this time, and it says " without permission " on orders. The lucky (or should it be plucky?) lady was Miss Violet Mary Greenwood.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Sergt Packman and Corpl Feltham on their elevation as shown. Is it merely coincidence that both of these are Company office wallahs?

Answers to Correspondents.—Richie, of Spike: Our tame cartoonist has gone to 4th Divl Signals. Tim Healey may be able to help you.

Corporals' Room, Pindi: You won't be hearing from Sailor Haines yet awhile. He is far too busy doing another month as sergeants' mess caterer.

Wally, Kohat: Are you still running? Swiller getting anxious.

Depot Battalion: We have found a cat. Are you sure it isn't yours?

Swallwell: Go reckless and send him a postcard.

Trimulgherry: Bill Hibbett and Tug can hardly believe Tarzan died fighting. JOSOPE.

E Company, Training Battalion.

This month, I have a little bone to pick with our old friend Mr. Editor. My notes of last month were forwarded in time for publication, but I'm afraid that the " lion " mentioned in D Company's notes for May must have eaten my script on the way to the printers. Is that so, Mr. Editor? [They were received too late for use.—ED.]

The Company was inspected by the commanding officer on May 9th, and everything is now ready for the Commandant's inspection. A good report is hoped for.

The annual presentation of the S.T.C. sports trophies took place on Thursday, May 14th, in our well known boxing arena the " blood tub." Mrs. Prickett kindly presented them, and the Brigadier congratulated everyone on the sporting spirit of all ranks during the past year. I join with the Company in congratulating F Company on again winning the Mackworth trophy.

A few words must also be said to our third football team on winning the cup for the second year in succession. Congratulations! Don't blush, Ted. Now, E Company, isn't it about time the Mackworth trophy had a lodging with us?

Arrivals.—I extend the proverbial glad hand to Sergeants Jennison and Lockyer, and Corporals Gratwick and Brewster, who have joined us from foreign climes. I hope they will enjoy the Catterick air: it is *so* bracing.

Marriage.—Congratulations to Corpl Dowie on joining the C.R.A. roll.

Appointment.—L/Sergt Justice has been appointed to that rank. Congratulations! but it is *such* a long time to wait now, Jock,

Corps Band.—The Corps Band, under the direction of Bandmaster R. R. Ricketts, proceed on their annual tour at the end of the present month. Judging from the music I hear played, which is so soothing to one's nerves, the field units are again in for a treat.

Illness.—I am pleased to state that Sigmn Brooks, who has been dangerously ill in the Darlington Isolation Hospital (as mentioned in my notes for March) is now convalescent, and will shortly be discharged from hospital.

Courses.—Corpl Dadswell has rejoined us from his course. He now combines in his duties fire and gas. In the event of a fire breaking out, he should be given a wide berth, in case he substitutes a cylinder of chlorine gas for a fire pump. Sez ——

THE WATCHER.

F Company, Training Battalion.

Our reporter has taken leave from us at short notice, and consequently our editorial staff is disorganised.

Well, well! What? inspections? Just one. Our commanding officer held his annual inspection of the Company on Saturday, May 9th, when all ranks came to the fore and are to be congratulated on their fine effort. Everything went off well, the commanding officer being very pleased with our general turn-out.

We are still in the throes of shine and polish, as we have still to prepare for our Commandant's inspection, which takes place on 18th/19th May—but more about this in the next issue.

Our long-talked-about Boys' Club has at last been officially handed over to the Company, and we hope to be firmly settled therein shortly. It will certainly be a home from home. We anticipate a great demand for the quiet reading room i.e. study for the elusive 1st and special.

After hard training and fatigue, our recruits squad has at long last reached the passing out standard and satisfied our C.O. that they are fit to join their respective trade training squads. Great credit is due to Sergt Palmer for the training of the squad, which he took over at short notice and under minor difficulties.

With the passing out of this squad, the square has been handed over to the new squad recently arrived, to whom we extend a hearty welcome, as well as to Boys Crick, Zimmer, Morley, Bartlett and Thomas from Chepstow, and L/Sergt Brooks J. from Egypt.

Departure.—L/Sergt Pagett has left us for 3rd Divl Signals, and our best wishes go with him.

Maokworth Trophy—We have once again obtained the coveted trophy—worthy winners for three years in succession. This is quite a notable achievement, and we are very proud of ourselves! We will have more to say about this in next month's notes.

Births.—To Captain and Mrs. H. E. Rance, a daughter, on April 14th. To Corporal and Mrs. A. Brown, a son, on May 8th. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all!

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

Arrivals.—From overseas, L/Corpl Connaghton, Signalmen Greig, Baxter, Smith F., Smith W., Stamford, Drury, Prater, Hatcher, Macklin, Stock, Boxall, Edmonds, Turner and Horsey. From Training Battalion, Signalmen Davidson and Vivian. From Depot Battalion, Drivers Cook, Dowthwaite and Brown. We welcome you, and trust you will be happy.

Departures.—To School of Signals, R.Q.M.S. Britton A. H. To 5th Divl Signals, Corpl Browne G.

Attachments.—From R.A.P.C., Aldershot, Sergeant Hopkins. From R.A.O.C., Aldershot, Armourer/Corpl Baker. From India (for P.T. course), L/Sergt Theobald and L/Corpl Gibson.

To Military College of Science, Armourer/S/Sergeant Adams, R.A.O.C. To 3rd Divl Signals, L/Sergt Jones.

Courses.—L/Sergt Jones qualified as instructor at the Small Arms School, Anti-Gas Wing, on April 1st. Sigmn Garratt qualified as cook at the Army School of Cookery on March 27th.

Births.—At Woking, on January 21st, to L/Sergt and Mrs. F. Jones, a son (Douglas Frederick). At Aldershot, on April 15th, to Sigmn and Mrs. E. Ling, a son (Douglas Anthony).

Marriages.—At Guildford, on May 2nd, Sigmn Jury W. to Miss Ruth Jessie Goodchild. At Milnrow, Lancs., on March 4th, Driver Coulson F. to Miss Ruth Whitemoss. We wish them every happiness.

Death.—We regret to record the death of Edith Maude, the wife of Sergt Trayner, which took place at Darnell Hall Sanatorium, Sussex, on December 13th, 1930.

Promotion.—L/Sergt Low to Sergeant, on March 12th. Congratulations!

Service.—Re-engaged to complete twenty-one years service, Signalmen Renals and Hatcher. Extended to complete twelve years, Sigmn Goldberg. Extended for a further six months while undergoing a vocational course, L/Corpl Shepherd and Signalmen Wale and Watts.

Education.—Awarded 1st class certificates, Sergeant Webster ("D" in geography), L/Sergt McBride ("D" in maths), L/Cpl Knight ("D" in maths) and Sigmn Hawcroft. Corpl Wheeler obtained "D" in maths and passed in map reading towards the 1st class certificate. Awarded 2nd class certificates, L/Corporal Crowley, Signalmen Wadey and Tysoe, and Driver Heywood.

Trade Qualifications.—Electrician fitters, class iii., Signalmen Jones H. G., Styles, Tysoe and Stanton S. Linemen, class ii., Signalmen Bingham, Costigane, Green, Breeze, Belben and Cartwright. Drivers I.C., class ii., Signalmen Baker and Sharples. Operator W/T class iii. Sigmn Walker L. G.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 Construction Section.

General.—All ranks extend a hearty welcome to Captain R. G. L. Giblin, who has taken over command of the Company; also to Lieut. F. I. N. McOstrich on taking over the command of the Section. May both officers have a happy sojourn with us!

A Corps Signals sports were held on Thursday, April 30th, and Friday, May 1st, when some good events were witnessed.

The inter-Section cup was won by No. 8 W/T Section, and the Wasey trophy by No. 1 Construction Section. Captain W. S. Wasey will be pleased to learn that his old Section won this cup at the first time of asking.

Under the present system, there seems no hope of "A," "B" or No. 1 M.T. ever winning the former cup, as they really cannot compete with "one team entrants." All entrants from the Construction Section were out for a win, but had to be content with "C" team doing their stuff. Nevertheless, your help was certainly appreciated.

Having made a start at pot-hunting, we are going all out to haul in one or two more at the Signals sports in July.

The annual musketry course is now a thing of the past. The Section obtained nineteen 1sts, twenty-three 2nds, and three 3rds. There would have been four 3rds but for the kind gift of two bulls from Specky. Thanks!

L/Corpl Denyer is completely restored to health, and is at present enjoying a well-earned rest (?) somewhere around Cambridge way.

Dole Dodgers.—Signalmen Hatcher and Renals to complete twenty-one years (Rook, please note).

Arrivals.—Lieut. F. I. N. McOstrich, Signalmen Cameron, Davidson, Smith F., Smith W., Vivian, Stamford, Prater, Greig and Baxter. Welcome, all!

Congratulations.—To "W" team on winning the inter-Section cup. To Ferdi on the winning musketry score—both prizes, too! To Sigmn and Mrs. Mills on the arrival of a daughter (Gwendoline) at Rushmoor on April 30th.

Aberdeen Item.—Will ex-L/Corpl Clarke (Hammond) somewhere in Hereford, kindly send his address to Sigmn Delicate (Storer) now with Egypt Signals?

Lost again, Nobby—same as Rams and t'cup.

Cheerio till next time! DANGLER.

No. 1 Company: A Cable Section.

Straight from the Horse's Mouth.—It's a free country, and you are not forced to read this any more than I am forced to write it—but not being a cinema star, a command performance *is* still a command performance!

TELEPHONE No. 8 ESTABLISHED 1849

W. METCALFE

Sports Outfitter

THE SPORTS DEPOT

RICHMOND, YORKS.

TROUT LICENCES. ANGLING PERMITS.

Turn in Grooming.—Dora's head came round with a bored look in her eye as she said to Molly, "He's at it again! I suppose, just because we're turned out in the middle of the night for a couple of officers, he thinks we're a couple of chargers."

"Yes, Dora, I suppose so ; but what do you think of this week in and week out training scheme?"

"Well, to be truthful, old girl, it seems to me that Mr. Snowden, with his income puzzle, has got 'em all dizzy."

"You see, this week is our week in, but up to date you have been out every day, and there's been no signalmen grooming—so I cannot quite work out the wangle."

"But, Dora, you've got it all wrong ; this week is an exception, 'cos half of each Section is away."

"But, next week, they will be out on schemes with the bird men. As far as I can see, the section sergeant is the only one who gets left in. That's fine, but he's too good to need training (?)"

"Say, Dora, have you noticed how stuck up Poppy has got since she took the new O.C. for a trip?"

"Yes, she's getting quite cocky ; refused to drink with us this morning, and went and rolled in the sand pit—just after she was groomed, too!"

"Oh, that's nothing. What about Buttons? Ever since the creature saw the A.D.V.S., it thinks it's one of us."

"Tell me, Molly, what do you think of this scheme of iron greys?"

"What scheme, Dora?"

"Why, the sprained shoulder business. First, Dapper takes a week off with it, and now Jimmie is swinging the lead. I think it's time one of us riders had a go at it—don't you?"

"Not a bad idea! I'll listen to Bowen and get a few tips."

"Well, old lady, they are getting the feeds ready, so pipe down."

Feed away! "A" CABLE.

No. 3 Company.

A Difficult Situation Overcome.—For obvious reasons, each individual n.c.o. and man in the Company cannot tell his company commander, Captain J. W. Bailey, M.C., how sorry he is to learn of the long illness of Mrs. Bailey, so I am taking this opportunity of expressing their thoughts for them in this way, and adding that we all hope that the advent of fine weather will help Mrs. Bailey to better health and strength again.

Whatever may have happened to the notes for this Company during the past two months, the blame, I am pleased to say, cannot be laid at my door. Our special representative, unhappily, was induced to take a space in the Cambridge Hospital early last month, and the arduous duties that he had performed in connection with our monthly notes came abruptly to an end. I am glad to report, however, that he is getting well again now, and will be able to read these lines whilst enjoying a month's sick leave.

As was reported last month, a recent draught of Brighton air has arrived here and has (or part of it has) got lodged in the Company office via the pay office, much to the disgust of the said draught and the delight of the rest of the community (or vice versa—whichever way you are inclined to look at it). There is one thing about it, though, which perhaps you may all have noticed. I have decided not to warn any more signalmen for main guards—only the n.c.o.s (loud applause: positive from the signalmen, negative from the n.c.o.s).

The Inter-Section Cup.—Let us all join together (by and large) in congratulating No. 8 Light W/T Section on gaining the cup this year, and thus keeping it at home.

Thanks to the able "stratagem" (shall we say) of C.Q.M.S. McGregor and others, the Company was shuffled, cut, dealt and played in the twinkling of an eye, and No. 8 W/T Section certainly made the best of their cards. It was a quick job, sure enough, but then, that's what we are noted for. (That "by and large" bit is pretty good, I think ; I saw it somewhere the other day).

I must say that the "C" team of No. 1 M.T. Section of No. 1 Company put up a very fine show indeed, but had to pool their points with their other three teams and divide the total points by four—which mathematical feat finally landed the M.T. Section in third place. As an individual team, however, they are to be congratulated on the spirit they showed all through. I hope a full account is given elsewhere.

Company Sports.—We anticipate holding the sports during the coming week, and in the next issue we shall be able to warn the world's athletes just what they will have to contend with in future contests. Until then, we cannot say definitely whether we can put up a team for the next Olympic Games, or not!

Arrivals.—Corporal Hayhoe arrived here (via the Corporals' Mess) on May 1st, on disembarkation from A Cable Section of No. 1 Company. Sigmn Walker L. G. from Jubbulpore and the U.J.C. Signalmen Boxall S. G., Horsey C. and Edmonds G. A. from Egypt Signals, early in May (the last-named hopes to get his weight down during his eight weeks furlough). U/L/Corpl Gibson, also from Egypt Signals, for a muscle expanding course at a near-by factory that specialises in that class of work.

Marriage.—Sigmn Jury W. to Miss R. J. Goodchild, at Guildford, on May 2nd. Best of luck to you both!

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Ling, on April 15th: "It's a boy."

Weapon Training.—Once again we breathe a sigh of relief, and either blame our rifles or the wind, or something or other, because we didn't all turn out to be marksmen. Anyhow, the Company average of 55.4 was pretty good. Hard luck on Spud Taylor in just missing the commanding officer's prize, though, wasn't it?

Education.—L/Sgt McBride J. and Sigmn Hawcroft W. were awarded 1st class certificates. The former managed to obtain a "D" for mathematics, and attributed his success to completing despatch riders' work tickets. Signalman Watmore C. passed in English and map reading towards his 1st.

Preparation for Civvy Life.—There was a certain operator in the Company who thought he would offer his services to the P.M.G. after he had finished his colour service, and accordingly he obtained a few days leave to go and see that gentleman or his representative. He arrived at the Central Telegraph Office, and after stating the nature of his business, was given a manipulation test and passed it with flying colours. He was informed that he would be placed on the waiting list. Being a youth with plenty of foresight, he enquired "How long is this waiting list?" He was taken to the lift on the top floor and was given a ride down to the basement. When he arrived at the basement, his guide took out his fountain pen and entered his name at the bottom of the list. They kept the list in the lift shaft for convenience sake, as it was a long job unrolling it every time a name was added. Beat that one!

If a certain individual brings his testimonials here to be copied many more times, I shall never be able to type such words as "willing," "honest," "hard-working," "sober," etc., without getting cold shivers.

Cricket.—I nearly forgot it. Excuse me! The draw for the Rawson cricket cup has been made, and we find as our first opponents a combined team of D Troop and the Aldershot Signal Company. We give them friendly warning that we are obvious bidders for this trophy this year.

Some of the lads have already blancoed their shoes, borrowed white shirts, and begged, borrowed, or by means of the "Victor" way, become possessors of flannels of all shapes, sizes and colours (certainly colours!)

Practice has been enthusiastic, and casualties to the extent of one knee twisted and two bats missing have already occurred

(know anything about the latter items, No. 4 Company?) A lot is hoped from Signalmen Roderick (ex-Sanawar, Gordon) and Meadows, two newcomers to the team.

For the information of all other Companies in Mons Barracks, our bhoys are at home any evening from 5 p.m. onwards to do battle. T.R.B.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

" Once more into the breach, dear friends," quoth an infantry musketry instructor to us only a fortnight ago—and right royally was he answered. An absolutely unbiassed spectator told me, after the firing had finished, that it was the most striking display of standards, guidons and colours he had seen for some time.

Only Jimmy Dunn of *The Daily Mail* could do justice to a literal description of the scene, so why should I try?

Out of the fifteen who fired for No. 4 Company that day, seven obtained the title of " snake eye " and the remainder ran close. This speaks volumes for indoor musketry practice.

The summer is upon us with a vengeance, and our athletes have already " athleted " to no small extent.

I will not publish the results of the inter-Section sports, for that would only be asking for trouble. The fact remains, though, that the score stands unaltered whether you draw a veil over it or not—you still can't see it!

Serious thought is being given to the idea of entering Signalman Cooper for the cycling championships this year. His recent performances on the Farnham-Aldershot road reveal an amazing aptitude for this branch of sport. His trainer informs me that when timed over the straight mile (Mons Barracks to Uncle's) he went so fast that he nearly caught up the previous day. No " mean feat," even for Fagin, whose size in boots is notorious.

Sigmn Davies is now performing as Company gardener, with an enthusiastic helper in Bess. The way these two work together is a strangely beautiful sight, even to those familiar with canine intelligence. It is difficult to single out any particular part for praise, but Dave's patches of delphiniums are only counterbalanced in beauty with Bess's red salmons, whilst her rockery is equally as pleasing to the eye as his dandelion and burdock.

For the information of all concerned, I am asked to broadcast the recent departure of the trailer. The Company have lost a landmark with its return to Woolwich. At the same time, Corpl Weir and Signalman Brennan also went to Woolwich, and we appear to have lost them also. Information as to their present whereabouts would be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations are extended to Sergt Webster on obtaining his 1st. It was complete with two " D's," so no mistake can have been made.

Sergt Bremner, it seems, has also got into the news with an entirely new interpretation of Tom Mix during the recent revolver practices. I am told that constant practice in finding straight billiard cues is the reason for his success.

A novel kind of scheme was evolved by our O.C. during the last fortnight. It consisted of a complete Corps-Division exercise, and was held indoors. Every branch of communication was represented as it actually would be in the field, and one had, therefore, the unusual opportunity of seeing a 120-watt at full blast, though installed (even to the aerial) in a normal barrack room. Other rooms held C sets, offices, exchanges, and all the other necessary apparatus, with each department staffed by the operators under training. As knowledge was gained, so was the operator switched to something else, thus providing everyone with the opportunity of becoming practically acquainted with the functions of A Corps Signals. Only one snag was evident: the scheme put " paid " to any hopes of broadcast reception in the canteen. Instead, we had Morse, and how the old soldier operators (?) revelled in it!

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The great thing of the moment is unit exercises, which old members of the Company will remember so well. Incidentally, all the old haunts have been visited. I am sure we will give a sigh of regret when the last one is finished! These exercises usually bring forth some weird and wonderful inventions. Section inventors are hard at it at the moment. This

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year, we have been introduced to the diaphragm sounder. Opinions differ as to its efficiency. It is rumoured that over thirty stations (many continental) have been tuned in on one of them ; and when the needle goes to the left, the music comes in backwards.

Football has come to its glorious end. The season has been fairly successful. This Company has contributed many talented players to "A" Group.

Inter-Unit Sports.—Some exceptional talent has been brought to light, and we hope to hear high things of some men in the near future. We would like to give publicity to the following:—

Sigmn Ed-Rissole.—Bun and treacle race. He has exceptional natural gifts for this particular event.

Busty.—For the hundred (pints) and hurdles.

Sigmn Wilson (Mary).—The man who threw the discus from Mons Barracks to Tongham Docks.

Sigmn Busty Barker.—The javelin wizard. The last javelin was never found.

Big Boy Hogg.—High jump and putting the shot.

Arrivals and Departures.—Of the former, nil. We wish Drivers Reeves and Baker the best of luck on their return to civvy street.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Here, once again, the same old faces are still coming to the surface for a breather ; nothing disturbs the even tenor of our way. Al still goes to sleep while cleaning boots, Slim is still going to London, Badgy is still orderly trumpeter, and Darky is still wearing the same old breeches.

The Company Sports Meeting.—On Tuesday, May 5th, a sports meeting was held, and it is saying too little about it to state that it will go down in history. Fortunately (we had doubts) fine weather prevailed, and although the ground was a bit soft, there was no terrific broadsiding in any of the races. A list of winners of the various events is shown in the Sports section.

After a simply stupendous tea, the prizes were presented by Mrs. Sylvester, and everyone agreed that the whole show was a tremendous success.

Comings and Goings.—The welcoming and clutching hand is extended to all the newly arrived from foreign climes, and we trust that their stay with us will be long and happy.

Sigmn Wright has left us for civvy street. We all wish him the best of luck, and hope that the job turns up in fine form.

New heads bring new ideas, and it turns out that among the newly arrived is a poet of no mean order. I introduce him again to you, as I believe that he has previously blossomed forth before you in a blaze of coruscating brilliance.

"IF."

(With apologies to Mr. Rudyard Kipling)

If you can keep your head when all about you
  Have theirs between their hands and look so blue ;
If without qualms, and not a single doubt, you
  Can face your food as though you wanted to ;
If you can stride the decks with joyous laughter,
  And revel in the sting of wind and rain,
And laugh at every pitch that follows after,
  Nor care how soon the old tub pitch again ;
If you can view a number of your fellows
  Erupting in a melancholy bunch,
With faces tinged with greens and blues and yellows,
  And still discover that you need your lunch ;
If on a lower troop deck you can slumber
  In atmosphere that almost can be heard,
And, though the ship may pitch and roll and lumber,
  Can still wake blithe and chirpy as a bird ;
If in the darkness, bending almost double,
  You heed the bugle call to "lash and stow,"
And still can rise without a hint of trouble,
  Hearing no inner voice that bids you "Go" ;
If you can make the unforgiving minute
  Retain its useful spot of fact or fun,
Remembering the world has others in it,
  And that you've not become the only one ;
If you can plan, for leave, a six-course dinner
  For when you meet the girl of your desire,
And o'er each course can gloat, as you're a sinner,
  Without your stomach calling you a liar ;
If you can spare a thought for the to-morrow,
  While others have ceased thinking of to-day,
And while they lie there, troubled and in sorrow,
  You still can gaily sally forth to play ;
If with the trivial items you can bother,
  Say, sew on buttons as a tailor can:
You'll be a ruddy miracle, my brother,
  And—what is more—a darn good sailor man!

BLACK.

The Wild West Show.—As a number of people know, we have a Canadian officer attached to this Company. Whether he infused the powers-that-be with this western idea is an open question, but the fact remains that No. 1 Company possesses a ranch at last. Yes, the pukka thing, this time, and known to the world at large as the "Lazy B."

Situated next door to the stable, it occupies a prominent position, and the old poles comprising the corral are a public eyesore as they rear their gaunt forms skywards. The Lazy B boys, headed by that indomitable cowpuncher Diving Demon, perform their wonderful feats of back scratching, joy riding, horse breaking and double crossing, in two distinct demonstrations. A visit to this domicile of perfect bliss is well worth the trouble, and the onlooker will hear many quaint expressions just as they are used "out there."

For Information.—Egypt Signals will be pleased to learn that although Sailor went to Scarborough, Joe nobly took over his mantle and gave a sparkling reproduction of "The Gay Cavalier" to an enthralled audience in the canteen. This was definitely Joe's first public appearance, and the fact can only be explained by saying that English beer is much stronger.

Vocal Training.—A series of singing classes is being arranged by that well known basso profundo Slim. It will be remembered that the great singer has performed before the cream of society, including such famous personages as Eskimo Nell, the Vicar of Wakefield, Mrs. 'Arris and Cleopatra. Applicants who really intend to cultivate similar acquaintances by the charm of their personality and well-trained voices should apply to Slim, in No. 39 Room, at any time between the hours of six and seven in the evening.

The After-math.—After the sports meeting, two worthy members of B Section were vigorously rubbed with "Bluebell" as a precaution against stiffness. (No names, and no more sorrows!)

Tail Piece.—Five minutes to go (?) FUTURIST.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Very little of interest has happened since this sadly depleted Company last inserted notes.

A few more of our little band have departed for the land of the Sphinx and Pyramids, bearing with them our good wishes for the future.

J Section have been away for a while to sunny Pirbright, and unluckily (for them) walked right into a duty week, with Twoco *hors de combat.*

K Section having been disbanded, the Company has experienced another upheaval owing to a change round.

Arrivals.—A cordial welcome is extended to our newcomers, too numerous to mention individually.

Promotions.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Hammond on attaining that rank, and L/Corpl Taff Saltern, to Major (Feeds) unpaid.

Marriages.—Sigmn Brown J. W. R. to Miss Hetty Garbutt, on March 28th. A new addition to the 50 percenters.

Returns.—L/Sergt Hammond, L/Corpl Perryman, Signalmen Webster R. T. and Riley H., after a six months sojourn in the land of civvy street—to wit, the G.P.O.

Agonies.—Paddy Boyd, Egypt Signals: Why not try a pencil, Paddy boy? Denbow.

Will Val Hankins, late of A Corps, drop a line to C. Smith and Kitwood?

Wanted.—Notes from No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals.

A Typist's Lament.

Xomebody's been xpring-cleaning my roob,
Makig it tidy with bucxet and broom,
Taking the piqtures down, banging the booxs,
Chasing the zpiders out of their noux.

Nothixg is whear it used to be kept ;
All the whooll shoz b33n garnished and sweqt ;
Ink in the past3-pot, past3 in the ink ;
Where all my piipes are, I caknot think.

My typewritez looxs as ef someone had dusted ot,
Dropped it siks tibes and properbly bugted it ;
The weheels are al bent, I'm sigs ledderz short,
And the rest of the gaudgit won't do what it ough8.

I whack at the R aad it prints me a 3,
What should be/9 is a gapitel T.
The five is a ? The button marked O
Stiks like the six and refuses to go.

The harder I bang it, the worser it gets,
And sometimes 234@/8) or: ¾'&£"BSA"i
Aut y 982a.,: wz lyur shu HyTRY98 Bells,
"24£67" (@5 78pp,) and look how it spells!
The other side of hyj 87 XXX ign 2365 and then
O h67584 463-92¾ qsii—here, give me a pen!

T(r)ails End.—Owing to prevailing weather conditions, horses have been replaced by " rain "-deers, and it is said that polar bears have been seen near the cook-house.

Seen in and around the barracks: a miniature replica of the famous Bluebird. After repeated attempts to start it up, a nearby watcher was heard to remark, " Haven't you forgotten the flint?"

Hints to Gardeners.—Plant your violets, pansies, cissies and nances during the merry month of May, and by watering in the early hours of the morning, they will spring up like daisies.

Definition of a horse, by Monsieur le Gott.—" It is a large animal about the size of a dog (if a dog were as big as that) with a long chassis supported by four legs at the N.E., S.E., S.W., and N.W. corners. There is room for two more legs in the middle, which would save it folding up when it gets tired. It is upholstered with hair, and has a face as long as a man who has just been sentenced to seven days C.B. It moves along by placing one foot down heavily after the other. They are not fitted with handle-bars." THREECO.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

General.—It was with mixed feelings that we received the news that we were about to embark on our first Brigade scheme. Eventually, however, we got away with it o.k. and there were no casualties. Our ubiquitous storeman and quarter-bloke turned cooks, and provided those fortunate souls who were setting off into the blue with a stupendous feed before they started. Ginger, I can taste that " hen-fruit " now! Red says he is all for these schemes that start at home and finish nice and early, but our 'Arry don't agree with him.

Last month's WIRE gave several of us a shock. Who would have thought that Wally was a " bruiser?" He was always such a " little gent " when he was here, too!

The C.I.A.'s inspection has come and gone. Pop wears a worried look these days; perhaps he is sweating! I shouldn't worry, Pop; a cup of tea at the right moment has worked wonders before, you know. To those people who know our Smudger, I am asked to say that he is progressing as favourably as may be expected (friends please accept this, the only intimation). He has had a month's leave, a trip to Aldershot, and a few days " dock "—the rest of the time, he's been working!

Cricket practice has started, and the team is rapidly getting into shape. We have several new acquisitions (no, Plum! it's not a swear word) since last season, and D Troop had better look to their laurels (if any) this year. Toby is still as good as ever, Sammy, and it is a long way to the boundary when you suffer from corns.

We had a practice match on Saturday last, and the local talent simply shone. The selection committee turned out in full force, and it is said that several " possibles " are creasing their slacks nowadays.

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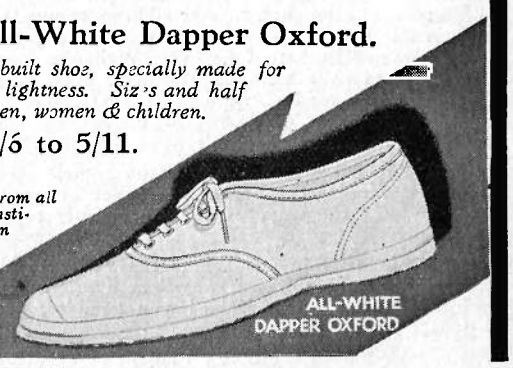


Spot the Stars Competition.—Clue: By their words shall ye know them.

1. " Where are yer? Yer don't know where yer are!"
2. " When I was in ' Constant.' "
3. " Has anyone seen my ' stinkin ' kettle?"

Correspondence Corner.—Taffy: No! Pond's vanishing cream is the best remedy.

Micky: I have never heard that there is a " Hikers' Hostel " at the place you mentioned.

Sammy: Yes! we still have some " wireless engineers " on the strength.

Aggie: Now you've got the " extra dough," what about a line?—Toby.

Robbo, 1st Cav.: Hard luck, old man! Christmas will soon be here. Am writing soon.—Dis.

Browny, Kohat: Would appreciate a letter.—Blan.

ESS JAY BEE.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

Why should we continually discuss those very things we desire to forget? Surely, no one really wants to read of the mundane affairs of every-day unit routine!

No! now that the long evenings are here and the pine-laden winds sweep gently over spacious Blackdown, it is better to picture those athletic white-clad figures weaving, with consummate skill, those various speed patterns on the carpet-like level of our playing fields. Such thoughts are infinitely more alluring and freshening to the jaded reader than to be always informed of such technicalities as cable work and the like.

Whilst realising that notes on the efforts of our athletes should be strictly confined to the Sports section, I should be failing in my duty as a chronicler if I did not say a passing word on the wonderful achievements of this little unit.

In upholding the fine sporting records and traditions of the Corps in our own tiny sphere, we may be likened to age-old Atlas, for, squeezed in between two Artillery Brigades and a battalion of Sappers, one may find this small section of Signals showing, with gay nonchalance, a very clean pair of heels to their big neighbourly brothers.

How much of the success is due to Corps spirits and how much to unit spirit it is hard to say, yet it is good to know that wherever the cry of "Signals!" is heard, one may rest assured of grit, nerve and sinew being combined in another glorious effort to bring home to the Corps even greater success than it already enjoys.

It is obvious, however, that I have a duty to perform, so I needs must place on record the recent, present and future news of the unit.

White Tents.—The advance party proceeds to Watchet Camp, "down Zummerzet way," on May 18th, followed in due course by the Maintenance and Construction Section. It must be jolly nice to have a holiday so early in the year, especially in the west!

Arrivals.—We welcome the arrival of L/Sergt McMillan from Catterick. We also extend the glad hand to Sigmn Cooper A. C. from Egypt Signals—one of those clever chaps who understand the intricate systems of instruments, you know—and to Sigmn Wilson from Catterick, a further addition to our D.R.s. Another D.R. is due to arrive from the frozen north at the latter end of May—name of Buckett, I believe. Well, the more the merrier, and all that! We welcome him with open arms. With that name, one believes he should be good at carrying the can back, as the saying goes. I do not understand the meaning of that saying; otherwise I shouldn't have used it, should I?

Acknowledgments.—To A Corps Signals on being so nice about our winning the hockey cup. You always were so polite, A Corps. By the way, we've won another cup since (see our Sports notes).

Congratulations.—To the pioneer who rashly invested or plunged "threepence each way" at a recent race meeting. If cash, glad of it? Oh, Jackie! you gambler, you!

Personal.—Seashore, Aden: My locum tenens (is that correct?) was responsible for the note on Aden. I won't argue with you, but strictly between ourselves, I overheard him remark, on reading your admonishment, "What, again?" And, please, we didn't send you any goalkeepers—perhaps you mean "go-getter"? (I hope Danson doesn't read that last piece.)

Egypt Signals.—Buck Cooper wishes all of you the best of luck, and desires to inform you that he hasn't got warm yet. (What were you reared in, Buck: a bally incubator?)

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

General.—On reviewing the past month, I am afraid that we shall have to be content with a short issue of notes this time.

Departures.—No. 3 Tank Signal Section, under the command of 2/Lieut R. B. Ridley-Martin, proceeded to join the 3rd Battn Royal Tank Corps on May 9th, for their annual holiday at Lydd. Oh, to be some people! The Tanks will meet several old friends and many new faces this year. We hope to hear something of their doings from time to time through the medium of the Corps Journal. Now, you budding scribes, here's your chance to shine.

Social.—Whist drives and impromptu dances seem to be the order of the day on the social side. We have had two in the last fortnight, and I should like to assure the people concerned in the organisation that they were both very much appreciated. The ladies seem to be rather scarce, and several of the troops have to play as lady. It seemed rather funny that most of the males playing as lady should win a prize at the first show!

At the end of last month, an all ranks dance was held in the Garrison theatre. This event proved a great success. The dance band of the 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) was in attendance and rendered some delightful and very up-to-date music. We should all like another dance like that one! Now then, committee, get cracking and don't disappoint us. We all look to you.

Training.—Section training is in full swing still. The unit went out on a two-day scheme last week, and were also on one of three days duration this week. On the two-day scheme, we hear, one detachment lost their milk. It has been rumoured that one with ginger hair knows a lot about it—or was it Dragon?

We should like to know what a certain individual said when, after carefully putting some peas in a bucket to soak overnight, another individual came along and with equal care poured the water away, scattering the peas all around the country-side. If it is any consolation to you, the office boy says you shouldn't have joined.

Up to the present, no news of the three-day scheme has come in to the office; in fact, I think all the heroes are still asleep (hush! don't touch them; sweep round).

Education.—On May 9th and 10th, an examination for the 2nd class certificate of education was held in Tidworth, and we had fourteen candidates sitting. So far, we have not heard how they got on, but we sincerely hope they have all passed with distinction. If they haven't, the Education Department will have something to say about it.

Marriage.—Our rather belated congratulations and good wishes are handed to Sigmn H. Garrett, who was married to Miss May Booker at Crowborough on April 4th. A Corps Signals, Karachi, please note.

Conclusion.—This unit deals with many types of vehicles, tanks, armoured cars, chariots and what-nots, and we can usually cope with any conundrums in connection therewith; but when asked why we had issued stores to a tug-boat, we must own that we really were momentarily nonplussed.

True, there is the battered relic of a trireme, or some such vessel, used by William the Conqueror when he landed at the Tattoo ground last summer, but it has only been seen sailing over the stormy billows of the Plain by late revellers from the dances.

However, we soon found the accusation false, and that the typist had mixed up Tidmouth with Weyworth—or so he said.

H.Q.

No. 2 Artillery Signal Section, Larkhill.

General.—Like a certain popular weekly, we now have "a place in the sun," and we hope to become a shining light.

Our parents the 3rd Divl Signals have sent us to this beautifully verdant spot to minister to the signal needs of the 6th Medium Brigade R.A.

We are under the command of Lieut. W. G. R. Elliott, who was until recently with the 4th Divl Signals at Colchester—a unit which knows how to build up a football team.

We have four n.c.o.s to look after us: L/Sergts Child C. and Leath J. E., and L/Corpls Bedford H. and Hollands W. In other words, we start with a boxing child, with another "chicko," then a "snore," and finish up with a drop of gin.

Sigmn Morton is the storeman, and Sigmn Wilkinson the engine driver, cable, mark ii.—the mark i. (Sigmn Manton) having taken up an A.V.T.C. course with Ordnance, at Tidworth, prior to leaving the Colours.

We have lost our famous Irishman, Sigmn Matchett, who has joined Eddy Section. Look out for his riding the winner of the Grand National one day!

Coincidence.—Just about the time *The Daily Herald* announced the formation of the National League of Hikers, there was driven into Bulford Camp a six-wheeled lorry contrivance termed a mechanical cable layer.

Now, the good people of 'Shot have lent this thing to the lads of C Cable Section to see if it is of any use to *them*. They are being instructed in its ways and means by the most suitable person for the job: a cross-country runner named L/Sergt Jones F. A.—the Corps' first three-mile champion 'way back in the good old days of No. 77 Hut, Maresfield Park Camp.

We have been informed that on the command "Commence work!" there is a great despondency among the working numbers of that Section. "Who will be the first to commence the great hike?"—or, in other words, walk behind this mechanical layer, making the cable safe. On reaching the intended destination, the only person left on the layer is the driver; and if longer lines were laid, probably even he would be utilised for tie-backs, etc.

No wonder that we hear remarks such as "Roll on, a horse section again! we do get a ride sometimes." It is rumoured that C Section are about to join the Hikers' League *en bloc*.

A Hint.—Come and pay us a visit, and see our method of cable laying.

To Lieuts J. Vickers and P. G. Docker, somewhere in India: We still have the same old engine, sirs. It's running very well. Cheerio, everybody! JOYLE.

Southern Command Signal Company, Salisbury.

General.—Ex-members of the Corps and ex-R.E. Signals in this Command are asked to look at the O.C.A. notes in the front of this Journal, and if they have not yet got in touch with the secretary, they should do so at once.

Birth.—Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. N. A. C. Clubb on the birth of a son (Michael John) at Bulford on March 11th. We hope he will grow up to follow in his father's footsteps i.e. a chef.

For Sale.—To all electrical fitters and others interested: Two bound volumes of "Electrical Wonders of the World—Illustrated" are offered for sale, price 15/- for the two. Anyone wishing to purchase them should at once communicate with Mr. E. Hand, 8 Nursery Road, Salisbury, Wilts.

Correspondence.—Corpl H. W. Willingale, 2nd Indian Divl Signals, Quetta, India: Your letter is receiving attention. You will receive a reply from the Salisbury Branch Signals O.C.A. shortly. COIR.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—It is most surprising, the things one is *not* able to chronicle when one is suddenly reminded that WIRE notes have to be in. However, although my notes must be short this month, I will endeavour to keep the unit in THE WIRE.

We are just at the tail end of individual training and at the commencement of Section training. All who have served on the Plain will realise what that means; and although we are not supposed to be in for a busy season, it's going to be busy enough for us, one way and another.

For the information of old comrades of 3rd Divl Signals, the old comrades re-union and church parade will be held on Sunday, July 5th, and all old comrades are cordially invited to attend. They can get to know arrangements for transport from railway stations by intimating to the adjutant their intention of being present.

The gardens in the lines are now quite promising, but if some people would take a little more care where they put their feet, more than one of the amateur gardeners would be grateful.

The D.R.s are busy training for the Tidworth Tattoo in August, and I'm sure they will put up as good a show as any they have given in the past, despite the fact that we have lost one or two of our "big noises."

The unit had their usual win in the Bulford Garrison cross-country run, and now training has commenced for athletics. At present, the number in training will not make a full team, but no doubt we shall find the required number and put up a good show. Now then, lads, turn up at training and make the team a winning one.

Hearty congratulations to Captain R. J. N. Solly and Lieut. A. B. Ruck on their recent marriage. We wish them and their ladies health and happiness.

We are busy preparing and rehearsing for the King's Birthday parade on June 6th, when all units in Salisbury Plain area will parade on the Bridgmerston field for a review. I trust we shall do as well as the remainder, as we are all hard triers.

No. 2 Company are at present leading the field in the inter-Company sports shield; but, really, they shouldn't win it this year. What do you say, No. 1 Company?

We managed, by knock-outs, to retain the Garrison boxing cup, so nobody could say we didn't deserve it.

Congratulations.—We heartily congratulate the following, who obtained their 1sts at the last examination:—C.Q.M.S. Seymour A. J., C.Q.M.S. Tilford C. T. ("D" in maths), Sergt Noakes H., and Sigmn Carden W. T. ("D" in map reading).

L/Sergt Ivison, Corpl McGregor, L/Corporals Fox, Peake and Why, and Signalmen Costello, Birkett, Hull and Knox, passed in map reading, and Sigmn Staton in English and map reading.

The undermentioned were awarded their 2nd class certificate on February 27th:—Signalmen Costello, Dix, Lucas, Dow, Julyan, Moore, O'Neill, Brown E., Couldwell, Humphreys, Mitcheson and Wright.

Departures.—Sigmn Hollands G. to 4th Divl Signals on April 29th. Sigmn Worthy to the Reserve on May 12th.

Re-Engagements.—Sergt Waldron to complete twenty-one years, on April 28th, and Corporals Weekes and Mitson and Signalmen Meehan and Garrett, on April 13th.

Marriages.—L/Corpl McKenzie L. to Miss Emily Caroline Ada Team, at Portsmouth, on April 7th. Sigmn Whitehead A. to Miss Alice Maud Lillian Bayley, at Salisbury, on April 18th.

Extension.—Signalman Hooker to complete twelve years, on April 14th.

Birth.—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Gladwell, a son (Ronald Thomas) at Stoke Newington, on March 30th.

Classification.—L/Corporal Rowe to lineman, class i., w.e.f. March 12th.

Appointments.—Sigmn Etchells appointed U/L/Corporal on May 1st. U/L/Corpl Stevens, paid, w.e.f. May 1st.

Arrivals.—Corporals Baker, Knight and Kiddle, L/Corporals Holland, Knight, Cummings and Marsh, and Sigmn Mills, from India. L/Corpl Woodbury from India on April 10th. C.Q.M.S. (F.-of-S.) Thorpe J. arrived for duty with Southern Command Signal Company. Sigmn Cavill F. from 4th Divl Signals on April 29th. L/Sergt Pagett from Training Battalion on May 11th. Drivers Bain and Brooking from Depot Battalion on May 4th. Sergt Hinds and family from India on April 16th.

Courses.—Sergt Cotterell to Aldershot, for a P.T. course, on April 29th. L/Corporals Lea and Webb to 103rd Regimental Signallers course, at Catterick, on April 30th.

We have just survived a three-day Corps artillery exercise. A mechanised Cable Section of A Corps Signals assisted and, we are told, put in their usual good work. We were glad to see them.

Some old acquaintances turned up in the 1st Corps Signals S.R., who provided their three Companies for the Corps exercise. We are hoping to see some of their mess members at the sergeants' mess dance and whist drive on May 16th.

Sergeants' Mess.—Sergt Dodman has now returned to duty after a year in hospital, and although he has not fully recovered, he is well on the way to it. We wish him a speedy complete recovery, and hope his new job will assist him in that direction.

Five members of the Mess were able to accept the kind invitation to Capt Solly's wedding in London on April 30th, and wish to thank him for the very good time they had.

We are still holding the usual fortnightly whist drives and dances, but I'm afraid this month will see the end of them for this season.

Sports.—No. 2 Company have won the inter-Company hockey by defeating No. 3 Company. No. 2 Company have also won the "A" soccer competition. The rugger resulted in a draw, all Companies scoring equal points.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

No. 1 Company.

Football.—Hearty congratulations to the soccer team on winning the Garrison and the Essex and Suffolk Border Leagues. The team, Sergt. Wells, and others closely connected with the team have the satisfaction of knowing that their hard work has done the Corps a great deal of good.

Arrivals.—We welcome to No. 1 Company Lieut C. D. Gardiner, L/Sergt Kemp, Sigmn Smee and Driver McGurk.

Departures.—2/Lieut J. H. L. Crichton, Signalmen Shapcott and Richards, and Driver Murray, to No. 2 Company. Our best wishes go with them.

Hospital.—Corpl G. Gourlay went into Mill Bank Hospital on May 6th, and we are glad to hear that he has satisfactorily come through a somewhat nasty operation for mastoid. We hope to see him back at the end of June.

No. 2 Company.

General.—The Company is now very scattered, E Section having proceeded to Shorncliffe and G Section to Woolwich, to join their respective Artillery Brigades before practice camp; and by the time these notes appear, F Section will have returned from a fortnight's "sun bathing" at Trawsfynnyd with the 17th Field

Brigade R.A., under the command of our O.C., Captain V. C. Holland.

G Section will have returned to Colchester by May 15th, but not to the comforts of a barrack-room, for they will continue to remain under canvas at Cockwatch Camp, near Colchester, after having trekked from Woolwich, the march taking three days to complete—the first day, from Woolwich to Warley ; the second, from Warley to Witham ; and the third, from Witham to Cockwatch Camp.

Congratulations.—The heartiest congratulations are proffered to the unit soccer team on their great achievements throughout the past season, and on winning the Essex and Suffolk Border League (Premier Division) and the Garrison Senior League. It is, indeed, a wonderful performance, and we wish them greater successes next season.

Arrivals.—We extend the glad mit to Sigmn Hollands from Bulford, Sigmn Green M. from No. 3 Company, Driver Murray J. H. and Sigmn Richards G. E. from No. 1 Company, and Driver Jeffery P. F. from Catterick.

Departures.—Sigmn Williams E. J. has left us for the School of Signals.

Discharges.—C.Q.M.S. Bartlett J. and Sergts Dickenson G. and Willis T. left us for civvy street on completion of pontoons only. We wish them the very best of luck in their new spheres of life.

No. 3 Company.

General.—No. 3 Company calling! Having passed through another very busy month, we can now look forward to an easing of the situation, the reason being that the Company is now getting back to its full strength. A shortage of personnel has been our big worry for some time past, but it seems that somebody has been " painting the clouds with sunshine " in this respect.

Training.—This has been carried out very successfully, and " man-hours " have been at a premium. The Infantry Brigade Sections have tried to uphold the good work they did last season, and have carried out many successful schemes in the vicinity of those well-known haunts, Park Farm, Olivers and Maypole Farm, etc. Keep it up, the I.B.s!

Arrivals.—To the following (some of whom were here many moons ago) a hearty welcome is extended: Corpl Hart R., Signalmen Hogg F., Honey A., Spiller R. and Trivass P., from the land of the Sphinx, and Driver Francis W. from the land of the broad acres.

Departures.—Sigmn Flower H. to civil life, and Sigmn Cavill F. to 3rd Divl Signals. Our good wishes accompany them wherever they may wander. Unfortunately, the famous K Section twins have been severed by the departure of Sigmn Cavill.

A Doubtful Double.—The Barker box and the Barker carrier.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

The soccer team and officials were entertained to a supper by the members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, in recognition of their fine achievements during the past season.

A very fine repast was served, followed by speeches by the commanding officer, R.S.M. A. H. Beattie, the captain of the team (Corpl G. Palmer) and the secretary (Sergt A. E. Wells).

As the supper commenced within an hour of winning the Essex and Suffolk Border League, it will be realised that everybody was in the best of spirits.

An impromptu smoking concert was held after the supper, during which a great deal of unknown talent was revealed. Among the artistes were C.Q.M.S.s Kendall and Ramsdale, Sergt Scrivens, Corpls Purcell and Anderson, and Driver Souter (two bars of yodelling).

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

General.—Summer time came in the early hours of the morning, and the usual cries were heard " What's the time?" " Oh, I've put my watch back." And to crown it all, it snowed and rained. Cheer up! the weather is brightening.

The individual training period has just finished, and the Trade Board is testing individuals for higher ratings—and then the hiking season opens.

The C.O. is running an officers, w.o.s and n.c.o.s course which includes organisation, demonstrations and T.E.W.T., and is very interesting. A few w.o.s and n.c.o.s are also enjoying a short M.T. driving course. Talk about dirt track racing and " safety first " week! The first night the four strokes were taught, the four strikes were expected, but alas! we've still got the cars left.

The all ranks dances are still being enjoyed, and a very successful carnival dance was held on May 1st. The crowning of our May Queen was held over until the next dance on the 8th instant —wasn't it, Jock? But why, oh! why was Jimmy nearly in tears?

Latest from the allotments: " What kind of spuds are those with red colouring and pink eyes? I should think they were 'earlies' and 'lates,' or 'never-nevers.' Wouldn't you?" Nevertheless, the gardens are looking well.

Congratulations to Nos. 1 and 3 Companies on their tie for the inter-Company sports shield ; also to No. 3 Company on winning the indoor games shield. Now we are off again, commencing with athletics.

A hearty welcome is extended to L/Corpl Barnicott, Signalmen Brown A. E., Gill A. and Ruffell R., and Drivers Perry J. and Read A., from Egypt Signals ; L/Corpl Worthington J., Drivers Rhodes G. and Walker T., from Catterick ; Corpl Browne G. A. and family from A Corps Signals, Aldershot ; Sigmn Vize H. and family from Malta Signal Section ; and Sigmn Scott S. C. from Catterick.

Sigmn Flynn has proceeded on a selected cook's course, Sigmn Taylor G. on a butcher's course, and A/U/L/Corpl Swan A. H. on a boxing instructor's course.

Salutations to L/Corpl Baker W. H. on his appointment (yes, the same old Kantara-Rafa, etc.)

Farewell was said to Signalmen Scott W. L., Lockhart H. F. and Lewis E. H., who have left us for civvy street.

Our Story.—Officer (inspecting M/C Squad, who specialised in signal time): " Corporal, what are you doing to that magneto?" Corporal: " Re-timing it, sir." Officer: " Well, be sure and get signal time."

Sergeants' Mess.—Our final dance for the season was held on May 6th, and everybody voted it a successful evening.

The April snooker hidden handicap was won by Sergt Fegan, who beat C.Q.M.S. Sheale in the final which was held after the usual monthly dinner.

Jim Daw calls in to see us, and spins us the old yarns. The medal is in the carpenter's shop.

George will be pleased to hear that our wireless set is now working o.k.

To Jock Laing and other members of the T.B. football team of 1925: Snowy is still alive and kicking.

Corporals' Room.—Hello, everybody! Like Rip Van Winkle, we have come to life—in print.

The corporals held their monthly dance on Tuesday, April 14th, in the church-gym-dance hall. This, as usual, passed off in the approved style, thanks to the committee.

Corporals Pope, Falkner and Bourne have gone with their Section to Catterick for their summer vacation. L/Corpl Mayer has made a temporary home in Helles Lines, Catterick, nursing the recruits there (a bit different from nursing Thomas Richard, eh, Tommy?) That will-o'-the-wisp Jock Collins has attached himself to the School of Signals for an A.I.s course.

The undermentioned are congratulated on safely passing out at the School of Signals:—Corporals Policella and Kelly, Q.1.; Corpl Betty, " D." Now I know where all the breezes come from.

Promotions.—L/Corpl Smith W. A. (from India) to be Corpl w.e.f. January 30th. L/Corpl Baker to be paid w.e.f. March 18th (another instalment for the suite, Doughy). Signalmen Watkiss C. A., Swan A. H. and Mattock H. C. to be A/U/L/Corporal.

Arrivals—The hand of friendship is extended to the following: —Corporals Daw R., Badham A. and Smith W. A., L/Corporals Manning G., Mulholland J., Webber F. and Monaghan D., from India. Corpl Wright and family and L/Corpl Barnicott from Egypt. Corpl Birkett W. E. from the Training Battalion. L/Cpl Worthington J. from the Depot Battalion. Corpl Browne G. A. from A Corps Signals.

Jews Press.—L/Corpl Harbury (A Corps): Is the N.B.A. cheap in Karachi? Haggis.

We would like to know.—What are the Ship's Corker and Simon called Peter in strict training for.

UNITS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Signal Training Battalion.

April 25th.

Introduction.—I was very sorry to learn that the regular S.T.C. (India) correspondent was in hospital. I was more sorry when I found that I was expected to produce some notes within the hour. Ah, well! Let us see what there is to discuss.

Changes.—Colonel L. Griffith, D.S.O., is now Commandant S.T.C. (India) having relieved Col. E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Lieut.-Colonel A. J. G. Copeland has proceeded on leave, and Major A. W. Roberts, M.C., is commanding the Signal Training Battalion.

Major J. A. Pocock, R.E. (I.A.) has left the Signal Training School, and his place has been taken by Lieut.-Colonel R. V. Montgomery, M.C., R.Signals.

Many of us may not have the pleasure of seeing Colonel Barker and Major Pocock again, and for this we are very sorry. May good fortune attend them! We hope to welcome Lieut.-Colonel Copeland back from leave in good time.

R.Q.M.S. Wills left us during the month on posting to Rawalpindi. We wish him the best of luck.

Fisticuffs.—The outstanding event in the April calendar was the boxing tournament, the results of which you will find reported in the Sports section. Lieut. G. I. Burgess-Winn and his band of enthusiasts are to be congratulated on a thoroughly well organised show.

Speaking of boxing reminds me that L/Corpl Pat Mills, whom you probably know, fought Gunboat Jack, the umpteen-weights champion of the East and Far East (see small bills). This took place in Bombay on April 10th. Mills, of course, went the whole ten rounds, but lost on points. It was, however, a very narrow margin. There will, no doubt, be a return match in the near future.

Further Energy.—This refers to the S.T.C. (India) tennis tournament. All ranks of the S.T.C. were eligible to enter for level singles, level doubles, and handicap ditto. Had I a little more time, I would tell you about the officer who, whilst playing a hard singles match, lost the sleeve of his shirt, sprained some muscles in his back, and ripped off the sole of his shoe. In spite of all this, he won his match! That's how we play tennis in this country. I said *we*!

Unimportant note: Shade temperature, 106.

Here are some results. Level singles, final, Lieut.-Colonel Copeland beat Capt B. L. Herdon. Level doubles, final, Lieut.-Colonel Copeland and Lieut N. I. Bowers beat Lieut.-Colonel Montgomery and Capt T. A. R. Scott. Sorry I haven't got the actual scores by me.

Results of handicap matches next time—perhaps!

The Draft.—When I say "the draft," I mean the last one: the Bara Wala. Like the poor, they are still with us. I am afraid I cannot undertake to report their postings. There are far too many of them. No doubt their units will report their arrival in due course. Departures to various units will commence in a few days.

C.S.M. Adcock J. is staying here, as well as the following n.c.o.s:—Sergeants Baker W., Bartlett C. and Foley J., L/Sergts Andrews, Lunniss, Steele and Murphy, Corporals Cook, Millen, Appleby, Wellock and Parkinson, and L/Corpl Jones E. R. If anybody has been missed out, I am sorry, but I am somewhat pushed—if the expression is permitted in a Corps Journal.

Disclaimer.—Woe is me! I have been credited (or debited) with writing an article in the April WIRE, under S.T.C. (India) notes, entitled "Much ado about nothing." If you please, it wasn't me! The talented scribe responsible for that piece of work disappeared on six months leave to the U.K. the day after he handed it in. He knows some stuff!

This WIRE correspondent business is a dangerous pastime. One never knows when one is going to get a crack on the bean from a disgruntled reader. I don't think I will write any more this month. Don't forget to read our boxing notes.

Corpl Paddy Dunn was supposed to be fighting the Jemadar Bhisti on the final night, but this didn't come off. R.F.B.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

April 22nd.

As the merry month of May approaches, so thoughts of unit notes strike my mind. April has appeared to be full of inspections, first by the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command (Lieut.-Colonel F. G. Drayson, M.C.) and secondly by the District Commander (Major-General E. A. Fagan, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., D.S.O.). On both occasions we came through with flying colours.

In addition, an exceptionally important change in the command of the unit has occurred, owing to units out here coming into line with those at home and having lieut.-colonels in command instead of majors. By this I refer to Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Yule, O.B.E., who arrived here on April 6th from the United Kingdom, and to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

The n.c.o.s of No. 1 Company are at present engaged on a refresher ride, and are slowly beginning to talk "horsey" and chew straw. We hope, however, they'll never reach the red waistcoat and checked breeks stage. Needless to add, No. 2 Company's n.c.o.s are next for the dope in the near future.

Our married families (bless 'em!) left us on the 18th of this month for their summer residences in the hills, while the main party of other ranks due for courses, scrounges, etc., are due to commence the trek on the night of the 24th/25th. Feet! feet! do your stuff!

We still have a few of our lads on command at Bara, Landi-Kotal, Abbottabad and other seaside resorts, but it is hoped they will soon return to the bosom of their families. Our guard room looks ever so nice, Nifty!

Arrivals and Departures.—Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Yule is our one and only arrival this month, and as mentioned above, we extend the glad mit to our new "bara sahib."

In the departure column appears the name of Captain A. B. Bushey, late officiating Commandant, who left us on the 10th inst. for the U.K. for reversion to the home establishment.

Our only other loss is Sergt Searle, who left us on the 8th en route for U.K., accompanied by his family. We take this opportunity of wishing them the best of luck in their new home.

Congratulations.—To Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Yule on his recent promotion to that rank. To Signalmen Edwards, Green, Robinson S. and Smith A. J. on obtaining their 2nd class certificate of education. To all the successful candidates at the recent Northern Command Trade Testing Board. (Thanks all the same, lads, but I'm on the water cart.)

Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals.

General.—This month has been rather exciting, but as the greater part consisted of sports, entertainments and marriages, the least said is soonest mended.

However, congratulations to Sergt Madeley, who has joined the serried ranks of the benedicts. The Mess presented the happy couple—one has to say this—with a canteen (cutlery, mind you; not "wet") and wished them all the usual good things.

Arrivals.—R.S.M. Wills, who is taking over from R.S.M. Grigg, D.C.M., M.M., of 1st Divl Signals. We hope his stay with us will be a pleasant and long one.

Departures.—R.S.M. Grigg proceeded to the U.K. on April 19th for reversion to the home establishment.

Sergt Weston, after finishing just the bare twenty-two years with the Colours, decided he'd had enough, so he packed his collars in a neat little parcel and made tracks for Canada—the land of the Yukon and 10,000 miles of snow. I walked there and back last Thursday, so I guess I'm entitled to know.

Entertainments.—There have been two more sessions of Aggie's cock-tail tournament, which were very successful.

The Mess shooting spoon, wrongly presented to Sergt Stone (our worthy provost bloke) at our open air dance, has been called in and presented to F/S/Sergt Vanstone, who attained the lowest score in India—his only remark being " I couldn't let the Shoeys down."

Prior to going to the hills, a migratory tournament which included billiards, snooker and tennis was staged, finishing off with an open air whist drive and dance on the Mess courts. It proved a huge success. The prizes were presented by Mrs. G. Kneebone to the following:—

Tennis—Winner, C.S.M. Day ; runner-up, Sergt Weston.
Snooker—Winner, Sergt Francis ; runner-up, Sergt Cadell.
Billiards—Winner, C.S.M. Day ; runner-up, Sergt Cadell.
Whist drive—Ladies: 1st, Mrs. E. R. Jones ; 2nd, Mrs. W. Smith ; hidden number, Mrs. F. Hatherly. Gentlemen: 1st, L/Sergt Foley ; 2nd, C.Q.M.S. Wamscott ; booby, Sergeant Lawson.

I guess I'm done for this time. Salaams to the locals.

BUCK.

Wireless Detachment, Abbottabad.

General.—The Section is leading a very sedate life—isolated and secluded, in fact. However, have no fears, for they will survive.

Query.—Would it arouse the curiosity of members of the Corps if we mention that a certain lance-corporal has been granted an extension of his rest cure—he terms it recuperation! To crown all, he contemplates signing on! Wonderful institution, ain't it?

Arrival.—L/Corpl Shilletto (O, death, where is thy sting?)

Departure.—L/Sergt Crichton to Peshawar. Salaams from the boys. (One's away, my lucky lads—and old Joe steps in once again.)

Sport.—This is where we shine. Let your peepers linger on this lot: Ludo, draughts, pokey dye, hunt the thimble, snap, beat your neighbour, catch me, etc. Versatile bunch of athletes! what sayest thou? Last, but not least, we engage in a few sets of tennis with all the village belles. Don't goggle, chiefie, as " all " amounts to two.

Marriages.—Nil. Likelihood: nil.

Births.—Appetites like horses (a sack of spuds only lasts us for two meals).

Abbottabad Ludo Championship Final.—At precisely 20.00 hrs. the finalists, Signor Shilletto and Nifty Nicholls, shook hands prior to the encounter which will go down in the annals of history. Both seemed to be unaware of the huge crowds of spectators who waited with feverish interest for the commencement of the game. The celebrated ludo authority, Mr. Snowy Salter, was present in the capacity of umpire.

The coin was spun, and Shilletto, having correctly forecast the toss, chivalrously permitted his opponent the opening throw.

Smiling confidently, the nimble Nifty picked up dice and cup and threw. Necks were stretched to abnormal length to view the first effort of the evening. Nifty's supporters awaited with bated breath the pleasure of the " bones." Suddenly the building was filled with thunderous applause, as it was seen that Nifty had drawn first blood by registering number six. Placing his counter carefully on the square, he again collected the dice and cup and threw. This time, number five was uppermost. Truly a goodly start!

Again that insistent hush as Shilletto prepared to emulate the feat of his opponent. Alas and alack! Dame Fortune's affections were against him, for Nifty progressed far into the various stages of the game ere Shilletto struck his usual demoralising form.

The game progressed till the match stood at each three home and on the last laps. Sighs or audible grunts of satisfaction accompanied each throw, according to the number registered. Then came the crucial moment of the encounter—five squares all to complete. Who would the gods favour?

The dice, on being propelled from the cup by Nifty, seemed to be alive to its importance and frolicked on the table, finally coming to rest with number four uppermost—one more for game.

Shilletto's hand shook slightly on taking up the cup and dice, and his lips moved as if offering up a silent prayer for the aid of the unknown. Once again the spotted cube pranced and reared, finally disclosing number three.

Throws were now numerous to attain the goal, till a dexterous flick of the wrist by Shilletto concluded the contest.

Following handshakes and congratulations, a short speech was made by Mr. Edwards, who complimented both players on their fine sporting spirit and their exceptional stamina. Thus passed an event, the like of which it will probably take years to re-enact.

NOMAD.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 2 Company.

General.—March having blown itself out, April's watery eye now broods over our activities. Not that the unit has been very active during the last month: things have been very quiet. However, we roused ourselves to give three lusty cheers when the unit hockey team won the Baluchistan District inter-unit hockey tournament, for the second time in three years, by defeating the 1st Battn Devonshire Regiment by 2—1. We hope to follow up this success by winning the Murree Brewery hockey cup, the Baluchistan District cross-country cup, and the Baluchistan District assault-at-arms.

Apart from training for the above events, there is little activity in the unit. The following, however, may interest those concerned.

With the approach of the fly-breeding season, the number of shareholders in Kamelie Brothers, Unlimited, has risen rapidly. Nearly 50 per cent. of the unit now hold an interest in this flourishing concern. Once the Company was floated, F Section took a lively interest and shares changed hands very quickly. The news spread, and No. 2 Company office combined with " B " clothing and attempted to force the pace. " B " pay is also showing an interest, but prefers to remain in the background. After personal investigation, I can assure all shareholders that Kamelies is growing and getter bigger every day.

At Random.—A certain sentry on No. 2 post was heard telling the orderly officer that it was one of his duties to report to the sentry box every half-hour. Most people find it a better plan not to leave the box at all.

Boxes being a matter for grave consideration, we are not surprised when shortly informed that silence breeds contempt—which leads us to believe that the great W.J.O. will never be regarded in a contemptuous manner.

Then there is the red-headed individual, with alleged musical abilities, who wishes to know who was *erected* on the WIRE notes committee.

But all this is nothing compared with the rumour that a draft of twenty-nine B.O.R.s is to be expected on the 29th. Poor unsuspecting blighters!

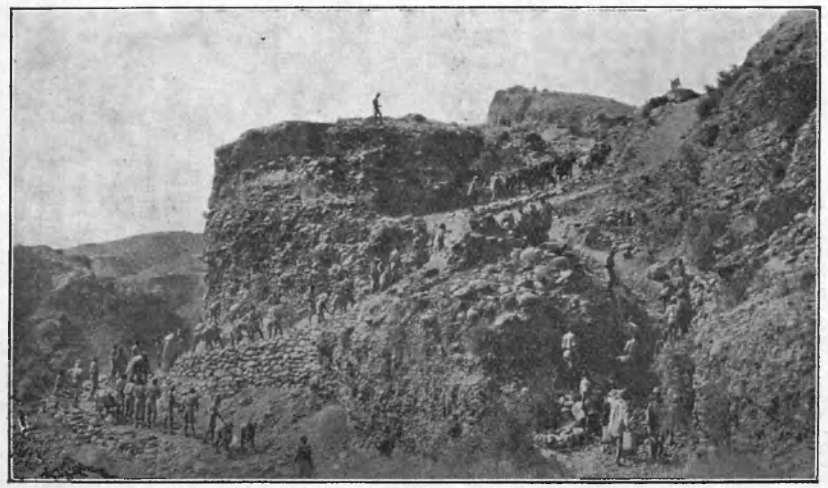
Trade Ratings and Educational.—Congratulations are extended to the following on qualifying as operators signal B.ii.:—Signalmen Piper, Lawes, Jennings and McFarlane (Sigmn Piper has since discovered that nine Group E's equal one B.ii.). Also to Sigmn Edwards G. on obtaining, at long last, his 2nd class certificate of education. He wishes to deny the rumour that it was awarded for regular attendance (Sigmn Bone P., of Trimulgherry, please note).

Courses of Instruction.—L/Corpl Perkins H. has just rejoined us from the Army School of Education, Belgaum, where he passed courses in education and gas with flying colours. Signalmen Greenman and Rogers have also returned from Poona—the former from a course at the Army Veterinary School, and the latter from the School of Cookery. Both were successful. We congratulate them all.

With the 3rd Indian Divisional Signals

Animals drawing drinking-water rations.

Air Force Ground Set, with part of Signal Section.



Making a road down to Water Point.

9th Brigade Signal Section on parade.
Prior to the C.-in-C.'s Inspection.

Extensions of Service.—L/Corpl Verney R. and Sigmn Swift A. to complete eight years with the Colours.

Tattler.—

Dennis plays tennis, and Nobby runs ;
Willie's feet talk, and Lofty makes puns ;
Etty's still sheiking, and Buckby's still teething ;
While Bunny just uncles the cake.
Speary still sings, and Calleyne just moans ;
The cook orderly still tries to feed us with bones ;
The air's rather pink, and we all of us think
That the Army's a bit of a bake.

The Pfaffisky Biscuit is awarded to Sigmn Smith R. for wishing to join the unit "Spendthrift" Club with a view to saving money. I'd stick to cards, if I were you, Smudge!

PFAFFISKY.

Toots by Timex. No. 3: The Situation at Quetta.

(A News Summary)

I selected "Selectors selecting selections
To undergo 'vokes'" for my toot,
But I fear that our censor's blue-pencilled objections
Would speedily give it the boot ;
So this subject I'll leave—
If I don't, I perceive
They'll say I'm a pig-headed brute.

One subject thus finished,
Another I'll find—
'Twill have to be Quetta
With its daily grind.

Of course, certain people
Might hold other views,
But this is my version
Of our monthly news.

The digging continues ;
The "vokes" still hang fire ;
The rain won't stop falling ;
And cable and wire
The lines are surrounding—
They hang by the ton—
'Twould form a good subject
For Heath Robinson.

We're cleaning our rifles
For Saturday drill,
And now they've just published
A new "Jankers" bill.

Defaulters are certain,
In future, to get
A very stiff time, for
It's in the bill set.

Route marches are starting,
And with them sore feet
And most severe drenchings
Oh my! what a treat!

On top of route marches,
We've started our schemes ;
It soon will be Kuchlagh,
That land of our dreams.

But 'ere we reach Kuchlagh—
Dust up to our eyes—
We have a Command
And a Staff exercise.

To do this, we'll travel
Miles into the blue,
Though Quetta itself would
Us just as well do.

The R.S.M.s drill squads
Are finished, but, well!
Least said, soonest mended ;
But couldn't I tell
A tale of instructors (?)
Who mucked us about
And made such a mess that
They put us to rout.

But don't get downhearted
As these lines you con ;
Just think of the adage
"October, roll on!"

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

General.—This is a very hard and unkind world! I have just taken the can back. I should like to find the man who forgot to forward my last attempt at WIRE notes.

The unit went to Delhi for the Eastern Command exercises in March. These exercises were to test a mechanical army and communications in the field. Well, we won! Taking things all round, it was a jolly fine scheme. Whilst on these manœuvres, events were livened up by an attempt to turn the signal office into a field post office. Lieut.-Colonel le Cornu, our new C.S.O. Eastern Command, visited us during the operations, and a little bird told me that everything was "o.k., chief."

On our return to Meerut, we all got busy preparing for the hill move. This affects No. 2 Company more than others at this time of the year, as they go to the hills in the early part of the season. Now that they have gone to Ranikhet, Meerut is not a place for any one who does not like late nights and early mornings. It is not true that the Military Works are erecting arc lamps in the stables!

We offer a hearty welcome to our new Commandant, Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Vyvyan, M.C., O.B.E., and we all hope that he will stay with us for many a year. We also extend the glad mit to Corpls Bunn F. and Wiggins A. and their families.

The S.T.C. (I.) sent us a piece of the inventory board in the person of Sergt Meeritt W. This well-known local lad arrived minus his violin but with a magnificent thirst.

The unit have lost several people of note during the last few months. On April 2nd we said good-bye to Major F. O. St. John, our old Commandant. He has been with us for the last five years, and now has gone to U.K. for a well-earned leave with our heartiest good wishes.

On March 20th we said goodbye to Lieut. J. W. L. Dryland. He has been posted to Quetta. It is curious that the Staff College is at Quetta. I wonder if—well, anyway, we shall see!

Corpl Field E. F. (Fanny), of Peshawar fame, shook the dust of Meerut from his feet in February, when he was posted to 4th Div. Trimulgherry. Field has been in India a number of years and has done quite a lot of travelling, but I hear that even this experience did not prevent him from losing his kit.

Sergts Evans and Barber, L/Corpl Dockerell, and Signalmen Robinson and Hutchison, made us all feel very home sick on the 16th March, when they left us for six months leave in the U.K. I wonder how many will come back happy though married (remember Nobby).

Records threw all precautions to the wind and absolutely made a mess of the Budget again. All the following have been told that they can draw more pay (I noticed that palsy was rather prevalent last Friday): Sergt Hebberd to be C.S.M. (W.O.ii.). L/Sergt Male to be Sergeant. Corpls Abrahams and Field E. to be L/Sergeant. We wish them all the best in their new ranks. I wonder—but, then, we all do, don't we? NOBBY.

Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals.

If there is one thing I do not agree with, it is education. If people were not educated, they would not be able to read ; and if no one could read, there would be no reason to write (Q.E.D.)

Well, I do not care! If you must blame some one for these few notes, blame the I.O.W. and E.L.I.

Meerut is a fairly quiet place during the hot season, but thanks to the efforts of our newly arrived neighbours the 12th Field Brigade R.A., it is now nearly on the same level as the Lido. Bathing functions are the order for every Sunday, and these are followed up with a sort of "at home" in the Mess.

The usual monthly dances are still the best in the Station—they could not be beaten. It is not true that the caterer is going to paper the walls with War Bonds.

Sergts Evans and Barber (Nappy) went to the U.K. on six months leave last March. The question of the hour is whether there will be another two men led like lambs to the slaughter.

Sergt Pickett went on the ????? but soon came off.

We extend our congratulations to L/Sergts Abrahams and Field on their promotion to that rank, and to Sergt Hebberd on his

promotion to C.S.M. It is a pity the latter is at Ranikhet: I should like to taste crown beer.

Agony.—Sergt Devy: Jim Dillon and Nobby Hall (1.R. draft, Egypt) send their salaams. What about a spot of India's sunny clime?

Sergt Cowan, Karachi: Bob Murray says that when he has put the baby to sleep, he will try to write. There is plenty of moonlight, but no roses. NOBBY.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divl. Signals, Ranikhet.

General.—WIRE notes from this unit have a very bad habit of getting lost, so to stop anything of that nature happening this month, we are sending these to the post office under an armed escort.

Those people who follow the movements of units will know that we have arrived in Ranikhet for our summer vacation, and to the uninitiated I must explain that we spend the vacation in training of three kinds—technical, musketry and physical—all of which are supposed to do us good. These are progressing as well as can be expected.

The movement to the hills was without any incident worthy of note, except that one sergeant and one corporal (no names ; they know!) had a lovely time in sorting out a certain portion of the units who travelled with us. The hill season hasn't fully opened yet. The elite—by whom I mean the public school boys—have not yet held their first dance, but we have great hopes of doing so in the near future, when the incomparable Soapy arrives.

A new game has been invented, which is only played on Thursdays. It is called de-bugging. The apparatus needed for this enjoyable pastime comprises bugs (millions of them), a big tank, boiling water, and beds.

The game is played like this: Grip the bed firmly with both hands and carry it some three hundred yards straight up the khud, drop it in some boiling water, leave it for a short time, then withdraw and take it back to the bungalow. We don't know what happens to the resulting mixture in the tank.

News.—The sheik season has started with a crash. The usual faces are to be seen on the basket-ball pitch when we play the ladies. Our team is led by the one and only Nawab of Sheikpur (his name begins with " S.")

Congratulations are extended to C.S.M. Hebberd on his promotion to that rank.

Commiserations.—To " M " on being outsheiked at the first Sergeants' Mess dance (hard luck!) and because he's lost his " bird "—the one with the brain fever.

Things we want to know.—Who is Daisy? where is she? and who wants her?

How No. 2 Company reached the hills without the assistance of Frankie? and why he was not notified by Mac?

What the " Q" said when he received the voucher No. IV/BC/1/2D from No. 2 Company?

If fixing bayonets is part of an o.s.iii's " Q " sheet?

Who is Alec? (ask Fred).

If the three " G's " enjoyed themselves at Holme Farm? (what's the attraction?)

Agony.—George (last of this unit): What about a line?—Bill.

Kohat District Signals.

It is here at last! We have looked bright and tried to stem its approach, but like a mighty Juggernaut it has come upon us. Here, in the midst of it, I find myself trying to be cheerful and to write happy notes of the unit's perambulations, gyrations and " krab stations "—but, woe is us, for we are undone!

Last month, we told of flourishing gardens and herbaceous borders, but now, alas! our Rosies, our Pansies, our Lilies and our Two-lips have gone: our ladies and our families have gone to the hills. This can only be fully understood by those who've " ad sum." It means lonely days and empty pockets, and the absence of the merry colours of wash-day from the clothes lines at the back of the quarters. All, all is gone, and only I am left. " This was the most unkindest cut of all."

The heat-wave tolls the knell of winter's stay ;
The lady-birds move slowly to Murree ;
The lonely sahib looks glum (or else quite gay)
And haggardly awaits the return of " she."

We have still more departures to report. We gave a cheering send-off to Major R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., who, after commanding us for over four years, has left us for Southern Command, Poona, as C.S.O. We regret to lose the C.O. and also Mrs. Henderson, who has done much to assist our married quarters in " rolling on " the days happily.

We welcome Major C. A. Murray from Peshawar District Signals in place of Major Henderson, and take this opportunity of wishing him a good leave and then a good time amongst us.

Lieut A. J. G. McNair is at present enjoying a furlough at home.

We have been inspected by the G.O.C. Kohat District, who made a thorough tour of the lines and was evidently pleased with all he saw. His comment of " Splendid!" on seeing the sergeants' mess was typical of his satisfaction with the rest of the unit.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Philip Chetwode, was due to inspect the unit on April 6th. He arrived at Kohat, but was indisposed, and the inspection had to be cancelled.

Thirty B.O.R.s leave us for Upper Topa this week, to form our quota of the Signal School there. They are after pice ; most of them seeking a higher rating. Our advice to them is: Don't B.ii. deaf, don't be B.ii. dense, don't B.ii. daft—just B.ii.

Signalmen Crowther and O'Connell go to B Corps Signals, after their Frontier tour, on reposting. Rawalpindi is now the Mecca of many people here, for the talkies have recently arrived there. Apropos, we must say how much we appreciated Bricky Wall's rendering of the talky *he* saw, " In Gay Madrid." No wonder King Alfonso abdicated!

A Spectacular Event.—Many old members of the unit will be interested to know that our provost-corporal is now a seer. The prophecy of old has come true: " Your young men shall see visions." One heard to-day that Jimmy could now see fifteen canteens with ease through his new bi-focals. We cannot say much on that " pint," but we do know that after his return from Pindi, where his optics had been washed, shaved and brushed up, our pay sergeant nearly made a mistake and put him on the new rates of pay. Jimmy, mind you!

Sergeants' Mess.—Since our last notes, we have witnessed a few changes and are fairly well settled in for the summer months. It has already commenced to steam, and in a week or two it should be " puffing some."

Our ladies have left us for their summer residences, and have only left behind the dust of their mats, the imprints of their sweet little feet, and—their husbands, as a consolation.

Prior to their departure, a ladies' ball was given (as a sort of parting kiss). This was a great success, and all who did the slogging work are to be complimented. Home-made cakes were supplied by the Club bakery, and not by the Amalgamated Mothers' Union, as previously rumoured.

Our weekly whist drives have been temporarily suspended until " the girls come marching home again," but other interesting things such as crib, phat, etc., will surely take their place.

Sergt Jimmy Keepen and family have been posted to Quetta, and we wish them all the best possible in their vastly different surroundings. But what about his relief, Quetta? Such a wrench to part, isn't it? We wonder who he really will be, as we are all longing to welcome him.

L/Sergt Jones is to be complimented on getting into the final of the Station Messes tennis singles. Well done, Jonah! but don't get down in the mouth. The other Jonah came up in three days.

Corporals' Mess.—Dear, dear! (this is not sentiment, but a lament). The WIRE correspondent is worrying me again. It seems as if a month slips by as quickly as Jimmy used to deliver messages to the gods of mythology (you see Corps history is well remembered)—but I will do my best.

The Corporals held a dance at the S. and D. Club. Everyone enjoyed it in the true Kohat way, and it was a very successful show. Many thanks to Dicky Dart for our twinkling lights, which amused and amazed quite a few ; also to the entertainment committee for their unceasing labours.

The members here congratulate the following, who have been fortunate enough to catch the eye of the Officer i/c Records: Corpl Hamilton to L/Sergeant (jammy ham!) ; U/L/Corporals Pinn and Gay to L/Corporal on the Corps roster (this, we fear, will lead to a mix-up, for Pinn will undoubtedly be Gay now). Our best wishes for their continued success.

Corpl Jervis (alias Gandhi) gets away in a day or two to the Upper Topa Congress, to let a few into the secrets of W/T. L/Corpls Bilsby, Goodman and Bunce go there, too, for higher ratings. I can see the Budget estimates for next year increasing twofold, 'cos we are sure of their success.

Entertainments.—During April there are generally many things in Kohat to mar the success of entertainments, such as postings and the move of the families to the hills, but I must say that this month has been an exceptional one.

The whist drives have continued with great success. To liven the monotony (?) of whist, some enterprising and enthusiastic well-wishers for the unit's happiness sprang a surprise on those who were present on Monday, March 30th. After only twelve hands had been played, scores were counted and prizes given, and then L/Corpl Coton and five other bright lads gave one of the best concerts that the unit has had the pleasure of attending for some time. Originality was the key-note, and even Kelly, the cockney Irishman, made a tremendous hit. The band (there is only one jazz-band in Kohat: the Signals, several members of which had already taken part in the proceedings) did the necessary, and we finished a good evening with a dance.

At our next whist drive, although three more ladies turned up, the attendance was small, play being restricted to nine tables.

Nearly all the families have now proceeded to the hills for their "long vac.," and we naturally shall miss what we did see of them whilst they were in Kohat.

Sergt A. T. Keepen's move to Quetta means that we lose one of our stalwarts from the entertainments committee, and we all wish him the best of luck.

Bouquets and Brickbats.—Congratulations to 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester, on their splendid show in the Army cup. To Sergt Wagg, from kacha Sergeant to pakka Sergeant. To Signalmen Husband and Humm, first and second (silver and bronze medal respectively) in the 100 yards in the Kohat District sports. To Signalmen Husband and Clarke, and Sergt Wagg, who were all well placed in the open events in the R.A.F. sports here.

Congratulations, also, to our C.O. on discovering the "world's best miniature golf course." He found it on the contractor's billiard table. The old cloth is being framed and will be sold at Christie's as an "anti-cue."

One of our number, with much experience in the Army, was warning a man for hockey. When asked "What position?" he carefully studied the team, gave it up, and said, "Third row down on this side."

How *very* instructive was the map reading treasure hunt to the man (not a wife) whom we saw graciously accepting an envelope full of co-ordinates from an Indian "lidy." WOG.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

April 14th.

General.—The unit is in the throes of the first period of individual training, and we are now free from all outside disturbances such as people wondering when their boat is going to appear in Orders. Of course, we still have one or two optimists who insist that they are due to go home by the first boat of next trooper. All optimists are nice cheerful people, really, and as long as they can stand the shock of seeing the first boat go without them, they are entitled to be as optimistic as they like.

Mai de Mer.—A: "Yes, sir, I have whitewashed the walls, scrubbed the tables and chairs, and washed the floor, so I had to leave the fan on to help to dry them." ?: "And didn't the guard turn out as well?"

Wireless Club.—A Wireless Club has just been opened in the unit, and we hope to produce some good results in a few months. When it is properly started, I hope to get some one to write an article on it; but until a really good transmitter and receiver have been built, no one will promise me any information of any general interest (not even my friends, the two new instructors).

At present there is a quarrel going on between two junior n.c.o.s as to who was the first member. They nearly came to blows on the subject, and they are not on speaking terms at the time of writing.

The Belt.—A belt, suitably inscribed, has been presented to Corpls Cooper and Field, who have started an Ovaltine Club in the corporals' room. Strange, but nevertheless true; of course, it may not last, but the spirit is there.

Training.—"Where does the generated current come from in the tele. 110?" "From the battery." This sort of thing is, of course, expected during the training period, so the instructor survived.

Gleanings.—Who was the G Signal Section man who did not want to extend his *coloured* service?

Why did the C.S.M. kneel on the bottom of the swimming bath?

Who said "Tum, orderly sergeant, ke bahan hojao"?

"On the rocks?" "No, sir, on the tack, seven days now."

If my ears did not deceive me, I heard someone mention something about a "f(a)lute" on parade the other day. And I have also noticed a certain amount of trepidation when anyone tries to say "divisional" in a hurry; as a matter of fact, this word is not used in the best circles nowadays. W.F.K.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

April 15th.

General.—Whilst regretting the absence of notes from this unit for some time past, I have to plead lack of both time and material.

Firstly, we have had a big batch of new arrivals, namely: Corpl Slater and family, direct from U.K., and Corpl Greenfield, Signalmen Browne, Cassidy, Cox, Cross, Drew, Ferguson, Pearson, Perkins, Rudkin, Steele and Wood from S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore. All of them are more than welcome.

Sergt Standen is still roughing it at Saugor. It appears that the horses caught influenza, whooping cough, or something similar, and the course had to be prolonged. We are hoping to see him back some time in May.

Our new stables are at last approaching as near to perfection as hard work can make them. The results, however, fully justify the means by which they were gained.

We also have something else to crow about, having once again reached the 100 per cent. mark in Signals Association members (including new arrivals). How now, 2nd and 3rd Troops?

Attachments.—Lieut. J. C. Hardy from 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Rawalpindi, to assume command of this unit during the absence of our C.O. on leave.

Leslie carries on with a few jobs whilst awaiting the call to the front.

Our Cartoon.—A sketch for which we are indebted to Sigmn E. C. Hale (now of Aldershot Command Signal Company) is

enclosed. It depicts a member of this unit and the various duties which he was called upon to perform during last year's civil disturbances (I found it in the " Nevercatchem " file, Taffy).

Departures.—Sigmn Joe Boughton is leaving us for Peshawar District Signals. Signalmen Head and Titt (are they *really* inseparable?) and Sigmn James are trudging to Calcutta for a vocational training course. Sergt Peters, Corpl Fuller and L/Corpl Vine have left for six months leave in U.K. Rumour has it that the first-named Blight cantonment aspirant has matrimonial intentions. We'll let you know later if he succeeds. Corpl Fuller and L/Corpl Nippy Vine, being sworn bachelors (?) intend making their neighbours sit up and take notice with the aid of saxophones. The idea is to increase the output of our band on their return.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of Pearl, daughter of Corpl and Mrs. Slater, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

Promotions.—L/Corpl Nother, L/Corpl Few (unpaid), and L/Corporal Smith (acting/unpaid). Congratulations! (I won't quote the stereotyped remark.)

Agony.—Wath wants to know Chippy's new address, and would like to hear from him. LINK.

2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

April 20th.

Apology.—The absence of notes from this unit in the last edition, we regret to say, was due to a certain typist failing to tripe—sorry! type. However, mixed up in this lot, perhaps they won't look bad, so here goes.

General.—Since last writing, things have happened (as usual). You know: inspections and other odds and ends. Among these, the Signals Week gave us something to think about. Quite a number from this unit took part in the various sports, leaving behind the select few to soldier on.

Riding school still prevails, much to the disgust of several 'Erbs who evidently prefer to press the coir. Still, the punkah punks, the mosquitoes bite, and—happy days are here again. So we are trying to bear up.

Monday, March 16th, found us visited by the District Commander, who found everything quite satisfactory.

Signals Week.—Our football and hockey teams endeavoured to wrest various trophies from their former holders, but with little success. Although beaten, however, a very creditable show was put up by all concerned.

The hockey versus the 1st Troop ended in a draw after extra time. In the replay we lost by 1—3, this also necessitating an extra period of play. Our luck being out, we found ourselves minus the mainstay of our attack when Sigmn Semmence went off injured during the first few minutes of the game.

As regards football, we defeated 1st Div. by 2—1, and so met B Corps in the semi-final. In this, after a hard game which was thoroughly enjoyed by spectators and players alike, we were beaten by the odd goal in three. Everyone agreed, however, that luck was against us when the ball did tricks around the posts, thus depriving us of much-needed goals. At that time we were in the lead, with time hurrying on its way. Again and again our shots skimmed the posts or cross-bar but just wouldn't go in. I think I can safely say that B Corps had a shake-up, and that the Cav. Sigs. are not now considered as " pieces of cake." We were congratulated by the referee on the splendid fight which we put up.

On the whole it was a very enjoyable week, and quite a few are now confirmed Talkie-ites—which may account for the " Amurrican " accent lately introduced, not to mention the steeplechase habit each morning across the pillow. It's marvellous how one can pick out winners after a week's sojourn in a Pindi tent! Anyway, " once bitten, twice shy." Flapjack Freddie agrees that there's some truth in that.

Arrivals.—Sergt Richardson from 3rd Cav. Signals, Meerut. As we have heard various rumours, we have decided never to argue with him, but we trust his stay will be a pleasant one.

We also welcome to the fold Sigmn Case from B Corps. The extension of the glad hand may be witnessed on all sides—aye, even to the proverbial grooming kit.

Departures.—Per H.M.T. *Dorsetshire*, on March 16th, Capt. and Mrs. Morgan for leave in the U.K., and Sigmn Paddy Semmence for transfer to the home establishment. Our best wishes are extended, and it is to be hoped that the " Pindi week medal " is by now quite better.

Per H.M.T. *Nevasa*, Sergt Hinds and wife. We trust that the home establishment will be found as suitable as the Cav. Troop. Our good wishes for the future!

Cowboy Capers on the Lazy " A."—By kind permission of Lieut. R. J. Moberly, Thursday, March 26th, saw the gathering of the clans to participate in a revolver shoot, open to all British ranks of this unit. Quite a number of prizes were to be had, and somewhat select targets were provided for each competition.

Dapper Dan, of course, had his finger well in the pie, and thanks to his Heath Robinson brain, the snap targets bobbed up and down with unceasing regularity. The balloons were also on the go, the breeze making them rather difficult to hit, as many found. However, certain gun-kings succeeded in letting the air out of several (it is rumoured that even stones were used). Anyway, the balloons *were* busted—but I refuse to say by what means.

Great care was taken in the bottle competition to see that the targets were empty, but I am sure that as each bottle was broken, a certain guy said goodbye to an old and trusted friend. As the bottles were supplied by our worthy ink-slinger, Fell, I wonder where the contents did go?

A moving target in the shape of a deer (?) was rigged up by the officials of the day, proving a great success with a realistic " bucking " motion as it careered across the butts (here, again, Dapper's fertile brain is suspected). It was termed a deer, but there were many who held other opinions as to its true name, some of these being too lurid to print.

The committee to whom the day's success was due is hereby appended with all due respect (and apologies to ranchers in other climes): Chief of staff, Hank Homan ; chief brainwave, Dapper Dan Webster ; time-keeper, Lofty Stanley ; starter-in-chief, Spud Murphy.

The prize winners were: Snap shooting, 1st, Rough-House Robertson, 2nd Kiko Knowles ; balloons, Topper Brown (oh, these Swedes!) ; bottles, 1st Bandit Linnington, 2nd Gunman Gander ; application, 1st Jake Jessop, 2nd Two-Gun Grafton ; highest aggregate, Slick Smith ; running deer, Rough-House ; booby, Dead-Eye Donovan.

The latter's prize was a Chicago automatic, complete with boxes of caps, guaranteed to fire 100 rounds. Incidentally, Dead-Eye has now wired his acceptance to become Al Capone's right-hand musketeer (sailing date to be announced later).

One prominent feature of the day was the char and wads which (through the competition fees) were provided free, leaving a comfortable margin for prizes. A vote of thanks to the committee for the work which they put in was passed in the usual way. Everyone agreed that the sport should have lasted a little longer, but all good things come to an end, and tiffin time saw us disperse for slumberland.

Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Sergeant Murphy on attaining that dizzy height. 1940 stakes alright, now, eh? Well done, Spud!

Tennis " At Home."—Under the able baton of Corpl Frawley, a social gathering in the form of a " tennis at home " was held on March 30th. All games were doubles, and some very good tennis was witnessed during the course of the afternoon. Several friends were invited, and the affair, as usual, turned out a great success. Tea was provided, and the small entry fees all went in the way of prizes for the skilled ones.

Prizes were presented to the winning pair and runners-up by Mrs. Turland, the winners being Corpl Stanley and Signalman Gander, with Corpl Healey and Sigmn James as runners-up.

A vote of thanks to those responsible for the organisation was called for by Lieut. R. J. Moberly, and all and sundry responded with vigour. It was a very modest official who started to walk away during the cheering, but we hope that in the near future his ingenuity will again come to the fore.

Agony.—To H.E.H.: Who is L.A.L.? Guess again. It's not Uncle Red.

To Heath: We ain't heard your call yet. Is the S/W busted, or what?

Neck!—Our monthly tin of Brasso is hereby awarded to Bungo for the following telegram: " Missed train, arrive mid-day, keep canteen open." L.A.L.

3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

April 26th.

General.—So little has occurred during the last month that material of interest is lacking.

The Chief Signal Officer (Colonel C. L. Day) held his farewell inspection on March 27th. We are awfully sorry to lose him, and he carries with him the Troop's best wishes for the future. We welcome his successor, Lieut.-Colonel C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., and hope his sojourn in the "shiny" will be pleasant.

We are still engaged in training remounts. Contrary to the usual run, the last batch have been very quiet. Of course, our "Rough" Ha! Ha! managed to do his stuff and increased his bank balance by three chips.

Our C.O. is at present quartered in the vicinity of Bareilly on shooting leave. We confidently expect to have a few tigers (prickly heat cases!) brought back for extra grooming and treatment with our special lotion, the latter brewed by Pinch Withers (the wizard of the forge).

Ex-members of the Troop will be pleased to hear that Bluechin was specially selected to lead the Troop's extra grooming team. Slim Somerville has since been appointed vice-captain. Spectators are unanimously of opinion that while Bluechin's forehand action is superb, Slim's under-strokes are pretty to watch.

The swimming baths are the centre of attraction these hot afternoons, and our tame porpoise, the Purana Nimak, may be seen endeavouring to attain the required three lengths. A suggestion that he should carry cruising lights, in the event of his still being on the high seas after dusk, brought forth a string of bitter invectives from our Captain Webb.

Promotions.—Signalmen Bailey W. and Kyle S. to U/L/Cpl. Congratulations to you both! You have the satisfaction of knowing that Napoleon was once a lance-corporal, but not on the Signals roster.

Posting.—For health reasons, we were unfortunate in losing Sigmn Landels, who has been posted to Quetta. Talkies are not so attractive now, Bob, are they?

Arrivals.—Corpl Newman and family from U.K. via S.T.C. May his stay be as long and pleasant as that of his predecessor (Bold Buck).

Hospital.—We regret to announce that Sigmn Ferguson had a serious accident and fractured a hip-bone while remount training. Signalman Kells, about the same time, broke his fore-arm while endeavouring to acquire an 80 lb. grip. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Condensed Characters.—

No. 1: The Gripper.

For talking his passion's consuming;
There's nothing he hasn't tried;
He is far from being unassuming,
But, God! how that man can ride!

No. 2: Spud.

His work, his play, his gun and moustache
Are all to his own satisfaction;
He's got "it," prickly heat, personality and dash—
But he can't get any re-action.

A-hunting we will go—but not on 93. No, sergeant, no! I don't mind following the hounds, but I'm not following the exercise party—at a trot.

Vocational Training.—Sergt Charlton (the Troop lone-star turn) to the Telegraph School, Calcutta, on a scrounge.

"It Wouldna' Heckle."

"My beautiful! my beautiful!"
Said Tomo to his set;
"You're a Spud and Pompey marvel—
Quite the best I've ever met.
"Just wait! I'll change this coil around
'Ere I put the headphones on,
And when I pull this switch out,
You'll heckle à la très bon.
"You're sure to give me Blighty:
Of course, Australia, too.
But we'll give them both five minutes
Before we try Peru."
'Twas on a Sunday evening—
It's quite a month or two
Since this conversation started:
It frilled us 'fru and 'fru.
The circuit was a wash-out:
He'd lost a valve or two.
I'm afraid he'll lose his reason
'Ere he gets some concerts through.

CEDRIC.

Sport.—The Troop bade farewell to the Meerut District hot weather cup. Our opponents, A Company Black Watch, beat us by 3—2 in the replay. We were rather unfortunate, as we had beaten the same team by 5—0 in a friendly game.

This Month's Fairy Tale.—Spud leaves the canteen with a dozen boxes of matches. STEVE.

G Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, Cairo.

General.—Since our last notes appeared, half of the Troop have gone to Egypt Signals for individual training, and will be soon looking forward to their higher ratings. The best of luck to them!

The Abbassia party are having a strenuous time from all accounts, and the fitters are doing a P.T. course instead of flag-drill. It is suggested that they should do dumb-bell exercises with heavy double-ended spanners, with elementary treadle practice for the legs and feet.

Who was the man seen chasing electrons on the parade ground with a butterfly net? The rumour that he now has enough to make an atom is not confirmed.

Sport.—The Command athletic meeting, towards the end of last month, was a most exciting contest, for it was the last event in the annual Command sports cup for the best all-round unit, and at the beginning of the meeting Royal Signals, Egypt, shared the top place with the 12th Royal Lancers. After a great effort we were beaten by the Lancers, who thus prevented us from holding the cup for the third year in succession. Many congratulations to them! Since we cannot have the cup at Abbassia, we would rather see it here than anywhere else. (G Troop are attached to the 12th Lancers.)

Leave.—The Abbassia party wish those at Helmieh bon voyage, and hope that when they go to Alexandria, they will enjoy themselves and make the most of the fortnight. The Abbassians will have their turn when they have succeeded in defeating Mr. Ohm (or, rather, Herr Ohm) in a few weeks' time.

Things People Say.—It is strange what some people say on training. One operator says that the thickness of a substance depends on its cross-sectional area. (This is true up to a point. Try half a pint in two glasses of different sizes; matter cannot be created nor destroyed—only swallowed, in this case.)

Agony.—To Prior B., late of Bulford, S. of S. and Tidworth: A word to B.E. of this unit would be welcomed.

To the nearest troopship: Please apply to this office as soon as possible (great agony).

Note the address, Woggy (Edinburgh Castle), and drop me a line.—Gilles. YATIM.

Shanghai Signal Section.

April 22nd.

General.—"Time and tide, and—editors, etc." Here are the WIRE notes due again, and news as scarce as ever.

To commence in the conventional manner, the weather is glorious, and the camp, with its bright flower gardens and green trees, looks bright and trim.

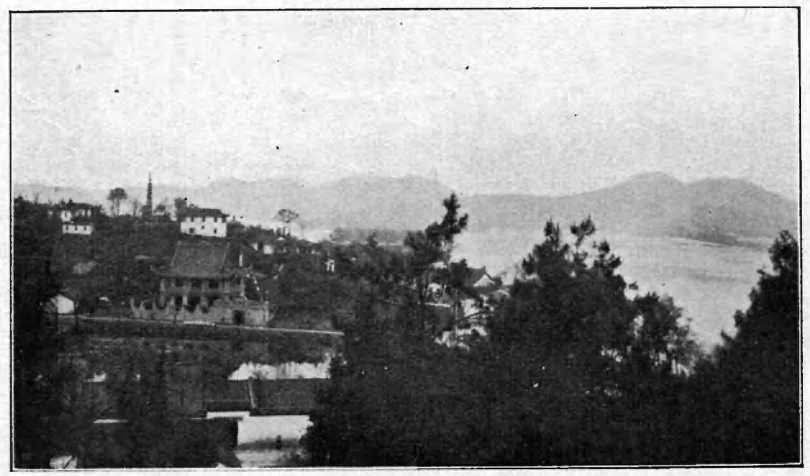
The tennis fiends everywhere are wielding their rackets in a very determined manner, whilst the lovers of cricket are busily oiling bats and easing their arm muscles in readiness for the opening season.

Nothing untoward has happened in the way of arrivals and departures, and everyone is on tenterhooks as to when the first trooper will arrive.

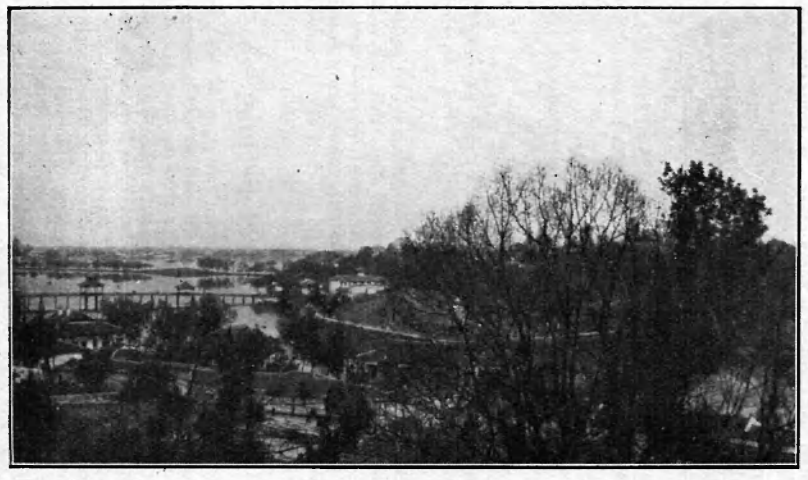
Photographs.—To those who have served in Shanghai, the photos on the next page may be of interest. From one of the ugliest industrial centres in the world, in four and a half hours the train takes us to a particularly pretty city: the Chinese call it "the City of Heaven." Hangchow is about 110 miles south-

Hangchow: The Chinese "City of Heaven."

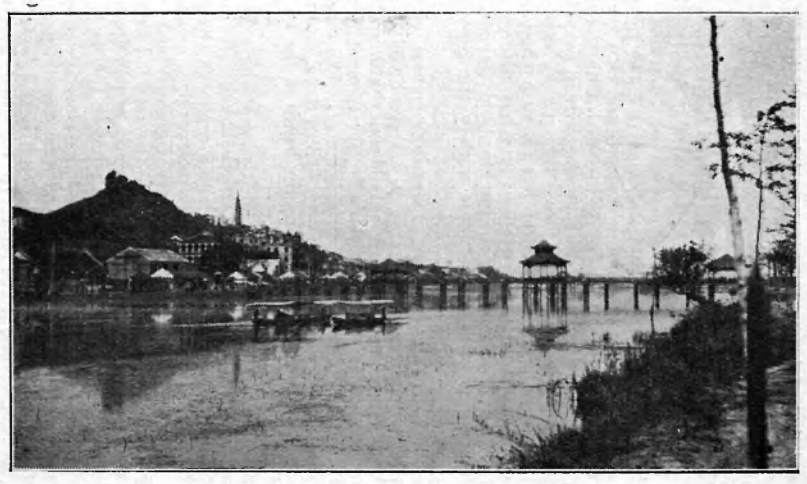
The Hotel for Foreigners, near the Lake.



A View from the Hotel.



A View from the Hotel.



A part of the Lake, with the Nudle Pigoda in the distance (built about 1000 A.D.)

west of Shanghai, and is situated amongst lakes and hills. Our trip was made at Easter, when the whole countryside was a mass of flowers and blossom. DEBROY.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

British Headquarters, April 25th.

Weather Report.—The official discarding of overcoats, fur caps and other items of winter garb indicates that the Siberian blasts have ceased to blow for another season, and that we can settle down to a Chinese spring. Spring in North China consists mainly of a regular succession of dust-storms, which may blow hot or cold as fancy takes them. During this period, dust and sand permeate everything. The writer has tasted a good many varieties of dust in various Indian stations and has also sampled an excellent brand in Mesopotamia, but for real flavour and gritty consistency he hands the Chinese variety the proverbial biscuit.

General.—On Easter Sunday the Tientsin members of this Section took part in an unique ceremony. A combined church parade of Anglo-American troops was held on the Min Yuan sports ground, comprising the 1st Queen's Royal Regiment, British Departmental troops, and the 15th U.S.A. Infantry. The English-speaking civilian residents of Tientsin attended in force, and were treated to some fine musical selections by the bands of the U.S.A. Infantry and the Queen's Regiment.

These North China stations are the only places where British troops normally come into contact with troops of other nationalities, and occasions such as this do much to strengthen the good feeling which should exist between these international garrisons.

We note with pleasure that our late Foreman-of-Signals, C.Q.M.S. Goodridge C., has been posted to the 1st Divl Signals. We trust that his new unit will derive as much benefit from his abilities and untiring energy as this Section has in the past.

Moves.—Variety is the spice of life, and therefore we attempt to vary the tedium of things by periodical inter-Section postings between Tientsin and Peking. L/Corpl Ralph J. and Signalman Welsh A. (both operators) have gone to try their hands at H.B.M. Minister's W/T station at Peking, and will be under the fatherly care of Sergt Wattley. L/Corpl Jones D. has been temporarily posted to Tientsin after putting in some very useful work at Peking.

Education.—The cream of the Section's intellect sat for various subjects in the recent examinations for 1st class and special certificates, and the results are now eagerly awaited. If things work according to plan, we shall put up an excellent example to the other detachments of Departmental troops in this area, but we had better not mention any names until the results come to hand.

Short Waves.—Our F-of-S (C.Q.M.S. West) assisted by his trusty staff, has recently made and installed a new 250-watt transmitter. This set, which is battery driven, is intended as a stand-by to our main transmitter. The latter obtains its high tension supply from the local power mains, and in the event of breakdown or failure of these mains, we are now able to carry on for a considerable period by bringing the stand-by set into service. Our W/T station at Shanhaikwan will be opening up for the summer period in the course of a few days, but more of this anon.

Sport.—Our billiard kings, Signalmen Attwood and Sherwood, have materially assisted the Junior Staff Mess this season, both in matches and the festivities appertaining thereto—particularly the latter. L/Corpl Ralph, of Tidworth fame, represented the Corps in the Staff and Departmentals football team, winners of the local Capstain cup competition. HSING HAI TU.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

General.—We had a really important programme this month. Ranking foremost came the G.O.C.'s and C.S.O.'s annual inspections, and we are pleased to relate that our men showed the hall-mark of efficiency known to our Corps. Our officers displayed distinct satisfaction by rewarding us with a day's holiday. All the concerned personnel are to be congratulated.

Next on our list was our annual range practice. Much keenness was shown, and a high percentage of first-class shots resulted. We have to extend thanks to Sergt Smith, of the South Wales Borderers, for the enthusiasm shown towards us in his instruction.

Under the careful supervision of our junior Irish non-com. a series of whist drives is being held, and all the inveterate card sharpers give us an audience at our miniature Monte Carlo. The prizes are fought for in deadly silence—only rubbers being heard now and again. Of course, we have an added attraction in the women, and the lucky young thing who wins the booby invariably finds a solution to next day's dinner (booby: Oxo cube).

Some of our public schoolboys resent caricatures being published without a royalty being extended. Why old Borstalians should resent this is not an easy equation.

Sports.—We get so many requisitions for our stars here that it's getting really bad.

L/Corpl Penny is in great demand. Following a marvellous display between the sticks, the Army selectors wiped him up to play versus the Navy, and our congratulations are hereby tendered. This n.c.o. is due home this year, and whoever gets him gets a real live custodian: I hope it's 1st Div.

Our little football team, under the pleasant leadership of Snowy Gillott, is doing great things. Our league fixtures are now over, and in our shield match against H.M.S. *Seraphis* we had hard luck. Our team pulled together, but the jolly tars just got that extra goal.

The secret of our hockey success lies in our captain, who is a keen all-rounder. We have played seven games, and lost only one. That result, I think, was due to inexperienced people sorta gettin' hit under the nose, etc. They say Nature does not repeat her mistakes, but I'll wager that Epstein could not make the mistakes some of our chaps did.

Owing to bad weather, our cricket report is nil, but we must wish our cricket team luck in their fixtures. TICH.

Later.

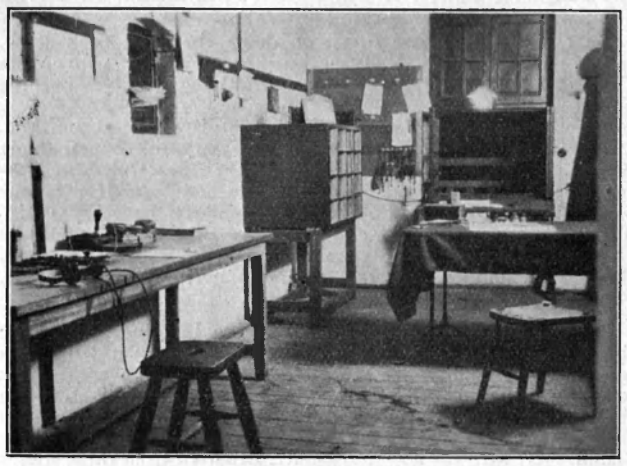
General.—On March 12th/13th, the unit took part in the combined operations held in the New Territories. Communication was maintained by the Section as follows:—Umpires staff, one C set working to H.M.S.s *Marazion* and *Bruce*, and telephone communication to all umpires' posts. Landing force, on board H.M.S. *Medway* two A sets for inter-force working.

The landing force was equipped with two carriers—converted stretchers mounted on pneumatic-tyred wheels, each to hold one A set complete. A photograph is shown of one of them.

The F.E.C. Section put in some good spade work on lines, and all ranks were duly complimented by the General Staff.

Telephone Exchange.—The new exchange has been installed and is now in use, the removal of the old one leaving much more room in the signal office. The photograph opposite will provide the old hands with quite a surprise, as the H.Q. Exchange is now a very different place from what it used to be. For the

benefit of old hands, the location of the new exchange is immediately below the present signal office.



Wireless.—Work is going on apace in connection with the remote control system, which it is anticipated will be in operation shortly. Full details will be submitted later.

Owing to an impending trade test, text books and training are the order of the day, and we hope it will all be finished before the hot weather sets in.

Departures.—To United Kingdom, Sergt Lockyer and L/Corpl Penny, two of the really old hands (both having served beyond their legitimate tour) from the original Shaforce. A good part of the life of the Section has gone with them, and we hope that they get a good billet in England. It not, they should come back to China.

Obituary.—The death of Sergeant Osborne, A.E.C., will be lamented among the Signals and details at Tientsin, where he was as popular as he was at Hong Kong. He died here on Friday, April 10th, of broncho-pneumonia, after a very short illness. Our condolences go to Mrs. Osborne in her grievous loss. The funeral, at which the unit was represented, took place on the following Saturday at Happy Valley.

Climatic Conditions.—Since we adopted summer dress for daily use, the rain has visited us intermittently, and the weather has been too much like a Catterick summer for comfort ; but we know full well that if we went back to serge, out would come the sun, leaving us as wet with perspiration as we now are with rain—so it doesn't make much difference, either way.

Agony.—Sigmn Bryce wishes to know whether any philanthropic institution in Egypt will lend a piastre to Sigmn Richards (late " C " sub) for the purpose of purchasing a stamp. I take it he wants a letter (cries of " Down, Pedro!")

To L/Corpls Webb and Penny: Am sending some photos in about a month's time (May). Till then, all the best.

Extra.—Dollar, on demand, 11¾d. C.C.R.

Malaya Signal Section.

Departures.—Our sympathies go with Signalmen Broadbent, Barlow, Stock, Stokes and Taylor, who were not permitted to complete their tour. Bad luck!

To Sigmn McAndrews, our very best wishes for a good berth in civvy street.

To Corpl Brewster and Signalmen Adkins and Way, the best of luck in postings and the little matter of leave.

To Signalmen Field (Fannie) and Lobb, who, after a health trip to this beautiful land, have departed to the land of the Pharaohs, we extend our heartfelt sympathies: 3+2=5. Well, well!

General.—With the " sliding " of the last trooper of this season, Brothers Slim and Undy commenced their courses. We can only hope that the amounts will be sufficiently large to enable them to fill 'em up before departure. Mine's a big 'un, boy (Titch, please note).

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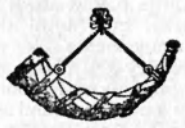

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Changi.—Our one and only Smudger has tied the final knot in the now famous changi cable for at least the next few troopers, and he's been kept to camp on the site, with family complete. We are authorised to state that there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that the above-mentioned signalman has to retire to the local football field in order to turn round ; and, furthermore, punket rollers are not unknown in Malaya.

Please note, the last paragraph does not come under the heading of " Reduction of Staff."

We would like to know.—Do Chinese boys feed on garlic so that we shall be enabled to find them in the dark, or is it just part of the lure of the East?

Congratulations.—To the 4th Divl Signals on their splendid performance in the Army cup. Bad luck, Reed Hall! better luck next time.

Sport.—We hope the Officer i/c Records will note that Malaya is a splendid place for athletes. At present we are in a poor state, our sportsmen having returned to U.K. We want to keep up the Corps' splendid record on the sports field, so we would be grateful for some help.

Agony.—To Attewell (somewhere in India): What about it? —Paddy.

Oh, where art thou, my blue-eyed blonde?—Undy.

Aden Signal Section.

April 29th.

General.—The most interesting item of news, this month, is that we understand our O.C. has received a semi-official notification from Headquarters R.A.F. that the Aden Signal Section is to continue indefinitely. It has been thought for some time that the Section would close down at the end of 1931, and the future running of the telephone system in Aden would be taken over by the Bombay Posts and Telegraphs, who intended to construct an entirely new system of C.B. working. It now appears

that this department is, like ourselves, short of money, and therefore those who have awaited the call to the barren rocks of Aden may now put in their applications for the next trooper.

We are thinking of advertismg as follows: " Come to Aden, unrivalled for ultra-violet ray treatment, McEwan's beer, first class hockey, all types of swimming and diving and boat crashing. There are also minor attractions in bugs, sandstorms and heat, for which no extra charge is made."

To return to more serious matters. The Section spent a very happy Easter Monday with Captain Jennings over at Little Aden. A private motor boat left Post Office pier at 8.30 a.m. and we anchored in a beautiful little bay at about ten o'clock. Everyone went exploring for shells, etc., until dinner time. After an excellent lunch—the arrangements for which were very well carried out by Sergt Beverley and a few willing hands—the men spent the afternoon in swimming and making further explorations. About 4.15 p.m. we put out to sea and encountered an exceedingly rough passage home. However, nobody fell out of the boat, and there were others beside Sigmn Young who were quite pleased to see our native rocks once more. All agreed that it was a most enjoyable day—so much so, in fact, that a further outing is being undertaken at Whitsuntide, spending the week-end away.

We have been asked by the Aden Broadcasting Company (with apologies to the B.B.C.) to make the following announcements:

Messrs. Shaw and Co., Ltd., the well-known firm of Court and art photographers, of Barrack Hill, Aden, closed down this week. Mr. Shaw has disposed of his business and goodwill to Messrs. Young and Parry, who are resident in Aden and who will be very pleased to carry out the same excellent services when called upon. We understand that Mr. Shaw intends taking up his residence at Bournemouth in the near future.

The well-known Eastern firm of turtle dealers, Messrs. Jones, Shaw and Co., have just opened a branch in Aden and will be very pleased to supply Clubs, Officers' Messes and the French Cafe with first class turtles at the most reasonable prices.

Education.—The following are attending classes for their 1st class certificate, and we wish them every success: L/Corporal Hinchcliffe, Signalmen Walsh, Atkins, Danson, Pound, Fish and Bird.

Extensions.—The following have volunteered for a further twelve months service in Aden: Signalmen Atkins, Tomlinson and Jones.

Notice.—Captain Jennings will be pleased to see any officers of the Corps aboard the mail boats calling at Aden (the boats generally wait three hours or so).

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta.

General.—I suppose there are a good number of WIRE readers who have come to the conclusion that the Section at Malta have dropped out of existence; but we haven't, really, and if any of our friends happen to pass this way, we can easily prove it.

Readers who were interested in the recent article under the heading of " The Malta Command Telephone System," by G.H.R.F., will be pleased to know that the one-time magneto telephone system of this Island is now defunct, the change over taking place in January last. Unfortunately, the weather clerk did not agree with the time selected, and quite a number of p.g's were showered upon us. Anyhow, the new system is now in full swing, and work is going on in the re-construction of the outside lines. This is making a 100 per cent. system, and at present very few faults to contend with. It is hoped that G.H.R.F. will provide us with an article on the change-over.

Lectures under our Foreman-of-Signals (Q.M.S. Flynn) are now in full swing, and all the lads are brimming over with knowledge of electricity. We must congratulate ourselves on being so fortunate as to have such a lecturer as our Q.M.S.

Arrivals.—Although rather late in the day, we welcome to our " Island of the Blue Med," Sigmn Drake from Aldershot, Sigmn Eccles from Bulford, and Signalmen Lyons and Loveday from Eastern Command Signal Company. May their stay be a happy one, and last at least five! These arrived on Christmas Eve of last year, the same day that Sigmn Green departed to join his brother on India's coral strand. Sorry! but of the latter we have heard no news, so cannot help anybody who may want to know how Pinky is. In the pink, we hope! What about it, Pinky?

Congratulations.—Of these we have quite a number to offer, and we hope everybody who learns the news will agree with us.

To Sigmn Smith H. on tying the knot at Balzan, on October 18th, with Maria C. Muscat.

To L/Corpl Keywood F. C. on doing the same trick at St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, on February 7th, with Maria Cammilleri. Naturally, we trust that all their troubles be little ones!

Here I will use Algy's words in congratulating Sergt and Mrs. Callegari: " Two handshakes are necessary in congratulating Sergt and Mrs. Callegari on increasing the ' peaceful ' establishment of the Malta Signal Section, for lo and behold! a bonnie wee girl and boy arrived at Imtarfa heights on February 23rd." Twins, there is no doubt! and they have since been successfully christened Jean Mary and Gerald Louis at the Barracca Church. (Weisbaden and Scarborough papers to note.) What abaht it, Pong?

Departures.—This trooper we have said " Cheerio!" quite three times. L/Sergt Osborn and Sigmn Vaughan left Malta for the home country on the *Lancashire* on March 28th. The former, we have since heard, finally reached Aldershot, while the latter was for civvy street. Best of luck to both of them in their new abodes. Last, but not least, we have lost our Algy. Sigmn Vize, with his wife and family, departed from these shores on April 13th on the *Patria* to Marseilles, and thence overland to the home country. It has just come to hand that Algy has reached Scarborough. This is indeed a bit of luck for 5th Divl Signals, who may say that all the diving competitions are theirs. Good luck, Vic!

Nuts and Wine.—Congratulations to 4th Divl Signals on reaching the final of the Army cup at Aldershot. As we have some old Fourthdivites here at Malta, we feel rather proud of your performance. Better luck next time! (Hard luck! but cheer up —from Nuut and Knocker.)

The Army cup in Malta was played off on Saturday, April 25th, when the 2nd Battn Worcestershire Regiment carried off the trophy by beating the Royal Malta Artillery by 2—1 goals after extra time.

The Royal Engineers (with whom we have a deal in Sigmn Knocker Johnson) made their exit in the semi-final, being beaten by the Worcesters by 4—2. Cruel luck, after being two goals in the lead just after half-time.

Quite recently, Corpl Jack Lambert was seen on the outgoing trooper, and he was looking fit and well. This is in case anyone should be " worrying " about him at home.

Troopers.—During the next trooping season, any WIRE reader who happens to call in at Valletta is asked to visit the Signal office, which can be seen clearly indicated on the boards "Fortress Exchange " and " Command Signal Office." We always like to see members of the Corps and (if they have not been here before) show them " raund abit."

FANNY.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

General.—Little of outside importance has taken place since our last notes were penned, but it will probably interest ex-Gibraltarians to know that the R.A. here have been experimenting in various methods of artillery firing practice which, for the Rock, necessitated entirely new methods of communication. How readily the Section adapted itself to these new requirements may be seen from the following extract from a letter which our C.O. received from the Battery Commander concerned: " Now that the Battery practice is finished for the year, I want to thank you for the trouble you and your men have taken with our communications. They have never really given us a moment's anxiety, and with the somewhat complicated system of firing which we were carrying out, good communications were of vital importance. Many thanks for your co-operation, which we greatly appreciated."

The expected annual inspection of the Section and barracks by His Excellency Genl. Sir Alexander J. Godley, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, came with short notice, but to judge by the subsequent letter of appreciation which arrived in the C.S.O.'s office, Signals were not found wanting. In view of the foregoing, it is regretted that halos are not yet in the Service vocabulary.

Spain.—Despite our close proximity to Spain, the recent upheaval and change of government in that country did nothing to divert us from the even trend of our ways. Truth to tell, we learnt more about the change from the home papers than from local sources!

Sport.—With the departure of the combined fleets, and incidentally the arrival of the summer, our football and hockey season has come to an abrupt close. We regret we cannot emulate other Signal units with a list of our successes on the football field, but assure our readers that we upheld the sporting traditions of the Corps by our efforts against units many times our numerical strength. At the moment, we are getting down to practice for the forthcoming cricket season, and live in hopes of finding good material to replace the depletions which took place during the past few months.

Past members of the Section will be interested to know that the racing gigs from the Rowing Club have already been in great demand, and to judge from the crews seen in the harbour, many a stern tussle may be expected during the forthcoming season.

Agony.—B. A. Laurie: Looking up or looking "doon," but still no news!

The Rock.—As only a very small proportion of the Corps have any chance of being posted to this fortress, a few words about the Rock itself may be appreciated. Perhaps in the near future we shall be able to give a short description of the technical work done by the Section, but "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Gibraltar is normally reached after being four or five days out from Southampton, and unless one has been fortunate as regards a troopship, it is with pleasure one sails into the large bay on the west of the Rock, as fresh salads and fruits, not to mention other delicacies, may be obtained from the many hawkers on the quayside. We regret that the prices are exorbitant, but, well—troopships don't call at Gib. every day!

The harbour, which is very spacious, is encircled by two moles, and when both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Fleets are here together, not to mention the usual other ships of various nationalities, it makes an interesting spectacle.

The Colony is ruled by His Excellency the Governor (at present General Sir Alexander J. Godley, G.C.B., K.C.M.G.) who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Fortress.

The streets of the town are clean and well kept, but are very narrow and always crowded with people—children, as usual, predominating. Main Street, in which Government House is situated, is the only shopping centre. Here one finds many Indian and Greek bazaars, which do a good trade with the many tourists who visit Gibraltar. Gharries and private taxis being very numerous, and fares reasonably cheap, locomotion causes one little trouble here. If one has weak nerves, though, a taxi ride is not a pleasure, as the average Gibraltarian rivals John Chinaman behind a steering wheel! Perhaps the city fathers have experienced this, as they have now made a speed limit in the town.

Vegetation is very abundant here, and many coloured blooms may be seen the whole year round. Practically every married family has a flower box or two, where geraniums, fuchsias, sweet peas and carnations, just to mention a few, grow in profusion. It would also be good for our worried messing caterers to see the choice of vegetables one has here, even in winter: *new* potatoes, fresh green peas or French beans.

The cost of living in Gibraltar is probably slightly higher than it is at home, but luxuries as we know them (i.e. beer and cigarettes) are, of course, cheaper. Clothing and articles for household use are much more expensive here than at home.

One of the disadvantages of life in Gibraltar is the shortage of fresh water; this is rationed out at the rate of two gallons per adult per day. We are literally dependent on the rainfall for our water, and this is caught by various means and guided into large reservoirs, of which there are four on the Rock, each holding about 2,000,000 gallons. To supplement this supply, practically every building has a private tank into which the rain from its roof runs. Needless to say, the supply of sanitary water for purposes other than drinking is unlimited.

There are many places on the Rock intimately connected with ancient history, and near Europa Point a fine example of old Moorish mosaic work is preserved. Most of the walls in the town are of great thickness, and some of them date back to the fifteenth century. Connection with the battle of Trafalgar is maintained by means of Trafalgar Cemetery, in which many of our heroes are buried.

Upon climbing the Rock, one is almost certain to see some of the famous Rock apes; only a few are left now, but strong efforts are being made to prevent their extinction.

Sport in the winter months is mainly confined to Association football and hockey. The playing fields have, of course, been "made" and are very fast—yes, and hard! During the summer cricket and tennis are played a lot, but aquatic sports (rowing, swimming and water polo) are the ideal pastimes for that period. Catalan Bay with its lovely sands, on the eastern side of the Rock, is simply alive with bathers. Here one can pitch a tent, or hire one already pitched, and live a daily "back to nature life" for a few coppers.

Places of entertainment do not compare favourably with those in the majority of European towns. The two cinemas are of ancient design, and the same description can also be given to the films which are shown there.

The Garrison recreation room, the running of which is done by the N.A.A.F.I., is open to all other ranks and their families. In this institute, in which bi-weekly whist drives are held, are spacious reading and billiard rooms, with restaurant attached.

The Garrison Rowing Club (the hon. secretary of which is our C.O.) is one of the principal places of recreation during the summer months. Here one may hire either rowing boats or the Club's motor boat at very moderate charges. The addition of new dressing rooms for the use of those participating in swimming has greatly added to the Club's many attractions.

Permission to enter Spain for varying periods is freely given, and as many places of interest can be easily reached this privilege is much appreciated. Leave to the U.K. for a period of three months is permitted after two years' service, provided the exigencies of the Service permit,

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- - THE "TERRIERS." - -

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Well, by the time you read these notes, we shall be training with vigour at Cartmel. We understand that the programme holds plenty of surprises for us, and as the country is very good from a training point of view, it should mean a very interesting time.

2/Lieut Arkinstall is going on the advance party, and of course will be instructed by everyone to produce "a nice clean white tent for me." As advance parties usually have little or nothing to do, we are suggesting that they make everyone's bed and so have things nicely arranged when the unit arrives.

Week-End Training.—This year, we have had less week-end training than usual, which is unfortunate, though it has been impossible to get any more in. Our last week-end out was a marked improvement on the earlier one, and shows that with a little practice people will quickly settle down to their jobs.

Promotions.—We must congratulate the following upon their promotion to L/Corporal:—Signalmen F. Daniels, C. J. Glover, F. Hart, P. Hastings, F. Wildsmith, T. George, T. R. Heywood and J. A. King. This is the first step up, and we hope that others will soon follow.

JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

Being on the eve of our one and only week-end camp, I fear there isn't time to write up much news; but Old Spark dare not keep out of THE WIRE for a month, for fear of the black looks he'd get if anxious readers, who tear open their magazine to the *very* page to see what the old scribe has been putting in, should find nothing there.

I dare not repeat some of the things which have been said of Old Spark from time to time, but he trudges on, hiding his tears—poor old fellow!

It is no uncommon experience, now-a-days, to see as many as sixty on parade on a Monday evening, and I hope we shall keep it up till annual training.

The Company's good wishes are extended to Mr. Edward Lee Wright, our Cable Section officer, who will, by the time these notes appear, have gained "promotion." We raise our glasses to the bride and bridegroom, and wish them health and happiness. The "piece of silver" will, no doubt, be a constant reminder to him of our good wishes.

OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

By the time these notes appear in print, the first of our Sections' camps will be over, and I hope they will give me plenty of "copy" for next month.

We offer a very hearty welcome to Mr. T. G. Little, who was gazetted last month and has been posted to No. 2 Company. We hope he will have a very happy time with us, and will soon believe, as we all do, that No. 2 is second to none.

Yes, Old Spark, I know the song "Glorious Devon"—and the singer, too. It's a nice spot, really, and there are very many nice people down there (thank you, Pip—O.S.).

We who know him were very glad to read that "our Joe" had gone back to Bulford to "roost." They all seem to go back some time or other, and perhaps even I might turn up there again—yes, and lay down a few more "bits of string."

PIP.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

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

Training.—Increased attendances at drills, and regular Sunday and week-end schemes, show that annual camp is getting nearer. Some of the older members of the unit, who have pleasant recollections of a previous camp at Canterbury, are particularly anxious to get their names on the advance party. They probably think there will not be enough to go round.

Sunday firing on Rainham ranges has commenced, and the team have great hopes of retaining the Sheriff's shield, which has been so long in the unit that it would make the Mess look bare should we have it taken from us. It is regretted that C.S.M. Jordan, who for years has been a "stone wall" in the team, is having eye trouble; but as he still finds the centre on the dart board, we are hoping he is still as good at 500 yards.

The right and left sub-Sections of B Cable are putting in all their spare time on pole bars, drag washers, etc., whilst the harness begins to look a picture, thanks mainly to two old soldiers—Corpls Hancock and Brown.

Promotions.—Corpl Walton and L/Corpls Knapp and Walker are congratulated on their step in the right direction.

Re-Engagements.—Sergts Pell and Sealey and L/Sergeant White, for one extra year.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

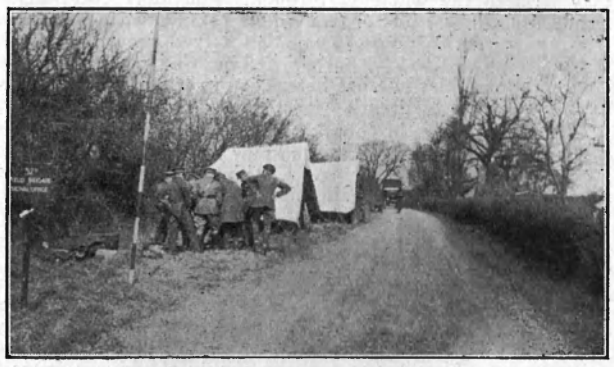
General.—We were very pleased to notice Nos. 1 and 3 Companies' notes in THE WIRE last month. Subscribers of No. 2 look forward each month for H.Q. notes, as this is the only means they have of knowing what is happening there.

Training.—Drill hall training is going on apace, getting ready for Whitsun, to be followed later by annual training.

A little discussion on a Signal matter.

How quickly the time comes round to pack our kits once more for fifteen days at annual training! This is the time when the married crocks start telling the missus how indispensable they are to the Company, and how important it is that they should attend annual training.

Camp this year is being spent at Canterbury, a favourite spot—and our visit coincides with Cricket Week. I know one man



Getting a little more interesting.
C.S.M. Nash explaining matters

of Kent we shall have to watch that week, or we shall see nothing of him. Ah, well! I suppose we deserve it after last year, when we were flooded out of the New Forest.

Orders already begin to put the wind up everyone. To quote one humorous passage: "The hair of the head will be kept short, and whiskers, if worn, will be of moderate length. On no account will n.c.o.s and men be allowed to parade in uniform, wearing side whiskers." Now, you film fans, off they come! I know one n.c.o. with two or three pieces of fluff on his upper lip who is wondering if they will qualify as "moderate length." He would be pleased!

We held a signal exercise on the Downs on May 3rd, and in spite of a drenching day we had a 50 per cent. attendance. Nearly everyone got wet through, but all agreed that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves in spite of the weather.

Brigade Signal Office at Ashford.

Our next is Whitsun training, to be held in the same vicinity. After that, we have a co-operation scheme with the 57th Brigade R.A. We are looking forward to this, as they are old friends, and it is the first time this year we shall have the opportunity of working with them.

Musketry.—The Musketry Club seem to be going strong with their monthly medal shoots, and the likely members of the Company for the Lord-Lieutenant's shield are busy practising on the open range at Mile Oak on Sunday mornings.

We had our usual monthly concert on Thursday, May 7th, and once more had a packed house. We were very pleased to see all the officers present with their ladies. It goes without saying that it was a huge success, people remarking that it was the "best ever"; and I noticed that the bar stewards seemed to be enjoying themselves in ladling out that "great stuff."

I believe the officers had an impromptu one in their mess afterwards, and the time they broke up was whispered to me. No, sirs, it won't go into print! NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

H.Q., Phœnix Street, Derby.

Training is now in full swing, especially in No. 1 (Derby) Company, where the attendances are 50 per cent. (not bad, when civil occupations have to be considered).

Musketry has been started for some time now, and the results are very satisfactory up to the present—no spare cows, etc., having been reported as killed with stray bullets.

No. 1 Company held its first scheme on Sunday, April 26th. Owing to inclement weather, this scheme had to be held indoors. Good work was done both by the Cable and W/T Sections. The latter Section tried out work with an experimental C set, good results being obtained. About 50 per cent. of the Company were on parade, which speaks a lot for their keenness, as the weather was vile.

The second scheme was held on Sunday, May 3rd. The clerk of the weather was much kinder to us on this occasion, and consequently the previous attendance was improved upon. Two cable wagons were taken out, one being used for training linemen and the other for training drivers. Much valuable experience was gained, both in cable laying and in driving. The W/T Section did some very good work, especially with the coffee stall.

Who was the n.c.o. whom the Company passed on London Road? Was it the fair damsel who accompanied him, or the glittering cable wagons, that caused his chest to expand as the Company passed?

Who is the dashing young farrier who, after attending six nights out of seven per week, received a letter requesting him to attend a little oftener? It is rumoured that if a spreading chestnut tree is planted in the yard at headquarters, he intends to fetch his bed down there. MEREBIMUR.

47th (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

Fulham House, High Street, London, S.W.6.

General.—All Companies are hard at work, preparing for the next Trade Board. Programmes of work lasting up to the annual camp have been issued to all ranks, and it is hoped to get a good attendance on drill nights to complete these.

Some good work was carried out by J Section in connection with the Junior Car Club's double-twelve race held at Brooklands on May 8th and 9th. Twelve other ranks of this Section, under a P.S. instructor, maintained the whole of the communications during the two days racing and gave every satisfaction to the officials of the Club. Well done, J Section!

No. 1 Company, 1st Corps Signals S.R. (affiliated to this unit) are due to return from Salisbury Plain on Sunday, May 17th, on conclusion of annual training. From all accounts, the weather has not been too good to them.

Several enjoyable Sundays have been spent by No. 3 Company on A set training in the vicinity of Esher, and good work was carried out, the instruction gained being of great benefit to those taking part.

Shooting.—Musketry has now started, and several recruit squads are being coached on the miniature range in preparation for the open range firing at Purfleet.

Marriage.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to 2/Lieut and Mrs. E. W. G. Knight on the occasion of their marriage.

Appointment.—A/L/Corpl Griffiths L. F. to be paid L/Corpl. Congratulations!

Departure.—Sigmn Haswell to 1st Divl Signals for a long course of lineman's duties—in which, it is rumoured, he has become so interested that he has mislaid his car!

Social.—May 23rd will be the date of our last dance of this season. It is hoped to make this a bumper one, to finish off a really wonderful series of unit dances.

On May 30th the Sergeants' Mess hold their annual dinner. The number booked is already in the region of fifty—which number might easily be doubled. It is possible that an account of this may appear in next month's notes.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

General.—We all have our noses set to the grindstone once again, and all Companies are hard at work on individual training. By the look of the weekly training programmes, everyone is busy getting fully initiated in the items of the various "Q" sheets.

Once more we are pleased to note that the "twin stations" have been separated, as WIRE notes have come through from Nos. 2 and 3 Companies. We know it is difficult to get through to Company scribes round about the 16th of each month, but we don't intend to lose communication again and have noted the new wave-length in our good friend "the calendar."

All Companies have now realised their ambition of being up to full strength and with a waiting list in addition. Well done, everyone! as it is only done with the whole-hearted support of all ranks. I believe I am right in saying that last month's strength return, for the *first* time since the formation of this unit, showed all Companies up to full strength both in officers and other ranks. We have no qualms about keeping this up, as Signals seem to be getting a more popular Corps than ever, even if we have almost said goodbye to our long-faced chums.

Recruits' Inspection.—Before individual training commenced, the adjutant (Captain J. H. Brown, M.M.) visited all Companies to inspect the recruit squads prior to their posting to Sections for technical training, and expressed himself pleased with the drill and general turn-out. Stick it, lads! and remember what you were told: that the first year is the worst.

Week-End Camps.—Several week-end camps have been arranged to take place during June, so we hope that the clerk of the weather will be kind to us. Nos. 2 and 3 Companies start the ball rolling by holding a joint week-end camp on June 7th, at a nice little spot convenient to both. No. 1 Company and No. 207 Section follow with one at the following week-end (June 13th-14th) in the vicinity of Netherly, South Deeside ; and an officers' week-end camp is arranged to take place at St. Andrew's on 26th-28th June. We hope to receive plenty of copy for our July contributions to the WIRE as the result.

Inter-Company Shooting Competition.—The last shoot for the cup presented by our commanding officer (Lieut.-Col. E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E.) has just taken place. We are not in a position to publish the results, but hope to do so next month.

YEA.

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

General.—Individual training is in full swing, and we have every hope of a really successful training season. Section officers and sergeants have been very hard at work in bringing their Sections up to scratch, and their labours are bearing fruit, for quite a number of ratings are most assuredly going to get the promised bunk-up.

The week-end camp, which is due on June 13th, should prove a jolly good show, and Sections will be able to put their training to the test. A number of our 1931 recruits will come along to this camp, of course, and we hope they will thoroughly enjoy their first night with us in the wide open spaces. If the weather doesn't improve, they will be thanking their lucky stars that it is only for *one* night (?)

Cable Section Statistics.—If all the cable in this Section were laid out in a long line down Union Street, it would probably be a nuisance. For further details, you are invited to visit our D.8 plantation in Fonthill Barracks on any Tuesday or Thursday night after 7.30 p.m., when the mysterious rites of running through cable are in progress. (Don't blame the Section sergeant ; he's not in.)

From the Aberdeen Joke Factory.—Scene, the pier; a gale blowing. Irate father: " Are ye the mon what picked my Donal' out of the sae?" Shivering rescuer: " Ye-e-es!" Irate father: " Then, whaurs his hat?"

LANKA MK. II.

No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

General.—The Signals slogan is " Silence is golden." Anyway, I will endeavour to break the spell.

The only things of note since last training season were the winter operating courses, the Company annual dance, and the inter-Company shoot. The first two events proved a great success ; but according to results to hand, I am afraid we must again bow our heads to No. 1 Company as regards our shooting.

Recruits.—Many new young faces will again be seen this year at annual camp. The Stirling Signals seem to be becoming very popular, as no difficulty has been realised in recruiting the Company up to full strength. They were inspected by the adjutant on April 23rd, and obtained a satisfactory report as regards their turn-out and drill.

Training.—Individual training is in full swing, the results of which will be seen at the next Trade Board. Whispers of week-end schemes, etc., are floating about in the wind, news of which it is hoped to publish later. Section training, in preparation for work at annual camp, will take place in June and July. Although St. Andrew's is getting a household word for this unit, all ranks are eagerly looking forward to a fortnight by the sea from July 18th to August 1st.

TWOCOY.

No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company.

I must apologise for the absence of notes from this Company during the past three months, but owing to the " general depression," there has been little to report.

For the first time since its formation the Company is up to full strength, and being in a position to pick and choose, we have obtained an excellent class of recruit. We now have a list of men waiting for enlistment, so that the future seems assured.

During recruit training, the recruits showed great keenness and enthusiasm, and are a credit to the Company. Last month they were inspected by the adjutant, who expressed himself as pleased with their general turn-out and drill.

Individual training is now in full swing, and quite a number of men who qualified at the last Trade Board are looking forward to the next in the hope of obtaining a higher rating.

The results of the winter courses were most gratifying, but we want more of the normal flat rate men to attend.

The Pipe Band is again up to strength, and making excellent progress under the guidance of Pipe-Major J. Wilson.

Our congratulations are offered to L/Sergt Davidson A. and L/Corpl Gillespie T. on their recent appointments.

On Sunday, June 7th, in conjunction with No. 2 Company, we are taking part in a signal exercise in the vicinity of the Crook of Devon, the result of which will be reported in my next notes.

The general pass-word now is " Roll on, camp." The time is drawing near, and we are looking forward to meeting old friends of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, and also renewing many acquaintanceships formed at St. Andrew's in previous years. We trust that the clerk of the weather will not let us down as he did last year.

THREECOY.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff.

General.—A week-end course was held for the officers on May 2nd and 3rd. The seniors were taken on a tactical exercise, while the juniors received valuable instruction in signal work under Captain Gardiner. There was a full attendance of officers.

We were very glad to have a visit from the C.S.O. Western Command (Colonel Allen) during the week-end.

A week-end course was held for selected n.c.o.s at Lavernock on May 9th/10th. This took the form of the tactical exercise held the previous week by the officers, and proved the most popular and instructive held so far as the n.c.o.s were concerned. It was a departure from the usual, and the interest taken was evident from the bombardment of questions the syndicate commanders had to deal with.

Congratulations.—Although somewhat belated, our congratulations are none the less sincere to Lieuts. Bartholomew and Allen on attaining the second pip.

Shooting.—The first round of the Webber cup, on the miniature range, has again resulted in success for No. 2 Company with a score of 273, the full results being:—

No. 2 Company 53rd (W.) Divl Signals	273
No. 246 Company R.E.	250
No. 3 Company 53rd (W.) Divl Signals	241
No. 1 Company 53rd (W.) Divl Signals	208
D Company 6th Welsh Regiment	198
325th Battery Royal Artillery	170
326th Battery Royal Artillery	152

We trust, in the next issue of THE WIRE, that we shall be in a position to say that we have annexed the cup. Good luck, No. 2 Company!

The Captain Cary cup, presented by a late adjutant of the unit for competition on the air rifle ranges, was won by the Cardiff Gas Company against the *Mail and Echo* team.

Social.—A most pleasant evening was spent in the w.o.s and n.c.o.s' mess on May 6th, when the officers were entertained to a games tournament. The usual result (a draw) was the final summing up, with the exception of the shoot, which was won by the n.c.o.s by ten points.

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

Much has happened in the unit since our last report appeared: special courses, boxing, wireless schemes, cable schemes, Trade Board, and inspections.

The instruction classes organised for the winter months—first for n.c.o.s and then for other ranks—proved very profitable if the results of the Trade Board are any criterion.

On Sunday, May 17th (Territorial Sunday), Nos. 1 and 3 Companies will parade and march to West Ham Park, where a drumhead service will be held, followed by an inspection by Colonel F. H. D. C. Whitmore, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Essex. The Signals, as on previous occasions, will doubtless compare very favourably with other units attending.

It is felt that a report on the unit would not be complete without mentioning the recent wireless results. A Sunday wireless

scheme, arranged for May 3rd, was a complete success. Stations were established at headquarters, The Cedars (West Ham), Southend and Bedford, and 120 messages—average, 20 words a message—passed between the four stations.

We hope the 56th Divl Signals, who are using headquarters at Stratford and No. 3 Company H.Q. at Southend, on May 17th, for a similar scheme, will do as well.

To C.S.M. Leckie, who has completed his period with this unit and has been posted to 5th Divl Signals, we extend our good wishes for the future. Sergeant Dowie has taken his place at Southend.

We welcome Sergt H. Collins to this unit, and hope he will enjoy his spot of soldiering with us.

The new Divisional Commander, Major-General F. J. Marshall, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., visited No. 3 Company at Southend, and Headquarters, on May 13th, and carried out his administrative inspection. The General expressed his satisfaction with everything he saw.

Boxing.—2/Lieut C. Nettleship and Signalmen Langley and Dent are to be congratulated on reaching the Divisional finals. Next year, we hope they will succeed in carrying off the Divisional championships. Y.E.D.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals.

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1, May 13th.

What a date to start writing notes on! and what a life is that of a unit scribe!

Well! first of all, the travellers have returned to the fold. They looked very fit and energetic, with a pronounced military bearing. Their note books, which had to be forwarded by C.P., were a bit late in arriving, so that the re-organisation of the unit is temporarily held over.

We had a very good day at aquatic sports on Sunday, May 3rd, when a party of about sixty proceeded to Purfleet ranges for recruits' musketry. About twelve heroes braved the elements and fired the course, while the remainder amused themselves in dodging the rain drops in an old canteen hut. Everyone got thoroughly wet, and all were of opinion that Purfleet would probably be quite a beauty spot on a fine day, but no name was bad enough for it on the day in question.

The next musketry parade will be on Sunday, June 7th, and Purfleet always looks lovely in June (?)

Now to discard the flippant manner and be serious for a few moments.

Training is now under Company arrangements, each Company having its own separate night. Attendances have not been good, but on the other hand they have been known to be worse.

We have several week-end schemes prepared, and the first of these takes place on May 16th/17th, when about fifteen n.c.o.s and men are carrying out a C set scheme between Southend and Stratford, with a local A set scheme at Southend. For this scheme we are indebted to the officer commanding the 54th (East Anglian) Divl Signals, who has kindly arranged to let us have the use of his unit sets at Southend and Stratford and provided accommodation at Southend.

If all goes well, the scheme will be repeated during the week-end May 30th/31st. So it is up to those taking part to see that all *does* go well.

Request.—Will Corpl Teddy Greenwood, of old D Company, Catterick (who was last heard of in 2nd Indian Divl. Signals), kindly make his present whereabouts known to Sailor Cook, now serving on the P.S. of this unit?

I think that will be all for this occasion. Thanking you all for your very kind attention. GEE HEN.

Officers' Mess.

The annual dinner was held on May 1st in the officers' mess of the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, by kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel G. F. Finch. Those present as guests of the unit included Sir Evelyn Murray, K.C.B. (Secretary of the Post Office), Major-General H. Isacke, C.B., C.S.I., C.M.G., and Colonel Sir Thomas Purves (Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office).

Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Ozanne, M.C., in welcoming the guests, referred to the long and close association which had existed between the Post Office and the Army Signals, and to the great part taken by the P.O. in furnishing communications and personnel. The formation of the Supplementary Reserve in 1925 had given the Corps and the P.O. a means of establishing the liaison on a still firmer basis. The T.A. had not been so successful as the S.R. in recruiting from the P.O., but that was due to the fact that the T.A. did not offer the same financial advantages as the S.R. Referring to Major-Gen. Isacke as shortly relinquishing command of the 56th Division, he expressed a hope that the Divisional Commander would look back with the same feelings on his command of what was perhaps the premier Division of the T.A. as he did on other periods of his distinguished career, which had extended over nearly forty years.

Major-General Isacke, in reply, said that during the very pleasant time which he had spent with the 56th Division, he had been particularly impressed by the wonderful way in which officers of City units gave up so much time to their T.A. duties, in spite of the difficulties of recruiting for the rank and file. With regard to the future of the Divisional Signals, he felt sure that the provision of a new headquarters, for which Signals were first on the list, would greatly accelerate the improvement in the unit which he had noticed for some time past.

Among those present on this occasion were Colonel J. E. Gibbs, M.C., Colonel Evelyn Wood, and Colonel J. Waley Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O. T.D.

1st Corps Signals, Supplementary Reserve.

Fargo Camp, Salisbury Plain.

As this is the first time the above unit has assembled (although the Glasgow Sections are absent) it would be a pity not to record the fact in THE WIRE. The Glasgow Sections, however, have been represented in the person of Major Robertson, D.C.M., who has been able to exercise his command.

A description of the R.A. scheme, in which the 1st Corps Signals were involved, appeared in *The Times* of May 15th. The conditions and the preparatory staff work were well nigh perfect. The three Companies—London (No. 1), Manchester (No. 2), and Liverpool (No. 3)—had an excellent opportunity of working together and realising their entity.

Not the least pleasant feature of a most enjoyable camp (in spite of a site where all the winds of heaven foregather) has been the good feeling which obviously exists between the Companies—and here's to our next merry meeting!

There is one query arising out of the scheme that awaits solution: Who was it who gave signal time as 18.00 hrs. from the galvo on the test panel?

1st Corps Signals (S.R.) at Fargo Camp.

Major Bastin (No. 3 Co.) Major Lewis, M.C. (No. 1 Co.) Major Hamilton (No. 2 Co.)
Major Robertson, D.S.O. (C.O.)

And who attempted to instruct the C.S.O. how to use the telephone?

We are also interested to know what happened to the W.O. message writer who called a Corps conference and stopped the war?

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

The Mackworth Cup.

The results of the inter-Company championship for the year ending April 30th, 1931, are given below. F Company were again the winners, with 81 points, second place being taken by Dismounted Wing with 68½. closely followed by Mounted Wing with 67½.

In the table of results, the figures 1 to 6 over the columns represent the Mounted Wing, Dismounted Wing, D, E and F Companies, and the School of Signals, in the order named.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Athletic League	8	10	6	4	12	2
Tug-of-War	5½	3½	5½	3½	2	1
Cricket League	8	10	5	5	12	2
Boxing	10	7	12	7	0	0
Shooting	11	8	6	4	11	2
Cross-Country	6	10	4	8	12	2
Hockey Leagues	4	12	6	8	10	2
Rugby Leagues	9	4	9	2	12	6
Football Leagues	6	4	12	8	10	2
Totals	67½	68½	65½	49½	81	19

The winners in the various events were:—

Athletic League—F Company
Tug-of-War—Mounted Wing and D Company (tie)
Cricket League—F Company
Boxing—D Company
Shooting—Mounted Wing and F Company (tie)
Cross-Country—F Company
Hockey Leagues—Senior, Dismounted Wing; junior, F Coy.
Rugby Leagues—Senior, F Company; junior, D Company
Football Leagues—Senior, D Company; second, D Company; third, E Company

Placings for the past two seasons:—

	1929-30		1930-31
Mounted Wing	5	...	3
Dismounted Wing	3	...	2
D Company	4	...	4
E Company	2	..	5
F Company	1	...	1
School of Signals	6	...	6

The Mackworth cup and other sports trophies were presented to the Company representatives by Mrs. Prickett in the arena, Baghdad lines, on Thursday, May 14th.

Athletics.

On May 9th an S.T.C. team went to Newcastle to take part in a triangular contest with Durham University and Northumberland and Durham Counties. Points were awarded: 3 for a win, 2 for a second, 1 for a third.

An extremely pleasant afternoon was spent, with weather and track perfect, and a large crowd of spectators who were obviously enjoying themselves—so much so, that one hopes that the contest will become an annual event.

From the results, it might appear that the S.T.C. were ambitious in taking on two such strong sides. The team, however, were for the most part practically untrained, the meeting being so early in the season—and the month of April at Catterick not being exactly conducive to training—so that one can say the final result was very creditable to the S.T.C. team.

Our only win was in the 440 yards, taken by 2/Lieut Stoneley in 52 seconds—excellent time for a grass track. We all hope to see this officer figure in the Army individual championships at Aldershot, and further enhance the Royal Corps of Signals' athletic reputation.

The results of the meeting were:—

100 yards—1, G. S. B. Cox (University); 2, E. L. Hood (University); 3, G. S. Lafrencis (Counties). Won by a yard. Time, 10.39 sec.

One mile—1, S. Lyall (Counties); 2, R. Winter (Counties); 3, 2/Lieut J. W. Agar (Royal Signals). Won easily. Time 4 min. 41 4/5 sec.

Long jump—1, C. C. Sim (University); 2, Sergt F. Jennison (Royal Signals); 3, 2/Lieut D. J. Goldsmith (Royal Signals). Distance, 20 ft. 2 in.

Putting the shot—1, C. Nelson (University); 2, R. Metcalfe (University); 3, R. S. Lawson (Counties). Distance, 38 ft. ¾in.

120 yards hurdles—1, A. J. Marr (University); 2, L/Corpl C. Hopwood (Royal Signals); 3, L/Corpl S. Johnson (Royal Signals). Time 17.19 sec. A. Shaw (University) finished first, but was disqualified for knocking down too many hurdles.

440 yards—1, 2/Lieut C. H. Stoneley (Royal Signals); 2, R. V. Metcalfe (University); 3, N. Armstrong (Counties). Won by three yards. Time, 52 sec.

220 yards—1, C. J. B. Cox (University); 2, E. L. Wood (University); 3, A. Wilson (Counties). Won by eighteen inches. Time, 23.87 sec.

High jump—1, J. C. Cooke (University); 2, W. Gales (Counties); 3, S. Shotton (Counties). Height, 5 ft. 4 in.

Discus—1, D. F. Muir (University); 2, C. Nelson (University); 3, L/Corpl T. Hatton (Royal Signals). Distance, 104 ft. 8½in.

Three miles—1, A. Burns (Counties); 2, W. Wylie (Counties); 3, S. Ellison (University). Won easily. Time, 15 min. 6 2/5 sec.

880 yards—1, W. H. Kernehan (Counties); 2, A. Brown (University); 3, G. W. Douglas (Counties). Won by two yards. Time, 2 min. 7 3/5 sec.

Pole jump—1, J. L. Longland (Counties); 2, Boy R. E. Buchannon (Royal Signals); 3, Sigmn J. Vaughan (Royal Signals). Height, 10 ft. 6 in.

Hammer—1, D. F. Muir (University); 2, Corpl H. Kemsy (Royal Signals); 3, J. Gibb (Counties). Distance, 99 ft. 5 in.

Javelin—1, G. C. Vaulder (Counties); 2, Sigmn G. A. Thorpe (Royal Signals); 3, J. W. Longridge (University). Distance, 139 ft. 9 in.

440 yards hurdles—1, J. Stephens (University); 2, 2/Lt R. B. S. Eraut (Royal Signals); 3, S. R. Nimms (University). Won by four yards. Time, 65 1/5 sec.

TEAM PLACINGS—1, Durham University, 42 points; 2, Northumberland and Durham Counties, 28; Royal Signals, 20.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Athletics.—In the Company Athletic League, which commenced on Monday, May 4th, we have been successful in our first and second meetings. On Monday, May 4th, versus Dismounted Wing, we won by 5 points; and on the 11th, versus D Company, we won by 2 points.

The fine running of our boys calls for the highest praise, especially that of Thirkell and Smith A. F. in our 220 yards relay team and Harrison and Attrill in the 100 yards.

"A" Team Boys, F Company, Catterick.

Standing (left to right)—Boys Chequer, Adcock, Abraham, Chapman, Currie, Attrill and Beanham
Sitting—Boys Cann, Buckman, Cox and Bird
Kneeling—Boys Bennett P. and Bristow

In the meeting versus D Company, special mention must be made of our 440 yards relay team, who ran splendidly, with 2/Lieut Taylor winning a very hard race by a few yards.

The photo published is of our "A" team boys, whom we mentioned in our remarks in the May issue.

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Herewith are results of events at the Company sports meeting held on Tuesday, May 5th.

100 yards, 220 yards, and 440 yards—Driver Farrell.
One mile.—Sigmn Kelly.
Tent peg melee.—Sigmn Summers.
Tug-of-war.—" A " Section.
Boat race.—Sigmn Waters' team.
Three-legged race.—Signalmen Ball and Jackson.
Putting the shot.—Sigmn Thompson.
Kiddies' race.—Miss Phyllis Waters.
Ladies' race.—Mrs. Jackson.
Potato race.—Driver Farrell.
Sack race.—Sigmn Waters.
Throwing the discus.—L/Corpl Hayden.
Throwing the javelin.—Driver Hurst.

Driver Farrell won the Victor Ludorum prize with an aggregate of 12 points, Sigmn Kelly and L/Corpl Hayden being next with 4 each.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

Cross-Country.—The Air Defence Brigade cross-country championship run took place on May 9th. The day dawned bright, and we, as holders, read therein a good omen.

At eleven o'clock, twelve good men and true strode bravely forth, attired in the good old Corps colours. Ten teams were entered, the total number of runners being 120. Rumours of various dark horses were numerous, and we began to wonder if we could again manage to defeat our big brothers in the Artillery and Engineers.

Amid deafening cheers from the spectators, the field moved off and then began a race for position. At Heatherside Corner, about a mile from the starting point, we were very badly placed —which, in view of our usual good packing, led some of us to think that the cup would pass from our hands.

Then one of our speediest runners (Smith J. W.) took third position, and, doubtless inspired by such an example, the rest of the team moved up. With a good mile to go and hilly country ahead, it was good to see the Corps colours well up with the leaders. Those who troubled to place themselves at vantage points waxed jubilant at this, for the team are noted hill climbers, and (with a course of yodelling thrown in) would make ideal mountaineers!

So well did the team run that, at the finish, our first nine men to count were among the first twenty-nine. With a score of 115 points against 238 by the second team, we all felt that we had once again upheld the name of Signals—and so, for the second year in succession, the cup was ours.

Air Defence Brigade Sports.—Last year, we occupied second place in these sports, losing by one point to A Company S/L Battn R.E. Hopes ran high that we would secure first position this year, in spite of the great opposition. Then we learned that the cross-country would not count for the inter-unit championship. This was disaster indeed! It spelt for us the complete loss of six points which we could ill afford.

Undeterred by such a turn of luck, we entered into the fray whole-heartedly, and after holding second place throughout the meeting, we were unluckily disqualified in the last event of the day—360 yards hurdles relay—which pushed us down to fourth position. As we finished second in this event, it came as a bitter pill to learn of our disqualification through one of our competitors taking over too soon.

Thus, the blue flag that had waved so triumphantly at second position on the recording mast throughout the afternoon was dipped,

Two Corps "standards" were obtained by L/Sergt Bloodworth H. in the field events—the weight and discus.

The times recorded were very good, considering the stiffish breeze that was blowing.

Our congratulations go to the gallant band of athletes who fought back so bravely against overwhelming odds. Owing to our small numbers, several competitors had to run in two or even more events—a great strain and tax on their endurance.

Cricket.—Our season has opened. We lost the first match, against B Company S/L Battn R.E.

This match brought to light several points. The fielding is not of last year's standard, yet this can be remedied. Whilst we have lost our star bowler, who is still in hospital with a fractured arm, we can still command a very varied attack, and practice should bring to light several men in this respect. The batting is good to a point, though not consistent.

The brightest feature, however, was the fact that brighter cricket has definitely come to stay. In this venture we are absolutely *the* team: hit out or get out seemed to be the motto of our tail men. It may not have been cricket, but it was good to watch.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Sports Notes.—On the conclusion of what has been a record season of success for our team, it is fit to note a few of the difficulties that have beset us. We have been unfortunate in sustaining a good many injuries, and owing to our lack of reserves of the class required, very often the players have taken the field in an injured state. At other times, some of the team have been called upon to play in entirely different places in the field with little or no notice.

The extraordinarily good team spirit that exists has enabled them to adapt themselves to such conditions, and one cannot but admire the captaincy of Corpl G. Palmer and the loyal backing up the team have always given to him. The extreme lack of reserves has caused many anxious moments, but it is hoped that next season we may have recruits to the unit and to the game who will enable us to overcome this bogey.

The greatest thanks are due to those officials who have been untiring in their efforts and who have given so much time to help in winning success. I would mention Sergt A. E. Wells, who has carried out the secretarial work and the team arrangements so capably; Sergt G. Terrell, who has trained the team and never failed to put them in the field in better condition than their opponents; Corpls Purcell and Anderson, members of the committee, who have done so much behind the scenes; and lastly, Captain L. B. Nicholls, the officer i/c football. All these, pulling together, and a team who never failed to help, are to be congratulated on their achievement.

The following comprised the Army Cup final eleven: Corpls Ball T., Edge T., Palmer G. and Robson L., L/Corpl Spencer R., Signalmen Brunt A., Dalziel A., Davies H., Marshall H., Oades B. and McClelland W.

The following have played in matches for the first eleven during the season: L/Sergt L. Golder, L/Corpl G. Langham, Signalmen Shillibeer, Souter, Weeks, Reid, Jelly, Sedgewick, Hammerton, Pyle, Lockhart and Galbraith.

Soccer.—The following are the results in the Essex and Suffolk Border League since our last notes:—v. Severalls Athletic, drew at 0—0; v. Colchester Town, won by 4—1; v. Bury Town, won by 10—1; v. Parkeston Railway, won by 5—0.

In the semi-final of the Pearson charity cup, we beat Middlesex Regiment by 6—2, but in the final we lost to Colchester Town by 1—2.

The semi-final of the Ipswich Hospital cup was also lost—to King's Lynn by 0—2.

Stowmarket being defeated by the Northamptonshire Regt., the unit won the very handsome trophy presented for the premier Division of the Border League, thus creating a local record in winning Div. I. and the premier division in two consecutive seasons.

In the matches v. King's Lynn and Colchester Town, the lack of goal-scoring forwards was again very apparent, the team having most of the mid-field play but being unable to finish off.

The goals scored during the season totalled 175, divided as follows:—(Forwards) Sigmn Oades 37, Sigmn Brunt 35, Corpl Ball 35, Corpl Edge 31, Corpl Robson 18, Sigmn Sedgewick 6, Sigmn Shillibeer 3; (half-backs) Sigmn McClelland 6, L/Corporal Spencer 4, Corpl Palmer 2; opponents 2.

Final of the Colchester Garrison Inter-Company Knock-Out Competition.—7th Field Company Royal Engineers v. No. 2 Company, 4th Divl Signals. This match was played on No. 1

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals Hockey Team.
Winners of the 1st A.D.B. Inter-Unit Hockey Challenge Cup, 1931

Garrison ground on April 24th, the cup and medals being presented by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier W. J. N. Cooke-Collis, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., on its termination.

Winning the toss, the R.E. captain took advantage of a slight wind, into which our forwards pressed from the kick-off, only to meet a solid wall in the R.E. defence, who played an excellent and clean game. Then the ball found its way into our own half, and after many "Oh!" shots, which Matthews just reached, the R.E. forwards found the net with a cross drive. This set-back, however, did not dishearten our team. They brought pressure to bear, and only a magnificent save by the Sappers goalie prevented Sedgewick from equalising. The Sappers came again, and after repeated endeavours scored again, giving Matthews no chance.

The second half saw the re-arranged Signals side making dangerous raids, and the ball being cleared from the Sappers territory after Sedgewick had missed a "sitter." Time and time again the Sappers were driven back, and their goal was only saved by the poor shooting of our forwards. Snowball, now playing at centre-half in the place of Reid (crocked), never put a foot wrong in the second half. Unfortunately, Reid at outside-left was a passenger, and several good openings were lost through his not being able to put the ball over. A penalty for hands, just inside the penalty area, was given against us, but Matthews brought off a wonderful save in pushing this terrific drive over the cross-bar. Then the final whistle came, and the Sappers won by two goals to nil.

Summing up, the Sappers were the better side, but if our forwards had taken their chances, they might have been presented with the cup. However, it was a good performance to reach the final, especially as the team had been depleted by Records and casualties.

The "never say die" spirit of the team was predominant throughout, and they are to be congratulated on the way they stuck to their guns after being two down at half-time. Matthews, Williams, Scott and Snowball were the outstanding players.

Team: Signalmen Matthews E., Snowball M., Williams E., Reid F.. Scott E., Dickson R., Jordan E., Sedgewick C., Galbraith J. and Hammerton J., and L/Corpl Wells W. A.

Inter-Seotion Sports.—From May 4th to 8th inclusive, we held our inter-Section sports contest. The events competed for totalled fifteen, and ranged from a 100 yards relay to a three miles team race. The he-man events embraced putting the shot, throwing the hammer, javelin and discus. After a prolonged struggle, K Section emerged victorious, closely followed by J Section.

Congratulatory.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to Sergt Terrell and Sigmn Hurrell on representing the unit in the open relay, open to the Garrison. Sigmn Hurrell also put up a good display in the Northants open 440 yards by winning and beating Sergt Sutherland of the Dragoon Guards.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Athletics.—We have held two inter-Section "potted sports" meetings, to find out talent for the formation of the unit team. Each Section team consists of twelve members, and some have already found some hidden talent.

The Command championships will be held on 19th and 20th June, which will leave units very little time for preparation. We intend to enter a team, and hope to show the Command what a small unit can do.

Billiards.—Business in this line is still going with a swing, and is likely to swing still higher whilst these N.A.A.F.I. "chits" are hanging about.

Last month's handicap occasioned some surprise and consternation among our cracks, as it was won by L/Corpl Doughy Baker after a good game in the final with Sigmn Whitehead. Baker won with something in hand, and it was obvious that he had played before and had kept a few things up his sleeve until after the handicapper had got busy.

This month's handicap is now in full swing, the result of which we will report next time.

Cricket.—The season opened on May 10th in glorious sunshine, and we met the Commercial Travellers of Scarborough in a friendly game. We ran out victors by 108 runs. Sigmn Ross played a fine innings, being undefeated with 60 runs; he had to retire early through a rising ball hitting him in the eye, but resumed later.

5TH DIVISIONAL SIGNALS.

L/Corpl Ferrier b Wright	2
Sergt Minns b Spencer	33
Sigmn Ross not out	60
Sergt Fegan hit wicket b Wright	1
Sergt Minion b Spencer	3
L/Corpl McLean c Wright b Milner	0
L/Corpl Wright b Milner	3
Sigmn Guy E. c Walker b Spencer	21
L/Corpl Furze not out	7
Extras	23
Total	153

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

Wright c Ferrier b Guy	10
Field b Minns	1
Tomlinson b Guy	2
Milner run out	6
Walker c Forster b Minns	12
Nevard c Weeks b Minns	0
Herbottle l.b.w. b Guy	4
Watts b Wright	3
Maker b Forster	5
Spencer st Ferrier b Weeks	1
Spencer not out	0
Extras	1
Total	45

Minns took three wickets for 12; Guy, three for 24; Weeks, one for 0; Forster, one for 3; Wright, one for 5.

"Jimmies" for season 1930-31 have been awarded to Sergt Minns, Sigmn Forster, Sergt Fegan, Sigmn Guy E., L/Corporal Wright, L/Corpl Ferrier and Sigmn Drury.

Rugger.—We ended our season with one more victory and one more defeat.

The first, against Scarborough "A" XV. on April 11th, was largely due to the fact that some strenuous inter-Company games had made our team very fit, and we had the memory of a heavy defeat to rub out. The ground was hard and the weather was close and warm, so that the hard tussle and fast play which ensued tried everybody to the utmost. In the second half of a very close game Sigmn Swan scored a good try, which was converted. This was the only score, and the points, 5—0, about indicated the run of the play.

On the following Saturday (April 18th) we played our last game of the season against the Leeman Road Club (a new club at York). We were beaten by 9—0, but we all enjoyed the game and much regretted that we hadn't a chance of an early revenge of our defeat.

If the various cartoons in *The Yorkshire Evening Press* are anything to go by, the 5th Divl Signals team impresses the public with the virility of its play, even if its skill lacks the polish which will only come with time!

"Jimmies" for season 1930-31 have been awarded to Lieut J. S. Usher, Sergt Minns, Sigmn Robb, Sergt Fegan, Sigmn Adams, Sigmn Tumilty, Sigmn Wheeler, Sergt Lewis, Sigmn Bryant and L/Corporal Watkiss.

Football.—"Jimmies" for season 1930-31 have been awarded to Sergt Devey, L/Corpl Furze, Corpl Pope, L/Corporals Spargo, Ferrier, Falkner and Mayer, Signalmen Martin, Cranshaw, France and Cooper A., L/Sergt Gould, Signalmen Whitehead, Thornton, Steele, Boyd, Cooper S., Cord, Craven, Beeden, Ross and Bywater.

Hookey.—"Jimmies" for season 1930-31 have been awarded to L/Corpl Wright, Lieut J. R. Beeton, Corpl Weeks, L/Corpl McLean, Sigmn Cooper S., Sergt Brandon, L/Corpl Kelly, L/Cpl Ferrier, Sergt Fegan, L/Corpl Henshaw, Sigmn Drury and Driver Evanson.

Tennis.—"Jimmies" for season 1930 have been awarded to C.Q.M.S. Sheale, Sergt Washford, Corpl Weeks, Sigmn Lowings, Corpl Shepheard and Sigmn Bywater,

Hunt Club.—The 1930/31 season is over, and we can now look forward to the next.

Since the last notes were published, we have been very glad to see Colonel Bradley back with us, apparently none the worse for his accident.

We closed the season with the Derwent with a meet at Silpho cross-roads on April 14th. It was a perfect day and, considering the time of year, the scent was excellent. Hounds drew Silpho Moor without success, but on crossing into the Harewood Dale valley, a fox was soon afoot from the woods at the bottom of Silpho. Hunting beautifully, hounds soon had their fox running fast towards Broxa. After a very fast burst of twenty minutes, with a check at Hillagreen Farm, hounds lost their fox in the vicinity of Broxa.

On April 21st, the Staintondale met at Silpho cross-roads by invitation, and a small field had a great day's run. Finding on Silpho Moor, hounds ran down into Harewood Dale and then right-handed at Harewood Dale Mill, along the east side of the dale and coming over towards Silpho Moor. Hunting steadily through the woods on the top of Silpho, hounds pushed their fox into Whisperdales, where scent was bad. Hounds, however, hunted slowly towards Suffield Moor, where their fox was eventually run to ground in some rocks on the top of the moor. An interesting run of two hours, with hounds working well on a difficult scent.

The Staintondale finished their season with an invitation meet at Lockton on May 3rd. This was some twenty miles from barracks, and we were unable to attend. Two foxes were killed in the vicinity of Dalby after an excellent day's sport.

We hope, next year, to have a meet at barracks, when we will be able to return some of the hospitality we have enjoyed throughout the season.

Rifle Club.—Now that spring is here and the weather has taken up, we hope to fill many columns with our activities.

Being possessors at present of an open 30 yards range, we are at the mercy of the elements, and both our meetings so far arranged have had to be cancelled owing to rain. However, it cannot always rain, and we hope to be up and doing ere these lines are in print.

The R.S.M.'s early morning fatigue parties have put the range in good trim, and the trigger fingers of last year's members are itching to be at it.

The Northern Command small arms meeting has been fixed for 3rd, 4th and 5th of August. It is hoped to find a team who will represent the unit at this meeting.

Our open long range on the Scalby Beck has been condemned beyond a range of 300 yards. The fish are obviously raising an objection!

New members to the Club are always welcome, and can be enrolled on the range.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Boxing.—Owing to the fact that notes for THE WIRE are due to leave here on Friday, April 24th, it is only possible to give little more than the bare details of the S.T.C. (India) boxing tournament held in Hugh Rose Barracks, Jubbulpore, on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of the month.

A considerable amount of work was put in by a staff of willing helpers. They must feel gratified at the results of their efforts, because the tournament was altogether a wonderful show. Even L/Sergt Chandler (the carpenter) was smiling, although he didn't get his name on the programme! Now we must get down to it! —the mail boat will not wait!

FIRST NIGHT.

Indian Ranks S.T.C. (India) Individual Competition.

Sigmn Dorai Raj beat Sigmn Samuel on points.

L/Naik Murthi beat Sigmn Velu, the fight being stopped in the first round.

Sigmn Madura Muthu beat Sigmn Nanjappa after an interesting three rounds.

Sigmn Mathew beat Sigmn Munswami on points. This was a fast and furious affair, with never a dull moment.

Novices S.T.C. (India) Team Competition.

[The figures denote the Platoons of A Company.]

Bantam weight—L/Corpl Raynor (2) beat Sigmn Rostron (1) on points. Sigmn Goodwin (2) lost on points to Recruit Barry (1) after a very good fight.

Feather weight—L/Corpl Howard (2) lost on points to L/Corpl Dewhurst (1).

Light weight—Sigmn Lewis (2) lost on points to L/Cpl Cook (1).

Welter weight—Sigmn McKellar (2) beat Sigmn Smith (1) on points (this was a good fight, and Smith put up a good show against a more experienced man). Sigmn Handkins (2) lost to Sigmn Brooks (1) by a narrow margin.

Middle weight—Sigmn Wright (2) beat Sigmn Fears (1) on points.

No. 2 Platoon, 10 points; No. 1 Platoon, 11.

Lieut. G. S. Knox, R.Signals, gave a demonstration of the I.S.B.A. rules of boxing, assisted by L/Corporals Pat Mills and Lovell. After a fifteen minutes interval, which allowed the spectators to lubricate their vocal chords, No. 3 Platoon met No. 4, and this is what happened.

Bantam weight—Sigmn McQuire (3) lost to Sigmn Stansfield (4) after a lot of hard hitting. Sigmn Worley (3) lost to Sigmn Clements (4). This was quite an exciting bout.

Feather weight—Sigmn Byers (3) beat Sigmn Pyke (4) on points.

Light weight—Corpl Cook (3) lost to Sigmn Haggerty (4) on points.

Welter weight—Sigmn Clarke (3) beat L/Corpl Revill (4) on points. L/Corpl Carter (3) beat L/Corpl Lane (4) the fight being stopped in the third round. It was "sporty" on Lane's part to enter, as he did, at the last minute.

Middle weight—Sigmn "Steamboat" Chadderton (3) knocked out Sigmn Chambers (4) in the second round.

No. 3 Platoon, 11 points; No. 4 Platoon, 10.

SECOND NIGHT.

Indian Ranks S.T.C. (India) Individual Competition.

L/Naik Murthi beat Sigmn Dorai Raj on points.

Sigmn Madura Muthu beat Sigmn Mathew on points. The terrific applause at the conclusion of both fights was sufficient indication that these efforts were appreciated.

Brigade Team Competition.

Feather weight—Sigmn Williams (S.T. Battn) beat Pte Farrell (P.W.V.) on points.

Light weight—Pte Jackson (P.W.V.) beat Sigmn Symonds (S.T. Battn) on points.

Welter weight—L/Corpl Phipson (S.T. Battn) beat Pte Donnelly (P.W.V.) who sustained a badly damaged eye and gave up in the first round.

Bantam weight—Corpl Brunton (S.T. Battn) beat Pte Hopkins (P.W.V.) on points.

Welter weight—L/Corpl Lovell (S.T. Battn) beat Pte Harford (P.W.V.) on points.

Middle weight—Pte Brookes (P.W.V.) beat L/Sergt Parker (S.T. Battn) on points. This was a very close fight indeed.

Light heavy weight—L/Sergt MacFarlane (S.T. Battn) a w.o.

Heavy weight—Sigmn Bowker (S.T. Battn) knocked out Pte Wheeler (P.W.V.) in the first round.

Special three-round contest—Gunner Prachett (R.A.) beat Sigmn Duncan (S.T. Battn) on points after an interesting and hard hitting bout.

Brigade open light weight competition—Signalman Williams (S.T. Battn) beat Private Jackson (P.W.V.) on points. Pte Skeehan (P.W.V.) beat Driver Gardiner (R.A.) on points.

Exhibition bout, six rounds—This was a "no decision" affair between L/Corpl Pat Mills (S.T. Battn) and L/Bdr Sampson (23rd Field Brigade R.A.): a thoroughly entertaining fight, and one which incidentally gave us a chance to see Pat Mills in action. My private opinion is that he "knows something about it!"

Special three-round contest—Pte Brookes (P.W.V.) beat Gunner Joyce (R.A.) on points, after a splendid fight packed with hard hitting. The referee congratulated the loser.

Brigade open light weight competition—Sigmn Williams (S.T. Battn) won this fight because his opponent Private Skeehan (P.W.V.) walked out of the ring in the first round, much to the disgust of the spectators, who "signified" in the usual manner!

FINAL NIGHT.

Brigade open light weight competition—Pte Donnelly (P.W.V.) beat L/Bdr Thornton (R.A.) on points.

Indian Ranks S.T.C. (India) Individual Competition: Final.

Sigmn Madura Muthu beat L/Naik Murthi on points, after a gruelling bout. Throughout the tournament, the boxing of the Indian ranks was of a high standard, and their sportsmanship won the admiration of all.

Brigade Team Competition: Finals.

23rd Field Brigade R.A. v. Signal Training Battalion.

Feather weight—Dvr Carpenter lost on points to Sigmn Williams. Williams was never troubled, and had his man down in the second round just before the gong sounded.

Light weight—Driver Gardiner beat Sigmn Symonds on points.

Bantam weight—Gunner Prachett lost on points to Corpl Brunton. Not a difficult fight for Brunton.

Welter weight—Gunner Hall lost on points to L/Corpl Phipson after a very good fight. L/Bdr Wild lost on points to L/Corpl Lovell.

Middle weight—L/Bdr Sampson lost on points to L/Sergeant Parker. There was some terrific hitting in this fight, but Parker was clever enough to steer clear of his share.

Light heavy weight—Gunner Clifford lost on points to L/Sergt MacFarlane.

Heavy weight—Gunner Jewson just managed to beat Signalman Bowker on points. Bowker was giving away nearly 2 st. and it is to his credit that Jewson was not quite sure where his corner was when the gong sounded!

23rd Field Brigade R.A., 10 points; S.T. Battalion, 14.

A *Boxing Burlesque*.—There were screams of laughter when the knobby-muscled Corpl Fee met L/Corpl Pat Mills, the idol of the gallery, with his painted lips and powdered face. C.S.M. Adcock attempted to referee this match. He introduced the contestants as "Willie Winn" and "Willie —" but the rest was lost in the roar of laughter.

Novices S.T.C. (India) Team Competition.

No. 1 Platoon v. No. 3 Platoon.

Results on points except where stated.

Bantam weight—Sigmn Rostron lost to Sigmn McQuire. Recruit Barry beat Sigmn Worley.

Feather weight—L/Corpl Dewhurst beat Sigmn Byers.

Light weight—L/Corpl Cook easily beat Corpl Cook, the fight being stopped in the third round.

Welter weight—Sigmn Smith lost to Sigmn Clarke. Signalman Brookes lost to L/Corpl Carter.

Middle weight—Much to our surprise, Sigmn Fears beat Sigmn Chadderton.

No. 1 Platoon, 11 points; No. 3 Platoon, 10.

Brigade Open Light Weight Competition: Final.

Sigmn Williams (S.T. Battn) beat Pte Donnelly (P.W.V.) after the best fight of the evening. Williams is a very clever boxer, and it is a pleasure to watch him in the ring. Donnelly put up a very hard fight and was awarded the best loser's prize.

Brigadier A B. Robertson, C.M.G., D.S.O., congratulated all the competitors on their fine performances, and referring to the novices, advised them to develop a straight left. He congratulated the R.Signals team on their fitness, and then presented the prizes to the winners and the runners-up.

Lieut G. I. Burgess-Winn (hon. secretary) called for three cheers for the Brigadier, and these were given with a will.

The S.T.C. (India) Dance Band, who had been in attendance to fill up the intervals, etc., played the National Anthem, and thus ended a really wonderful show.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Sport.—With the exception of two second eleven games, we have had no football during the month. These games were both against the 7th Battery R.A., and resulted in a win for the Corps by 3—1 and a draw of three goals each. We hope to see a lot more games played in the future.

In the hockey world, we have held an inter-Section competition which ended in the O. and M. Section playing the famous M.A.B. in the final. O. and M. won by the only goal scored, Signalman Williams being the successful marksman (?) However, some very enjoyable games were witnessed during the tournament, and more of the same calibre will be most welcome.

As far as cricket is concerned, only two games have been played, both versus the R.A. The first resulted in any easy win for our opponents—236 against 50 and 54 for four wickets. In the second meeting, we defeated the enemy by exactly 100 runs—209 for four wickets (Sigmn Lundie 100, Capt. G. P. Pavey 65) to 109 (Corpl Winton, three for 9; Sergt Watt, two for 28; Sigmn Lundie, five for 37)

The Spratt cup competition had to be curtailed owing to the shortage of time, and resulted in No. 1 Company borrowing the "pot" for the next twelve months. Mark you, I said "borrowed."

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

Baluchistan District Cross-Country Run.—Our hopes in this contest were happily realised. The team ran extremely well to win by eight points with a score of 328. The D.M.G. Company, Devon Regiment, were runners-up with a score of 336. Besides winning the Barra cup, we secured two individual places: Sigmn Shubrook second and Sigmn Summerskill third. This is the fourth time the unit has won this cup since 1925.

We all sympathise with Lieut I. St. Q. Severin, who was unfortunately unable to run, having to undergo an operation just before the race. Lieut Severin, himself a good runner, did a lot towards training the team, and it is easy to realise his disappointment at not being able to take part in the race.

Congratulations.—We congratulate the undermentioned on being awarded Jimmies for cross-country running: Lieuts. E. V. McCormack and N. J. Minshall, Sergts Gibbard C. and Keegan W., Corpl Spearpoint F., L/Corpls Wainscoat D. and Perkins H., Signalmen Hayden, Pfaff, Fresle, McLean W., Pewtner, Shubrook, Summerskill and Rockall.

Detachment, 3rd Indian Divl. Signals, Ranikhet.

Soccer.—Football has started, and up to date we have played six friendlies as a preliminary to the tournament, which commences next week. Results: Won four and drawn two. Goals, 20 for and 1 against.

It is time the Signals started playing football in India, and we are going to beat all records this year!

Hockey.—Owing to the lack of suitable grounds, no hockey has been played in Ranikhet previous to this year. Now, we have a ground (of sorts) and we have played one game versus the Seaforths, winning by 1—0.

Basket Ball.—Plenty of basket ball has been played to date. The ladies seem to enjoy this most, so we manage to arrange lots of matches with them.

Kohat District Signals.

Sports.—We have already, in our unit notes, mentioned one or two athletic successes.

Many mediocre matches, both of soccer and hockey, have been played. There is, however, one particular match—one outstanding match—one glorious match—which must go down in the annals of our Corps. This was when the n.c.o.s played the men at soccer. Some said it was a fine match, others that it was a farce: I myself fear that it was a fiasco! The wind blew a hurricane—of course, there *would* be a gale of wind blowing with so many n.c.o.s about. Then it began to rain. Now, everybody knows that n.c.o.s are not used to water; they much prefer something stronger. Is it any wonder that, with the right half running round in circles and biting himself, with the centre forward blindly struggling through the ill-effects of a lubricated siesta, and with the ball looping the loop in mid-air, the n.c.o.s lost by seven goals to nil?

On the replay, a day or so afterwards, however, a great game was played, and this time the defeat was more "honourable"—four goals to one.

1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur.

Hockey.—We played E Battery R.H.A. in the final of the Station hockey tournament on April 3rd, and succeeded in beating them by one goal to nil. The goal was scored by Sigmn Robinson within the first fifteen minutes of the game—rather luckily, as it happened, as several of our star players were crocked soon afterwards.

2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Sport.—Though the actual fixtures are not to hand, we have been doing quite well both in football and hockey. Details will be inserted at a later date.

Cricket has been on the wane of late, but rumour hath it that practice is to start very shortly, so matches will probably follow in the coming months.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Sports.—This seems to be the close season for sport, the only event pending being the Area athletic meeting, due to take place on April 16th.

We are training for our entry in the Tennis League, which we nearly won last year and hope to pull off this.

Entertainments, etc., are off the board, with the exception of weekly whist drives run by L/Corpl Maguire—an institution which, it is hoped, has come to stay.

Hockey.—This is only a minor game in the Section, as there is great difficulty in procuring grounds. We manage to get together an eleven out of some twenty enthusiasts. The team have some brilliant players in L/Corpl Saunders and Signalmen Williams, Patience and Gillot (the latter, by the way, is an all-round man).

Results.—Versus R.A.M.C., won by 2—1 ; v. R.A.O.C., lost by 1—3 ; v. Y.M.C.A., lost by 1—10 and 1—6 ; v. R.E., won by 3—1 and 3—1.

We had one player, Sigmn Williams, chosen for the Area.

Aden Signal Section.

Football.—The Football League finished last month, but the positions of the teams have not been published, so I cannot say how we stand. We are now concentrating on a team for the Wills cup, and though we may be weak in numbers, the spirit is strong.

Hockey.—We played the A.A. Section R.A. in the first round of the Bhicajee hockey cup, the score being 3—2 in our favour. A protest was lodged by our opponents on the ground that our last goal was scored as the whistle sounded for time. It was a debatable question as to which happened first. However, it was decided by the committee that it was a legitimate goal, and so we passed into the second round. Here we met the Left Section R.A., whom we beat by 3—1. In the semi-final, we met the Squadron "B" and again came through with flying colours, winning by 2—1.

The final will be played on May 2nd, and our opponents will be Squadron "A." We have every hope of success, and it will be a game worth watching.

Cricket.—A Cricket League has been formed, and the Section has amalgamated with R.A.F. Headquarters. Only two matches have been played so far, the results being a win and a loss.

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

Appointed R.Q.M.S.

2306274 Bevan R. 26/10/30

To be W.O. II. (C.S.M.)

2313007 Elkington F. 12/2/31

To be C.Q.M.S.

2307383 Kendall A. 3/1/31
2308710 Paul W. 24/1/31
1408699 Radford S. 26/3/31
2307424 Carmichael A. 26/3/31

To be Sergeant (Farrier)

*1850142 Bellwood W. 11/1/31

To be Sergeant

*2314124 Lawson J. 17/12/30
2310140 Searle H. 3/1/31
*2309813 Mills W. 14/1/31
2306829 Storey C. 19/1/31
2312077 Addison L. 19/1/31
1850114 Male J. 19/1/31
2310654 Hoy C. 24/1/31
2310994 Stather R. 28/1/31
2314244 Low G. 12/3/31
2306781 Beckley A. 26/3/31
2312911 Packman W. 26/3/31

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

2310140 Searle H. 6/12/30
2313951 Redworth F. 6/12/30
*7143929 Murphy J. 17/12/30
2306276 Frost H. 28/12/30
310195 Jones T. 3/1/31
2312810 Hamilton C. 14/1/31
6134414 Bryant C. 19/1/31
4525909 Abraham S. 20/1/31
5875302 Cheverton B. 24/1/31
1850227 Quinn W. 24/1/31
2314747 Savage W. 28/1/31
2316259 Marshall G. 28/1/31
2311099 Hammond P. 28/1/31
2200975 Parker S. 28/1/31
2309334 Murphy S. 7/2/31
4525419 Sunderland H. 11/2/31
2310949 Sharples H. 12/3/31
2310684 Stanley R. 17/3/31
2311282 Morley W. 26/3/31
2314607 Justice A. 31/3/31

To be Corporal (Farrier)

2309724 Fuller A. 11/1/31

To be Corporal

2312024 Stevenson L. 6/12/30
2315725 Frawley W. 6/12/30
2317237 Denton D. 17/12/30
2317026 Edwards W. 28/12/30
2316999 Clarke E. 29/12/30
2315755 Barlow R. 30/12/30
2316473 Wellock H. 1/1/31
1055165 Crawford E. 3/1/31
2313724 France J. 14/1/31
2200988 Gourlay G. 19/1/31
2314502 Harries T. 20/1/31
2556792 Wright F. 24/1/31
2315008 Twigger W. 26/1/31
2311589 Varley H. 28/1/31
1860641 Smith W. 30/1/31
2316541 Simpson C. 30/1/31
4601213 Luther C. 30/1/31
2317810 Strangwick E. 3/2/31
2314236 Hart R. 7/2/31
2313039 Pratchett L. 11/2/31
5493061 Feltham G. 26/3/31

Appointed Lance-Corporal

2309424 Brunton Douglas J. 7/12/30
2317004 Hall R. 10/12/30
2312509 King L. 18/12/30
6336242 Stanton A. 23/12/30
2315648 Tupper T. 29/12/30
5987834 Drury C. 30/12/30
2316653 Morris H. 31/12/30
2316738 Turner R. 1/1/31
2316139 Johnson J. 9/1/31
2318017 Whitefield C. 14/1/31
2564557 Connor G. 19/1/31
1068936 McConnell M. 20/1/31
2319978 Wagner F. 20/1/31
547471 Brassfield V. 20/1/31
6711171 Fox S. 26/1/31
2314316 Redrup A. 28/1/31
2307840 Baker W. 18/3/31
2318707 Green G. 1/4/31

To Army Reserve

2308626 Sergt Clements G. 12/2/31
2315640 L/Sergt Reid C. 18/4/31
2316259 L/Sergt Marshall G. 21/4/31
2312299 Corpl Cooper E. 3/3/31
2316541 Corpl Simpson C. 24/4/31
2316875 L/Corpl Legg P. 17/2/31
7577416 L/Corpl Young J. 5/3/31
2316357 L/Corpl Lovett N. 21/4/31
2316462 L/Corpl Kenchington R. 21/4/31
2317015 L/Cpl Callaghan B. 30/4/31

Discharges.

* 532939 R.S.M. Cann R. 1/3/31
*1038452 C.S.M. Barnett A. 11/2/31
* 311921 C.S.M. Cates B. 11/2/31
1858978 C.S.M. Cains E. 12/2/31
2311631 C.Q.M.S. Johnstone F. 19/3/31
2306179 C.Q.M.S. Ruffle G. 25/3/31
2306262 C.Q.M.S. Bartlett J. 15/4/31
1857194 Sergt Lyon G. 27/1/31
2308256 Sergt Lambert W. 11/3/31
* 536599 Sergt Clewlow P. 8/4/31
2307535 Sergt Dickinson G. 24/4/31
5662609 L/Sergt Huxtable J. 16/3/31
2304247 L/Sergt Smith J. 27/3/31
1850476 L/Sgt Macfarlane R. 28/4/31
4335521 Corpl More A. 14/4/31
2311799 L/Corpl Russell R. 26/2/31

Deceased.

2315613 L/Sergt Kilford C. 30/3/31

* *Special Roster, India*

ROYAL SIGNALS OLD COMRADES RE-UNION, ALDERSHOT
19th July, 1931

THE WIRE

THE CORPS MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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to whom all Correspondence and Notes for THE WIRE should be submitted.
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VOL. XII.—No. 137 JULY, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

Captain, Royal Signals, warned for India, desires exchange. Write "EXCHANGE," c/o The Editor, THE WIRE, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

❀ ❀ ❀

We tender our hearty congratulations to Captain H. R. Firth and his team of motor cyclist "Dare-devils," who put up such a splendid performance at this year's Royal Tournament at Olympia under what can only be described as heart-breaking conditions.

Trained to perfection on the hard but springy turf of the Yorkshire moors, their emotions on viewing the peat arena at Olympia for the first time may be better imagined than described.

To add to their general discomfort, they were billed to appear fifth on the programme—and after our Gunner friends of the R.H.A. and the Naval gun teams had so churned up the landscape that it presented the appearance of a ploughed field after an earthquake.

Despite these handicaps, however, the Dare-devils' performance was thrilling, to say the very least of it, and reflected great credit on the Corps, the riders themselves, and the machines they rode.

It was the first occasion on which Royal Signals have been represented at the Royal Tournament, and also the first time that the Olympia arena has witnessed the rough-riding capabilities of motor-cyclists.

That our men acquitted themselves nobly on this eventful occasion was borne out in no uncertain manner by the daily Press, which described Royal Signals' contribution to the performance as a marvellous exhibition of skilful and daring riding. It most certainly was!

An illustrated account of the performance will be found on pages 258—260 of this issue.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are indebted to Captain R. H. Rayner, M.B.E., for an interesting account of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, in which two Royal Signals officers are taking a prominent part—Captain Rayner himself and Captain P. M. H. Lemon.

Although this epic adventure has already received wide publicity in the daily Press, it is felt that an account at first hand, through the pages of THE WIRE, would be of special interest to our readers by reason of Royal Signals' close association with the venture.

The first instalment will be found on page 255 of this issue, and we hope to be able to supplement the article with illustrations in the near future.

❀ ❀ ❀

Wanted.—By Corporals' Mess, 5th Divisional Signals, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough: Bound volumes of THE WIRE from 1920 to date. Please communicate direct with the Mess President.

❀ ❀ ❀

Official notification has been received that arrangements have been made for LONG SERVICE PENSIONERS, living in London, to be considered for employment as auxiliary postmen in the London Postal Area. It is therefore requested that Officers Commanding units will acquaint all soldiers about to be discharged as long service pensioners (including modified service pensioners) with details of this employment as set out below:—

Arrangements have been made for long service pensioners (whose military characters have been assessed at not less than "GOOD") living in London to be considered for employment as auxiliary postmen in the London Postal Area. Long service pensioners who desire to obtain this employment should register their names with the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, 62 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

There is no age limit for this work, but applicants must be physically suitable for the duty. Employment will be arranged in the locality in which the applicant is living. The average weekly duty is approximately 28 hours, usually in the early morning and evening, and the average weekly wage, based on the number of hours worked, is approximately 30s. The employment is of a semi-permanent nature.

Long service pensioners under 45 years of age are eligible for establishment as full time Postmen and Porters, etc., and if not already registered, should register as above. Hours of registration, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. daily, except Saturday.

By command of the Army Council, H. J. CREEDY.

The War Office, 13th April, 1931.

❀ ❀ ❀

Are YOU going to the Old Comrades Re-union at Aldershot on July 18th/19th? And if so, have you sent them notification of your intended visit? A postcard stating rank, name and address, and directed to the Hon. Secretary, Signals Association, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, will be quite sufficient.

❀ ❀ ❀

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.

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes

Salisbury and District Branch.

General.—The news from this Branch will be short this month, owing to preparation for the quarterly meeting, and church parades at Bulford and Aldershot, which are drawing near.

I trust that we shall be able to have a good muster at both parades, so if you have not yet submtted your name for the Aldershot parade, do so at once. Notification regarding the Bulford church parade will have been forwarded to each ex-Signals by the time this is printed, and I hope that instead of thirty, this year we will have fifty in attendance.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of our members, Mr. Sherwood, of 104 Ashley Road, who passed away in the Salisbury Infirmary on May 16th. The secretary offered to the widow and family, on behalf of all Old Comrades, their deepest sympathy and regret in losing an old comrade from our fold.

3rd Divisional Signals.—Your article in THE WIRE re a re-union. This matter has been under discussion and left in abeyance until later in the year, when it is hoped that this will be forthcoming. I hope to have the full support of all members and ex-members of the Association and O.C.A.

FREDERICK COLE, Hon. Secretary.
3 Haviland Cottages, Quidhampton, Salisbury.

* * * *

The attention of all Hon. Branch Secretaries is directed to paragraph 5 of Editorial Notes in this issue.

* * * *

Notice to all Members serving overseas.—With a view to assisting all members of Signals Association to obtain suitable civilian employment on discharge, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and Men desiring to avail themselves of the facilities offered are advised to either call or communicate with the General Secretary at 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W. 1, as soon as they arrive in England.

* * * *

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 ..... Handy Man
2—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
3—Ex-Signalman ..... Porter
4—Ex-Driver ..... Porter
5—Ex-Signalman ..... Porter
6—Ex-Signalman ..... Porter
7—Ex-Driver ..... Kitchen Man
8—Ex-Signalman ..... Labourer
9—Ex-N.C.O. ..... Messenger
10—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
11—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
12—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
13—Ex-N.C.O. ..... Labourer
14—Ex-Signalman ..... Labourer
15—Ex-Signalman ..... Bus Driver
16—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
17—Ex-N.C.O. ..... Conductor
18—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
19—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
20—Ex-Signalman ..... Conductor
21—Ex-Signalman ..... Kitchen Man
22—Ex-Driver ..... Porter
23—Ex-N.C.O. ..... Storeman
24—Ex-Signalman ..... Barman
25—Ex-Signalman ..... Mess Waiter

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—

Royal Signals Officers' Mess, S.T.C., Catterick.
Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Egypt Signals, Cairo.
Army Sport Control Board, War Office.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from Mrs. Graveley.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Driver, Liverpool. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, Derby. Domestic difficulties and unemployment. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
3—N.C.O. (T.A.), London. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
4—Ex-Driver, Brighton. Domestic difficulties and sickness. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
5—Ex-N.C.O., Southampton. Temporary difficulties on return from Australia. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
6—Ex-Signalman, High Wycombe. Chronic sickness. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

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

Corps News—Officers

MOVES—

Capt A. B. Bushby from India to Catterick (S.T.C.)
Lieut R. C. B. Stuart from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Aldershot (A Corps Signals)
2/Lieut G. Mellor from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Aldershot (A Corps Signals)
2/Lieut H. E. F. Middleton from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Aldershot (A Corps Signals)
2/Lieut J. B. Ellis from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Aldershot (1st D/S)
2/Lieut D. E. Harrison from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Aldershot (2nd D/S)
2/Lieut F. H. Pellew from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Aldershot (2nd D/S)
2/Lieut D. White from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Bulford (3rd D/S)
2/Lieut P. M. P. Hobson from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Colchester (4th D/S)
2/Lieut E. J. C. Harrison from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Colchester (4th D/S)
2/Lieut A. Hill from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Scarborough (5th D/S)
2/Lieut H. Winterbotham from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Scarborough (5th D/S)
2/Lieut G. E. Aldridge from Catterick (S.T.C.) to Blackdown (A.D.B. Signals)

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 15/5/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Lieut W. A. Rhind to be Captain, 18/4/31

War Office, 19/5/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt D. A. Brown, M.C., to be Major, 15/5/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

L. C. Oliver to be 2/Lieut. 20/5/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—W. B. G. Collis to be 2/Lt. 20/5/31

War Office, 22/5/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

49th (W.R.) Divl Signals—Lieut J. N. Armstrong to be Capt. 23/4/31

56th (1st London) Divl Signals—2/Lieut B. H. Brown (late R.E.T.F.) to be Lieut. 16/4/31

War Office, 26/5/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

P. R. Wheatley to be 2/Lieut. 27/5/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—2/Lieut A. McDonald to be Lieut. 23/5/31

War Office, 29/5/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

2/Lieut G. H. Mayne, from 4th Battn Hampshire Regiment, T.A., to be 2/Lieut. 30/5/31

War Office, 5/6/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

2nd Cavalry Divl Signals—2/Lieut R. H. C. Van den Bergh to be Lieut. 11/3/31

51st (H.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut R. B. Williamson to be Lieut. 19/3/31

War Office, 12/6/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut A. R. B. Dobson to be Lieut. 19/5/31

A Year in the Arctic.

BY W. C. H. MANSFIELD.

[The main points of this narrative were compiled from information obtained as the result of a special interview very kindly granted by Captain R. H. Rayner, M.B.E., Royal Signals.]

* * * *

The experiences of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition have become common knowledge to the general public through the medium of the daily press, but they have a special interest to readers of THE WIRE by virtue of the association of Royal Signals with the enterprise.

Capt. Rayner (of the 1st Divl Signals) whilst acting as A.D.C. to the Governor-General of Canada, was asked to undertake the honorary secretaryship of the Expedition. He worked indefatigably both in arranging the preparation of the Expedition and in the relief of Mr. Augustine Courtauld, who was isolated on the ice-cap of Greenland for five months.

Soon after the Expedition was mooted, Captain Rayner, who was away from his station on a diplomatic mission, heard that the United States of America were preparing a similar enterprise. This meant that if the British Expedition was to proceed, arrangements would have to be speeded up to facilitate an early start; for it is a point of international etiquette that the first in the field should undertake the quest.

With this in mind, Captain Rayner hastened to interview the Prime Minister of Canada with regard to the Canadian side of the Expedition, and then came to England to set things going on this side.

The British Government agreed to co-operate with the Royal Geographical Society in the venture, but made it clear that funds from the National Exchequer would not be available. Fortunately, there were a few gentlemen who volunteered to finance the Expedition, and matters went ahead without further delay.

Captain P. M. H. Lemon, R.Signals, was selected to go as wireless officer, and his work in this connection and in general survey work has been specially meritorious.

Lieut.-Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., R.Signals, in conjunction with two other Royal Signals officers, was also concerned in the establishment of short-wave wireless communication between the Expedition party in Greenland and Aldershot.

The measure of success met with in this long distance wireless communication on short-wave transmission has proved most beneficial to the advancement of short-wave experimental work.

On July 24th, 1930, the British Arctic Air Route Expedition landed at Angmagsalik (a small island off the east coast of Greenland) from Shackleton's old ship *The Quest*. Travelling about thirty-five miles west to the mainland, a base camp (near to the Sermilik Fjord) complete with dogs and sledges, provisions and fifteen tons of coals, wireless materials, two aeroplanes and a portable four-roomed hut, was established.

The ambition of the Expedition was to make meteorological observations and geographical surveys which would determine the feasibility of an air service from England to Canada via the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Baffin Land.

Although the party was mainly composed of young adventurous men, they were not all making their first visit to the Arctic. Their leader was Mr. H. G. Watkins, who is well known as an explorer, and as his right-hand assistant he had Mr. Augustine Courtauld, who in two previous expeditions to Greenland had gained much experience.

Each member of the Expedition knew full well the hardships that would have to be endured, yet they set out fully intending that certain of their members should stay on the ice-cap for a whole year. Previously, no one had ever spent a winter in the Arctic at such an altitude. This unique experience, however, was paralleled by a German scientific expedition which was in Greenland at the same time, under the leadership of Professor Wegener. This party was working much further north than the British. It is to be regretted that nothing has been heard of Professor Wegener and a Greenlander named Rasmus since November, and it has been presumed that they have perished somewhere on the ice-cap.

The next step was to establish an inland post where weather observations could be made. Messrs. Rymill, Bingham, Riley and Lindsay, under the leadership of Mr. Scott, set out on August 13th for this purpose on a journey over the ice-cap.

Their difficulties up the glaciers and by the crevasses can easily be imagined, but an average of eleven miles a day was maintained. About 140 miles from the base, a suitable site was chosen which was calculated to be one of the highest parts of the ice-cap: about 8000 feet. Flags placed along this route, although sometimes buried in the snow, were of great use to later parties.

Riley and Lindsay were left at this spot with a single tent stretched over a dome-shaped frame, with a tunnel entrance and a hole in the floor, to carry out observations. The remainder returned to the base. Meanwhile, Messrs. Courtauld, Stephenson, Wager and Chapman set out up the north coast with an aeroplane, taking observations, with *The Quest* sailing up the coast-line.

This party eventually reached the Kangerdlugsuak Fjord after a journey of about 280 miles. The fjord had never before been entered by a boat, and was little known even to the Eskimos; bears and walruses being the only inhabitants. One inquisitive bear tried to board the ship and was only with difficulty prevented.

Glaciers were the sole make-up of the scenery, and danger abounded from ice falls. A fall of ice actually swamped the party's small boat, and an important instrument was carried to the bottom. This was immediately retrieved by Mr. Chapman, who made a remarkably fine dive in the icy cold water.

Their work in these parts now completed, the party returned to the base camp in the middle of September.

On September 15th Watkins and Scott left for a journey on

the inland ice, supported by D'Aeth and Bingham. The conditions were so bad that it took thirty-six hours to get the sledges two hundred yards up a steep hill known as Bugbear Bank.

A few days later Rymill and Chapman started out to relieve Riley and Lindsay at the ice-cap station, and had not proceeded far when they met the Watkins party, who had changed their plans. On October 2nd the solitude of Riley and Lindsay was broken by the arrival of this party of six. They were quite contented, and hardly liked leaving. That they had been busy was quite clear, for in addition to their daily observations, they had built two ice-houses and banked them all round with snow.

After a day's rest the main party set out to return to the base camp, leaving Bingham and D'Aeth instead of Rymill and Chapman as originally intended. The weather then became fierce—the wind-gauge registered a velocity of 129 miles per hour—and at one time the party had to halt for three days. On resuming Watkins and Scott branched off south, while the remainder returned to the base camp.

The southern journey by Watkins and Scott towards Nansen's track was defeated by the weather, and when only eighty miles from their objective, they had to turn back.

(To be continued)

N.W.F., 1930.

[*Continued from June Number.*]

(Being a further episode in the stirring tale that is killing thousands. New readers, turn to page iii. of cover.)

Most readers will remember that we left two Brigades out on the Kajuri Plain on the last day of 1930. They have been left in this exposed position since last month's WIRE, and it's just too bad! I must get weaving before they find out.

The Brigades moved out at 03.00 hrs. in the morning (owing to a clerk misreading orders, I expect) and by daybreak (br-r-r) had reached the edge of the khuds, where H.Q. and the signal office were established for the day. The troops continued with the gay mountaineer stuff under cover of the Mountain Batteries, who were giving the Finance Department of the Government of India a bad day by keeping up a regular fire at ten-second intervals. The objectives, a couple of villages on the western edge of the plain, were reached before noon, and all stray charpoys were captured and sentenced to be burned to death. With the aid of a theodolite and a spirit level, the villages were levelled to the ground, and the troops commenced a retiring movement towards a well-earned supper.

Although covered by the guns, which had been blowing holes in the landscape all day, they had a warm time during the evacuation of the lately deceased villages. The local lads, who had been watching the proceedings all day with a warm spot under their gents' neckwear, attacked our rear-guards savagely, taking up our abandoned positions a few minutes after we vacated them. At one moment it appeared as though one picquet was about to stop it heavily, and a regiment was sent back to help them out—just in time. The edge of the plain was reached with just a few casualties, and as level country constitutes No Man's Land to the Afridis, the Brigades soon arrived back in camp, leaving the enemy brooding on the housing question.

The fine show put up by the Afridis apparently caused a lot of thought, and it was rumoured that someone wanted to know how the dashing dash the enemy were obtaining supplies. This was a facer. We had them well cornered in the khuds to the west and south-west of the plain, where only boulders and rocks flourished, and yet the prisoners that we captured were walking advertisements for Glaxo. Then someone though that the inhabitants of Mattani, on the Kohat road— apparently peaceful neutrals—were working a huge food-running racket across the hills to the south of the plain, and subsequent investigation proved that such was the case.

That caused it. In spite of all their good work, the Nowshera Brigade were ordered to move to Jani Garhi. This was rather tough, because nobody knew where the place was (the words were found in a cross-word puzzle), and I think that to Bara Signals belongs the honour of being the first civilised people to penetrate there. Set well back off the Kohat road, it is a small valley surrounded by towering crags and mountains. As the Hon. Seavy Armot (a well-known talkie first-nighter) was heard to say last season at his charming little place in Sialkot; "It's a bum hole, big boy."

There are no bus services there; in fact, a goat track constitutes the main avenue; and only the fact that our Construction Section refuse to stop while there is still enough earth to dig a hole, led to its discovery. Over hill and dale went the P.L. route, blazing a trail for the Brigade to follow, until one January morning the Construction Section planted their last pole and, 'mid scenes of tremendous excitement, named it Jani Garhi. It came as a great surprise that the place had been discovered, and in certain quarters a scoffing note was heard, implying that we were working a big bluff.

However, nobody could argue about it, and Jani Garhi still remains as a great Signal achievement. As soon as the news came through the Nowshera Brigade got moving, digging roads for themselves as they went, and after being lost to the world for some time a thrilling message flashed across the wire to Bara: "The Nowshera Brigade have arrived at Jani Garhi."

About a week was spent in putting it on the map generally, and an expert from Switzerland was placed in charge of the road control. This road (courtesy title) meandered merrily around crags and valleys, and in certain places, where there was a three hundred feet drop on the off side, an accident would have led to at least a sprained ankle. To prevent this, the expert devised a system of signalling from crag to crag. As transport approached the blind spots, a blithe yodelling would trill out across the mountains, and down to the camp below the news from peak to peak would go, and on the signal "all is clear" the transport would carefully steer a tortuous way 'midst hill and dell, where slips meant non-returns to —— (sorry! hot weather season).

The location of the Nowshera Brigade at this spot completely dislocated the Afridi A.S.C. organisation. The only way left for them lay across the plain, and as a business proposition, this was a dead loss. Convoys of "meat on the hoof" were hi-jacked daily and brought to Bara Fort as prisoners of war, and although it may be mere coincidence, from that date our Sunday mutton had a suspicious goaty flavour.

The goat-running lasted a very short while, and the Brigade had to fall back on the old sport of charpoy chasing to pass away the time. A lucky reconnaissance discovered a little village called Zao, where the pastime was unknown and charpoys flourished in hundreds. The lads were so pleased at this promise of good hunting that they folded up their ground sheets at three o'clock one morning, swept down upon the unsuspecting charpoys, and in one day annihilated three hundred.

During the operation several large cave areas were discovered, with every indication of recent occupation. A fatigue party was detailed to do a spot of work around there, and back to Jani Garhi went the lads with that Boy Scout feeling. The next morning the cave dwellers returned to their habitations, and were pleasantly surprised to find that someone had done all the hut jobs for them. The area around the caves had been nicely whitewashed, although the black lines had been omitted, and the head men of the tribes passed a vote of thanks to the Nowshera Brigade.

Their joy was short lived, unfortunately, owing to the R.A.F. fooling around. About ten o'clock, just as the honest cave dwellers were going to break, a flight of planes came over and dropped a few eggs. The whitewashed area was ruined, and by a bit of bad luck the caves were, too, and the inhabitants thereof left with prospects of a night in the local workhouse. I heard it suggested that the whitewash was put down with the deliberate intention of showing the R.A.F. where the caves were located, but there is no definite proof as to the truth of this statement.

The last two weeks of January ushered in the worst weather we experienced during the winter on the plain. It rained so hard that even the local poultry were obliged to wear oilskins, while to order a glass of beer, one stood a grave risk of consuming a dangerous percentage of H.O.2. After about a week of this sort of thing, a benign medical authority decided that the weather was inclement within the military definition of the word, and gave permission for the rum to be broached. The first night of issue saw a terrific crowd rushing to the "Q" tent, optimistically armed with huge receptacles of a pint capacity and upwards, and croaks of damp dismay were uttered when the issuing measure came into view.

Holding about one ounce of the precious liquid, it was entirely inadequate from the troops' point of view, as only one measure per man was allowed, and some mugs were barely covered at the bottom when the ration was poured in. Carefully guarding it from contamination (it was still raining) the lads returned to

their quarters, there to pool the rations and draw lots for the honour.

Working on the principle that half a loaf is better than none—for "loaf" reading "tot"—I carelessly pushed mine down between the tonsils, and the next minute was breathing fire and smoke, with an internal temperature of 3000 degrees. Not having tasted undilute sulphuric acid, I can't speak with authority, but I am of the opinion that it must be a mild sedative compared to Army rum, and w.e.f. that date I gave a certain sergeant, on whose larynx I have previously commented, full power of attorney as far as my ration was concerned. Two weeks passed before I could distinguish beer from water in the dark, so let this be a warning on the evils of drink, especially that labelled "W.D." followed by a broad arrow.

About the end of the month, vague rumours of the cessation of operations for the summer were floating around (yes, George ; it had rained so hard that there was enough water for even a rumour to float on). The 9th Brigade were to leave their rest camp at Miri Khel, where they had spent a pleasant winter lounging on ground sheets, and return to their peace station to do a spot of work. In order to keep our front line intact, the Nowshera Brigade returned from mountaineering at Jani Garhi and settled down on the left bank of the Bara river, about three miles behind the 9th. The day before the evacuation of Miri Khel, a party of the Construction Section left Bara for that place, in order to dismantle the P.L. in the camp and the three miles of route in advance of the Nowshera Brigade.

It was a sad business, uprooting such noble lines ; lines that had carried thousands of important messages, such as cup tie results and when the pay was due to arrive, without a single failure. However, next to a S.M.L.E., a telegraph route is an Afridi's favourite plunder, as we were shortly to find out, so the route was duly collected and stored at Bara.

The next day the noble 9th marched in, with expressions proper to men who have held 'em back, and as they passed Bara we turned out to give them a sympathetic raspberry, for eight miles of road lay between Bara and Peshawar—and boots, ammunition, were the sole means of transportation.

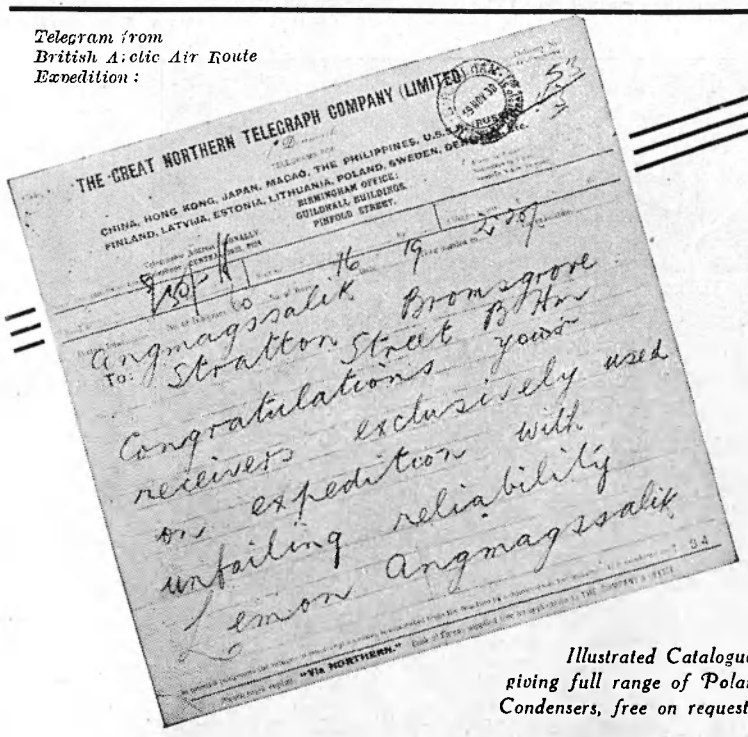
After the re-shuffle of positions on the plain consequent upon the 9th's move, the general strategic position was as follows. Six miles south of Bara a summer station, Star River Camp, was being erected to guard the south-eastern corner of the plain ; about six miles to the west, the Nowshera Brigade was keeping a fatherly eye on things from its central position at Mazarai Camp; and on the Brigade's right flank, a further six miles away and situated in the shadow of the khuds, the lonely outpost Fort Salop was in course of completion. The 2nd Brigade at Karawal saw that the embryo fort was not unduly embarrassed by the enemy, and at the same time guarded the plain from an attack from the west.

This gave us a pretty sound defence all along the south and west of the plain ; and along the routes of communication, three or four picquets functioned as night guards. The only weak spot was to the north-west, where a high ridge of rock stuck out at right angles from the main hills and cut across the plain to Narai Kwar, offering splendid cover for the local lads to nip around and catch us coir crushing. With the withdrawal of the 9th Brigade the enemy became increasingly bolder until, nightly, a string of fires was visible all along the south and south-western hills, indicating the presence of the opposition just waiting to get a spot of revenge. Our north flank was obviously too weak to leave under such threatening conditions, so a small blockhouse was erected on the highest point of the western side of the Samghakhai Pass. This pass split the ridge which ran across the north of the plain, and the blockhouse was in the finest possible position for the job required.

Every place on the plain, from Jamrud Fort, to the north, to Star River Camp at the extreme south, was obtainable by V/T, and any marauders attempting to work a flanker were certain to be seen, with dire results to their health. The only drawback to this most excellent out-post was its name: Samghakhai. I ask you. Even the typewriter refuses to continue.

(To be concluded. Three cheers !)

Telegram from British Arctic Air Route Expedition :



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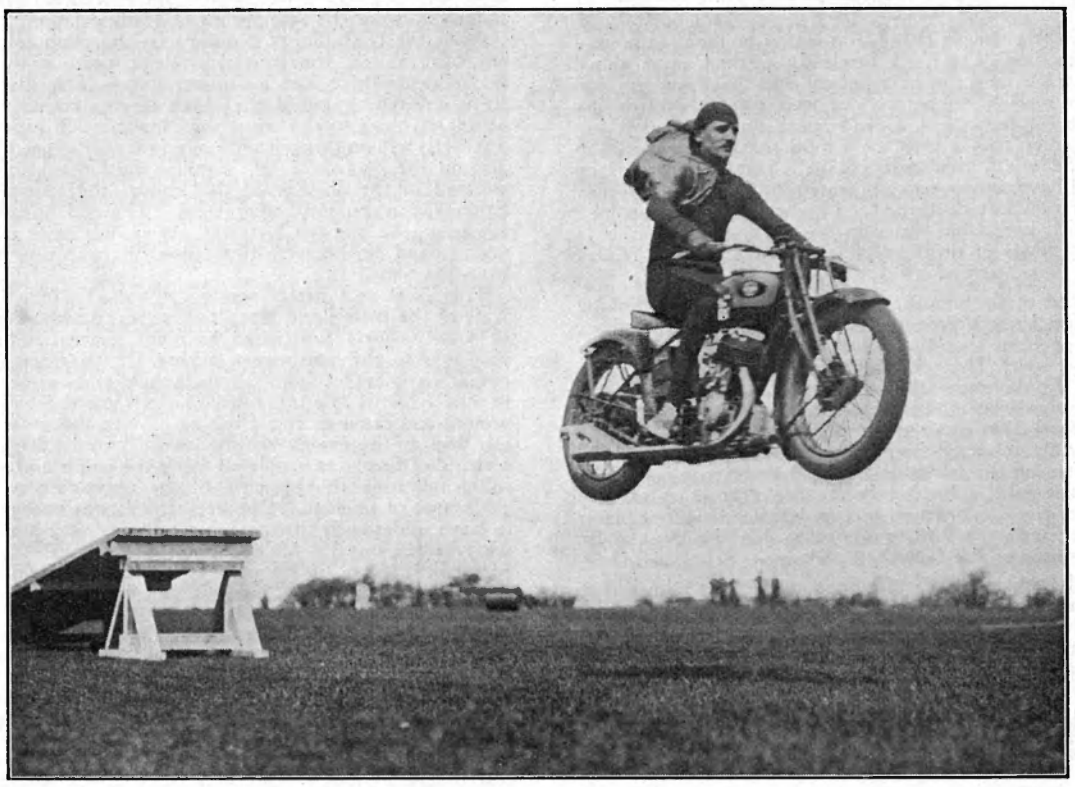
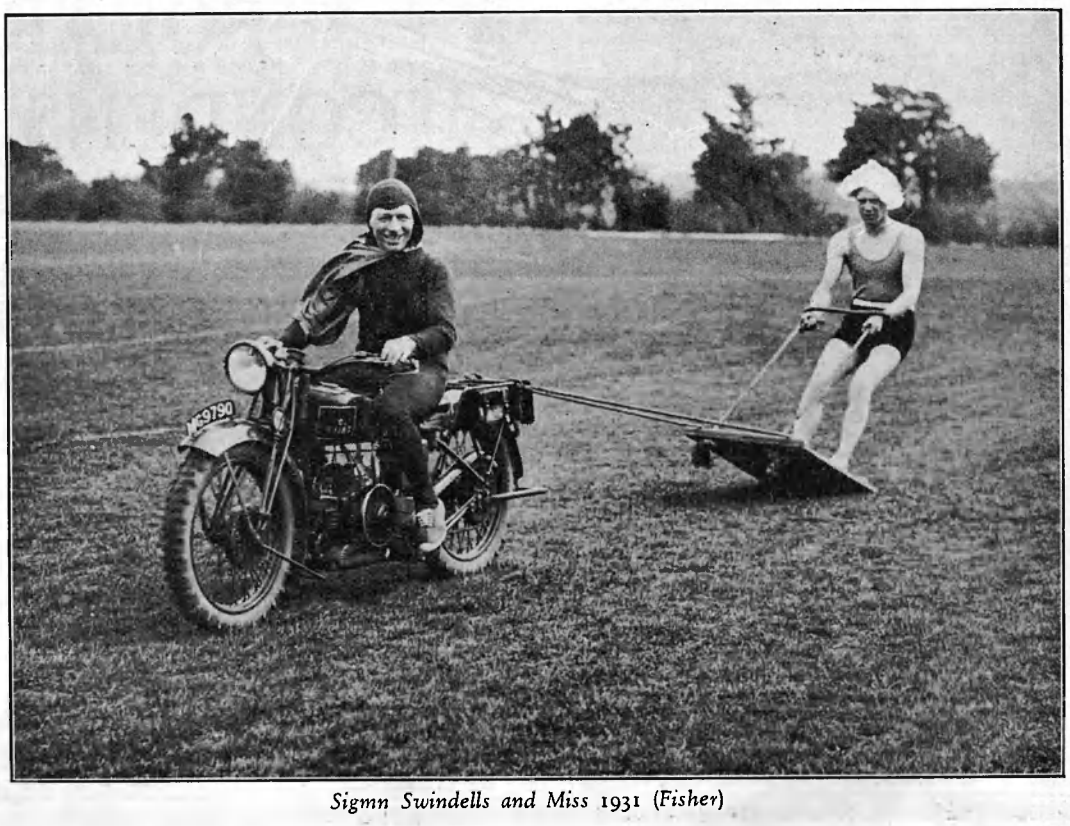


Corpl Rowe—(but they can all do it)



Sigmn Swindells and Miss 1931 (*Fisher*)

Olympia Royal Tournament, 1931.

When, as long ago as last October, it was suggested that the Training Battalion should provide a display at the Royal Tournament, some natural trepidation was felt at taking on such a formidable task.

There was, for instance, no data as to how a motor-cycle would behave if ridden at speed over the peat surface of the arena at Olympia.

After rehearsing at Catterick and giving what seemed to be innumerable Press shows, we of the display team arrived at Olympia on Saturday, May 23rd.

The surface of the arena looked perfect. Full of confidence, we proceeded to unpack our very beautiful motor-cycles, negotiate for a supply of petrol, and lastly to overcome the somewhat natural prejudice of both the military and civilian authorities concerned.

They were all of the age who look on the motor-cycle, outside, as an infernal machine; but, in sacred Olympia, a motor-cycle actually "charged like a bomb" without petrol. *Oh! no!*

J Battery Royal Horse Artillery entered the arena for their first run of the musical drive at 11.0 a.m. on Sunday, 24th. The admirable surface of the arena became like a badly ploughed field. Obviously, we could not perform the majority of our turns, which were of the "hands off" variety.

An advance copy of the programme for the opening of the Tournament by His Majesty the King revealed the worst. We were fifth turn, after the Royal Horse Artillery, Cavalry, and Naval field gun displays had all done their worst with the arena.

A new act must be evolved, and that between Sunday the 24th and the first dress rehearsal on Tuesday the 26th. *It was!*

It was soon obvious that the motor-cyclists were attracting interest, if only for their novelty. The crowd at our rehearsals was always large—sometimes dangerously so.

Helped by imagination and luck, and by the very great experience of Mr. Shemans, of Triumph Cycle Company, we overcame all our difficulties—including such unforeseen things as a special carburettor setting to get the mixture suitable to the heat of Olympia.

We were all, I think, a little nervy before His Majesty's arrival . . . Would we "please"? . . . Would something go wrong? Competent observers stationed opposite the Royal box reported that Their Majesties laughed and clapped as heartily as any. And the whole audience was clapping—yes, and cheering too. We were a success!

After the effort and strain of the first few days, we all settled down to our two performances a day and proceeded to combat a tendency to get stale.

In this we were enormously assisted by the visits of certain of our officers (alas! very few were able to spare the time) who not only came to see the Corps perform at the Royal Tournament for the first time, but took the trouble to convey their congratulations and good wishes to the team. We were strangers in a strange land, and a visit from one's own is of incalculable value.

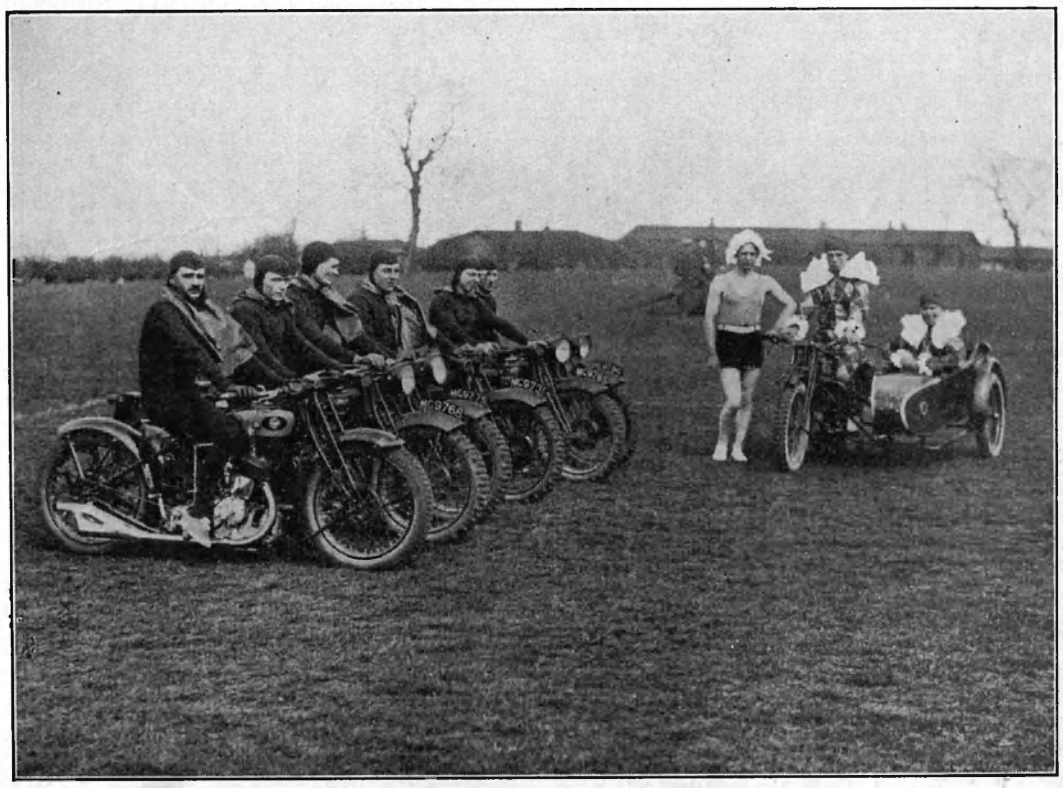
It is not within the scope of this article to hand out bouquets to all concerned, but it would be incomplete without a tribute to the very sound spirit which pervaded all ranks. It is not easy to live for three weeks in poor accommodation, in a bad atmosphere, and to give some thirty performances of a display which entails some risk, without incident of any kind. As at Warrington, all praise is due to Corpl Rowe and his men who so worthily upheld the credit of the Corps.

We were very pleased to greet our friends of the Mounted Wing when they arrived to take part in the other ranks team jumping, and congratulate them on the very fine performance they put up. Their evening run was a stirring performance.

One last tribute: this time to our own steeds. The motor-cycles lent us by the Triumph Cycle Company of Coventry more than came up to expectations.

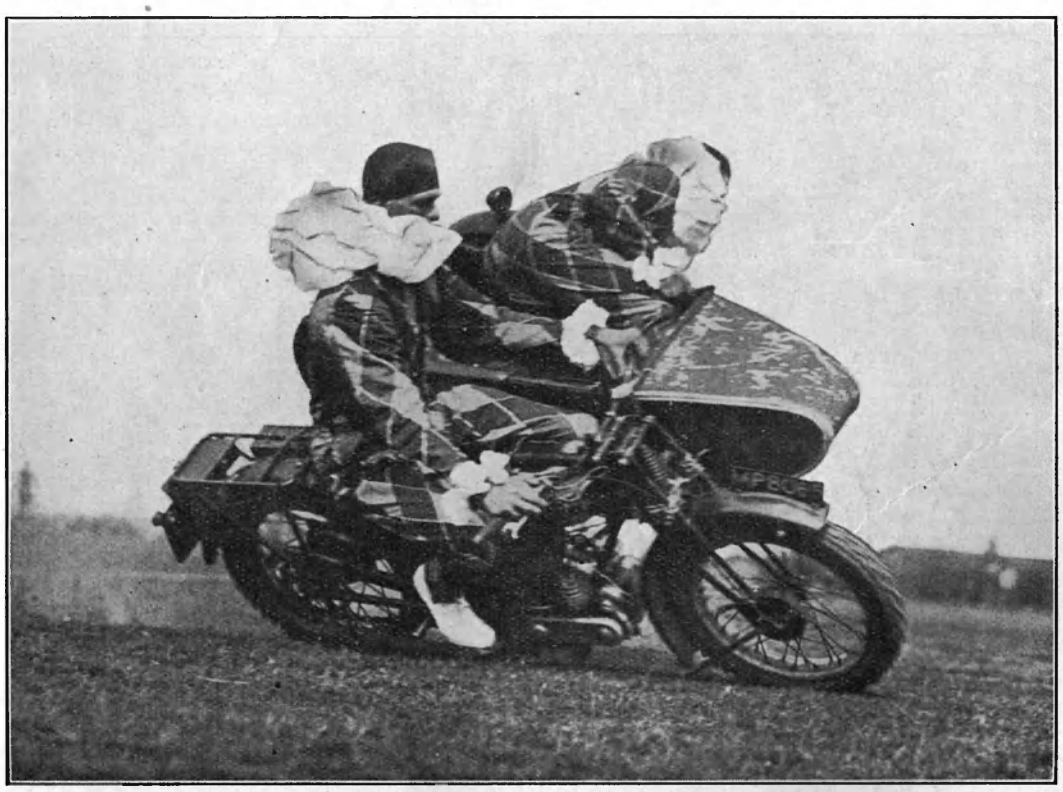
We were, I think, all very glad to be back in Catterick when we returned on Sunday, June 14th.

[The photos accompanying this article are published by kind permission of Messrs. Fox Photos, 6 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4 —ED.]



Daredevil riders who appeared at the Royal Tournament.

The juvenile game of "Horses" brought up to date.



L/Corpl Strugnell prevents Sigmn Pescod from retrieving his hat.

- Plain Tales -

Local News.—A few months ago I reported that talkies had arrived at Jubbulpore. I might as well have reported that they left Jubbulpore after presenting two pictures, and continued their tour of the country. Then we were led to expect some permanent talkies. Huge posters were put up outside the Empire Theatre, calling on us to watch for the grand opening of the talkies. When we had almost worn out our eyes with this watching, the posters were quietly removed, and we now feel resigned to another year or so of silent pictures.

Those people who can afford to, and some who can't, have left the Station for cooler places. How we envy them all that, with the exception of the railway journey. Some of you readers at Bulford, Scarborough, Catterick, Aldershot and other dimly remembered places, may know what railway travelling is like here in the summer.

* * * *

Correspondence.—"Dear Sir. Whilst getting a six-gallon stone jar of beer into position on the temporary bar, at a dance, one of my assistants stumbled, with the result that the jar crashed on to the stone floor of the orchestral pit. The pit, unfortunately, was not occupied by the orchestra at the time. To our astonishment, the jar was broken into approximately fifteen pieces, not counting the stopper, and six gallons of beer swished happily across the floor. Seven sergeants and two warrant officers were carried out in a dead faint. I wonder if any of your readers have had a similar experience. Yours faithfully, GEORGE SLAMWELL."

* * * *

Hair! Hair!—"Thank you, gentlemen," said the bald-headed man, when they presented him with a silver-mounted comb. "This is a present I shall never part with."

* * * *

Local Sensation.—The above flashlight photograph of six little connecting rod rollers, taken end-on, was obtained immediately after their arrest during the visit of the T.I.M.T. It appears that they were masquerading as tappet spanners. The little rips!

* * * *

Lightning Sketch.—Scene: the Strand Theatre, Jubbulpore. Time: approximately 11.30 p.m. Characters: A signalman of A Company S.T.C. (India) and a military policeman.

Signalman: "Excuse me, corporal; could you tell me the time, please?"

Military Policeman (evidently not a public school man): "Time! time! what yer want to know the time for, eh? What's it got to do with you? Garnoff!"

Signalman: "Good night, corporal."

M.P.: "G-r-r-r-r!"

* * * *

Company Meetings.—Professor Spuduski, the well-known authority on spun yarn, whilst addressing the Society of Tennis Ball Inflators at their annual dinner in the Saveloy Hotel last Wednesday, stated that many club members only attended on guest days for the sake of the free teas they obtained on the tennis courts. He said it was a matter for deep regret that more people did not bring their bats along with them and play tennis, instead of sitting around waiting for queenie cakes and tea. An indignant member rose and asked the learned Professor if he thought that the stale cakes and discoloured water held any attraction for *him*, and did the Professor pay the same subscription as the others, or not?

At this point one of the ladies threw a sausage which, fortunately for the Professor, struck his wife and effectually silenced her before she had an opportunity of recounting her husband's successes. The Professor, continuing, said that they were extremely fortunate in having such a trouble-free season, and added that this was due in a great measure to the excellent camaraderie existing in the club, not more than sixty per cent. of the members resigning in disgust. At the end of three hours, the Professor appearing to be still full of gas, the remaining guests threw him out of the window. The meeting was then broken up by the police and the fire brigade.

* * * *

Pour la Patrie.—Continued from last month. ("No! no!"—Ed.) ("Oui! oui!"—Author)

"Charge!" cried le majeur, and the dauntless Chausettes rushed like one man for the canteen. Pierre and the sergeant-majeur, together with a few corporals, rounded up the men and got them on parade again.

"Load!" roared the O.C. The men flung their arms and equipment into the waiting lorries and stood at ease.

"By the droit, marchons!"

"Stop! stop!" cried le Capitaine Pourboire, rushing up to the O.C. "I've got a puncture. Can you wait for me?"

Le majeur's lip curled in a mocking smile. He uncurled it. "Ho! you've got a puncture, have you? Are you sure you've only got one?"

"That is all, majeur, I swear."

"Menteur!" roared le majeur, and in the twinkling of an eye, he shot the lead-swinger through both legs. "Count up again, mon capitaine."

The brave little column moved on, intent only on getting in touch with the Dervishes and inflicting on them such chastisement as would atone for the destruction of their kits the previous week.

CHAPTER FIFTY-THREE.

Pauline Caraway rushed down the passage, fear clutching at her heart. That burst of rifle fire could mean only one of two things. Either her personal bodyguard of picked marksmen had shot le Capitaine Pourboire, or they had missed him. She arrived in the garden with a rush. "Henri!" she called. The chief of the gang stepped forward.

"Mam'selle."

"What happened, canaille?"

"Ten of us fired, and we missed him."

The tears stood in his eyes as he sank to the ground with a low moan, which was not surprising, for as he finished speaking, Pauline struck him a fearful blow across the head with a wheel-spoke from a three-ton lorry.

* * * *

Le Majeur Maggotte marched at the head of his battalion. He had maintained a stolid silence for over an hour, and Pierre had a horrible feeling that his O.C. was thinking about something. Suddenly, the pre-occupied officier tripped over a log of wood and fell heavily. The troops at once seated themselves on the sand, some to listen to a highly-coloured lecture on the carelessness of woodmen, others to play trente et quarante. The lecturer and the gamblers were brought to an abrupt halt by a terrific burst of gunfire on their left. A few shells burst in their midst without doing much damage.

"Fall in!" ordered le sergeant-majeur.

"Send out the scouts," said the O.C. The scouts went out and were gone nearly an hour, during which time the Chaussettes were subjected to a rain of shells, hand-grenades, machine-gun and rifle fire. No one was hit.

"See anything?" asked the O.C. when the scouts eventually returned. "Not a darn thing, mon officier," replied the head scout, kissing the majeur on both cheeks. "I think it is all a bluff."

"Good men," replied the O.C. "Take these medals and share them out."

"Battalion! vite marchez!" The column moved forward, and in less than half an hour burst right into the enemy's camp.

The Dervishes were so surprised that they surrendered without a word or a shot.

"What shall we do now?" asked le sergeant-majeur.

"Er—inspect the men's rifles," said Maggotte.

Le sergeant-majeur took out his pencil and drew a deep breath. "Battalion! For inspection, porte armes!"

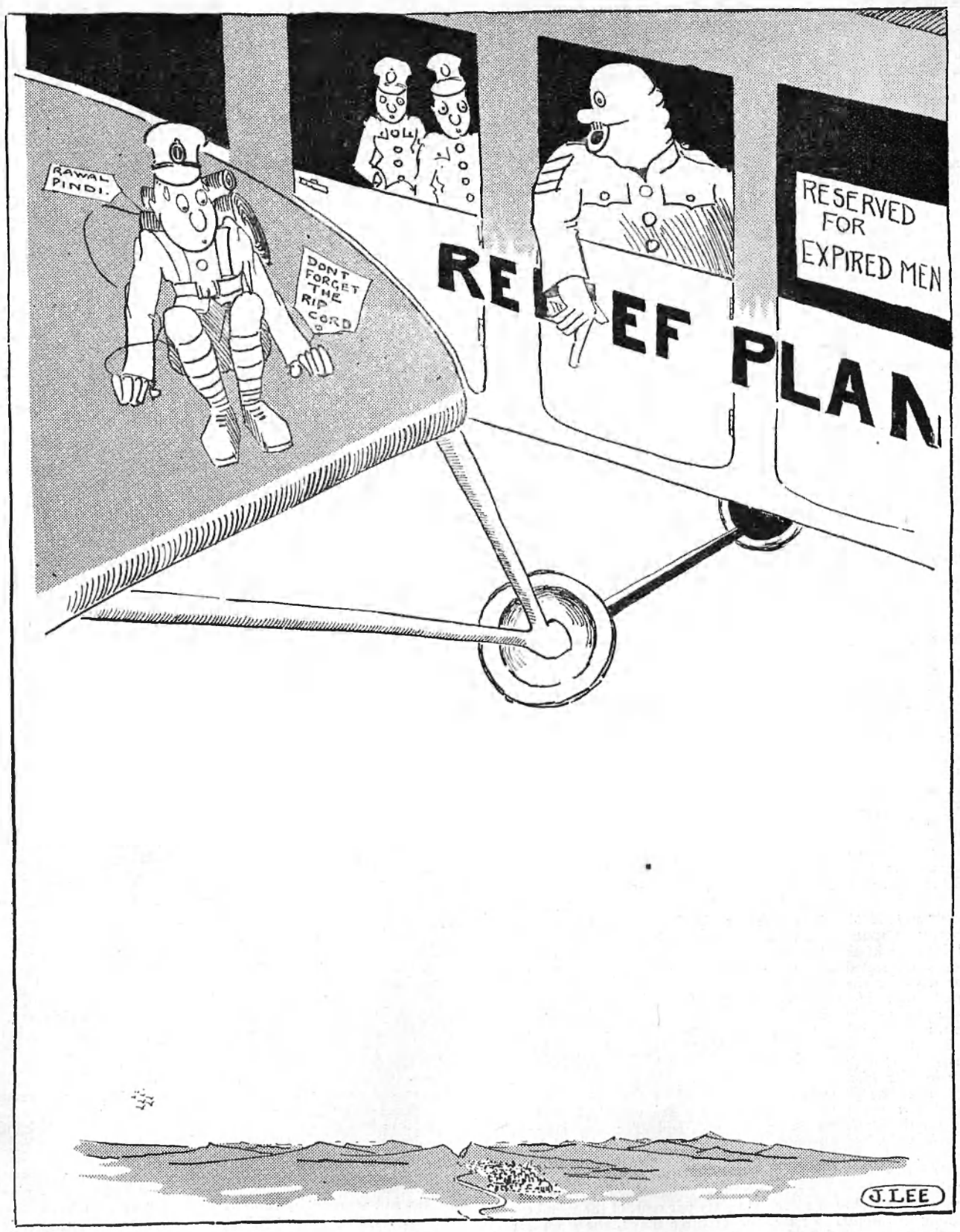
"Excuse me, Busty," said Pierre, saluting with both hands to be on the safe side; "all the rifles are in the lorries."

"Hush, you fool! Don't let the enemy hear you."

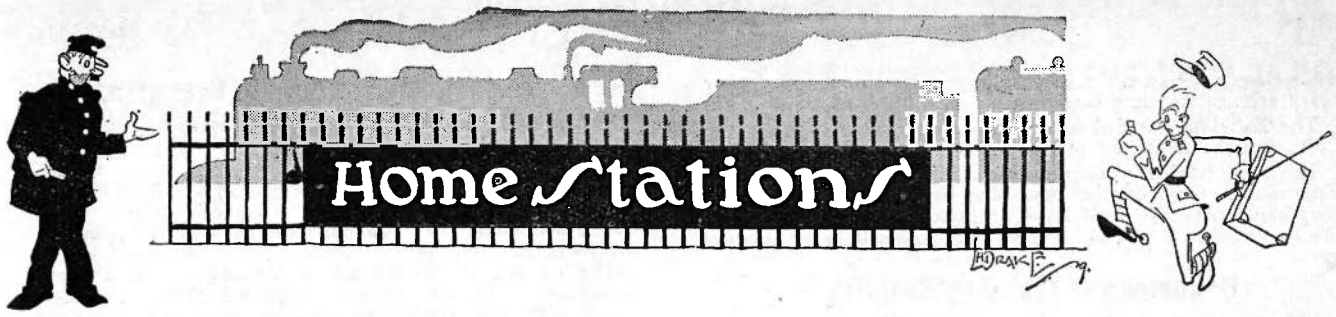
Neither of them observed Mlle. Pauline Caraway creeping away in the fast falling darkness, a crafty smile playing over her features and occasionally running round the back of her neck.

BARLEUX.

(To be continued)



Now, my lad, "Jump to it!" (New Version)



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Promotions.—Hearty congratulations to L/Sergeants Benfield G. and Tudor E. M. on appointment to that rank.

Arrivals.—We welcome L/Sergeants Brown H. and Jennings from Egypt—L/Sergt Brown to augment the weapon training staff, and L/Sergt Jennings to assist in the stables. The climate isn't all that one could wish, but one gets used to it!

Departures.—We regret to lose L/Sergt Ryan P., who has been posted to 3rd Divl Signals. He was a considerable asset to us in many branches of sport, but cricket especially. His loss in this respect will be a severe blow to our cricket team. As a wicket keeper and bat combined, he invariably did a lion's share. We have had his services for some time, and we will watch his progress in the Corps through the medium of THE WIRE from time to time. Good luck, Pat! but not good-bye.

Cricket.—So far, we have been unable to get much practice, owing to bad weather. July has been forecast as being a warm month, and ever optimists, we are apt to believe it. We may be able to bring along some budding cricketers. If we can count on all our players being available, we feel we shall have a much stronger team than last year. Unfortunately, Capt. J. E. S. Walford is in hospital with a wrenched muscle, but we hope he will soon be back with us and help us out.

Jumping.—Our jumping team which won the Command competition have left for Olympia, and we are hoping for some good news. They were in excellent fettle when they left, and should give a good account of themselves. Our best wishes went with them.

Athletics.—We made a good start in the inter-Company Relay League by defeating the School of Signals at the first meeting and tieing with E Company at the second. On the third week we went under to the Dismounted Wing. We were particularly weak in track events, failing to win a single event. It is noteworthy that we won five of the seven field events.

Again, against F Company, we failed badly, mainly owing to absence of members of teams on duty and leave. Still, we are not without hope of showing D Company a clean pair of heels at the final meeting—when the weather kindly permits it to take place!

General.—The gardens around the lines are beginning to show the results of individual and collective attention, and look well. The weather has been persistently bad for some time and has encouraged a plague of slugs, almost as destructive as a shower of locusts, which is especially discouraging to our allotment holders. Vegetables of all kinds, and indeed flowers, are well behind schedule and months behind gardeners in the south ; but if the sun will only show itself soon, our drooping spirts will revive tremendously.

The Commandant's annual inspection was held on the 20th and 21st May, and the commanding officer expressed his appreciation of the work done by all ranks, which ensured the inspection being a success and thus upholding the honour of the Battalion. It was worth the extra hours put in. Everybody went at it quietly and put his back into it cheerfully, so that the whole camp had a thorough spring cleaning, and no corner was missed. The harness and saddlery were excellent, and earned special praise. Well done! The dining rooms were re-curtained and painted out, and looked very attractive.

King's Birthday Parade.—It is seldom that honours come to our Battalion in the King's Birthday Honours list. Rather like the Irish " sweep," we read about them. But this time, honour has been conferred upon Major G. A. Kent, who has been awarded the O.B.E. Congratulations, sir!

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

On May 16th the annual dinner, to commemorate the eleventh anniversary of the formation of the Corps, was held in the Newbigging Hall. The guests of the evening were the Commandant, Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., and officers of the S.T.C., among whom were Lieut.-Col. E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Colonel H. I. Allen, D.S.O., and Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C. Invitations were again sent to the C. of E., R.C. and Wesleyan padres, the families M.O., and Dental Officer, who were also among the guests.

The hall was decorated, and all arrangements made under the able direction of R.S.M. Shave and his committee. Guests were received by the committee on arrival and, where necessary, introduced to their immediate hosts at the dinner. Dinner commenced at about 7.30 p.m., and an excellent menu was provided. During dinner the Band, conducted by Mr. R. R. Ricketts, played some excellent music, including a selection of popular songs, "The Student Prince," operatic selections (" Tales of Hoffmann "), melodies from " Wonder Bar," etc., and finally the Corps " March Past."

The first toast, " The King," was proposed by R.S.M. (F-of-S) Shave, which was followed by " The Commandant and Officers," proposed by R.S.M. Hepburn M. This was responded to in a short humorous speech by the Commandant, Brigadier C. H. Prickett.

A concert arranged by Fred Simpson followed, including items by Lax and Gilligan, J. T. Jones, Fred Simpson, Arthur Rogers and his violin, and F. Hartley. The first named were easily favourites with their syncopated duets, and came in for several encores, which they gave generously.

After the concert, we broke up and got around for a final chat with various guests prior to their departure. We were pleased to see members from Aldershot, Scarborough, Colchester, and the 50th Divl Signals, T.A., Darlington.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

Arrivals and Departures.—The Battalion is now feeling the effect of the recruiting " speed-up " made last January, and large batches of recruits are arriving weekly from the Depot Battalion. We extend a welcome to them all. Our postings away have not been so heavy, but quite a few D.R.s have left us to carry on their traditions with field units. With them go our best wishes.

Annual Inspection.—Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., inspected the Battalion during the last month, and expressed his pleasure at everything he had witnessed. We are now able to rest on our laurels for a little while.

The Battalion ceremonial parade was highly praised by the Divisional Commander, who took the salute at the march past.

King's Birthday Parade.—In conjunction with the other units of the Garrison, we were to have paraded at Catterick Aerodrome on June 3rd. Unfortunately, owing to the very bad weather and

the sodden state of the ground, the parade was cancelled after every arrangement had been made.

The Battalion paraded on its own parade ground under the C.O., and the remainder of the day was observed as a holiday.

The party of clever motor-cyclists who performed at the Royal Tournament, Olympia, this year, have now returned. I am told they gave an excellent display—and quite the best of the show. We congratulate Capt Firth and his red Daredevils most heartily.

D Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Owing to our correspondent being on leave, these notes are rather short. It is not known whether he will bring back with him a lion, a bison, or E Company's May notes.

Congratulations.—To Sergeants Sherwood and Gale on being awarded the long service and good conduct medal. To Corporals Webb, Johns and Smalley on promotion to the rank shown. To U/L/Corpl File on placing his Field Marshal's baton in his haversack.

Gardens.—In addition to the Company garden competition, everyone is now busy preparing for the Garrison horticultural show, and we are hoping to have an interest in the results this year. Sergt Binham is the big noise for this Company. Ginger them up, Busty!

King's Birthday Parade.—Much to the disappointment of all ranks, we were deprived of our route march to the aerodrome on June 3rd owing to the inclement weather, and were thus unable to show the other battalions in the Garrison what we are able to do in the way of ceremonial drill. Better luck next year, perhaps.

We had a Battalion parade instead, and spent the rest of the day in drying our clothing!

Musketry.—Having given everyone complete satisfaction in our inspections this year, we are now commencing pokey drill in preparation for our annual weapon training, which takes place next month.

Athletics.—We are pleased to tell the world that we were placed second in the S.T.C. individual championships this year, Dismounted Wing carrying off the honours.

B.S.

E Company, Training Battalion.

On the occasion of his annual inspection, the Commandant visited the Company on May 19th. All the barrack rooms, etc., were looking very clean and neat, and judging from the comments I have heard, the inspection went off very well indeed.

After all preparations had been made to hold a ceremonial parade of the whole Catterick Garrison on the aerodrome, in honour of His Majesty the King's birthday, the weather prophets "did the dirty" on us all and favoured us with a complete wash-out, and the parade unfortunately had to be cancelled. I have since wondered what the Tank Corps thought and said after spending the night on the aerodrome for nothing. Arrangements were then made for a Battalion parade to be held, and the Company, with the other units, formed up under the commanding officer on the Battalion parade ground and gave three lusty cheers for His Majesty.

Promotion.—Hearty congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Dorrington A. and Corpl Orton P. on promotion to their respective ranks. The former is joining A Corps Signals shortly.

Departures.—We have bid adieu to Sigmn Pitt of the Band, who has been transferred to the Army Reserve.

Knowledge.—L/Corpl Athill is to be congratulated on passing in three subjects for the special certificate of education. He obtained a "distinguished" in two of the subjects. Well done!

Press Notice.—The following appeared in a daily paper. No, you thought wrong! it was not *The Daily Mid-day*. Anyway, no bouquets are given. Here's how:—"Signalman —— who resides with his parents at —— has obtained the second class certificate of education at an examination recently held at Catterick. We congratulate him on his well won success." Cheers!

THE WATCHER.

F Company, Training Battalion.

By the time these notes are in print, we expect to be in the throes of summer (very belated this year). The wielder of the willow will from now onwards take precedence.

After a postponement of a few days, we commenced our first cricket match (still uncompleted). Ye gods! It was suggested that a swimming match would have been more applicable for the occasion.

The prophet of the weather is certainly out to change the destination of heaviest annual rainfall for Northern areas, Catterick, I should imagine, being his pet pond.

Ha, ha! Musketry will shortly be in full swing, and on completion, preparation for annual leave.

Athletics.—We have still one more fixture to complete before the Inter-Company League can be decided. We are all out for another victory, which will give us the athletic trophy once more. What? lucky! Well, we always were.

The S.T.C. individuals championships were held on the 10th, 11th and 12th June. Some excellent contests were witnessed. We managed to obtain third place with 39 points.

Departures.—L/Sergt Jones D. on June 18th to 4th Divl Signals. Our loss, but their gain. No doubt he will greatly assist 4th Divl at rugby, having represented the S.T.C. and Training Battalion since 1922. Also quite a useful help in the athletic world in the 100 yards sprint. All ranks of the Company join me in wishing him and his family good luck and success in the new station. Poor old Bruce!

Sigmn Bird S. R. to Depot Battalion. Sigmn Buckett W. H. to A.D. Brigade, Blackdown. Signalmen Cribb H., Martin J. L., Price J. H. and Smith D. H. to A.F.V. Signals. Signalmen Cochrane and Fox F. A. L. to 3rd Divl Signals. Sigmn Davies E. to 5th Divl Signals. Sigmn Towers N. to 1st Divl Signals. Sigmn Young to A Corps Signals.

Arrivals.—Corpl Gratwicke from Egypt, to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

Congratulations.—To A/U/L/Corpl Currie G. S. on his appointment to that rank; also to W.O. class ii. R.Q.M.S. Gibson H. on having been awarded the long service and good conduct medal, with gratuity, on completion of eighteen years undetected (new bars are now 1/-).

Cricket.—On Thursday, June 4th, we sent a boys' team to Ampleforth College. After a very exciting game, our boys ran out worthy losers by 15 runs. All had a most enjoyable time.

Agony.—Sandy: Rob Rays o.k. Jack. A.O.K.

School of Signals.

Passing Thought.—A notice is displayed outside Richmond station to the effect that sleepers are available within. A similar notice might well be displayed outside many other public buildings which come to mind without concentration—commencing with the Post Office.

General.—Some months ago I mentioned an instance of modern efficiency. The fire grate is still out, though the R.E.s have again been to measure the fireplace. Likewise, our new regimental institute is still going to be built.

Newbigging Hall. Why all the confusion about the correct way of spelling the name? Every other dance poster one sees in camp is incorrect, and even the S.T.C. isn't blameless.

The Commandant's inspection is over, but the Garrison horticultural show is ahead of us, so there is still a steady gardening "push." After a considerable amount of work a general improvement is noticeable, and we hope to make a little over the fifty per cent. of last year.

Who's Turn Next?—L/Corpl Bevans and Driver Lucas are now both safely married. There are, I believe, two more junior n.c.o.s taking a plunge shortly—one in the sea of matrimony, and the other in the sea at Scarborough.

Promotion.—R.Q.M.S. Britton A. to T/W.O.i. (R.S.M.)

Departures.—Sigmn Indermaur to Army Reserve. Sigmn Coles to Tidworth. Sigmn Deakin, last seen heading in a south-westerly direction—destination unknown.

Arrival.—Sigmn Reat from Egypt.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

I do not know whether Mr. C. B. Cochran ever spent a collective training season in the Aldershot Command. The fact that he chose such a title as "One damn thing after another" for one of his revues encourages me to believe that he did. At the moment of going to press, our programme is fairly packed with "turns."

We extend a hearty welcome to Capt M. Duncan, and to Messrs. Stuart, Middleton and Mellor. We trust their stay with the unit will be a pleasant one.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Thorne on the birth of a son.

We are glad to report that Mrs. J. W. Bailey has made a splendid recovery from her recent serious illness, and we trust most sincerely that she will soon become completely restored to health.

Once again our unit athletes have served the unit well by scoring top marks in the recent individual athletic championships. We congratulate them all on their success.

Hearty congratulations to L/Corpl Sadler, of 2nd Divl Signals, on once more carrying off the Victor Ludorum prize. "Well done!" we say.

Departures.—Signalmen Pullen and Knight to Army Reserve. Sigmn Pearson to discharge. L/Sergt Goodman to North Ireland Signal Company. Corpl Ward to South Irish Coast Defence Signal Section. L/Corpl Felix to A.V.T.C. Hounslow.

Arrivals.—From overseas: R.S.M. Grigg, D.C.M., M.M., and Sergt Searle. From Training Battalion: L/Corpl Broadhead, Signalmen Betts, Gant, Dobinson and Young. Welcome to A Corps Signals!

Trade Qualifications.—Signalmen Betts and Gant mustered as inst. mechanics A.iii.

Re-Engagements.—Signalmen Williams, Carrott and O'Donnell re-engaged to complete twenty-one years service.

Education.—Sigmn Bennett passed in maths "B" and physics ("E" and "M") towards the special certificate of education.

Attachments.—Armr/Corpl Baker, R.A.O.C., ceases to be attached to this unit. Armr/S/Sergt Adams rejoined from the Military College of Science.

Courses.—Armr/S/Sergt Lush (attached from R.A.O.C.) completed a course of instruction in Tank equipment. Armr/S/Sgt Adams completed a refresher course of instruction in machine guns.

Promotions and Appointments.—Corpl Baldock to L/Sergt, 29/4/31. Signalmen Brennan, Williamson, Halls and U/L/Cpls Swinson and Cairns, to L/Corporal on the Corps roster. Congratulations!

No. 1 Company: No. 1 Construction Section.

General.—The Construction Section are very busy at present, getting everything o.k. in time for the Tattoo, which will be a thing of the past by the time these notes appear in print. However, all ranks will be pleased to have done "just one more" Tattoo—which, I believe, is the last as far as construction is concerned.

Our next job will be the construction of the Horse Show lines, but more about this anon.

Schemes are the order of the day, but the Construction Section (owing to pressure of other work) have only been able to take part in a small scheme requiring a two-way party.

On Monday, May 18th, No. 1 Company held a Company sports day, which was a huge success and highly appreciated by all ranks, who hope this will become an annual affair.

The Construction Section made themselves felt, and with the help of our O.C. Section, we hope to appear more in the sporting limelight. Here are our successes in the Company sports:—

100 yards—Sigmn Dennett, 2nd.
220 yards—Sigmn Dennett, 2nd.
440 yards—Sigmn O'Donnell, 2nd.
880 yards—Sigmn Atkinson, 1st.
One mile—Sigmn Atkinson, 1st; Sigmn Mitchell, 3rd.
Three miles—Sigmn Atkinson, 1st; Sigmn Mitchell, 3rd.
Long jump—Sigmn Dennett, 3rd.
High jump—Sigmn O'Donnell, 2nd.
Hurdles—Sigmn O'Donnell, 1st.
Pole jump—Sigmn Williams, 1st; Sigmn Dennett, 2nd.
V.C. race—L/Corpl Felix, 1st; Sigmn Atkinson, 2nd.

At the conclusion of the sports, Mrs. Giblin, wife of our Company commander, very kindly presented the prizes.

I am very sorry to report that Corpl McKowin was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital on June 2nd. He had been ill for a week and tried to hang on, but whatever the complaint, it landed him up "topsides." All ranks wish him a speedy recovery to his old self again. Cheer up, Mac! you can probably have next year's Tattoo to yourself.

Arrivals.—The glad mitt is extended to the following arrivals (may they have a jolly good time in the M.T.):—L/Sergt Jones from A Cable Section. L/Corpl Drury, Signalmen Smith F., Smith W., Stamford, Prater, Baxter, Greig and Stocks from overseas. The latter is an old M.T.-ite returned to the fold.

Departures.—L/Sergt Hayles to the Company of "milk and honey." L/Corpl Felix to a vocational course. Sigmn "Red" Pullen to civvy street. L/Corpl Rawlins and Sigmn Wise to Bisley, to uphold our name in the telephone world. Good luck, all of you!

Pension Preferred.—Signalmen O'Donnell and Williams have signed on to complete twenty-one years.

Congratulations.—To Major and Mrs. H. V. Thorne on the safe arrival of a son. To L/Sergt Baldock on his appointment to that rank. To Sigmn Atkinson on his fine performance in the Company sports. And to Charlie, the dark horse.

Tail-piece.—(1) Said the tinker to the lady: "Sorry, mum! we're not copperbottoming 'em now; we're only aluminiuming 'em, mum!" (2) My horse in the Derby. Cheerio!

DANGLER.

No. 1 Company: A Cable Section.

A Little Straighter from the Horse's Mouth.—Dora's head hung dejectedly, and a despondent wag of her tail nearly knocked a fly off her hind-quarters.

"Life, Molly," said she to her stall mate, "is just one durned exercise after another. Here they are, codding us on, week after week, that we aren't really horses but prize stock cattle; and then, without warning, they turn us out on a real live scheme. Why, I must have travelled at least thirty miles all in one day. I call it a shame."

"Yes, Dora—and then they aren't content, but change the draught team all about, chop up the harness, and post dear old Poppy, Buttons and Iron Grey to B Section."

"You're right, Molly: and what have we got back? I ask you! Take June. I always thought June was a nice horse, and so she is—in somebody else's stables. Then there is Nell. I've nothing against Nell, and Nell's got nothing against me—or her ribs. And Baby, Dora. Don't forget the Baby."

"Sure, Molly, who wants a Baby at our time of life? It isn't respectable. That kid will get the stable a bad name."

"Tell me, Dora, what are the names of the two new remounts."

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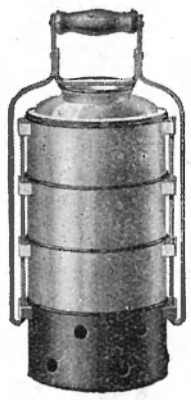

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" I think they are going to be called Carrie and Khan, because we are getting such expert can carriers."

" Did you hear the drivers moaning, Molly?"

" Moaning! Did I hear them? Am I deaf? But what particular moan: the one about driving drill?"

" Oh, no! as two of them have only three months service to complete their time, they wouldn't moan about that. I mean about the sergeant making his own cigarettes. But seriously, Molly ; you remember the day that exercise was so late? I heard a remark that all the troops had been on a birthday parade, and someone said that our officers were going to give a display of sword drill at the Tattoo. Won't that be nice for them? Oh yeah!"

" Jumbo mentioned the other day that now we have a bit of space in THE WIRE, we ought to keep a note of some of the questions that a Cable n.c.o. is asked, so that if any other unsuspecting softy gets put on the job, he'll be right up to date and real efficient ; so I've noted these few during the week: —

" Where's the sergeant-major?
" How many men in your Section can swim?
" How many lbs. to the bushel?
" Where did Molly pick up that nail?
" What's the matter with that horse?
" How many lamp brackets on a L.G.S. wagon?
" What is your off horse? (drivers H.T. of 4¼ years service only)
" How many miles of D.8 cable have you under the following heads: —(i.) fair, (ii.) good, (iii.) indifferent. (You can decide between good and fair, fair and indifferent, yourself.)
" How much varnish does it take to coat a cable wagon?
" Why weren't you told where to report?
" Who throws those cigarette packets about?
" Why hasn't D Troop cleaned out the manure pit? (sorry, Don!)

" Oh, shut up, Molly! Jumbo is only trying to start something ; and if Swin..n reads this, we will have Atkin..n down with another bunch of chits."

" I know, Dora, and it's bound to be in the middle of grooming hour. That's the only time anyone thinks of a real good he-man's question."

" Well, well, Molly, here's another load of grass down from the officers mess mowing machine. They'll give you anything they don't want."

FEED AWAY.

Gems of English Verse.

" SOLD."

We have a runner in our Company
Who's quite a lucky pup ;
He's sure hot on a three mile race,
And each time gets a cup.
Of course, it's rather difficult
To know just what to do
With such a lot of cups and things—
It made him feel quite blue.

At last, with smiling face, he said
" I'm getting married soon ;
I'll ' pop ' my cups and other things
Towards the honeymoon ;
And, later on, I'll take them out
(This idea beats the banner)—
They'll look alright in our love-nest
Upon our new piano."

The cups and things to " Adams " went,
To have his name inscribed ;
They came back looking simply great,
But our lad nearly cried.
And someone said " Whatever's wrong?
And why this doleful manner?"
He said " I guess it's all ' no go '—
I've *sold the old joanna*.' "

DASH.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

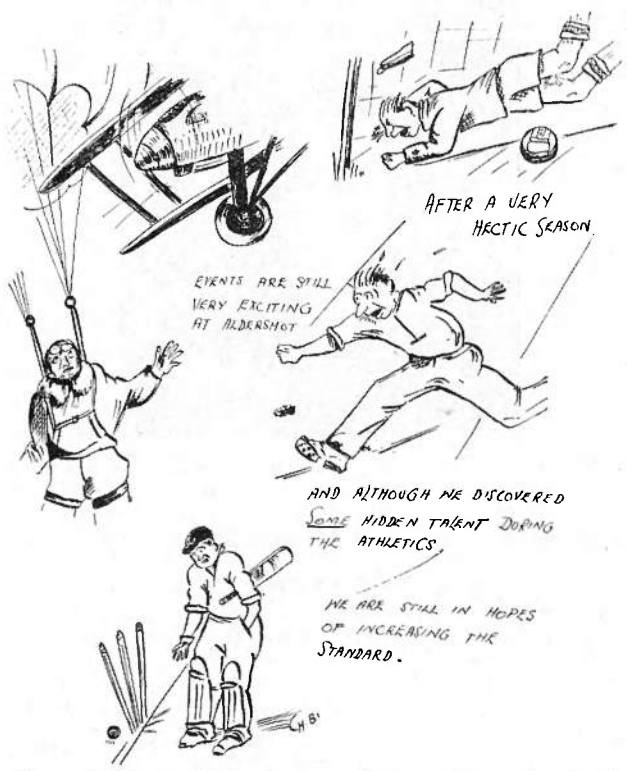
General.—Why should a normally half-dazed mind become completely so on the day that WIRE notes are due? More than one would welcome a really intelligent theory on this question, for so far the only remedies seem to be innumerable cigarettes and a strong belief in angels.

However, two items of news spring to mind, and I give them for what they are worth.

First, the whole Company is enjoying a local M.T. course, and this is certainly bringing interest into life. The only trouble is that, unlike our long-nosed friends, the vehicles do not know their own roosts or bays. Sigmn Fox had an awful amount of trouble in persuading his motor-cycle that it belonged to our end of the garage. The thing absolutely insisted on sleeping with One Company.

Item two is the news that Signalmen Hall and Brennan have deserted the canteen for the corporals' mess. We congratulate them both.

No, Three Company, we know nothing of your cricket bats. They may be like your talent in this sport: lost.



Sigmn Knight J. C. A. has been discharged from the Service during the current month. He carries our best wishes with him in his "awful adventure."

Brains are at a premium at the moment.

We have started a concentrated attack on the mysteries of loop aerials. What do we know about them? Ask us!

Our cricket team flourishes apace, even if the bat doesn't. The talent found so far is remarkable. Sigmn Ball, our thirty-second change bowler, bids fair to become a second Grimmett. His mystery "slows" have already excited some little comment in the local press, and we are confident of his elevation to higher circles in the near future.

Meditation.—Rumour is ever a lying jade, but she's got nothing at all on Cooper.

With the coming of milder weather, the Company's activities have extended, and in the last month several places of so-called interest have been visited. Several repeat visits by individuals have resulted, and the people I have in mind are not noted for giving things an extensive trial—so what's the explanation?

That's about all, except a message of hope from Baldy: "Watch Woolley," says he.

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 2 Company.

We must offer our apologies for the absence of notes from THE WIRE recently, but owing to great pressure of work! (nuff sed!) Still, we hope in future to be right on time. These notes

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will be rather brief, as we have not very much Company news to report.

E and G Sections left us some time ago to join their respective Artillery Brigades, and at the time of writing they are down Tilshead way, keeping the flag flying and pushing 'em back on that front.

F Section also had a basin-full, and after a fortnight away with their Brigade at Tilshead, have rejoined their Company and were soon on the scent of that C.R.A.!

Horse Show.—No doubt, many of our ex-Company members abroad will be glad to hear that " Wynne " was sent down to the Southern Command horse show, ridden by Corpl Henshaw, and secured a special prize. We hope to see " Wynne " secure another award at the Aldershot Command horse show. More of this, however, in our next notes.

Cricket.—In the inter-Company cricket knock-out, we met No. 3 Company 2nd Div. and won easily, so we pass on. We hope to hand out another k.o. to our worthy opponents. In our next matches, we hope to have available men of E and G Sections, and thereby strengthen the team. LULU.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—In the land of Oneco a great silence reigned, and all was peace. The scribe of Oneco gazed at his parchment, and lo, it was blank.

But the Essem bestirred himself, and advancing on the scribe, bade him take his parchment and quill, that he should chronicle all that had happened, even that which was of little importance.

And the scribe was sore afraid, but a tidal brain-wave came to him, and he recalled that the tribe had been at work on the Staph Colledge exercise—even that section of the tribe known as the " Lazy B " boys. But the exercise went ill with the leader of the " Lazy B " boys, and lo, he returned with his head in a bandage and a large eye—damage due to a foe called Morsekeyter.

And the tribe returned to their tents, and when the war was over, there was weeping and wailing and cleaning of equipment, but the land was at peace again.

Arrivals.—It came to pass that the numbers of the tribe should be increased, for there had been a census, and there was great rejoicing, and they who do piquets sang and made merry.

For it was decreed that seven new members would arrive from the far country of Catterick, the land of ice and snow. And they came, and there were five opsigs and two drivahs, and they ate of our bread and the pipe of peace was passed between them.

Among others was one known as Taylorjay, even the fat and fruity one ; and the Kew-wem was glad, for at last he had an outsize, and the fat one was the subject of measuring, and councils were held, and he was arrayed in a new toga and pants and did look like a fair lily.

Aldershot Command Tattoo.—It came about that in the province of Rushmoor a great Jamboree was held, and many were the tribes who attended, even fifteen men of Oneco who were empees. And there was shouting and great lights, and the tribes made whoopee, for they depicted the lives of their ancestors.

But there was modern warfare also, and onlookers shook their heads and said " Look at the horsebox on wheels " when the wireless lorry appeared. And nightly the said empees returned to their tents and slept the troubled sleep, for their parchments were full of names and addresses, and there was more sleep in the days that followed.

Company Gazette.—Arrivals: Signalmen Leak F., Mann W., Robson F., Smith L. and Trotter G. from Training Battalion. Drivers Haylett C. and Marsden J. from Depot Battalion. Signalmen Taylor J. and Francis and Corpl Cousins from Egypt. Sigmn Taylor A. from Singapore. And that is all!

Free Press.—To Egypt Signals and to all whom it may concern. Joe Taylor wishes to repudiate the statement in our last notes that he deputised for that old warrior Sailor Reed, and whilst under the influence of only two nut browns did render a passable " Gay Cavalier " minus the variations. Needless to say, the enthralled audience alluded to were none other than Black and Dicky. [Note: He is strictly on the water wagon, and has lost exactly one stone in weight—Parragoric.]

Hiking.—And one of the brothers, whose name is Conk, did attire himself in shirt and shorts and, taking his staff, did join the hikers—even the tribe of Boot. And when the time was come, the picture man did take him aside and put down his image for the benefit of posterity, and lo, the picture was good and is placed herewith.

Agony.—The king of the Kajuri chocolate eaters wishes to be remembered to all old friends in Peshawar. News greatly appreciated. What about some notes, Pesh?

Tail-piece.—The ode of the ever-open shopkeeper: " Business as usual." FUTURIST.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Personnel returning from Whitsun leave were given a hearty welcome the following day with schemes. From the sublime to the (oh g——). Can you beat it?

The Company is slowly being made up to strength with arrivals from the Depot, and by men from foreign lands who, like homing pigeons, answered the call of their mother country.

Great activity has been noticed around the home of sweet peas and asparagus: to wit, Room 34.

The cottage under observation for the next supply of slates has not yet been disclosed, but it can be assumed that a suitable Very light has been placed in a prominent position on same in readiness for the next night scheme. (Hard lines, Tick! I hope it isn't quite so far next time.)

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to L/Corpls Lauder, Ruffals and Smith, and Signalmen Riley, Metcalfe and Hemmings, hoping that their stay may be long and happy.

Departures.—L/Corpl Saltern to the Army Reserve. I may safely say that the Company's whole-hearted wishes for him are of the best. Good luck, Taff boy!

Promotion.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Moore on attaining that rank.

Agony.—Still hopeful. When are you going to make a game of it, Trudge? It's long overdue, Jack.

Even more hopeful. The n.c.o. who thinks he will meet the girl from Lyons' on the final night of the Tattoo. Is there any green in her eyes? She knows it is a nice place.

S.O.S. to Egypt: Cut it out on a rock, Jock (O'Neill). Anything rather than the suspense. Goodchild.

J. Blythe, somewhere in India: The mail still arrives regularly at Mons minus *one*. Bryson.

Ballads.—Buttercup and Co. (Incorporated). The scrounge is ended, but the feeling lingers on. (10 C)

Lost: one pair of spurs. Owner has lost grip on everything until finder returns same. Grip-Tight Mac.

Query: Who prefers a quiet snack to the Royal Tournament? No prizes are offered for this. Cheer up, Peter!

Last Words of Famous Men. Let Dickinson do it (recommended to be the last).

Cheek. Is this the limit? 2319945 Sigmn D——— applies for permission to lead the Old Comrades re-union parade.

In the Future.—It is rumoured that on next year's T.T. races there is to be included an endurance race for motor-cyclists, with female pillion riders. The Company already have a representative in strict training, and he may be found any night on one of the main roads leading to the south coast, complete with full kit: pillion rider. Various reports have reached us, though, as to the description of the fair one—so we gather he is making trial runs, presuming that he will not make his selection until the night before the race. Anyone who desires to introduce any clinging friends, relations, mothers-in-law, etc., should apply (references, adaptabilities, etc.) to make whoopee on a pillion to our worthy entrant. Hard lines, Geordy, old chap! The price of fame, you know.

To the Wee One.—Congratulations! Your noble efforts will no doubt be suitably rewarded, as we have engaged four of the crowd from the Elstree studios for your next endeavour to win film fame. But why the thorns? Surely you can do better than this. (Try Basingstoke canal: it's a fine setting for a midnight rescue.)

As You Were!—George: Lingdale still stands good after the recent earthquake. Letters are scarce, but you will eventually receive one from Mons in due course. J.W.R.

Stop Press.—Is it true that Bighead possesses sex-appeal? At least one garage, etc., seems to think so.

Jamieson: What about a reply to Toc Gibson's correspondence?

Will Ted Scott (Bolton) believed to be at Bulford, please send a short epistle to young Weir?

Irving: Just one more letter, and the India mail will be completed. Bob—Robertson, 2nd Divl Signals.

THREECO.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

General.—The unit is once again down to its summer strength, our affiliated sections having left us for the formations with which they serve for the next few months. It is now possible to obtain a cup of tea (for a small donation) without having to queue up for hours. To counter-balance this, though, the duties are more frequent.

Departures.—On May 28th, No. 1 Tank Signal Section, under the command of Lieut. G. H. S. Balmain, proceeded (using their own words) to a far far better land, namely Farnborough, there to join the 2nd Tank Battalion. No. 2 Tank Signal Section (2/Lieut R. N. Seddon) moved out to join the 5th Tank Battalion at Perham Down on May 29th.

No. 4 Tank Signal Section wended their weary way to Catterick to join the 4th Tank Battalion on May 20th. No. 4 is under the command of 2/Lieut A. B. Whatman.

On the glorious 1st June, Sergt Jones and his merry little band (detachment of No. 4 T.S.S.) proceeded to the Central Gunnery School, Royal Tank Corps, West Lulworth, where they will bask in the sun (if any) for the summer. Whilst wishing them all a jolly time, we hope to see them again in the future, returning loaded with honours.

It will be noticed that we said "hoped" to see them again. We shall, of course, unless we are on the high seas drifting to sunnier climes. The mention of the said sunnier climes will conjure up visions—more so to those clerically inclined, perhaps—of that nightmare, the annual drafting return. A certain correspondent once said that drafting and posting should only occur twice in a soldier's career: from civvy street to the Army and back again after his pontoon. We are more and more inclined to agree with that remark as each return is quietly dropped into the post-box. (We trust our slumbers will not be rudely disturbed for that remark. We really do like the Plain, Mr. Records!)

Again, this year, we met the individual who indignantly points out that he cannot be taken for service overseas, as he has only served the last umpteen years in England. Then, again, the other amusing person who spends hours in working out the reasons why he cannot be sent abroad, having in the far and distant past served in such outposts of the Empire as Gibraltar, etc.

Still, they are all very happy making their own arrangements; so why worry them until the actual posting orders are dropped into the office.

Despatch Riders.—On the 28th and 29th May our D.R.s gave a display of trick riding at the Shropshire and West Midland Agricultural Society show at Shrewsbury. By all accounts, they were a very good "do." A letter of appreciation was received from the secretary of the Society. They were rather unfortunate as regards the weather, as it rained some time during both days. For all that, the lads managed to enjoy themselves.

We know that some very funny things come under the heading of trick riding, but learnt for the first time, after this display, that it included peashooting and the frenzied swinging of revolving doors! One or two were also prepared to swim the Severn. Whether this was part of the show, or not, remains to be seen.

Births.—Our congratulations are due to L/Corpl and Mrs. Vine on the birth of a son at Tidworth on April 24th (rather late, Jim, but nevertheless sincere) and to Sigmn and Mrs. Kenneally on the birth of a daughter at Tidworth on May 17th. Both events have been duly celebrated in the usual manner.

Trade Tests.—The following have classified as I.M. A.2, and our hearty congratulations are handed out to them:—Signalmen Cheffings, Hutty, Lowe and Stringer. The following are to be congratulated on having obtained the extra qualifications as E.F. A.3:—L/Corpl Vine, Signalmen Allen J. E. and Robinson.

Educational.—Our congratulations are extended to the following on having captured the 2nd class certificate on April 10th:—Signalmen Atmeare, Cheffings, Higginbottam, Erridge, Beasley, Cowan, Haslam and Craigs. To those who have to be re-examined in one subject: Better luck next time!

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Signalmen Clark K., Reat M. and Adkins J., who joined us from overseas. Sigmn Reat has since been posted to the School of Signals. We hope the other two will enjoy their stay on the Plain as much as we have done.

Footnotes.—The absence of notes from the Tank Signal Sections is noted.

H.Q.

E Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, Tidworth.

General.—The fateful day again draws near, and the lowly scribe once more takes his pen and writes. Schemes, wars and rumours of wars being our daily routine just recently, we find that we are really a fighting unit. "Oh, yes, we are!" says Plum, and he should know.

A Brigade scheme took the majority of the Troop out to view the countryside and enliven the local swedes. This was ably accomplished by one of our D.R.s, who liked the look of one of his destinations so well that he decided to stay there until the war was over. The Troop is still playing cricket, but I dare not publish the figures, as the majority of the poultry farmers are bigger than myself.

The annual drafting return has gone away, and there are sweats to be noticed on several noble brows. (We have no forces in Constant, now.)

Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold Signalmen Ould, Foster, McBennett and Johnston from the Training Battalion, but we do not expect that they will stay long. The boat still sails, my cherubs!

Motoring Notes and News.—Motoring as a sport can only be enjoyed (?) on a machine of doubtful vintage. We have brought the number of owner-drivers up to six, and we also sport one driver who is not, however, an owner.

The rumour that Mickey has purchased a squirrel is incorrect, but Braddy has converted the A.J.S. to "dormouse drive," and the performances put up in recent tests have been amazing. Several suggestions by Sticky have been turned down, but as he says, "Genius is never recognised at first sight." (Oh, that forage lift, Sticky!)

Hiking is still popular with ex-Harrowians.

Sayings: by Them as Knows.—"What! yer timings slipped? Yer should have tightened it up afore yer went aht."

"Yus! I don't see as how we shouldn't get that toob galvanized. What are you doing with a combination spanner in your solo tool kit, eh?"

"E Troop Signals, mate? Yus! go straight ahead up this road till you come to Salisbury Plain, then turn round, and it's just in front of yer."

"No mag trouble for me," said Willy, wrapping his hanky round the magneto when crossing a watersplash three feet deep.

To B Corps Signals.—J.H.D. asks me to send this gentle reminder. "After reading with much interest of your heroic doings on the Kajuri Plain, I beg to inform you that the Cavalry Divl Signals were there during June, July and August—118 degrees in the shade—but, as Signals, just did it. Virtue is its own reward." S.J.B.

No. 2 Artillery Signal Section, Larkhill.

The engine driver cable mark 1 (Sigmn Manton) whom we mentioned in last month's notes, has rejoined the Section, evidently to complete his vocational training with us. He got his hand in alright by assisting to fit the cable engine, after being overhauled, to a new wooden frame.

We are carrying out Section training at present in conjunction with the Brigade signallers, and in several interesting schemes good work and efficiency have stood out. May that be a good augury for the future.

"John Bull's" camera gift scheme has been taken advantage of by several members of the Section, and we hope shortly to submit for publication in THE WIRE worthy snaps of interest from these amateur photographers.

Sigmn Taylor J. has been admitted to hospital, but we hope he will soon be fit and well to rejoin us before proceeding to Okehampton R.A. practice camp.

Congratulations.—To C.S.M. Freddie Seymour and C.Q.M.S. Tich Yates on their respective promotions; also to Sergt and Mrs. Nokes on the gift of a son. We could relate a little story about the latter item, but—well, enough said, eh, Nobby? No telegrams, no pack drill!

Personal.—Mr. H. Griffiths and family, of the Restaurant, Larkhill, send their best wishes to Corporals Bill Lynton and Smudger Smith, now with Egypt Signals.

Sigmn Tommy Walker, of Manchester, is asked to get into touch with Sigmn F. White of this Section.

A New Leaf.—What about it, Barleux? Reference "Plain Tales," lines 16 to 19, in the June issue. ... JOYLE.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—We started the month under review with a very effective demonstration gas drill by L/Sergt Leath, who afterwards, in his very persuasive way, had every one in the gas chamber and got him to have a sniff of gas; but the double mark-time in the chamber, in the dark, had a bruising effect on people's toes. It was noticeable how far away from those marking time Sergt Leath stood!

Practice for the Tattoo still goes on, the party giving a display at Shrewsbury in May. By all accounts, everyone who goes to see this year's display at the Tattoo will have a twenty-minute thrill.

We are looking forward to the visit of the Corps Band from 29th June to 5th July, and hoping that the weather will be as kind to us as it has been in past years, for up to now the Band have always picked a week of sunshine.

E Section left us on May 30th for a few weeks at Exeter. They were a very cheerful little party as they moved out under 2/Lieut Winterborn. I noticed several new faces in the Section this year, but I am sure they will do as well as they have done in the past.

No. 5 A.S.S. have just completed a practice camp with the 9th Field Brigade at Larkhill, and seem very pleased to be back with their Brigade at Bulford.

The dismounted portion of F Section left for Newport on June 7th, and the mounted party followed a week later.

No. 7 A.S.S. left on June 15th for Portsmouth.

So, with one or two n.c.o.s assisting the Territorial Army, we are once again split up around the country.

However, with all the splitting up, we managed to continue athletic training and got in a good number of evenings, which enabled us once more to win the Salisbury Plain athletic championship against six other competitors. (Full results in the Sports pages.)

I'm sure we have the making of a good team this year, and with hard training for the Command meeting we may have a chance of passing on again to the Army event. Now then, lads, keep it up!

The attached photograph may be of interest to some readers, and perhaps some could name those portrayed. I'm sure it will be a reminder of many happy days at Aldershot and at Cheriton Mill camp.

Sergeants' Mess.—We held our last whist drive and dance of the season on May 30th. The attendance was up to the usual standard, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

OFFICERS & N.C.O.s A. SIGNAL COY: ROYAL ENGINEERS. 1914.

Mrs. Nokes presented her husband with a bonny boy on June 2nd, but we celebrated the arrival of a girl. I know errors in telegraphic communication can change a word, but how could a telephone message possibly change the sex? I fancy the engine must have been ticking over a little faster than usual, making the cylinder a trifle warmer.

King's Birthday Parade.—This was held on the Brigmerston Field on Saturday, June 6th. Major-General H. H. S. Knox, C.B., D.S.O., reviewed the troops and took the salute at the subsequent march past.

The parade consisted of all units in the Salisbury Plain Area, drawn up in a line which extended for a mile. The 3rd Divl Signals marched past as follows:—One dismounted party of sixty files, one mounted Troop of four sections in line, two Cable Detachments, two Telephone Wagon Detachments, six W/T six-wheeler lorries, six medium lorries, six light cars, and sixteen motor-cyclists. The unit was singled out for commendation by the G.O.C. for its excellent turn-out and extraordinary fine lines during the march past.

Fortunately, the day was fine, and the spectators enjoyed a very fine spectacle.

No. 2 Company.—On May 7th No. 2 Company held a gymkhana, entries for which were restricted to the Company. A very pleasant afternoon resulted, and the competition was keen. E Section won the day by scoring most marks, with G Section a close second. F Section were third. Our thanks are accorded to the officers and w.o.s of other Companies who so kindly judged for us.

G Section were rather hit by the exclusion of the Southern Command horse show entries, but this was necessary to even up matters between the Sections.

It was intended to include M.T. events, but this was not possible owing to all the M.T. not being available. However, we hope to have an M.T. show in the autumn.

The prize for the winning Section was a clock which Lieut. D. W. E. Brock has presented, to be competed for annually.

No. 2 Company is very much scattered at present. Sections have joined their Brigades as follows:—E Section at Exeter, F at Tilshead, G at Bulford, No. 2 A.S.S. at Larkhill, No. 5 A.S.S. at Bulford, and No. 7 A.S.S. at Fort Brockhurst.

Arrivals.—Sgt McIntosh and family, Signalmen Cochrane and Fox F. A. from Training Battalion, 23/5/31. Corpl Banbridge from Depot, 23/5/31. Signalmen Franks, Weetman and Taggart from Training Battalion, 28/5/31.

Departures.—Sigmn Oldham to Reserve, 22/5/31. Sigmn Ward to Scarborough. Sigmn Worthy to Reserve, 14/5/31. L/Corpl Pond and Sigmn Atkins to Reserve, 4/6/31. Sigmn Havis, discharged 1/6/31. Sigmn Edwards W. to Scarborough, 15/6/31. Sigmn Fox to Reserve, 10/6/31.

Re-Engagement.—L/Cpl Waite to complete twenty-one years.

Promotions and Appointments.—C.Q.M.S. Seymour to be C.S.M. vice C.S.M. Dorrington, promoted 30/4/31. Sergt Yates to C.Q.M.S. vice C.Q.M.S. Seymour, promoted 30/4/31. L/Cpl Peake to be Corporal vice Corpl Fields, promoted 17/4/31. Signalmen Burke and Camm appointed U/L/Corporals, 30/5/31.

Education.—Sigmn Myers awarded special certificate of education, 18/5/31 ("D" in maths). We heartily congratulate him.

Marriages.—Corpl Weeks to Lilian May Cook, at Andover, 16/5/31. Driver Godley to Elsie May Stewart Wheeler, at Amesbury, 23/5/31.

Births.—To L/Sgt and Mrs. Newmarch, a son (Leslie Arthur) at London, 19/5/31. To Sgt and Mrs. Nokes, a son (Humphrey Brian) at Tidworth, 2/6/31.

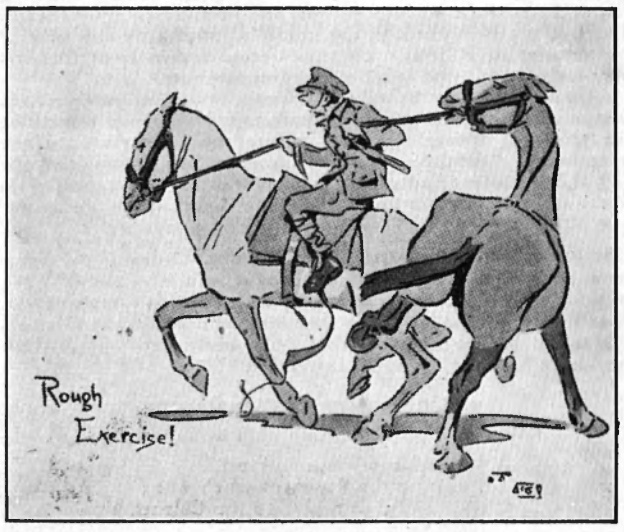
4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

No. 1 Company.

General.—The King's Birthday parade went off well as far as Signals were concerned, and special mention was made of the six W/T vehicles which went past the G.O.C. in a perfect line. The Cable Section team of bays and chestnuts captured the attention of spectators with their excellent turn-out, and although there was no official comment on the dismounted Company, spectators were loud in their praise of the march past in line.

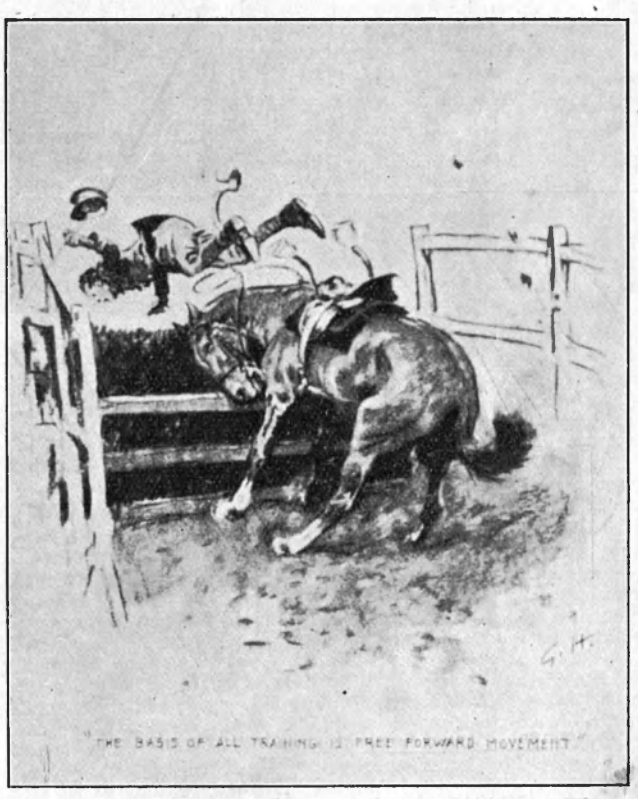
Scheme.—On June 10th we took part in the 54th Divisional exercise. The G.O.C. 54th Division congratulated Signals on the excellent communications provided.

Congratulations.—To Sigmn Marshall (our unit right back) on his splendid 103 not out against Horkesley.



" The Morning after the Night before."

Seen at 06.00 hrs. in the vicinity of the " Donkey and Buskin."
Rider Haggard turns playwright!



Problem Solved.

Now we know why it's called the Dismounted Wing.

No. 2 Company.

General.—It has been suggested that Trawsfynydd should be spelt and pronounced " Trousford," to prevent much twisting of the tongue and wrong spelling. It is a word causing much conversation owing to the fact that each Section of the Company goes there, somewhere in the lone wastes of northern Wales, at this time of the year for Brigade concentration. The word itself means " across the mountains," but from conversation overheard, should it not be " through the mud?" Judging by the state of the vehicles of F Section on their recent return from the first trip, I should say the latter is more appropriate.

" Gum boots may be taken to camp " was an extract from Company orders prior to their departure. I wonder if something like this will appear in orders before their departure on the second trip: " Sou'westers and oilskins will be drawn from the C.Q.M.S.'s stores ; individuals are allowed to take canoes if in possession "? Is there no talent in the Company for the invention of telephones and D.iii.'s for working under water.

Brigade Concentration: 92 Say Again.—Brigade concentrations have been causing the Company much concern. Each Section, in turn, has been wrestling with them at Trawsfynydd. That they have also stirred to the core our brothers the Gunners is revealed by the fact that they have burst into verse, which they have kindly allowed us to reprint.

Sing a Song of Signals.

(*With apologies to Memo of Training*, 1929)

A state of conditions infernal
  Is causing the Regiment much woe ;
It gives sleepless nights to the Colonel,
  The C.R.A. and Y.O.

To put down Brigade concentrations
  Is everyone's aim, you'll allow ;
But when, where and how is the problem
  Which furrows the poor Gunner's brow.

For, having surveyed the position
  And fixed the old piece on the map,
A most complicated condition
  Is forthwith imposed on a chap.

Who ranges, who passes the data,
  Predicts, or controls or computes,
Is all on the pad—but these methods
  Experiment quickly refutes.

If the B.C.s are shooting like wizards,
  And gun drill's efficient and smart,
Unorthodox signal procedure
  Will put the whole show in the cart.

For signallers find it most galling
  That all that the drill will allow
Is the unfriendly phrase " O.P. calling "—
  They prefer the more matey " Ullow!"

To these is the omnibus circuit
  Past all comprehension of brain ;
They only know one way to work it—
  That magical phrase " Say again."

Whilst targets get safe into hiding,
  And orders are never sent back,
They waste precious time in deciding
  If "A" is " Eh?" or just "Ack."

A drill for these signallers sturdy
  Is what we require, to combat
The arguments, fruitless and wordy,
  Which put up the D.S.'s back.

When next we arrive at Trawsfynydd,
  The Gunnery staff we will show
Concentration on Howell or Mynydd
  In five minutes time from the " Go!"

Arrivals.—L/Corpl Richards G. H. from No. 3 Company, and joined E Section at Shorncliffe.

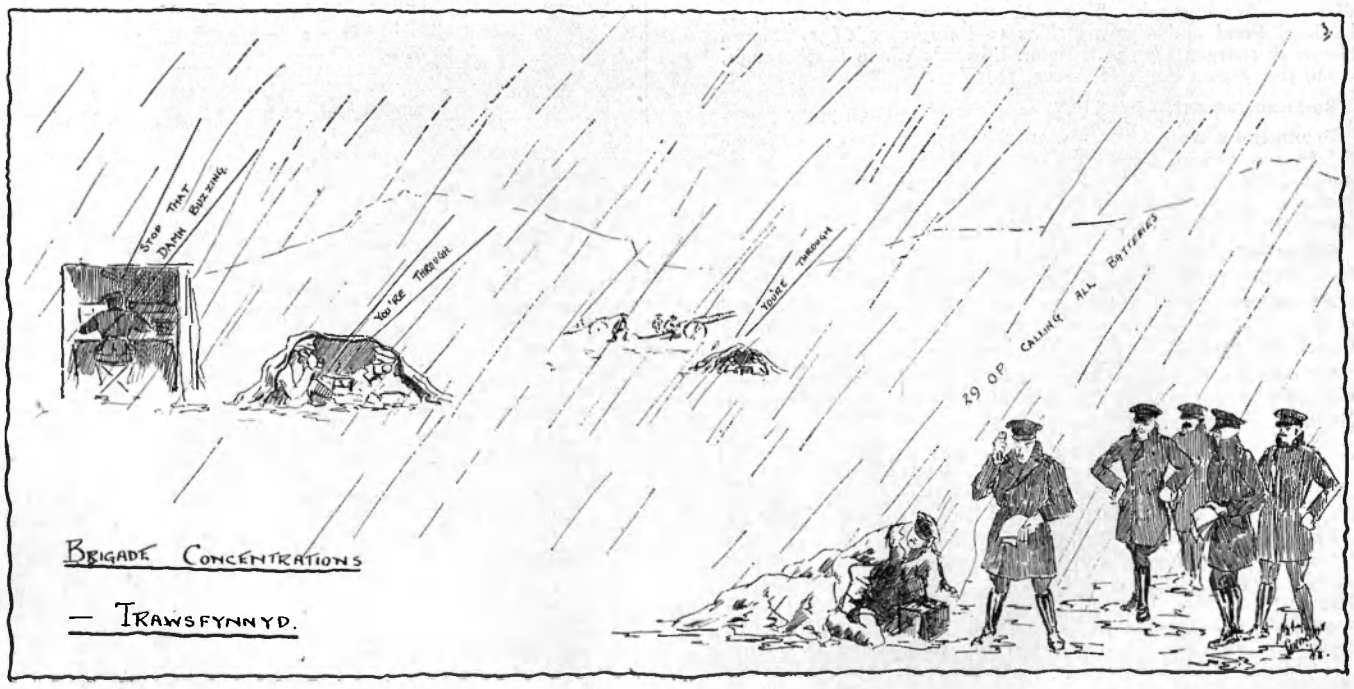
Departures.—L/Corpl Rosie A. to the officers' mess, to take up the duties of steward, on discharge from the Service. Good luck, Jock!

Sigmn Powell S. J. to civil life on transfer to the Reserve.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Another month has passed. How time does fly! We all agree that it has been a pleasant and interesting time, too. Pleasing, because so many found the Derby winner, and interesting owing to the King's Birthday parade being celebrated. The latter was a great success, and No. 3 Company played its usual part. That nightmare, pokey drill, is a thing of the past.

Training.—Night schemes were introduced for the first time this season, and were carried out in a thorough manner. Of course, encouragement and a little practical help go a long way to solve the small difficulties which sometimes occur during the



execution of these schemes. One must admit that the personnel of this Company have never lacked these all-important qualities. By the time these notes appear, J and L Sections will have joined their Brigades at Shorncliffe and Dover respectively. Moves will be made in big hops from now on (loud cheers).

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to the following from the Training Battalion, Catterick:—Signalmen Newell T., Richardson D., Morton S., Phipps L. and Wallbridge H.

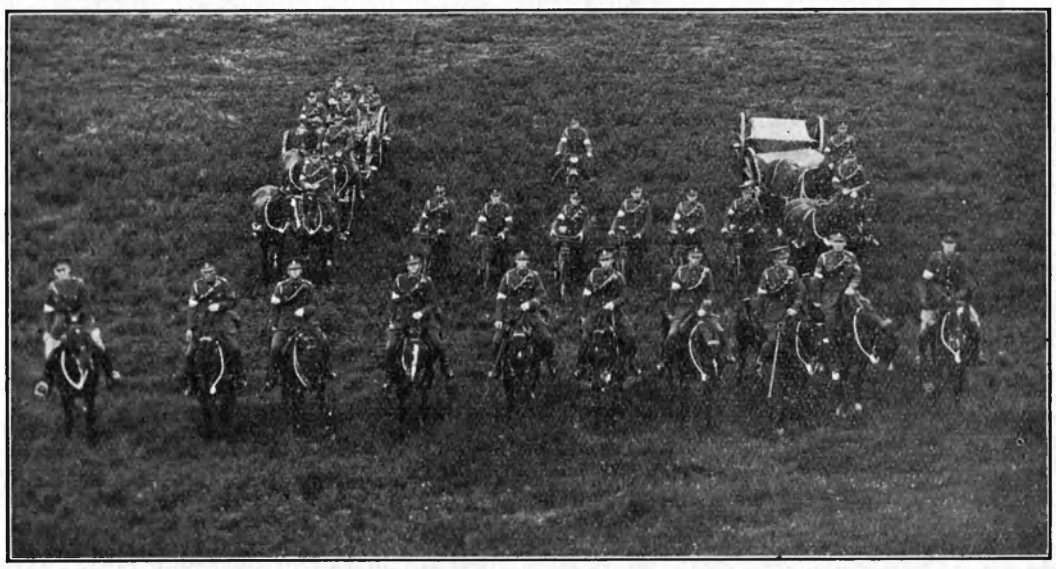
Departures.—L/Corpl Homer E. to the Training Battalion on temporary loan.

Sigmn Tilley L. and Driver Fostekew A. to civil life. Our good wishes will accompany them always. Never again shall we fill the pleasant role of being the chief victim of Driver Fostekew's cartoons.

E Signal Section.

Attached 8th Field Brigade, R.A., Shorncliffe.

General.—The Section arrived here for annual training on 5th May. Since our arrival we have been getting down to work, not forgetting to show the Gunners how we can turn out when needed. I noticed, one morning in particular—about our first turn-out here—how all eyes were turned towards our cable wagon and limber. The sun was shining gloriously, for a change, and as the vehicles were wheeled forth from the sheds, I heard a voice say, " Look at the shine on those wagons!"



Sports.—We have played only two cricket matches since our arrival, but I'm sorry to say that we lost both, to one of the Batteries. I'm afraid that the sea air is getting us—or rather, some of us—down, being so near to the famous seaside resort of Folkestone.

The result of the cricket matches was that W Battery beat us by 22 runs (69—47) and by 8 runs (54—46). In the second match, the winners declared with only five wickets down. Considering that some of the men have never played before, we did not fare badly, as the results show.

Departure.—L/Corpl Rosie A. to civvy street. We wish him all the best of luck in the future. We all (including the horses) miss him badly.

Arrival.—2/Lieut M. N. Hay has just returned from an M.T. course. We wish him a long and pleasant stay with us.

Casualties.—Sigmn Murray H., admitted to hospital. Sigmn McConnell R., who sustained a broken arm and is now recovering, is on fourteen days sick leave.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

The dances continue to be a success, thanks to the efforts of the P.R.I. and his staff. A carnival dance was held on the 5th June, at which the Scarborough Saturday Football League runner-up medals were presented to the unit team. These were duly christened with pomp and ceremony; weren't they, Bill? Warter! sir-r (hic!)

In the following week the inter-Company athletic cup, of which No. 1 Company ran out winners, was duly handed round.

The code word for the month is " Hail the Queen of Watering Places!" The earth tremor was severely felt here, and a few are still wondering, or signing the pledge; but it has not rid our allotments of the slugs, hence the sluggish weather, with rainy intervals.

The officers, w.o.s and n.c.o.s course has finished, and everybody is now settling down to Section training.

The dirt track course is still carrying on, and no cars smashed up (yet). We are now looking forward to some road work.

Signalmen Jenkins and Ross have been sent to the Training Battalion as assistant instructors for six months. We hope they will do well.

Congratulations to Q.M.S. (F-of-S) McIntosh R. A. on qualifying in physics (E. and M.) for the Army special certificate. Signalmen McDonald C., Hughes C. and Walsh H. were successful in the 2nd class examination (education). Drivers Hazelgrave and Spear have mathematics, and Sigmn Becker E. map-reading, to complete their certificate. Congratulations are also extended to all who passed their various trade tests.

Signalmen Flynn J. and Smith S. have returned from their courses, selected cook's and cycle repair respectively. What about some cycle duff?

Salaams to the following on the occasion of their marriage. L/Corpl Botwood C. to Winnie Cambridge, at Scarborough, 11/6/31 (prosit!) Driver Read A. E. to Elizabeth Davies, at Dolgelly, Merioneth, 15/5/31.

A welcome is extended to the new arrivals—Sergt Vokins from Darlington; Sigmn Ward A. and family from Bulford; and Sigmn Davies E. from F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Athletics.—The annual inter-Company team athletics took place on Friday, June 12th. Points gained on the various events were very level between Companies, but No. 1 gained the honours for 1931. The cup, which was presented by the 50th Divisional Signals, Darlington, will be held by the winning Company.

It was most gratifying to see that the training for the Northern Command athletics showed itself in the inter-Company battle, and we hold great hopes of putting up a good show for the Command athletics, which will be held at Catterick on June 26th and 27th. Our first and second strings in all field events will help us to gain a number of points.

Preparations are in hand for our annual sports, both athletic and mounted. Two most enjoyable afternoons are in store, and there will be plenty to talk about next month.

UNITS ABROAD

Northern Command (India) "Signals Week."

Rawalpindi, April 9th.

Apart from the sports and entertainments which constitute its nominal *raison d'etre*, Signals Week affords us an admirable opportunity of getting to know other units—their jobs, their interests and their difficulties. We realise that, after all, we are all one "show," with a common esprit de corps. We are, in fact, Royal Signals first, and Corps, Divisional, District or Troop Signals second—and not, as we are sometimes inclined to imagine, the reverse.

Every year, the Week improves both in the programme and in the attendance of units outside Rawalpindi; and this year, we had something special in a re-union with the Corps of a number of pensioned Indian officers and n.c.o.s. Their obvious enjoyment and appreciation amply rewarded everyone concerned in their entertainment, and the tales which they carry back to their villages should do a lot to help in obtaining a good type of recruit. We hope, in future, to make this a bi-annual event.

Our Pipe Band again came up from Jubbulpore, and we can give them no higher praise than to say that even the Scotsmen among us could find no fault in their performance.

The weather gave us some anxiety before the start, and very heavy rain prevented any sport on the first day. The remainder of our programme, however, was uninterrupted, and our zemindar pensioners, at any rate, had the satisfaction of knowing that nature had done her best for the Corps in their absence.

The Week opened on Wednesday, March 4th, with a guest night in the officers' mess, some thirty officers attending.

The next day the sun came out in earnest, and we had a very full programme of football and hockey. In the evening the pipes played "Retreat" on the main road running through Cambridge Barracks, and later on there was an excellent and very cheery all ranks dance.

On Friday there was a tea party for the Indian pensioners, with the Pipe Band in attendance, followed later in the evening by a "tamasha." The Pipe Band gave a torch display in B Corps Signals lines at 7.30 p.m.

On Saturday afternoon the Indian officers and pensioned Indian officers were invited to tea in the officers' mess, and the boxing took place in the evening.

The finals of the British and Indian hockey were played on Monday, and the sergeants gave their dance—a first class show.

Tuesday, March 10th, was the last day of the Week. The final of the football was played in the morning, followed by V.C. and mule races. The afternoon was devoted to the finals of the mounted sports, together with an exceptionally good mounted display by 1st Indian Divisional Signals, organised by Captain C. M. F. White.

Comic relief was provided by tent pegging on camels, and the arrival of Lord Gawdelpus, the Governor, in a Ford van to present two tin cups to the winning British football and hockey teams.

The prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. D. Anthony Brown at the end of the afternoon.

In the evening we went to see the Royal Signals "March Follies" in the Cambridge Barracks theatre. They gave a performance upon which the producer, Sergt R. E. Dipple (1st Indian Divisional Signals) and the players are to be congratulated.

On Wednesday night we bade farewell to the pensioners with a bonfire sing-song by British and Indian ranks.

Boxing.

The boxing was far superior to that of previous years. The Chief Signal Officer (Lieut.-Colonel Fitz A. Drayson, M.C.) remarked in his speech at the conclusion that it was the best he had seen in India, and that if he ever saw better he would consider himself a lucky man.

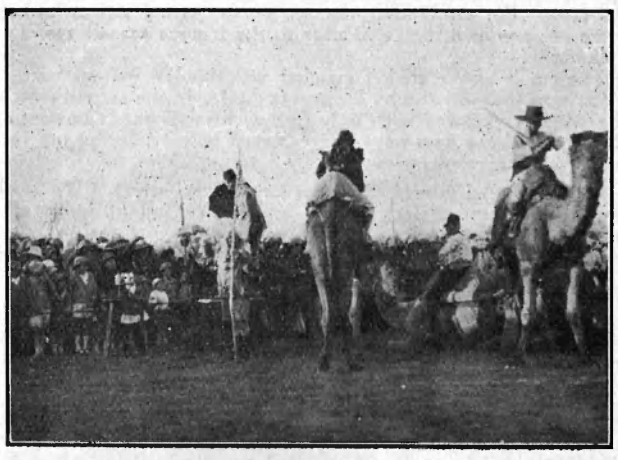
There were three Rawalpindi District (1931) champions among the competitors:—L/Sergeant Tanner, old Corps representative (heavy weight), Sigmn Delaney (light heavy weight), and Sigmn Newbury (light weight). With a little more experience and training, the two latter should do well in Army boxing.

The results of the trials in the various weights are given below.

Heavy.—L/Sergt Tanner (B Corps Signals) beat Corpl Myddleton (Kohat District Signals) by a very close margin of points. The referee said that this was the best heavy weight fight he had seen in India.

Light heavy.—Sigmn Delaney (B Corps Signals) beat Sigmn Kent (1st Indian Divl Signals) on a knock out. Delaney was obviously the more experienced boxer.

Lord Gawdelpus, the Governor, prior to presenting Cups to winning British Football and Hockey Teams.

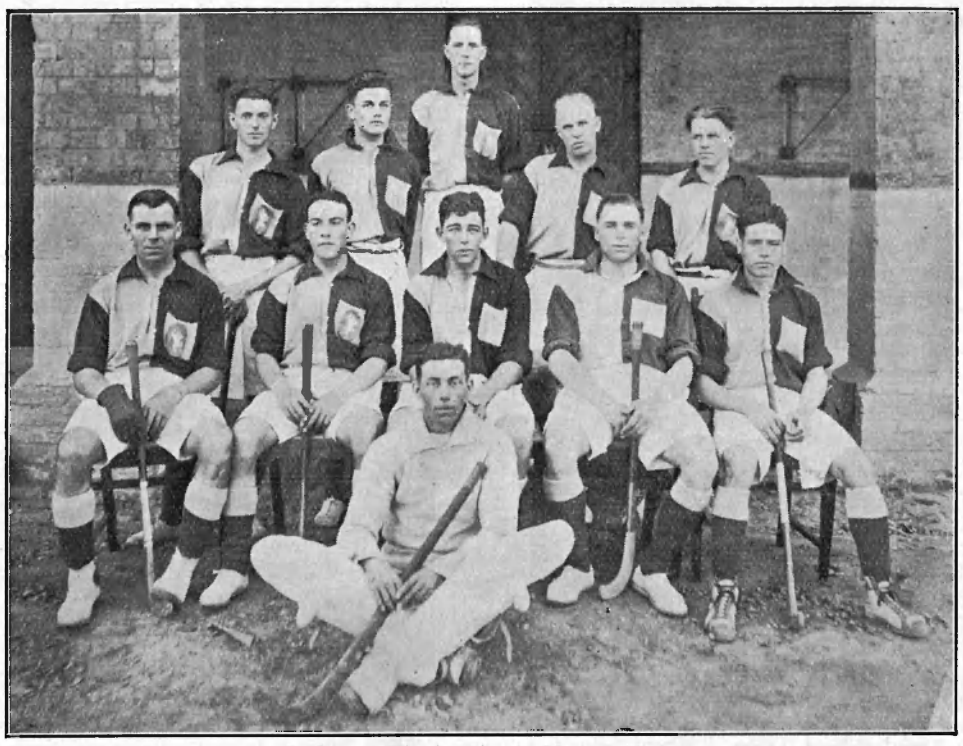


The Governor's Escort.

Northern Command (India) Signals Week.

B Corps Signals Football Team.

Back row (left to right)—Corpl Smith C. A., Signalmen Sinclair and Delaney, L/Corpl Taylor, Sigmn Cant
Front row—Sigmn Rashleigh, L/Cpls Sinclair, Hills and Moody, L/Sergt Morley, L/Corpl Jarvis, Sergt Renecle
Sitting—Lieut W. D. J. Harries, Adjutant; Captain A. B. Bushby, officiating Commandant; R.S.M. G. Kneebone. *With shield:* L/Sergt Watt



Peshawar District Signals Hockey Team.

Back row (left to right)—L/Corpl Tranter, Sigmn Roberts, L/Corpl Warman, Sergt Prowles, Sigmn Anderson
Sitting—Corpl Coton, Sigmn Dillon, Lieut D. G. C. Cowie, R.A., 2/Lieut J. R. Beeton, Sigmn McAuliffe
In front—L/Corpl Clackett

Middle.—L/Corpl Clarke (1st Indian Divl Signals) beat Sigmn Cleaver (1st Indian Divl Signals). A good fight.

Welter.—Sigmn Wilson (1st Indian Divl Signals) beat Sigmn Walker (1st Indian Divl Signals) on a knock out.

Light.—Sigmn Newbury (B Corps Signals) beat Sigmn Airey (1st Indian Divl Signals). Airey, although experienced, was no match for his opponent, and the referee stopped the fight in Newbury's favour.

Feather.—Sigmn Stirk (1st Indian Divl Signals) beat Sigmn Thorpe (1st Indian Divl Signals). This should have been a good fight, but Thorpe was unlucky enough to twist a muscle in his fore-arm and had to retire.

Officials.—Referee, Capt. H. A. Spencer, M.C. 1st Indian Divl Signals ; judges, Lieuts H. C. B. Rogers and R. Webb ; time-keeper, Lieut. E. C. Thompson ; M.C., R.S.M. Kneebone. Except the referee, the foregoing were members of B Corps Signals.

Football.

First Round—B Corps Signals beat Peshawar District Signals by 6—1. 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signals beat 1st Indian Divl Signals by 2—1.

Semi-Finals—Kohat District Signals beat 1st Cavalry Brigade Signals by 1—0. B Corps Signals beat 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signals by 2—1.

British Football Final.

L/Corpl Hills puts B Corps "one up" from the spot, in the final against Kohat District Signals.

Final—B Corps Signals beat Kohat District Signals by 5—1.

The semi-final between B Corps Signals and the 2nd Cavalry Brigade Troop produced an excellent game—quite the best of the tournament. B Corps made a shaky start in the first half and were one goal down at half-time. In the second half, the game was very keenly contested, the play being of distinctly good quality on both sides.

The score in the final match hardly presents a true picture, for the play during the first three-quarters of the game was very even. In the end the Kohat defence seemed to deteriorate, and B Corps scored by a series of good rushes.

Mounted Events.

Tent Pegging.—The following British teams competed:—1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, B Corps Signals, and 1st Indian Divl Signals.

The 1st Cavalry Troop scored 13 points in one run and, although disqualified for dropping a lance in the second run, drew with B Corps Signals. Both ran in the finals, and the Troop won with 14 points to B Corps' 7.

The Indian teams were:—Peshawar District "A" and "B" teams, 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, B Corps Signals, 1st Indian Divl Signals.

The 1st Cavalry Troop and B Corps Signals were again in the finals, with 20 and 17 points respectively. The final was won by B Corps Signals with 14 points to the Troop's 11.

Jumping: B.O.R.s.—There were thirteen entries. A very fine exhibition of jumping was given in the eliminating rounds. Sergt Searle (B Corps Signals) and Corpl Warner (1st Divl Signals) got clear rounds. Corpl Walker and Sigmn Few (1st Cavalry Troop) had ½ fault each, Sigmn Heighton (Peshawar District) 1, and Corpl Homan (2nd Cavalry Troop) 1½ faults. These competed in the final, which was won by Corpl Warner (of Aldershot fame) with 4 faults. The jumps were raised three inches for the final.

Jumping: I.O.R.s.—There were eleven entries, and a very good display was again given. Havildar Bir Singh (B Corps Signals) and Havildar Faiz Talab (1st Divl Signals) each had ½ fault, Daff. Haider Khan (1st Cavalry Troop) 1, and L/Naik Mohd Sher (1st Cavalry Troop), 1½ faults. These competed in the final, which was won by L/Naik Mohd Sher with 2¼ faults. Daff. Haider Khan was second with 4½ faults. L/Naik Mohd Sher therefore did the best round of the competition.

Jumping: British Officers.—There were only four entries for the cup. The previous holder, Captain F. P. L. Gray, was unfortunate in his horse going lame just before the event. The competitors were Captain White and Lieut. Hardy, of the 1st Divl Signals, Lieut Rogers of B Corps Signals, and Lieut McMunn of Peshawar District Signals. Lieuts Rogers and McMunn tied with 9 faults each, and on a second round Lieut Rogers won with 8 faults to Lieut McMunn's 8½.

Driving.—The only competitors for this event were B Corps and 1st Indian Divl Signals. The former won with 17 faults to 1st Indian Divl Signals' 30. B Corps Signals, who were in a state of semi-mechanisation, had to borrow both harness and vehicles from 1st Indian Divl Signals.

Hockey.

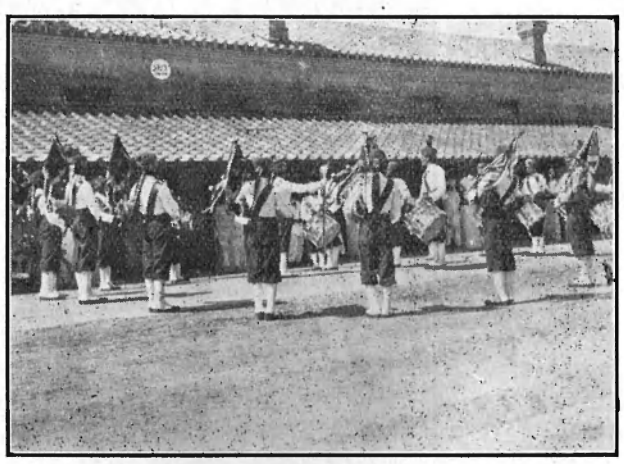
Peshawar District Signals won both the British and Indian hockey, defeating 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop and B Corps Signals in the finals—a very creditable performance for a unit stationed outside Rawalpindi.

By far the best match was that between the Indian teams of B Corps and Waziristan District Signals. The standard of play was very high and the teams evenly matched. At one time it looked as if Waziristan must win, and B Corps Signals only scored their second goal in the last minute of the game.

British.—In the first round, Peshawar District Signals beat Kohat District Signals by 1—0, and 1st Indian Divl Signals beat B Corps Signals by 3—1. The 1st and 2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troops received a bye.

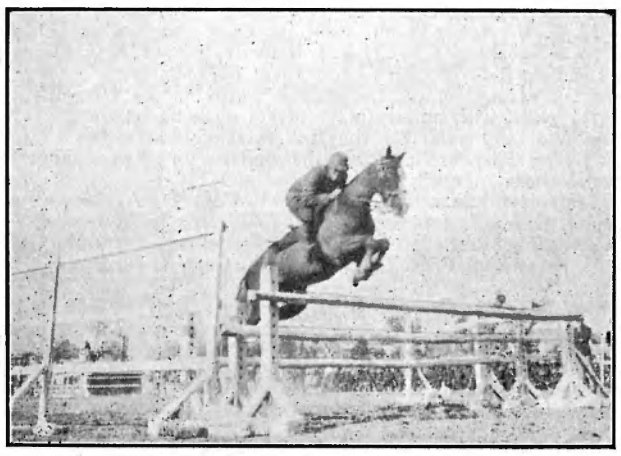
In the semi-finals, Peshawar District disposed of 1st Indian Divl Signals by the only goal scored, while 1st Cavalry Troop put out the 2nd Troop in the same way.

Peshawar District clinched matters in the final with a 4—0 victory over 1st Cavalry Troop.



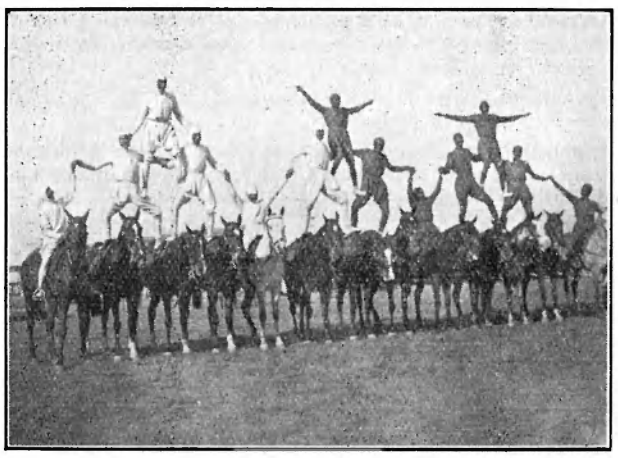
The Jubbulpore "Scottish."

Northern Command (India) Signals Week.



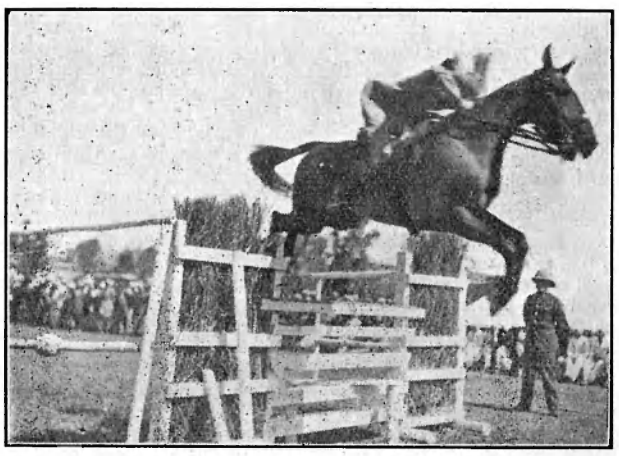
Lieut. H. C. B. Rogers, B Corps Signals,
Winner of the British Officers Jumping.

Mounted Display by 1st Indian Divisional Signals,
Organised by Captain C. M. F. White.

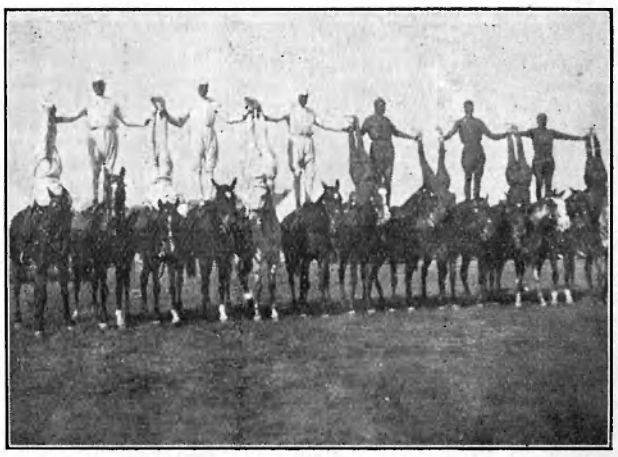


Mounted Display by 1st Indian Divisional Signals,
Organised by Captain C. M. F. White.

Corpl Warner, 1st Indian Divisional Signals,
Winner of the B.O.R.s Jumping.



L/Naik Mohd Sher, 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop,
Winner of the I.O.R.s Jumping.



Mounted Display by 1st Indian Divisional Signals,
Organised by Captain C. M. F. White.

Indian.—Peshawar District and 1st Cavalry Brigade Troop were given a bye in the first round. The other games resulted in a win for 1st Indian Divl Signals over Kohat District (? score —Ed.) and for B Corps over Waziristan District by 2—1.

In the semi-finals, Peshawar District beat 1st Cavalry Troop (? score—Ed.) and B Corps scored one goal to dispose of 1st Indian Divl Signals.

In the final, B Corps succumbed to Peshawar District, the latter scoring twice without reply.

Re-Union.

Welcome.—The following pensioned Indian officers, n.c.o.s and men arrived to take part in the re-union of past and present members of the Indian Signals Corps:—Hon. Captain Kasim Ali Khan, Sardar Bahadar, O.B.I.; Subedar-Major Narain Singh, Bahadar, M.B.E., Subedar-Major Farman Ali Khan, Subedar-Major Jamal Din ; Subedar Ghulum Ali Shar, Subedar Khan Zamam, Subedar Balwant Singh ; Jemadar Malook Singh, Jemadar Pirthi Singh ; C.H.M. Mohd Yusaf, C.H.M. Ishar Singh ; Havildar Ram Singh, Havildar Jawala Singh, Havildar Hoshiar Singh ; Naik Basawa Singh, Naik Budha Singh, Naik Ghulam Mohd, Naik Mahbub Khan ; L/Naik Jagat Singh ; Sigmn Mohd Hayat.

The particulars of service of the two first named are of special interest, and are given below:—

Hon. Captain Kasim Ali Khan, Sardar Bahadar (No. 1 of the Indian Signals Corps)—Enlisted in Bengal Sapper and Miners, 3/11/86. Promoted L/Naik, 1893 ; Naik, 1898 ; Havildar, 1902 ; Jemadar, 1906. Transferred to the Indian Signals Corps, 15/2/11, and promoted Subedar on the same date. Promoted Subedar-Major, 1916. Promoted Hon. Captain direct from Subedar-Major, July, 1920. Transferred to pensioned establishment, October, 1920.

Field Service and Decorations.—Joined Hazara Field Force in 1891, and awarded medal "Hazara 1891." Joined this Field Force again in 1893. Chitral Field Force, 1895, and awarded medal "Chitral Relief, 1895." Mohmand Field Force, 1908, and awarded medal "North-West Frontier, 1908." Attended Delhi Durbar in 1911 and awarded medal. Great War, awarded 1914 Star, General Service medal, Victory medal, and mentioned three times in despatches. Presented by His Majesty the King Emperor, in London, with the Order of British India, 2nd class, with title of Bahadar. Presented with Order of British India, 1st class, with title of Sardar Bahadar.

Subedar-Major Narain Singh, Bahadar, M.B.E.—Enlisted 1899. Served on North-West Frontier, 1901-02, and awarded medal "Waziristan, 1901-02." Served in Somaliland 1902-04 and awarded medal "Somaliland." Served on North-West Frontier, 1921, 1922 and 1924, and awarded India General Service medal, "Mahsud, 1921," and clasps 1922 and 1924. In possession of M.B.E., Order of British India, 2nd class, and Royal Victorian medal. Mentioned in despatches twice. Awarded two certificates for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field, by Waziristan District Commander. Appointed Indian Orderly Officer to the King Emperor in 1925. Transferred to pensioned establishment, 1/8/28.

The chief events for the pensioners were the tea party and the "tamasha" on B Corps Signals parade ground. The Indian ranks of No. 1 Company B Corps Signals, with the aid of permanent line stores, erected a circular arena, twenty yards in diameter. Tents were pitched on one side of this, and the tents and arena were decorated with coloured lights by the Workshops.

The tea party was attended by British officers and their wives, British other ranks, and pensioned and serving Indian officers and n.c.o.s. Captain A. B. Bushby (officiating Commandant, B Corps Signals) made an address on behalf of the Chief Signal Officer, which was replied to by Hon. Captain Kasim Ali Khan for the Punjabi Mussalmen, by Subedar-Major Narain Singh for the Dogras, and by Havildar-Maior Isher Singh for the Sikhs.

In the evening, from 9 o'clock until about 2 a.m., a display was given in the arena by a local "nautch party."

During the Week, a guest night was held by the Indian officers and n.c.o.s, and all messes were visited by the Chief Signal Officer.

Polo.

Two matches were played this year: Captains v. Subalterns and 1st Divl Signals v. the Rest.

In the first, play was very even, both sides having their share in the attack. The result was a win for the Captains by 3—2 goals, the Subalterns starting with an advantage of one goal on handicap. Teams—Captains: 1, Capt. E. L. Farnel ; 2, Capt. C. M. F. White ; 3, Capt. F. R. L. Gray ; back, Capt. D. A. Brown. Subalterns: 1, Lt. R. J. Moberley ; 2, Lt. J. C. Hardy ; 3, Lieut A. J. S. McNair ; back, Lieut J. N. Barker.

In the second match, the Rest beat the 1st Divl Signals by 6—3½ goals, with an advantage of 1½ goals on handicap. The game was very even for the first three chukkers, but in the fourth the Rest broke down the defence of their opponents several times in quick succession.

Teams—1st Indian Divl Signals: 1, Capt D. A. Brown ; 2, Lieut J. C. Hardy ; 3, Capt. C. M. F. White ; back, Lieut J. N. Barker. The Rest: 1, Capt E. L. Farnel ; 2, Lieut A. J. S. McNair ; 3, Capt F. R. L. Gray ; back, Capt E. M. Pyster.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

General.—These notes mark the advent of the individual training season. The unit is, so to speak, having its yearly spring cleaning ; and what with the adjutant's drill parades, pokey drill and preparing for a staff exercise at Quetta, conditions are quite in keeping with the similar domestic upheaval.

The second mentioned, especially, offered us something new this year in the form of Table "C." The appearance of "bobbing Jimmy" in the last practice of Part II. disconcerted many, with the result that quite a number just missed obtaining that coveted 1st.

Arrivals.—The following are welcomed to Akor:—Lieut. A. S. Milner from the United Kingdom, and C.Q.M.S. Marshall B. and family from Trimulgherry.

Departures.—Capt H. C. Smitherman, I.S.C., to Jubbulpore. Sigmn Stewart F. to Jubbulpore.

Appointments.—Congratulations to Sergt Lambke E. on moving one step nearer that baton ; and to Signalmen Feltham H. and Aldridge L. on mounting the first rung.

Pontoons Only.—The following bold spirits have taken a further plunge towards that rooty gong:—L/Corpl Hockley B. and Sigmn Dyball W.

Social.—The usual whist drives-cum-dances have been held this month. The last was held on the men's tennis court, and was the first outdoor dance this summer. Both evenings indicated a considerable improvement in the technique of our new dance band. One can but commend them on the enthusiasm which urges them to practise so frequently and to give so freely of their best. They need never be doubtful regarding their reception if the number of their audience is a measure of their popularity.

The W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess gave an open night to the junior n.c.o.s early in the month. The evening was run very much on the lines of a smoker. At first things were a little dull, as we had a piano but no pianist. However, Bozzy and Gibbo sallied forth and "shanghaied" a by no means diffident performer, who entertained us with an exhibition of how to tickle the ivories, what time a few husky songsters demonstrated the damping effect of over-lubrication of the tonsils on their vocal vibrations.

Later in the month the junior n.c.o.s entertained the unit football team, to celebrate the winning of the Karachi Garrison Football League. (See our Sports notes.) Yet another enjoyable evening! We had every justification for our celebrations, as this is the first year the league has been held. Unfortunately, for this reason, too, there were no medals presented, although we become permanent owners of a small replica of the larger trophy. It will be seen that Signals have wasted no time in being recorded as winners, which shows that our lads can do it if they want to. The evening's gargling was paced by jazz renderings by the unit dance band installed in the corporals' room for the occasion. In spite of the several and varied toasts passed, heads were generally clear the following morning.

Agony.—Corpl Lambert J. of this unit would like to inform Nobby Clarke and Quig of the Depot Battalion, Catterick, that he has not yet seen those "huge cats" with eyes like Hipswell gasometer, but is living in hopes ; also, he has at last solved the annas and pice problem. "Q."

Sigmn Gask E. of this unit would like to hear from Signalmen Wickes E. and Clewlough, believed to be serving with Peshawar District Signals.

McGuiness of this unit would like to hear from Sigmn Ferrier (Sawdust), also from Tich Guest of nuts and bolts fame.

S.O.S.—The following is an example of English as used in this country: "Missed train Montgomery Station Empty Driver I Shah."

We would like to know who was the operator-signals who endeavoured to feed a tortoise on Army stew? AKORPZ.

June 6th.

General.—The past month has been one of great activity. The annual weapon training came to an end, and once again the arms, climatic conditions, etc., received their usual proportion of censure.

The first intensive training class has commenced its course, and several instructors are busily engaged in coaching them for up-grading to classes iii. and ii. of their trade. The first "howlers" have not yet come to light, but more anon.

Morning drill parades continue to exact their toll of our energy, and a privileged few are to undergo riding instruction in the near future. Fortunately, the Manora leave season commences early in June, and some of us, no doubt, will receive a well-earned respite.

Under the new regime it is decreed that all senior n.c.o.s having two or more years to serve in India are to attend Urdu classes before breakfast. It is a pukka case of Urdu before burgu!

On the occasion of the Brigade Commander's inspection, the unit once again maintained its traditional efficiency; and later, on the King's Birthday parade, our C.O. warmly congratulated the unit on the excellence of the march past. What the Brigade Commander had to say is mere conjecture, but we don't doubt that it was very favourable.

Arrivals.—The undermentioned are welcomed to Akor:—Sgt Field C., L/Sergt Butler W., L/Corporals Hutchison R. and Wood J., Signalmen Bell A., Crompton J., Cross W., Donnelly C., Edwards E., Edwards T., Evans W., Fox J., Gilpin H., Howden C., Howell H., Jamieson H., Jordan E., Lilley G., Richardson H., Robson W., Scanlan M., Taylor J., Kirkham W., Smart J., Colbourne A. and Payne S.

Departures.—Sgt Watmore W. to B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Educational.—Congratulations to R.S.M. Wray G. of this unit on passing part i. of the Urdu qualifying examination.

Trade Tests.—The following are to be commended on their respective achievements:—Signalmen Gask E. and Watson on becoming op. sigs. class ii.; Sigmn Harrison W. on becoming op. sig. class iii.; Sigmn Fryer C. on obtaining the additional qualification of electrician-fitter class iii.

Extensions and Re-Engagements.—The following have decided to remain warriors for a little longer:—Signalmen Chitty W., Haines N., and Amos L. to complete eight and four. C.Q.M.S. Marshall B., L/Sergt Frost H., Corpl Ward D. and L/Corpl Funnell J. to complete twenty-one years.

AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

May 21st.

General.—This being the month when all young men's hearts lightly turn to love, a super effort on my part seems called for, but owing to the fact that Pindi during the hot weather in no way supplies food for thought, I find it a difficult proposition to write anything at all.

King Sol commenced to do his utmost to remind us that summer was with us once again. Towards the middle of the month, however, he took the count from our Manchester friend Jupiter Pluvius, and at the moment of writing is slowly recovering.

Grumbling and grousing being a Spanish custom, we do our share when it is hot and when it is cold (I'm told all good soldiers do this) and so we carry on—pleasant dreams, all about boats, the briny, Blighty, and fair companions, pass through the minds of all who patiently await the trooper of 1947.

Arrivals.—The third and last draft of the year arrived in our midst on the 4th, and were welcomed with open arms. The usual salaams are extended to the following:—L/Sergeant Widgery, Corpls Tunnicliffe and Tennant, F/Corpl Welch, L/Corporals Harvey, Fraser and Colwell, Signalmen Aldridge, Marshall, Dyke, Beconsall, Fielden, Holmes, Maltman, Soloman, Emery, Carvill, Managhan, Doherty, Henderson, Johnson, Sim, Robertson, Sims, Gillan and Eccleshall. We also welcome Sergt Watmore from A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Departures.—Nil.

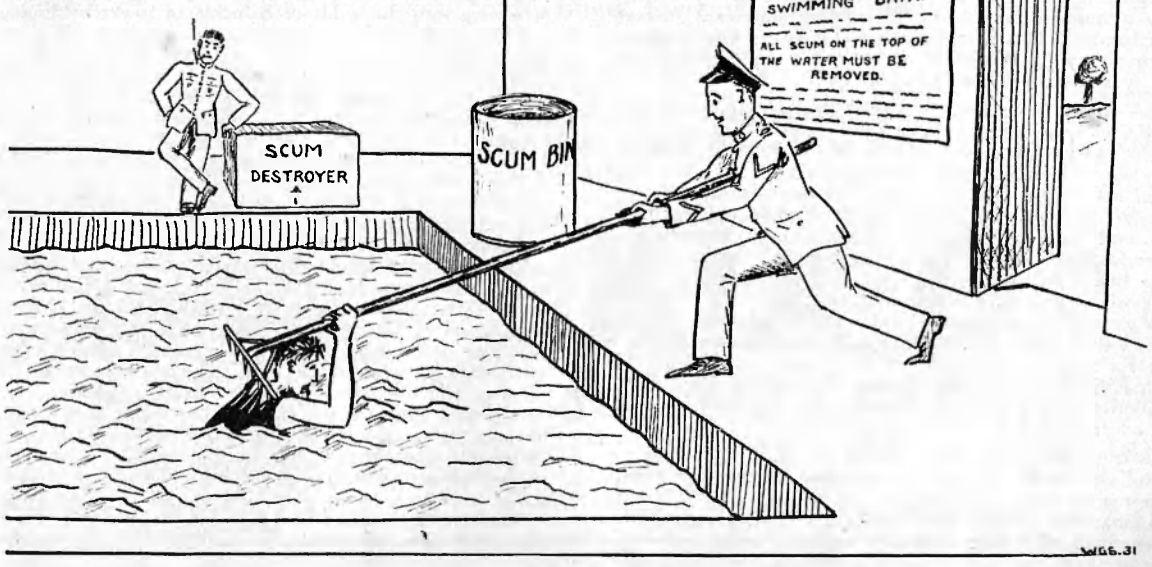
We want to know.—Who is the junior n.c.o. on the drill and duties course with the Tallulah Bankhead voice?

Agony.—To Von, 2nd Div.: Shall I cum home or stay out here? Bear up! Fond love. Bill.

The accompanying cartoon shows our tame artist's idea of strict compliance with Rawalpindi Station standing orders of 1928 regarding the unit swimming bath.

Extract from Rawalpindi Station Standing Orders

The Daily Deed.



Sergeants' Mess.

General.—May! what a month! The weather, for summer, has been remarkably cool. Only a few days ago we had some storms, after which it turned so cold that our M.O. almost recommended serge. He discovered in time, however, that mine was at the wash: scheme cancelled: cheers.

Hearsay has it that a new draft chappie was for X-ray, so he wore a pair of rubber shoes and a belt to stop the shock.

We had some fun on May Day, C.Q.M.S. Wainscot being crowned Queen of the May. He wore a shell pink organdie petrol tin, and believe me, he looked awful!—he is still running around with a tin-opener.

The week-ends here are very dull, as nearly all the married men of the Mess leave us for Topa.

Sport.—This month we have had a series of tennis, billiards and snooker tournaments with the messes of the units remaining in Pindi, and these have proved a great success. The sandstorms have proved our greatest enemy, and they generally occur whilst a game of billiards is in progress.

In addition, we played the officers at billiards and snooker.

The results to date of these games are as follows:—Versus Border Regiment, won tennis and billiards, lost snooker ; v. R.A., won billiards, lost tennis and snooker ; v. officers, won snooker and lost billiards.

Our only arrival to the Mess is Sergt Watmore, already mentioned in the unit notes.

Now, I really must cease this dribble, or Fleet Street will want me back as editor of *The Daily Mail*. Au revoir! BUCK.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 1 Company, 17½ Milestone, Chaman Road.

April—May.

General.—Individual training (loud laughter) is now over, and we are at present under canvas in this dear old spot, memories of which will bring tears to the eyes of old members of the unit. For their information, we should like to mention that sandstorms are still the order of the day, and that the " lone tree " near Kutchlagh still exists. The march out to camp produced many sore feet and tales of " '28 at Tazak," and many remarks about India in general and Baluchistan in particular. Personally, I can't see what they had to moan about. The view from our lorry was lovely!

A Staff College exercise was held on May 7th, and some of our old friends from A Corps paid us a visit in their Morris de luxe cars. As usual, the Signals " had 'em." One point which must be mentioned is that the line op. at 4th Brigade asked the W/T to tell the Fullerphone operator at Division that he had been calling him for ten minutes. What a change!

A meeting of the Quetta Branch of the Signals Association was held a short time ago, and it was decided to re-commence our monthly dances. The first of these took place on April 21st, and it was a huge success. The " rambling statement " stage was reached in record time, and by 01.00 hours the boys thought it had been a very good scheme indeed. One wonders if Henri thought it was a fancy dress carnival.

Arrivals.—Major (now Lieut.-Colonel) Phillips, M.C., arrived from A.H.Q. early in April to take over command of the unit, and has since departed to attend the senior officers course at Belgaum. We wish him every success, and hope that his stay with us, on his return, will be a long and pleasant one.

Lieut L. W. J. Dryland joined the unit from Meerut early in the month, and has since taken over command of A Section. To him we tender the same good wishes.

L/Corpls Brider (Henri) and Utting from the U.K. on April 7th. We wish them a very pleasant stay.

L/Corpl Evans and Signalmen Taylor H., Bowyer H., Gower E., Courtney P., Goodhand H., Martin J., McClinchey J., Paul E., Milner F., Mortimer G., Mullin A., Reeve R., McKay R., Ashton N., Swainson N., and Davies N. arrived here from Jubbulpore early in May, and we wish them a very pleasant stay with the 2nd Individualists.

Departures.—Capt Cameron-Webb left us on April 6th for a duty tour of the Poona State. We are now looking for someone to deputise for him in the hockey team.

Tosh to Sharmans Hotel, for a rest cure, on the 15th May. For the benefit of enquirers, " Tosh's awee in."

We should like to know.—What A Corps thought of our rugby team's soccer?

Who had the taking-over certificate whilst Bill was at Fort Sandeman?

When is he going to introduce young Wilfred?

Why the 3rd Divl Signals, Meerut, were so very rude?

Who was " Singin' in the bath tub " while " Featherin' a nest "?

If the C.S.M. is transferring to the Jodhpur Lancers?

Who " tee-ed in " on the wire fence?

Congratulations.—To Corpl Harries on attaining that rank. To the 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, on making Corps history by being the first Royal Signals to enter the final of the Army football cup. We have seen the Sherwood Foresters in action when they were making football history in India, and we congratulate the 4th Div. on a real fine show in only losing by the odd goal. Next year, we want to see you go just that little bit farther!

The " Baby."—The baby is being held this month by Jerry, Bill and Tommy, for a " snifter."

This Month's Best.—Extract from Stable Orderly Sergeant's report: " Horse No. 4 was badly kicked and dressed by the Farrier." The Farrier strongly denies kicking any horse, but—the S.O.S. was " pukka liverish."

Notices.—Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the "Bath House Arms " has been closed for an indefinite period.

We have heard a rumour that, in future, trumpeters in the Royal Signals are to be taught the call " No parades to-day." Nothing official has yet been published.

Agony.—To Alf, Tubby and Ginger: Sorry to hear that you missed being D.i's. Still, beer up. ON APPENDIX " A."

Corporals' Room.—This month, owing to spring camp, we have nothing to report, but we hope to re-commence our social activities immediately on our return to barracks.

KIPPERS RIVAL.

No. 2 Company, 17th Milestone, Kutchlagh-Yaru Road.

General.—March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers. So the prophets have warbled throughout the ages.

The winds and showers of March and April, 1931, brought forth the flower of the British Army to the 17th milestone on the Kutchlagh-Yaru road for spring camp, and left it there to blossom.

But not for long. After a couple of days under canvas, the call of spring proved irresistible, and after a day beneath a sun specially warmed up for the occasion, it bloomed again at Khanai, and a day later spread its petals at Zarghun. From this point the winds and the showers and the voice of spring, ably assisted by a couple of Generals, several Brigadiers, and a sprinkling of Brigade-Majors and Staff Captains, urged it on its way, scheming into the wilds of Baluchistan towards Hindoo Bagh.

Three days out from Zarghun, the brasshats withdrew and left the said flower to wend its way back to the little plot at the 17th milestone. Arrived at Khanai, a stray shower that had missed the last wind in April decided to freshen it up. It did more ; it almost washed it out. It was a sorry little flower that drooped back to camp after a week on foreign soil.

Now the unit is settled once more under canvas till the 26th.

The camping site is quite the best we have had for a few years, and time is being whiled away with traffic schemes, practice ceremonial parades, and telling the new draft all about it.

Speaking of the new draft. Their awe-inspiring tales of manœuvres on Salisbury Plain and the attendant hardships have caused many people due for the home establishment to think seriously of completing their service in India. Well, almost! Still, there is one thing we like about the boys from abroad: they are quite willing to take over any of those irksome little staff jobs that prevent one sharing in the joys of guards, church parades and the like. Yes, they said as much.

It is said that one youth, after confessing to a strange power over animals, gave an exhibition of trick riding and tumbling before the Company. Being on parade, the Company were prevented from applauding his effort. Anyway, fifteen pairs of white knees are a welcome addition to the Company.

Major R. E. Barker has returned to us from leave in New Zealand, and is officiating commanding officer during the absence

of Lieut.-Colonel L. G. Phillips, M.C., who is attending a senior officers course at Belgaum.

Major Barker made his first appearance at camp, and paraded the unit for the purpose of congratulating us on our remarkable series of successes last year, both in the technical world and in sport. We were congratulated on being thoroughly efficient and the finest collection of athletes in Baluchistan.

Major Barker expressed his pride in having command of such a unit, and his sorrow in having once more to bid us farewell on the return of Lieut.-Colonel Phillips.

We are all proud of the reputation we have earned and upheld under Major Barker's command, and our best means of showing our appreciation is to guard it jealously after his departure.

At Random.—An epidemic of rambling remarks has spread throughout the unit since proceeding to camp. We can only attribute it to the open-air life.

Thus, a certain sergeant, with his thoughts elsewhere, reported his horses all watered, fed and feeding with the words "Thik hai sahib," and earned the name of Goble-Singh. From here a lance-corporal, whose body is a trifle too large for his brain to cope with, took over, and stated that races over nuds and khullahs were not for him. Then a bright young spark was overheard enquiring of his half-section if he had noticed the pendant on the Brigadier's car. His half-section made reply that he had—for the first time in succession. Remarkable, isn't it?

But that is not all. The epidemic spread to the unit duftah and went to the head of the man entrusted with the printing of unit orders. He published the information that reveille on Sunday, May 3rd, would be at 6 p.m. Had the guard obeyed their orders, the result would have been rather comic.

Once unit orders led the way, Company detail took the plunge without hesitation. It stated that B.O.R.s would parade in shirt sleeves. Now, as neither sun bathing nor the inauguration of a back to nature cult was included in the camp programme, this order was regarded with suspicion, and the B.O.R.s finally decided to add other little articles of clothing deemed necessary by them to preserve their self-respect.

Lastly, but not the least of these efforts: Company orders informed the unit at large that Sergt Keepen would take over L Section from Sergt Blunden w.e.f. midnight (day's date). Some wag suggested that it was "jester" time for "keepin' it dark."

Anyway, we take off our hats to all of them.

Arrivals.—The undermentioned have joined us from England after a short stay at Jubbulpore:—Signalmen Robertson H., Roper C., Rose J., Ryan J., Spafford J., Turtle A., Wiles A., Williams E., Wills A. and Simpson F. We wish them luck, but we are afraid—well, you know, tin hats in September is enough to make even the seasoned campaigners of the unit quail. Take them under your wing, Archie, and make soldiers of them.

Sergt Keepen has also arrived from Kohat District Signals, and Sergt Hodge from Waziristan District Signals. A hearty welcome is extended.

A hearty welcome is also extended by all ranks to Lieutenant-Quartermaster A. E. Turner, M.B.E., on his return to the unit. To this we also add our congratulations, and hope that his stay with us in his new capacity will prove as mutually pleasant as was his previous experience of this unit.

Departures.—Sergt Howard to Kohat District Signals, and Sergt Woolhouse to Waziristan. We wish them the best of luck. Sergt Woolhouse will be sadly missed in the unit cricket team.

Answers to Correspondents—Argent (Kohat District Signals): Your reply to my point in THE WIRE columns as to whether married men should play at snowballing, immediately gives rise to another question: Is the modern topi as issued in (shall we say Kohat) sufficient protection against sunstroke? I am afraid I have not sufficient space in which to comment on your letter, so, unfortunately, other opinions on the above question cannot be asked. Your views, however, will possibly be entertaining as well as illuminating.

Alas, My Poor Brothers!—Two of our time-ex people have, at the last moment, decided that after all they do not wish to swell the ranks of the unemployed. Therefore they are now treading upon one another in an effort to be the first to sign

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on the dotted line. The poor misguided chappies are Sigmn Fresle E. (attempting to sign for twenty-one) and Sigmn Edwards G. (a little more moderate, and only wishing to sign for eight and four).

The Pfaffisky Biscuit has been won outright by C.Q.M.S. Dilley for stating that snakes are of the " neutral " gender. We always thought that snakes, so far from being neutral, had declared war on mankind in general. Now, however, we eagerly await the C.Q.M.S.'s first book on the neutrality of the snake. Or will he just tell us in his own inimitable way?

PFAFFISKY.

Toots by Timex. No. 4: Kasual Komments Koncerning Kamp

Out in the land of E.P. tents,
The unit is " spring camping ;"
They're doing schemes and, so I hear,
Their spirits they are " damping!"

Anent this camp, a few remarks
On doings quite fantastic
I've overheard, as well as one
Which sounded rather drastic.

A few of them I give below,
But if you find out later
They are not true, just blame the bloke
Who gave me all this data.

* * * *

'Tis dead of night ; the camp is still ;
No sound disturbs the air,
Save snorting in the horse lines and
A rustle here and there.

Then, suddenly, there comes a shriek ;
The sentry's heart goes thump ;
" Turn out the guard!" he shouts, and then
Soon out of bed they jump.

Investigations then commence ;
The guard proceed apace
To where they heard a shout for help—
Then curse, in such bad grace.

'Twas but a sleeping soldier, who
An enemy had met
And fought for life—then woke to find
The enemy his net.

* * * *

Two members of our Sergeants' Mess—
Both big men in their way—
Decided that they'd hunt big game
And set forth, mal-a-day!

Armed with revolvers both were they ;
The animal they sought,
They knew, was hidden in the hills—
'Twas easy game, they thought.

They started climbing up a hill ;
'Twas bound to be good fun ;
But 'ere the summit had been reached,
The huntsmen numbered one:

The other huntsman, down the hill,
Was forced to lay and wait
His friend's return, for by his spurs
He hung and lay in state.

The hunt returned, two tired-out men ;
Both wore a look forlorn ;
I bet that when they hunt again,
Their spurs will not be worn.

* * * *

The Shoey's kit, I also heard,
Doomed was and ill-fated ;
It caught the sun—the camphor lit—
Shoey's kit cremated.

* * * *

The upper class, in Borstal terms,
Oft to each other speak ;
They talk about " a spot of bridge " --
"A game " is far too meek,

Faux pas are also prevalent ;
Suggestions often are
Forthcoming, and the " sub cheese lao "
Will always stand at par.

At playing bridge, the common herd
Can oft achieve a fame—
A " spot of bridge " is not for them,
Although it means the same.

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Upper Topa.

May 23rd.

Command.—Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Drayson, M.C., has joined the unit and taken over command from Captain D. A. Brown, M.C. During the last few months the command of the unit has changed hands many times, but we hope that Colonel Drayson has come to stay with us for a long time. *The old order changeth and giveth place to the new.*

This year, the organisation here is somewhat different to that of previous years. Upper Topa has been allotted as a hill station for the Rawalpindi Royal Signal units, each taking it in turn to run the station. This year we are running it, and as a consequence Headquarters and the majority of the B.O.R.s are in Topa for the summer, leaving a small detachment on the plains. As a result of this, WIRE notes will have to be divided into two parts for a time: Upper Topa, and Rawalpindi detachment.

The absence of unit notes may or may not have been noticed by readers last month, but in any case I'll apologise for their absence ; and as it is usual to make some sort of excuse when making an apology of this sort (which, by the way, no one ever believes) I'll say that it was due to the move from Rawalpindi to Upper Topa.

This move was performed in two stages. The first was the move of the advance party, which took place on April 5th in six-wheelers. These vehicles, though not *quite* so comfortable as a Rolls Royce saloon, are to be preferred to the forty-odd miles march. The journey was uneventful, except that nearly all the lorries had to stop to effect minor repairs—and one broke down completely, and all the baggage (of course, it *would* be the lorry with the heavy baggage) had to be transferred to the spare lorry. Ginger thought he was on the old " barge " again, and had to be given a seat near the back where he could hang his head over the tail board. This was not done so much for his convenience as for that of the other passengers.

The second stage was the march of the main body. This commenced on the night of the 24th/25th April, and terminated at about 08.00 hrs. on 28th April. Everyone arrived safely and none the worse for the quiet stroll. Of course, during the period between the two moves, various odd files arrived in the station —some to stay for the season, and some just for a look round.

General.—Technical training is the order of the day, and everyone is busy assimilating knowledge. In the spare time, sports and other social recreation take place. The results of football, hockey and tennis matches to date are given in the Sports section.

Several whist drives and dances have been held, and the concert party is busy rehearsing.

Next month it is hoped that these notes will be more interesting, and perhaps someone in the Plains detachment will find time to scribble a few lines.

TONY RED.

G Signal Section.

Regarding Fruit.—Have you ever read about the fruits of success? I have, but I didn't realise the full meaning of the words until after my last notes appeared. Fruit! For a whole week I had it for every meal, and it was delivered with a reckless abandon which pained my sensitive nature.

Of course, it's good to see how the masses appreciate talent, but these attentions are rather embarrassing at times, especially when given with forcefulness. I know there has been a glut of raspberries this year, but, sweet readers, why work the surplus off on me? A few firm raspberries I don't object to, but cartloads of the large and squashy variety are apt—to use the words of a friend of mine—to make one wold.

However, one must take the raspberries with the cream, so I am writing this in response to the pressing requests of the more

select portion of my public whose interest in " G," and more particularly in myself, is so soothing to my shattered nerves. To my more demonstrative readers, let me make a request. Try peaches next time, and remove the tin before delivery.

Just about " G."—After our return from, let us say, the N.W.F. Province, and the celebrations consequent on our re-joining the unit, time flew on golden wings ; but in the midst of it all, I had time to notice the cute little fresh green buds emerging here and there on the trees around me, the increasing heat of the sun, and other indications that spring was knocking about.

The infection spread, and shortly the Section felt the call of the hills in no uncertain manner. The disease was acute in the case of Signalmen Wise and Molyneux. Complications set in ; they developed " petrol feet " and fled to Topa with the advance party in a beautiful lorry, leaving the remainder of the Section (both of us) gnashing our teeth with rage.

Eventually we marched with the main body, and, to cut a long story short, we arrived ; in fact, we've been here a week or two now, and everyone is looking like an advertisement for Kruschen's.

Sergt Cadell—well, you wouldn't know him. Though still living on his losses, he trips around with that same old khus stick, burbling in a melodious baritone " Shepard of the Hills," etc. It is whispered in high circles that he's fallen a victim to a well-known complaint, so something may have to be done about it in the near future.

As for myself, I am merely trying to acquire knowledge, so that needs no further comment. I have atoms for breakfast, molecules for dinner, and solenoids for tea, and sleep in a magnetic field. Glorious life! My topi sits on two and a half hairs, and I'm seriously thinking of buying a pair of horn-rimmed glasses.

OMAR.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

General.—I haven't the slightest idea of what I intend writing about. This Meerut of our is the quietest thing yet—and then some. We received a fairish amount of sun and wind and dust, but of course you all know that. Even Mr. Gandhi has ceased to give us anything to write home about. But wait . . . . . .

This morning I was told that we had had visitors last night. Thieves had broken into two bunks: they came, took and went. It is a great pity that even he who was on guard could not look after his own bunk.

Perhaps you will not believe this, but I can vouch for its truth. A short time ago a certain well-known cavalry unit, at present stationed in Meerut, held a tent-pegging contest. We entered a team, and it took this cavalry regiment all their time to beat us into second place.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, on their magnificent display in the Army football cup. Though these congratulations are a bit pushed, they are none the less sincere. We hope to see the Signals in the final again next year—and every year, for that matter.

Our congratulations also go to the detachment at Ranikhet on winning the Depot League.

On May 29th we lost one of the oldest members of the unit. Sergt (Bajey) Hebberd left us for the Signals at Sialkot. He has gone as C.S.M. Congratulations, sir! Show 'em how to play hockey.

Certa Cito.—He was the W/T sergeant, and he knew his stuff. He found a short in the generator and hied himself away to the I.M.T. Now, the I.M.T. was very trusting and took the W/T expert's word for it. After three weary hours testing and dismantling the generator, they could find no fault with it. The W/T expert disappeared from the workshops. He returned. " Say, Bill, we have taken down the wrong generator ; this is a new one from Ordnance." Bill is now taking much nourishment!

NOBBY.

Ranikhet Detachment.

General.—Things are still very much the same in this quaint little burg of ours. There is only one thing we miss, and that is musketry, which has died, being shot to death on the wonderful hilly range of Ranikhet (sounds like a cowboy yarn, doesn't it?) We had some really good results in view of the fact that a new course was fired, and no one knew about it until the day we fired.

Training is still going great guns, and most of the locals are ready to pass out. There are plenty of bright young things among them who are likely to do well in the forthcoming tests.

We are holding a fete next month—that is, June—and preparations are being made to make it a great success. In past years the fetes have been very successful, and there is no reason why there should not be a really good attendance this year.

Sports have received a decided fillip from the fact that the detachment team won the Company Soccer League in Ranikhet, and are now giving points to regimental teams in the playing of football. We have a number of speedy merchants also. They are now training for track events in the Depot sports, to be held next month, but as they have only just started training, one cannot judge what the results will be.

The King's Birthday parade is drawing near, and all are being taught the correct position of the " present," and where to look when loading.

On the whole, the Station is having rather a slack time, for up to the present there has not been a single show, although we are being promised talkies in the near future.

Births.—So far, none, but we live in hopes.

Deaths.—Our wishes are not powerful enough, so they still live.

Arrivals.—From the burning plains, young Trevenna and the inimitable Puncher Fee. They are both going to do their utmost in the forthcoming Area individual boxing tournament. They have our very best wishes in their endeavours.

Departures.—C.S.M. Hebberd, who is going to show the Sialkot-ites how to ride a horse. Having been with this unit for over twelve years, he will be very much missed, especially from the hockey team. To use the time-worn adage, " Our loss is their gain."

For Sale.—" Alec." Would anyone care to make a bid? There is no reserve price. In fact, we are prepared to start a subscription list for the purchaser.

Marriages.—General Answer to Milli Amp: The marriage was consummated at the Church of the Twelve Apostles between General Answer, the only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Micro Farad, the noted dwarfs, and Milli Amp, the fourteenth daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Ohms Law.

Agony.—Saxes are in a great majority here, and we want to get rid of them. Has anyone any suggestions? There is no prize, so Barleux need not send one along.

Bush Mail.—This is a typical example of bush mail, from Ranikhet to Aussie land:—" Dear Darling Daphne. With tears of joy in my bonny blue eyes, I yesterday received your most charming epistle. I have just finished wading through my customary huge mail, and now commence to do my humble best to answer your many questions.

" I am twenty-one, dark and handsome, play everything except the mouth organ, and have great hopes of becoming a general.

" Yes, you are quite correct. We are the men who hold the Army together—the back-bone of India, so to speak. India without us would be like America without Al Capone, or like England without the Arsenal football team. Yes, dear ; our furniture is very valuable, consisting of " siksfoot " tables (Tudor) and " faums " (a species of Indian chair).

" So you are a lover of animals! I myself have a private zoo in the grounds of my ancestral shack, which we have named " Thurtee Tue," after the famous pie-ard hunter. I have some very fine species of the Indian " flying atcha " and the Ranikhet " itcher." No, dear ; we do not have to take out licences for our pet tigers.

" So you would not like to have to sleep under a mosquito net! I myself am quite hardened to it, having been trained in the art of net sleeping since my earliest days. By means of these nets the ferocious mosquito, whilst flying on his nightly round of destruction, is prevented from wreaking his vengeance upon the human race.

" You are mistaken, dear. The ' Bee tue ' is not an aged elephant, but a small bird which flies about uttering weird cries of ' Bee free.'

" Well, Daphne, I must shortly close, as we are about to go for a lion hunt. Hoping to hear from you before my yacht arrives to take me home.

" Yours lovingly, BOBBIE. :xxxxxxxx."

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

May 14th.

General.—Who said that we never get any excitement out of life? The other evening, the unit spent quite a pleasant hour on the bungalow verandah, watching Trimulgherry bazaar burning.

We were really enjoying ourselves until some silly blighter over at the R.A. blew his trumpet. Of course, that broke up our evening's enjoyment. Incidentally, quite a lot of fellows seemed to take a sudden interest in cross-country running ; at any rate, there were a number of little clouds of dust on the horizon, which were evidently not made by wind.

I only came across one person who was really worried over the fire. He asked me what the fire picquet had to do, and he got quite peeved when I started to laugh ; he had a catch in his voice when he told me it was no laughing matter.

Gleanings.—Who were the two people in the canteen, the other evening, who went to the trouble of moving the table to a position directly underneath the fan, and then at 9.30 discovered that they had not switched the fan on. (" Every day and in every way," etc.)

A little speech made when someone presented a bottle of raspberries to someone else (reported verbatim):—" I have been receiving so many raspberries myself, lately, that I thought I would like to give some to someone else." Of course, no names —but there is only one person in the unit who could have made a speech like that with such telling success.

What did Geordie and Mac do to that map reference? And both of them profess to be up to 1st class standard! I should have liked to have seen them waiting at the wrong point, and I should like to hear someone else's remarks on the subject.

Words that were never spoken:—" Why won't they let me settle down in my own unit? They always insist on sending me away on a staff job or leave." There is no prize offered for guessing who said this.

Polarisation is prevented by manganese dyed ox-hide.

Arrivals.—Corpl Knowles J. and nine signalmen joined us from Jubbulpore last month. We extend the welcoming hand to them.

Birth.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Clarke C. on the birth of a son.

Extract from Part II. Orders.—Sigmn Mayes G. F. to be W.O.ii. (C.S.M.) w.e.f. 18/2/31, with seniority to count from 23/11/29.

A Wangle.—Sergt and Mrs. Littlefield and son leave us on the 23rd of this month for England. Our sympathy goes with them in having to put up with a civilian passage instead of travelling by the more comfortable (?) troopship.

Wireless (Revised).—If she wants a date—meter. If she comes to call—receiver. If she wants an escort—conductor. If she wants to be an angel—transformer. If she proves your fears are wrong—compensator. If you think she is picking your pocket—detector. If she goes up in the air—condenser. If she is a poor cook—discharger. If she eats too much—reducer. If she is wrong—rectifier. If her hands are cold—heater. If she fumes and splutters—insulator. If she wants a vacation—transmitter. If she talks too much—interrupter. If she is narrow in her view —amplifier. If her way of thinking is not yours—corrector.

S.O.S.—What about a letter from some of the last draft who went home in March? We do not know where any of you are stationed, or what this place called Blighty is like. You might let us know. The same address will still find us, worse luck.

More General.—The new Promotion Rosters arrived last Saturday. This was a signal for all the senior n.c.o.s to cease work and start arguing ; but, still, why deny them their little pleasures?

W.F.K.

2nd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

General.—Our departure list of late has been rather heavy, including the ladies who have gone to the hills to recuperate after the strenuous winter, giving several model husbands a good excuse for getting leave.

The other departures of note are, of course, the Admi's who venture to earn another sixpence a day by swotting up various subjects. There was one slight crib—that of Topa being a three nights march from Pindi ; yet their spirits seemed high enough when they left here—due, I guess, to the knowledge that the circular motion was being left behind for a spell.

By reports that have reached my ever-open ears, I learn that the ambulance did a roaring trade on the way up, ably patronised by a few of our locals. First, our Guardsman. An excuse can be found, though, for after all, when a fellow is only used to tearing up the granite on two wheels—well, I mean to say! Then our frontier wallah, who according to reports has just about wiped the face of India clean with his number nines. Dan, that's the last thing we expected!

To the two who did get there by moving at the regulation pace, I take off my hat ; also to the one who missed it by the last mile. Cheer up! the Imperial Airways are still growing ; they'll find that route yet.

Parades.—April 20th, with the new Viceroy's arrival in India, saw the gathering of the clans on the Brigade parade ground. Everything went off quite well, with the exception of a few minutes' chaos caused by the massed bands striking up in our rear. Naturally, our four-legged friends did a bit of circus work. Eventually, however, they decided to stop, so once again peace reigned. The remainder of the day was observed as a holiday—after stables.

An interesting period has been spent during the past two weeks prior to our annual Bisley meeting, mainly trying to convince oneself that a portion of India deck is as soft to drop on as a Blighty bed. Muscle exercises have made us wonder whether there is any truth in the 8 lb. 10½ oz. idea—and about a few other things, too. Having got over it, however, we spent a couple of days at the local ranges. Being now on the new Table C, we found it somewhat difficult to tackle the usual 115 points, from which one attempts to pinch 80. The results are not yet to hand, but I think that on the average they won't be too bad, taking into consideration bad light and dust storms.

How the Box became Red.—And it came to pass that a tribe of Cavsigs arose from their beds upon a sunny day to prepare for their chief the wigwams. With duster and broom did they flourish, even to the hour of his arrival.

Like statues stood they whilst he gazed upon their handiwork. Behold, it was the day of Sat. Spake he: " Ho, list to me, you warriors. In the days which are to follow much labour must progress, for even as the day doth dawn the Big-Chief-of-All shall visit us upon that which is known as the 19th."

And the warriors marvelled unto themselves: likewise did they grow sorrowful, saying " Verily, evil times are upon us."

Then spoke the chota-cheeses, called n.c.o.s, saying: " With paint and polish it shall be done," and waxing eloquent, spake one: " That which is grey shall become a brighter hue, and that which is black shall become more glossy." Yea, even the scribes were wont to hunt cobwebs.

And yet, there was discontent in the land about a container, grey in aspect, holding within missiles of death known as amunish. Then it came to pass that one great chief Knows-a-lot faced the tribe and said: " Lo. let it be red, for are they not red in the land of Jubb. Verily, then, let us do likewise." And he was hailed as a sage amongst men.

From thence the labour went on, in face of full hardship, and storms of wind and dust which beat round and about them, sticking to doors and windows. " Lo, dekho," muttered the brethren, " even the gods are against us ; we saf-karo and it becomes milo."

But being a valiant race, they lost not heart. After many moons had passed the box of death became its promised hue, of a brilliance unhoped for. Thus it was that in the hours of darkness, when one is wont to seek peace with a fag, that upon the striking of the tinder many warriors gazed upon this thing, and thought many times that they were in the rats. " Crikey!" said they ; " it wants some getting used to." Whereupon the chota-cheese said " Peace, chappies ; all will be well," but they were sore afraid.

Came the dawn whence the Chief-of-All was due to visit, and there was silence throughout the land ; also was there much sweat on, a trembling of limb, and a fear. For was it not in his power to have a tick should aught be amiss? " Yea, verily," said the tribe. He came, this mighty man, at the appointed hour and viewed the labours of the hosts, being much pleased with what he saw.

And lo, there was peace; all were comforted, taking unto themselves deep breaths and talking of old times whence they first became Cavites. (At that I will leave it.)

Arrivals.—L/Corpl Broom from S.T.C. (India). The glad hand is, as usual, extended (in it, a grooming kit). Sergt Applegate from Saugor (now for a bending).

Agony.—To the hill wallahs: Jammy. To Charlie, 1st Div. Aldershot: Congratulations, Charlie, on another addition. Life going on fine. Little Richie. To Heath and H. E. H.: How's life? Let's be hearing.

This Month's Biscuit goes to Tubby for stating that "Cantt. Board" on the local water wagon means "Canteen Board."

L.A.L.

No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

May 28th.

General.—The new C.S.O. Eastern Command (Lieut.-Colonel C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C.) paid the Troop his initial visit on Wednesday, May 20th, and if smiles are compliments, we can consider ourselves highly honoured. Corpl Lourie A. E. F. has rejoined the unit after an eight months hard course at Saugor (the Weedon of India). Corpl Bill Hill from a small arms course and Corpl "Swede" Elmes from a muscle-binding course. Lieut D. M. Smyth is at present spending a well earned fifty-two day leave at Naini Tal.

Extra Speshal.—Corpl Jock Lourie won the Vaughan cup, at Saugor, for the best trained remount among the n.c.o.s; in addition, he also came second in the Solly-Flood cup, which is open to both British and Indian officer and n.c.o. students attending the course. Well done, Jock! Here's three hearty ones and congratulations from us all. Old hands of E Troop and the "Lazy C," please note. We understand that this is the first time a Corps n.c.o. has had his name engraved on the Vaughan cup.

Arrivals.—L/Corporals Cummings C. and Hawks W., Signalmen Wilson G., Pauline C., Ratcliffe J. and Burgess J. May you all have a long stay with us! We are well up to strength now in B.O.R.s, twelve in six pairs (tips) having arrived during the past two months from S.T.C. (I), but unfortunately we have fifteen B.O.R.s to go home next trooper.

How those poor old sweats at Catterick will accept them remains to be seen. Maybe Home Records will post them to one of the "Divies," and send you a few recruits to tell your tall tales. Anyhow, I guess our lads can pipe you down!

The Trade Board Miracle.—Look ye, and learn that by the decree of the powers-that-be, all and sundry shall gain great knowledge of the "lines of force" and the cause thereof. And it came to pass that the I.O.R.s of the tribe named Frecavsigs were gathered together to pay heed to the wise counsel of one Lieut. Smyth Sahib, who is learned in the wiles of magnetism.

And lo, he with the two stars upon his shoulders took unto himself from a tin a multitude of iron filings, sprinkling them upon a sheet of metal named coggage, so that all and sundry should see the miracle about to be performed. He of the two stars then took unto himself two magnets, placing them beneath the coggage and causing great confusion among the iron filings, arraying them in marvellous patterns wondrous to behold. The I.O.R.s of the tribe named Frecavsigs were much amazed and paid great heed to him of the two stars, so that he was pleased in no small measure.

And it came to pass that he of the two stars returned the iron filings to the tin. Ere departing from the tribe of Frecavsigs, he made wondrous passes in the air with the two magnets, crying aloud the while, "Where, now, are the lines of force?" And behold, the tribe answered as one man, "Oh, wise and learned sahib who workest great miracles, the lines of force are now returned to the tin from which thou didst extract them." Whereupon he of the two stars cried aloud, "Here endeth the lesson."

The Meerut Lido.—Owing to the recent rise in temperature, the swimming bath shared by the R.H.A. and the Troop has been regularly, frequently and uncomfortably filled. Strange craft not previously seen in these waters have been the cause of much obstruction, hilarity and controversy.

The launching of the s.s. *Bilhil* and the s.s. *Spudtom* was heralded by raucous cries of "Keep yer leg off the bottom, Bill," and "What abaht comin' up, Spud?"

Competition between the above craft is very keen, and there is little to choose between them as to general sea-worthiness and superiority of craft. The first-mentioned appears to be hampered by a large fungoid growth (well forrard) much resembling a dilapidated mine-sweeper. No. 2 craft shows only one disadvantage: a large cavity immediately behind the Plimsoll line, from which weird noises emanate, such as "When yer wants ter bring yer bonce up ter breeve, yer carves the pawnee wiv yer right 'and, and if the pawnee ain't there, yer breeves."

We would offer expert advice as to really necessary alterations to both vessels; No. 1 to have the fungus stream lined and made water-tight with the famous Chatterton's compound. No. 2 to wear a muzzle usually peculiar to rabid dogs, and if possible to stop breevin'.

Did You Know that—A horse breathes at fifteen words per minute? If the breeching on a horse is not properly adjusted, it will rub its withers? Kits can wear out in a fortnight?

This Year's Miracle.—Tommy Hinton receives a letter.

Agony.—Will Robinson E. please communicate with the solicitors Messrs. A. and A. Broyd, from whom he will learn something to his advantage.

Will any of the old boys of 9994 Squad please write to 2342021 Sigmn Y.Z. Blank.

To Signalman C. A. Harwar of the Brigade of Signals: Reference photograph in "S.T." You win.

STEVE.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

April.

What did Gladstone say in 18—? I don't know, but I do know what he would have said had he been a member of a draft that left here on March 28th and, on arriving at Port Said, found that the boat had sailed two hours previously. Hard luck, fellows! (As you say, Bill, it is unique.) The draft, consisting of L/Sergt Good and Signalmen Ledger, Lawson and Hancock, have now found a boat, and by the time these notes are in print, I hope they will have settled down to life in their new units. Good luck, lads!

Tennis.—This is now in full swing, and the cry of "Lenda"—"Lenda what?"—"Lendus a racquet" is getting very familiar. We have great hopes of supplying a Davis Cup team this year.

Sports.—As a result of a challenge, a triangular sports meeting was held between R.A.F. Ramleh, P.G.H. Sarafand and No. 2 Wireless Company, and a very entertaining afternoon's sport was witnessed. The R.A.F. Ramleh triumphed by half a point, their total being 19 and ours 18½.

Sergeants' Mess.—A married v. single members tournament and two whist drives have supplied the month's entertainment. The tournament was a great success. The married team, ably led by C.S.M. Pitt, proved winners by two points. The only event in which they were unable to hold their own was blow football, all the "blow" having been taken out of them in explaining the reason for the night out. The Brighter Mess movement has continued, and the addition of a large carpet and the Corps picture "Through" has indeed made the place brighter.

May.

In reply to No. 4 Wireless Company's hint in the February edition of THE WIRE, I should like to point out that, although we live in a land flowing with milk and honey (?) work—and bags of it—makes the days pass so quickly that it is only in occasional slack moments that I can find the necessary time in which to acquaint our dear friends with our doings.

Cricket.—Our team is doing exceptionally well so far, and now that the eleven have struck a winning vein, we hope they will continue to be victorious. Results to date are: Played 11, won 4, lost 4, drawn 3. A list of averages will be found in the Sports pages.

Whist Drive and Dance.—A successful whist drive and dance was held on May 23rd. The British Police band from Jerusalem kindly gave their services free. For the information of old members of the unit, I should like to say that the whist drive was another "Ratcliffe" benefit. Dancing started at 10 p.m. and finished at 2 a.m.

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Corpl Atkinson to be Corporal w.e.f. 17/3/31. Signalmen Smith R. P., Cooper (Badgey) and Fairey Wright to the dizzy heights of L/Corporal. Congratulations! Fairy wishes to state that he is a D.M.A.T. and D.M.F.N.O., which being translated means "different man after to-morrow" and "different man from now on."

Athletic Meeting.—A very interesting athletic meeting was held at the R.A.F. Station, Ramleh, on Wednesday, May 27th, when they held their annual meeting. In three open events, No. 2 W/T Company successfully captured two firsts and two thirds. Sigmn King easily won the open mile, Constable Tyler (British Police) being second, whilst Sigmn Lafford finished a good third. In the open 880 yards relay, we won easily in 1 min. 48 3/5 sec., our last man, L/Corpl Cooper, practically walking home. The open mile relay was won by the R.A.F. in 4 min. 14 sec., A.C. Green being far too good for us in the 880 yards stretch; the British Police were second, whilst our team finished a good third.

Another event also fell to this unit, Mrs. Waight being successful in securing first prize in the ladies' race, Mrs. Warner (whose husband, the padre, won the officers' race) being a very close second.

One point of interest cropped up to which we should like a solution. The time given by the megaphone steward for the Station 220 yards was "27 min. 2 sec." Is this a new record?

Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was spent, for which our thanks are extended to the officers and other ranks of the Royal Air Force, Ramleh. DIS.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

General.—On June 5th the regiment bade farewell to Colonel Charrington, who has given up command. He will be much regretted by G Troop, for he has always done everything possible to give us a good time here and make us feel at home. We wish him the best of luck in his next station.

The weather has been remarkably kind to us so far this year—our first in Egypt. A temperature record for May of last year shows that the mid-day shade value varied from 105 to 110 degrees on the majority of days. This year we have been having nothing worse than what in England would be looked upon as one of the milder heat waves.

Training.—At the time of writing, more than half of us are at Abbassia, struggling with individual training—or, more accurately, up-grading: a subtle but essential difference. They have renewed a large number of Catterick and other friendships, and have discovered that the "232's" are already in strength here.

There are various sound (?) suggestions as to the possibilities of re-introducing visual signalling in the regiment, one being the fitting of a Lucas lamp in the swinging turrets of the cars, so that full value is obtained from visual work now being carried out.

Another form of amusement might be tried—namely, procedure races. To qualify at all, the officer must receive the message before A.R. has been sent. (Impossible? perhaps not so impossible as you think!)

Leave.—Those of us who are not at Abbassia are, with one or two exceptions, just going or just coming back from Alexandria, where the change of air camp is in full swing. According to the latest reports it is a good show, and those who are there are very sorry to be coming back again.

Agony.—Congratulations to "Mark X" (or "Expert"?). May his present efforts prove highly successful!

Is H.320 still (like Johnnie Walker, born 1820) going strong, Charlie?

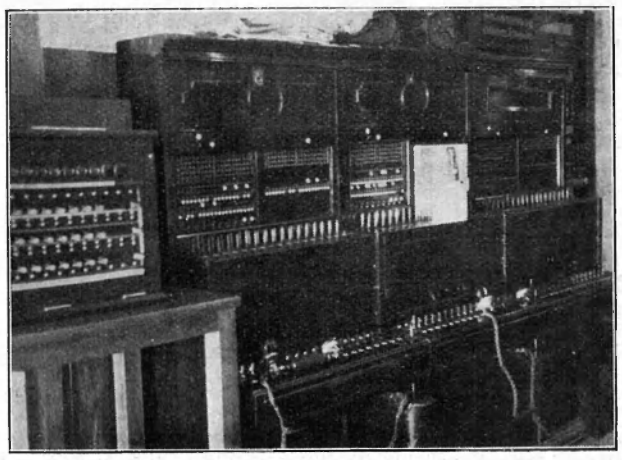
Don't forget number 8, Snowy!

Two prospective travellers: Sorry! can't be done through these columns. Try Thomas Cook and Sons!

Hong Kong Signal Section.

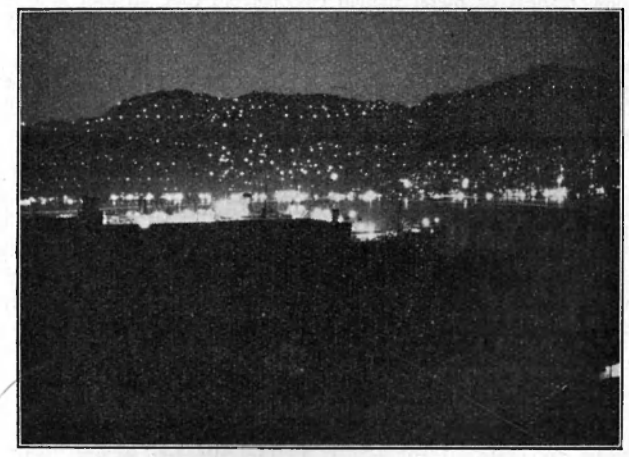
May, 1031 [? 1931—ED.]

General.—"Cast not a clout till May is out" is a very good maxim for England's uncertain clime, but in Hong Kong clouts are flying in all directions, leaving perspiring sufferers with less energy than an expended S cell: not enough, in fact, to say "Pay you next week, dhobi." If this is only a foretaste of summer (as the Press avers) with humidity 97 per cent., we shall be able to supply our own bathing facilities this year.



New Telephone Exchange, Hong Kong.

Gillott in the 100 yards at the inter-Section Sports.



View from W/T Station, Kowloon.

School.—Many of the unit have discovered that school affords good mental recreation for the dull evenings, and a good number of 1st class candidates are recorded.

I wonder how much the tales of how the Shanghai Signals took the school by storm last year are responsible for this thirst for knowledge? In consequence of the above, Lytton's famous "Last of the Barons" is the book of the month; and, strangely enough, the fellows say they like it!

Our Mrs. Malaprop will be able to help these aspirants with choice samples of her speciality, in which respect she should come in very (h)andy.

Trade Board.—Text books are being well thumbed in connection with the June trade tests, and an intensive training campaign is planned for this month, when many dormant brain cells will be bombarded in an endeavour to remember all the necessary rules of ohms law and other technical details.

£.s.d.—We have received a nasty set-back in the cessation of our Colonial allowance. It is hard to say where it goes, but the fact remains, money melts in this overheated clime, and that ten cents per day came in very handy in helping us out with our various subscriptions and extras.

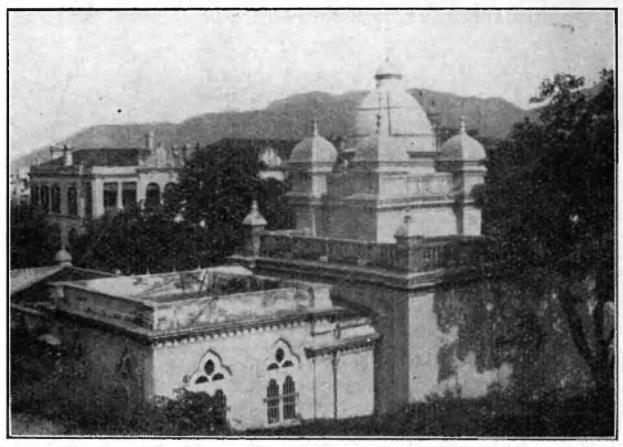
Coolie girls at work in Whitfield Barracks.

Road Up.—Our happy home seems to be in constant need of repair (some wonder if they ever finished building it) and it is very rarely that we are free from the tools of the maintenance gang.

They descended on us the other day and ruthlessly tore down the flimsy outbuildings, leaving our most private places open to the public gaze, and causing us to pursue our activities elsewhere. Considering the fine view already obtainable from the grocery bar, we shall soon have "no secrets at all," as the saying goes.

They commenced to rip up the ground between the two barrack blocks, and to "finish" the job, they started some months ago. At the time of writing the place looks like a cross between Crecy in 1346 and Piccadilly Circus on "road up day."

The Chinese labourer is no respecter of time, place or person, and will come and rout out a roomful of men at the most awkward times. He has no set times for interior decorations, but invariably chooses Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, or some special holiday (always in the afternoon) for work in the barrack room.



A little bit of India in Whitfield Barracks.

Women are more numerous among toilers than men, and some of the maidens of Cathay operate a pickaxe with as much despatch and unconcern as milady at home wields her eternal knitting needles.

Some of the lads at Tai Wan.

I wonder how those "equality" girls in England would care for this form of work for a living. Wouldn't the neighbours talk to see Ethel down the road attempting to carry a hod of bricks!

Coolie girls at work in Whitfield Barracks.

Thoughts through the Night.—

MOZZY.

Mozzy, buzzing round my net,
What is it for which you fret?
Is it a hole, to get out, thou seekest?
Or a hole to get in?
Embodiment of hate divine,
Buzzing round this nose of mine,
Ah! you've bit me now, you swine.

C.C.R.B.

Jamaica Signal Section.

Telephone Exchange, Up Park Camp,
Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I., May 27th.

General.—Hello, everybody! J.C.A. calling! Try to survive the shock of seeing our notes in print once more. But it has just dawned on our correspondent that it is over six months since anything was mentioned anent the Corps in Jamaica, and although I am not the pukka WIRE correspondent, I have been asked to shove something together—so here goes, hoping you won't be bored.

Drafts—On March 25th we welcomed to this sunny (if clammy) colony a huge draft from the U.K. consisting of Corpl Charley Minchin from A Corps Signals, Aldershot, and Sigmn Smither R. F. from the A.F.V.s, Tidworth. We trust they will enjoy their sojourn in Jamaica sufficiently to take on for a buckshee year (very few do ; Sigmn Barwick, please note). However, they both got into harness straight away, and are now up to their eyes in cable jointing and instrument busting respectively. Some would say that by this time they can hardly realise that they are still in the Army, but 'nuff said on that score, or Records may have too many volunteers for the " Pearl of the Carribean."

On March 27th we said goodbye to two old friends, Cpl Dicker and Sigmn Barwick, commonly known as Dick and Alfie.

Many tears were shed at the parting, particularly by the latter, who had managed to stay out here for four-and-a-half years ; and his departure must have been like going abroad again. However, we trust he did not feel the cold too much on his return. I may say they are both missed very much by the Section for their work, both technically and on the field of sport, where they always made a very good show. It is hoped they will prove as popular and as useful in Catterick as they were in the Jamaica Garrison.

Functions.—On March 26th the Staff and Depɪrtmental other ranks held a farewell and welcome dinner in honour of the outgoing and incoming drafts. It was a very successful show indeed, and everything went *down* quite o.k. (including Father William Younger). Much may be said for the N.A.A.F.I. catering, and for Mr. Tomlin, the Area manager, who did his utmost to make things the success they were. Also, great credit is due to the R.A.S.C., with whom the rest of the Staffs are messed, and who undertook all the necessary arrangements—mentioning in particular S/Sergeant Paul (the smiler).

Howlers.—A native lineman was sent out on a fault, and was given his tram fare to enable him to get to his J. of M. point as quickly as possible. After an hour and a half he was seen by the F-of-S about half-way along the tram route, dawdling along the road as though to-morrow would do. When asked what he had been doing, he replied that he had taken the tram alright and had got half way along when he discovered another fault on the same line. He was asked how this was possible, as the line did not follow the tram route. " Oh," he said, " a man on de tram car tell me about it, sar." (The F-of-S was brought home on an ambulance.)

On another occasion, the same man was sent to adjust a magneto alarm bell used as a parallel extension telephone bell. On his return he said " De bell is alright, sar, but de battery in de phone is not strong enough to ring it."

Agony.—Dick: Remember old times and drop a line.

JAMCAN.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

Education.—Our congratulations are extended to Signalman Tavender G. on obtainng a 1st class certificate (with a " D " in maths) at the March examination ; also to Corpl Hardy R. D. H. on passing in English at the same examination, thus completing his 1st and thereby acquiring one of the essential qualifications of the ambitious n.c.o.

By looking at our education roll, a stranger could easily imagine that South Bastion was the " seat of learning " in Gibraltar, as he would see that the percentage of n.c.o.s and men holding the 1st class certificate was 25. As a matter of fact, we are living in hopes of beating this in a few months time.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations appear to be frequent this month, and we again offer them with pleasure, this time to L/Corpl Cook F. on being paid for that rank (rumour says it took him the greater part of one evening to work out the accrued credits, so let it be hoped he does not spend it in the same ratio) and to U/L/Corpls Poulton G. and Manning C. on getting their foot on the first rung. May they both follow in the footsteps of the first-named very soon! By the way, it was a remarkable coincidence that Wolseley helmets were very much in evidence on the May clothing indent.

Courses.—We welcome the return of Signalmen Carr and Tavender from a short cookery course at the Military Hospital here. Both relate wonderful tales of chicken broth and milk puddings, but we trust their culinary achievements were not wholly confined to that form of dieting, as we have a faint recollection that chicken broth is a near relative to our old friend the Army rissole—in other words, it is " something " in disguise.

Yet One More.—An extract from a recent Part II. Order read: " L/Sergeant Betts W. E. re-engaged at Gibraltar to complete twenty-one years with the Colours." We have it on good authority that there is no truth in the rumour that the Minister of Labour is designing handbills showing the joys of civilian life, and passing them to the War Office for distribution to the troops.

After Working Hours.—As predicted in our last notes, the Section are taking great interest in this season's rowing events ; in fact, two crews have been entered for the challenge oar, and both may be seen in strenuous practice every evening.

Great rivalry exists between the crews, and it culminated in a private race between them over the usual course, a distance of about one mile.

Misfortune appeared to have overtaken "A" crew, as their coxswain was admitted to hospital on the morning of the race and they had to call upon their reserve man, and Sigmn Carr assumed the duties of string-puller. Despite this last minute change over, the race was won rather easily by "A" crew, who, rowing in fine style and leading from the starting point, won by about four lengths. Their time was on the slow side, but after this encouragement and incentive to do even better things, we live in hopes of seeing Royal Signals pull off one (other than the Emergency trophy) of the many rowing trophies offered here during the summer months.

During the preliminary practices, accidents were few but incidents many. We would like to ask past coxswains if they ever tried to ram a destroyer with a racing gig, or if they ever gave their crews orders to row without ensuring that their gigs were free from the mooring?

Owing to the small allocation of grounds to the unit, we have only been able to enjoy two cricket matches during the past month. In order to allow everyone a chance of showing their talent, both games were of an inter-Section nature ; and as the bowling changes were made very frequently, no player could hide his light under a bushel!

While no likely Garrison representatives were discovered, mention must be made of Signalmen Collins and Langham as useful all-rounders, of Signalmen Burton and Morris as batsmen of no mean order, and last, but not least, the wicket-keeping of Sigmn Hicks (may his shadow never grow less!)

We agree with the Section in saying it is easy to lie in quiescence on the verandah of the pavilion and criticise the players, but we can't refrain from remarking upon the slackness of the fielding of both sides. Several " sitters " were dropped, and returns to the wicket were not made smartly enough. If we are to make a noise in cricket circles this season, these faults will have to be remedied.

Later.—A friendly game against the Tower and outlying Stations was played on the Naval ground, and resulted in a victory for them by 228 runs to our 91. Our modesty prevents us from giving any details of the game other than the prodigious feat of one of their players, who, using his bat as if it were an Indian club, scored 84 runs in a very few minutes. He was so keen on boundaries that he almost threw his bat there on one occasion!

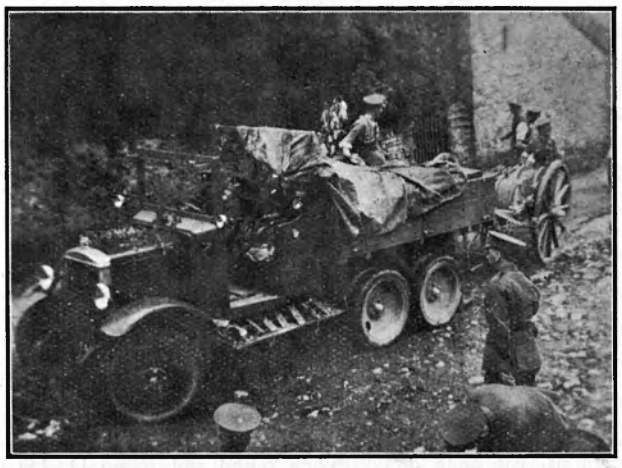
42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Well, we are once again on dry land (I do not mean *in* a dry land, but rather, a little removed from mud). Camp, this year, was full of mud and wetness. In fact, with the exception of the dry canteen, I do not know of any part which was not wet.

So damp did everything become that the M.O. decided, in the kindness of his heart, that a little rum would improve the moistened hour. But does he really believe that " old soldiers never die," and so suggested that some with war ribbons did not need the little warming friend?

Thirty-Six Hour Scheme.—It had been decided, for the good of our minds and bodies, that we should have a thirty-six hour scheme, and so, on a morning which was not very bright, we all issued forth. Naturally, this was a great occasion for many people to use their imagination, as was shown by a certain acting Brigade-Major in selecting his headquarters. But why one office section picked a spot just between a pig-sty and a manure heap to build their fire, I cannot understand. True, it was dark when the spot was selected, *but was there no smell?*



Cable wagon bringing in a line during the 36-hour scheme.

Another interesting discovery was that bandsmen make good cooks. We did not know that the bandmaster held cookery lessons before, but we must compliment him on the result.

For some unexplained reason, the earth-mats of the C sets seemed to cause a lot of trouble. One distinguished if not very technical man insisted that they were the aerial, despite the fact that the aerial wire was run out just above. On another occasion, an office superintendent reported his earth mat " dis " (how, or from what, we are still trying to find out).

The following telephone conversation was heard during the scheme: " Hello, B.R.O.K.! you are not BROK now—you are SARK." Isn't it the deuce when you don't know who you are? But, in spite of these difficulties, everyone arrived back in camp in time for the next meal all right.

Well, we are now proceeding with musketry ; and so to finish off the year's work in good style with a unit just about at full strength,

JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

Our week-end camp (for three days) at Whitsuntide proved to be a very wet affair.

We had hopes—(a poet has said that " *Hope adorns and cheers the way* ")—that our change over to Exmouth from the opposite bank of the river Exe, where we had pitched our tents at Whitsun for several years past, might have turned out to be an agreeable one. But to kick off with a twenty-four hours continuous downpour of rain—well, to say the least—is inclined to dampen the stoutest courage.

By a unanimous verdict the troops decided to stick it, and thanks to the kindness of a farmer living near by, excellent cover was obtained not far from the camp, and with plenty of nice clean straw, the sleeping difficulty was overcome.

It's surprising what a Britisher (pity there isn't a better term to apply to those reared in these islands) can do when he's up against it, and the cheerful way in which everyone carried on—even the boys who were training as operators—was splendid, and helped the powers-that-be over most of the trials and troubles such conditions bring about.

There were a score of humorous incidents during the camp, and these are bound to be retailed by the " old stiffs " for many a long day.

The original training programme could not, of course, be carried out entirely, but the camp, under such circumstances, provided many lessons of the greatest use to a soldier ; and—let us say so boldly—the Terriers are no longer to be called *fine weather soldiers !*

We were pleased to have a visit from our commanding officer, Lieut-Colonel Lord Basing, and Captain G. W. Odell (adjutant). Colonel W. G. Michelmore (D.C.S.O. Southern Command) also came along to pay us a visit.

Friends of Sergt W. Preston will be sorry to hear of his long and serious illness. It seems unlikely that he will be permitted to come to camp, but we all hope he will speedily recover and come along again to put on a " possible." The shooting section will miss his services.

Mr. E. C. Lee-Wright wishes me to express, through the medium of these notes, his grateful thanks to all who were instrumental in providing him with the handsome present he received on the occasion of his recent marriage, and for all the kind messages he received. He sends salaams to all!

OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

One Section camp is now over. The Section did really well, considering the weather conditions they were up against—good old glorious Devon!

However, the boys kept smiling through it all ; but I am afraid that those who went to " Okey " for the first time did not get a very good impression of the Devon climate. We hope that the other two Sections will have better luck later in the year.

We are now looking forward to Christchurch, when we shall be able to show you all some glorious Hampshire weather—we do get it fine occasionally.

However, forgetting the weather for the time, we must say that the Devonians who formed the 96th (R.D.Y.) Brigade R.A., to whom we were attached, were a jolly fine crowd. They did all they could to make us comfortable, and their nice little band made the grooming hour pleasant. It is my first experience of grooming to music,

We are still of opinion that mechanised transport—given six-wheelers—is the best for Okehampton. It needs good horses to negotiate the hills there.

It was with regret that we heard that Sigmn Turl had been admitted to hospital at Plymouth with appendicitis, but we are pleased to report that he is now well and home again.

PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

We apologise for the absence of our notes last month. And here is the 16th round again once more, with a reminder postcard from Old Spark!

Our week-end camp was held this year over Whitsun, as usual, and once more at our favourite old spot near Teignmouth. Unfortunately, we were not blessed with good weather; in fact, on the first night we were very nearly washed out of that "perch on the top of the hill with the beautiful view." Throughout the week-end, the view had to be imagined!

In spite of the rain, mud and dreadful conditions, everyone made the best of it and enjoyed themselves. Training out of doors was naturally very much curtailed. Our thanks are due to C.S.M. Harrison and his advance party for their spade work in getting the canvas up and, incidentally, in getting *quite* wet through!; to C.Q.M.S. Stanbury and the cooks for their excellent messing arrangements under such trying conditions; also to the Teignmouth branch of the British Legion for so kindly placing a large room in their club at our disposal—which was very welcome under the circumstances.

On Saturday evening the officers were honoured with the presence of the following at dinner:—Colonel W. G. Michelmore (D.C.S.O.), Lieut.-Colonel Lord Basing (our C.O.), Captain M. N. Ford (W/T Officer), and Mr. D. P. Stokes (formerly of this Company, who is home on leave from Malaya).

All ranks of this Company extend their very hearty congratulations and best wishes to Major Western (O.C. No. 1 Company) on his recent well-deserved honour. His thirty-four years continuous service in the Territorial Army, including the full period of the war, has been acknowledged by H.M. the King conferring on him, in the Birthday Honours, the dignity of an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. Well done! Please accept No. 3 Company's best wishes and congratulations, sir.

THREECOY.

O.B.E. for Gallant Territorial.

No honour was better deserved than the O.B.E. bestowed in the Birthday Honours list on Major James William Western, T.D., Royal Corps of Signals, T.A.

Major Western has served thirty-four years as a Volunteer and Territorial, and during the whole of that time has not missed a single camp or training.

He became a Volunteer in November, 1897, when he joined A Company 1st R.V. He remained with this Corps until the Volunteers were merged into the Territorials in 1908. He then transferred to the Wessex Divisional Telegraph Company, R.E., passing through all ranks up to that of Company sergeant-major.

In December, 1914, he went on active service to France with what was then known as the 27th (Wessex) Divisional Signals. This was the first complete Territorial Signals unit to go on active service with the Expeditionary Force.

In 1915 he was mentioned in despatches, and in October, 1916, returned to England to qualify for a commission. He was made an officer in 1917, and was on instructional duties until the early part of 1918, when he returned to France with the Army Signals. He was O.C. Signals at Amiens and other places until demobilisation in 1919.

He did not sever his connection with the work he loves so well when demobilised. He first commanded No. 3 (Topsham and Crediton) Company of the 43rd Wessex Divisional Signals, T.A. He obtained the rank of major in 1924, and is now in command of No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

A keen sportsman, he takes especial interest in the Exeter Harriers Club, of which he is a foundation member. He has naturally secured numerous congratulations on his well-deserved honour.—*Culled from the press.*

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

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

General.—A visit to Standard Telephones and Cables at Hendon was paid on June 3rd, when a demonstration of A and C sets and various line and visual instruments was given. Between forty and fifty of the firm's employees were present, and although the instruments were not of the 1931 design, they apparently found much to interest them and formed an appreciative audience. It is expected that the outcome of this publicity will go a long way towards bringing this unit up to strength.

Whitsun training was carried out by No. 1 Company in the vicinity of Ruislip. Unfortunately, it rained so heavily the first day that the Cable Detachments had difficulty in finding the holes they "jumped" on their last visit.

No. 3 Company struck new ground and went to Esher, and found life so quiet there that they had an all-night scheme. From all accounts this was very successful, and a maximum of traffic was dealt with. We hear a little error on the map landed one or two in a bog, but that is by the way. In any case, this is a decided improvement when one recalls the map reference of a few years back which proved to be three miles out at sea.

Fortnightly trips to Rainham for musketry, with week-end schemes intermingling, are the order of the day until our departure for annual training on July 26th, when we will be joined by No. 2 Company at Canterbury. An effort is to be made to induce the Officer i/c Funds to open the purse strings a little wider, and all ranks are warned to get into training with a view to lifting the prizes at the annual sports. This particularly applies to the tug-of-war and drill teams for the Sergeants' trophy.

Finally, a hint to members of this unit. Copies of this Journal can be obtained monthly from C.S.M. Thomas. It is much better to have a copy of your own, to take home and read at leisure, than to queue up for the one in the canteen.

A welcome is accorded to Sergt Turner F., who has re-transferred back to his old unit.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

I almost missed the post this month. How Nos. 1 and 3 Companies would gloat over my poor body if this had happened, especially as it was only last month that I quoted "the 16th" to them.

General.—Only another six weeks and we shall be "men of Kent." I am very pleased to see that Canterbury is to be the scene of our camp this year. I am sure that everyone will appreciate the change from forest dwellings to park residences. Our camp last year was the worst on record. It is hoped that this year will be the best ever.

The work carried out this month has been of the usual character, a little intensified, perhaps, owing to the nearness of annual training.

Sunday training took place on May 3rd, followed by Whitsun training. The weather on both occasions could not have been worse. During Whitsun training, the Company was quartered in the drill hall owing to the weather. The feeding arrangements were in the hand of Ewald and Co., and right well did Pete feed us. We believe that the adjutant, in his efforts to locate us, got quite dizzy driving round and round Ditchling Beacon, the visibility being like pea soup. Stiff country for a Rolls Austin, sir!

The attendances on both these occasions were remarkably good, and we venture to say that at annual training No. 2 Company will be well to the fore both at work and play.

Lord Wakefield Challenge Cup.—S.M.R.C. Territorial Army Company team small bore rifle match. The results of the above have now appeared in "The Rifleman" (May issue) and it is with satisfaction we note that only two Signals teams were above us: No. 2 Company 53rd (Welsh) Divl Signals, and the 43rd Wessex Signals, Exeter. We congratulate them, and in the same breath our Company team, who finished 79th out of 508 teams. Nos. 1 and 3 (London) Companies finished 371st and 310th respectively. Well, now, lads, get down to harder practice, and next time out you'll be amongst the prize winners.

Our attention is now focussed on the High Sheriff's shield and the Lord-Lieutenant's shield, to be competed for at Purfleet ranges on July 4th. The names of the selected team are not

yet available, but I hope to give next month the names of the officers, n.c.o.s and men who represented the Company in the various competitions. We are pleased to report that we have a real live musketry officer in 2/Lieut. A. Campbell.

Social.—We have been a little slack in this direction lately owing to intensive training. We hope to get off the mark on the 25th with a concert by our favourites, the Legion Lights. Efforts are being made to get them to give us a show on sports day at annual training.

Recruiting.—This is very brisk. We extend a hearty welcome to the men who have been finally approved this month. We now only want about half-a-dozen to bring us up to strength. We are going to have a good try for these before camp.

NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

H.Q., Phœnix Street, Derby, June 15th.

Whitsuntide saw the unit at its usual Whitsun week-end camp. This was held at Trent once again. This spot is always a most popular one for our unit. The camp is pitched on the rifle range, which is quite close to the railway station, so the troops do not have far to march after detraining. It is also quite near to Trent Lock, a popular holiday resort for the people of Nottingham and Derby. The road to the lock from Long Eaton and the station runs by the camp, and is generally thronged with holiday makers, who always take a lively interest in such work as they can see.

In the evening, at Trent Lock and the adjoining town of Long Eaton, one may see the troops out for their usual promenade, behaving as Signals usually do. When it can be freely said that not a single complaint has ever been received either from the police or the inhabitants on the numerous visits here, it speaks volumes for the behaviour of the 46th.

Much useful training is always done at these week-end camps, and this year proved no exception, despite a downpour of rain which lasted until Sunday afternoon. A most comprehensive scheme was carried out, in which all three Companies co-operated with their respective Sections. Included was the trial of two mobile Brigade signal offices, this being one of the numerous ideas of our commanding officer, who is ever on the move to promote the efficiency of the unit. As nothing has been heard to the contrary, we presume the scheme was the success it deserved to be.

Congratulations to the following on their elevation to the ranks shown:—Sergt Tunnicliffe W., L/Sergts Matthews J. C., Bown L. and Swann J. A., Corpl Barradell J. W., L/Corpls Beale L. and Pickard D. (No. 1 Company); Sergt Madeley C., Corpl Scott W., L/Corpl Wisbey F. (No. 2 Company); Corpl Coupland (No. 3 Company). Also to the numerous members of the unit who passed their respective trade tests.

MEREBIMUR.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

Headquarters, Lytton Street.

Obligatory Training is now in full swing, and we are seeing a good number of men on parade, all keen on their work and eager to put up a good show when they go to camp.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 18th/19th, we held a week-end camp. Saturday was spent in the drill hall on lectures and preparation for Sunday. On Sunday the Company paraded at 9 a.m. for a signal scheme which was held in the neighbouring country. The directing staff of this scheme was our adjutant (Captain W. H. Dent, M.B.E.) and two officers from the 292nd Battery R.A. After a good morning's work dinner was served on the roadside, consisting of stew and tea prepared by our able cook Sergt Walker. The Cable Section, under Sergt Mayo, had rather a hard day, having about ten miles of wire out. The attendance at this week-end camp was fifty-five men and n.c.o.s, this being the largest we have had on any week-end.

Congratulations.—To Sigmn Alderson G. A. on his appointment to the rank of L/Corporal.

Re-Engagement.—Sergeant Dakin for the period of one year.

We have to wish Sergt Newton a happy time on his P.T. course, and only hope that he does not learn too much. I overheard one of the lads in the drill hall say to him: "You're going on a P.T. course for a month, and will come back and give it to us in a fortnight when we go to camp."

ESPRIT DE CORPS.

BY APPOINTMENT BY APPOINTMENT

STYLE

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51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

Things are getting quite busy these days, and with week-end camps and Trade Boards following one another in quick succession, little time is left for the compilation of our monthly screed.

Training.—All Companies have now held their week-end camps, and the general cry seems to be "Some more!"—which speaks well for the keenness of all ranks. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves, although the clerk of the weather was rather unkind to No. 1 Company.

All Companies carried out a signal tactical exercise during the week-end camps, arranged by unit headquarters, and we hope that everyone derived some benefit thereby, so that when our schemes are held on annual camp next month, and the whole unit works together, everything will go with a swing.

Congratulations.—We heartily congratulate the undermentioned. Lieut R. B. Williamson on his promotion to that rank. 2/Lieutenants Gray and Cochran on passing the promotion examination for Captain. We also endorse No. 1 Company's congratulatory remarks on Sergt Paterson's brave act in saving a woman from drowning on May 21st.

Inter-Company Rifle Shoot.—The results of the inter-Company rifle shoot for the cup presented by our commanding officer (Lieut.-Col. E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E.) were as follows:—First, No. 1 Company, 704; second, No. 2 Company, 683; third, No. 3 Company, 570. We congratulate No. 1 Company on winning the cup for the second year in succession.

Departures.—During the month we have said good-bye to another old member, as C.Q.M.S. Cooper H. R. left us on the 13th instant for leave pending discharge after twenty-one years Regular service. C.Q.M.S. Cooper has been with this unit as permanent staff instructor for six years, four of which were spent

with No. 3 Company and two at Headquarters as R.S.M. His familiar face will be missed at annual training this year. We understand that he has obtained congenial employment in the Post Office Engineering Department at Watford, and wish him and Mrs. Cooper all the best of luck in their new life. YEA.

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

General.—Section training is keeping us all very busy, and we are enjoying it ; somehow, it goes down much easier than individual training. It is greater fun, of course: maybe, outlet for the team spirit is responsible for that.

The Cable Detachments have been specially enjoying themselves ; their evening treks twice weekly beyond Brig o' Dee have cemented the Sections as nothing else could have done. It is gruelling work acting as No. 6 on a heavy Army bike to a Mechanised Cable Detachment along the heavy country roads, but we haven't heard a single moan. Well done, B Cable and No. 207.

Week-End Camp.—All's well that ends well! We thoroughly enjoyed the week-end camp on June 13th/14th, and it is our regret that we only have one a year: we would like more. Many valuable lessons, from a Signals point of view, were learnt during the exercise, and taking the wretched weather conditions into consideration, we did remarkably well (our trumpeter isn't dead yet). Everybody worked with a mighty will, and right from the start the whole scheme went with a swing until chilly rain and icy blasts put a slight damper on it.

Especial thanks are due to the Farrier sergeant and his aide-de-camp (the horsey man) for their splendid catering efforts. In drenching rain they tended the camp fire and ladled out stew like Sisters of Mercy ; never before have we tasted such wonderful stew ; Shoey, you missed your vocation—your right place is at the Ritz or the Carlton.

We appreciated Smudger's unceasing efforts with the wireless sets, but we wonder what the lads in his tent had to say when he started up the engine at two o'clock in the morning " just to see if she were radiating," and then endeavoured to drown the din with the song " Let's have a jolly good snivel " sung to the wop-wop-wop cadence of the engine.

Congratulatory.—The following notice extracted from Regimental Orders makes us proud to have Sergt Paterson in No. 1 Company:—" The commanding officer wishes to express his congratulations to Sergt Paterson W. (No. 1 Company) on his gallant rescue of a woman from the river Don on the 21st May last. The commanding officer considers that an act of this kind reflects great credit both on the individual and the unit." Since the date of the Order, the Royal Humane Society has presented Sergt Paterson with a parchment.

Our Swan-Song.—" Roll on, camp!"

LANKA MK. II.

No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

General.—What glorious weather we are having for our Section training! Words fail me. The terms " insulation " and " insolation " cannot be confused in this part of the globe ; in fact, if this weather continues, we will have to attach ourselves to the R.E. Bridging Company for our annual training.

The rain has been known to cease for one whole day, and apparently we were lucky in this respect, because it held off for a day scheme held in conjunction with No. 3 Company on Sunday, June 7th. The scheme proved very instructive and was thoroughly enjoyed. It is a pity that these schemes cannot be run weekly, as their training value cannot be over-rated. It is believed to have been a success: the visual and landline personnel performed all that was required of them, and the wireless thoroughly enjoyed the broadcasting programmes.

Trade Boards.—It is hoped to strengthen our ratings average at a Trade Board to be held during the month.

Inter-Company Shoot.—Congratulations to No. 1 Company on retaining the coveted trophy.

The Birth of a Nation.—I am very sorry! I must have been looking at the Company's total. Anyway, hearty congratulations, Albert, and don't forget to take the easiest path and start training him whilst he is young. Cake and wompo never did go well together, so why wait for camp.

Promotions.—Congratulations to all the lucky ones. May their success inspire the younger generation! It's quite alright ; I am on the water waggon. TWOCOY.

No. 3 (Fifeshire) Company.

General.—As we were successful in getting through last month, and don't want to be outdone by No. 2 Company, we are making another attempt.

Recruits Musketry.—The recruits fired their course on the open range on Saturday afternoon, June 6th, in the vilest of weather. Notwithstanding the fact that everyone was soaked through shortly after arrival on the range, the spirit of the men was excellent and some good scores were obtained, the average being only slightly lower than that of last year, which was fired under ideal conditions. The party was conveyed to and from the range by charabanc, and during an interval between practices refreshments were issued.

Signal Exercise.—As predicted in my last notes, a party of six officers and thirty-six other ranks took part in a signal exercise on Sunday, June 7th, leaving Company headquarters at 8 a.m. and returning the same day at 8 p.m. Although the weather was somewhat dull, the rain kept away. The scheme was held in some fine open country, with plenty of scope for visual, and we hope that one and all will benefit by the experience gained.

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sigmn H. Bain, following an operation at Edinburgh Infirmary, on May 31st. Although he had been with us little more than a year, he was liked by everyone, and his cheery voice will be sadly missed. The funeral, which took place at Kirkcaldy on Wednesday, June 3rd, was attended by a party of twenty-four men under C.S.M. Fleming A. E., who joined the cortege at the cemetery. A floral tribute was sent to the parents by the Company. Our deepest sympathies are extended to them in their sad bereavement.

Trade Board.—A number of men are now looking forward to the Trade Board, which assembles on Thursday of this week. I hope to record the result in my next notes.

Corps Band.—We were very pleased to see the Corps Band last week, and think that the Dunfermline Section should consider themselves highly honoured by hearing such fine music given in their drill hall. As the Pipe Band were present at the time, we hope that they will derive some benefit from having heard a real good band at last!

We Want to Know.—Why is it that when a piper's feet are tied together, he finds it impossible to play his pipes? What is the definition of a Scottish summer?

THREECOY.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

General.—Very successful week-ends have been held at Lavernock by Nos. 1 and 2 Companies. Although the weather was none too kind to us, some useful indoor work was performed. No. 3 Company have theirs to come, and possibly our *summer* will be more pronounced.

Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Ellsmore, of the Western Command Signal Company, has been with us for a fortnight, for the purpose of instructing the W/T class. No doubt, his labour will bear fruit during annual training.

Shooting.—The published results in " The Rifleman " are very praiseworthy as far as this unit is concerned, all three Companies making progress.

No. 2 Company failed in the semi-final of the Webber cup by three points. Hard luck, Two!

The following is an extract from *The Western Mail*, May 25th: " Chief interest during this week-end centred around the competition for the Victory challenge shield, for teams of six from Territorial Army Companies of Infantry and corresponding T.A. units within the county. Thirteen teams entered for the contest. The 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Royal Signal Corps from Cardiff entered three teams.

" The competition was conducted under as nearly as possible active service conditions, members of the teams of six having to wear Service dress and accoutrements, no artificial sights or slings

being allowed. The weather conditions were most depressing when the first practice (rapid firing) started at the 200 yards range.

"At the snapshooting practice at 200 yards, there were two fine scores of 46, each put up by A and B Companies of the 5th Welch. Nearest to them was the 2nd Company Royal Corps of Signals (Cardiff) with 40. At the end of the second practice the leading teams were:—A Company 5th Welch, 140; B Company 5th Welch, 125; No. 2 Company Royal Corps of Signals, 124.

"At the close of the third practice the leading teams were:—1st, A Company 5th Welch (Pontypridd) 239; 2nd, B Company 5th Welch (Mountain Ash) 212; 3rd, C Company 5th Welch (Aberdare) 206; 4th, 2nd Company Royal Corps of Signals (Cardiff) 206.

"With a fine battle practice score of 214, the 244th Company of the Royal Engineers (Swansea) returned an aggregate score of 394, which put them easily ahead of the first six teams to finish in the competition. Later No. 2 Company of the Royal Corps of Signals (Cardiff) topped the list with an aggregate score of 414, after a battle practice score of 208, but A Company of the 5th Welch upset all calculations by finishing with a grand aggregate score of 457, after a battle practice score of 218. This aggregate score beat all previous records in this competition by 21 points."

1—A Company, 5th Welch (Pontypridd)	457
2—No. 2 Company, Royal Corps of Signals (Cardiff)	414
3—B Company, 5th Welch (Mountain Ash)	412
4—C Company, 5th Welch (Aberdare)	398
5—224th Field Company, R.E.	394
6—A Company, 6th Welch	372
7—No. 3 Company, Royal Corps of Signals	370
8—D Company, 6th Welch	347
9—245th Field Company, R.E.	340
10—C Company, 6th Welch	336
11—D Company, 5th Welch	299
12—No. 1 Company, Royal Corps of Signals	278

No. 2 Company team comprised Sergeants Springett (P.S.I.), Llewellyn, Doyle and Pugsley, L/Sergt Milton and Corpl Pinnel. Capt V. W. Hawkins, O.C. No. 2 Company, acted as team captain.

A smoking concert for the presentation of bronze medals is being held next Wednesday, June 17th, of which a report will be given next month. THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Stratford, London, E.15.

No. 1 Company.

Whitsun Camp.—In spite of the somewhat doubtful weather, an enjoyable week-end camp was held at Foxburrows Farm, Chigwell Row. The Wireless Sections not only got through but did some very useful work. Our numbers in camp exceeded those of the other Companies, with the result that No. 2, which is twice the strength of this, is getting a little nervy. It is hoped that the Company will continue to increase its team spirit—the results will speak for themselves at annual training.

No. 2 Company.

Whitsun Camp.—The Company attended camp with the remainder of the unit. We had the satisfaction of again being mechanised this year, so consequently nearly everybody was happy (except, of course, Sergt Barnett A.). No need to say why! Quite good work was done; in fact, though we say it ourselves, we put up the best show in the unit. All ranks worked extremely well, but we must see more of the Company at annual camp.

Trade Board.—At a recent Trade Board held here, quite a few qualified for higher ratings. Well done!

No. 3 (Southend) Company.

Editorial.—C.S.M. F. J. Dowie, P.S.I. 54th Divl Signals, is short of a few issues of THE WIRE: Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Vol. I. dated February, March, April and May, 1920. Has any serving member of the Corps any of these to spare? If so, he would be pleased to receive them, as they are the only ones missing from his collection.

Notes.—We welcome into our Company 2/Lieut W. J. Smith. May his stay in this unit be a long and a very pleasant one!

Our wireless week-ends seem to be very popular. Members of the 56th (1st London) Divl Signals (T.A.) have paid us two visits. On the first occasion sixteen arrived, while the second visit brought twelve. We hope they thoroughly enjoyed the wireless scheme, for we know they had a jolly time at Southend. It is understood that the competition to be included in the selected team has been very great.

During June we will also be making our No. 1 Company comfortable for their wireless schemes, they having been here before and awaiting their turn again. By the way, No. 3 Company are out to collect pots this year, so look to your laurels, Stratford.

Whitsun Scheme.—Numbers were very unfavourable for the Whitsun scheme, but those who attended had a very nice time. The messing was excellent, and undoubtedly, next year, we will have a larger attendance.

Bedford Detachment.

Although opposition in Bedford is strong, we are slowly increasing our strength. At annual camp, we hope to gain a few of those trophies at present held by other Companies.

The Detachment paraded on Saturday, May 23rd, ready to move off to join the unit at Hainault. Our journey there was uneventful except for the fact that our younger members insisted on eating ham sandwiches. Sergeant Harrison is still trying to find out who filled his bed with harness, etc. Stirrup irons do not take the place of feathers very successfully, do they, Felix?

Although a bit late, we offer burra salaams to C.Q.M.S. Dowie and all others too numerous to mention. May your shadows never grow whiskers!

Heard on parade when the Detachment were being issued with orders for Whitsun camp:—Recruit: "Sergeant, do we take soup plates to camp?" (Collapse of P.S.) It has since been found out that the culprit meant mess tins. Y.E.D.

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association?

If not, join now!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in obtaining civil employment. See the Association Notes on page 254, showing how the Association helps its Members in that direction. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

Corps Cricket Matches.

Royal Signals v. R.M.A., Woolwich.

At Woolwich, on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 26th/27th, a most pleasant and exciting match, played in glorious weather, ended in a win for the Corps by 19 runs on the stroke of time. A fine innings by Lieut. Cole (one of his sixes nearly robbing the Shop of their commandant, who was sitting in the pavilion) and a spirited knock by Lieut. Ruck, followed by some excellent bowling, gave the Corps a lead of 53 on the first innings.

Very unfortunately, Capt Walford, when bowling the first ball of the Shop innings, fell heavily and strained his back muscles very badly, and was taken off to hospital. He will be badly missed in the other matches.

In our second innings, Capt Lewis-Barclay came to our rescue, batting really well for his 55, and the Shop were left with 186 to get in two and a quarter hours. Runs came along steadily but, thanks to our very steady bowling, always a bit behind the clock. At 6.35 it was possible to take the risk of a quick twenty runs (the leg boundary was a short one) if it led to a wicket, and Major Cobb was given three overs of his slow high-tossed leg breaks. The twenty runs came, but so did two wickets, as well as a run out (which the bowler also claims!) Lieut Cole finished the innings by bowling Mr. Northen at four minutes to seven.

The Cadets played excellent cricket, and were bustling for runs all the time.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

First Innings.

Lieut.-Col. G. G. Rawson b Thorp	8
Capt R. L. M. Rosenberg l.b.w. b Lyon	10
Capt J. E. S. Walford l.b.w. b Lyon	4
Capt H. S. Lewis-Barclay b Ley	31
Lieut F. H. Pellew b Ley	4
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham hit wicket b Thorp	2
Lieut E. Cole c Pease b Thorp	66
Major Parsons not out	44
Major F. R. Cobb b Lyon	0
Capt Power b Lyon	1
Lieut A. B. Ruck b Lyon	40
Extras	14
Total	224

Second Innings.

Lieut.-Col. Rawson b Buttershaw	15
Capt Rosenberg c Thorp b Buttershaw	8
Capt Lewis-Barclay b Haig	55
Lieut Cole c Sykes b Buttershaw	6
Major Cobb b Ley	8
Lieut Ruck l.b.w. b Lyon	0
Major Parsons c Thorp b Ley	10
Capt Thursby-Pelham b Haig	8
Lieut Pellew not out	10
Capt Power c Wakely b Lyon	8
Capt Walford absent hurt	0
Extras	4
Total	132

R.M.A.

First Innings.

M. St. J. Oswald b Barclay	6
A. E. G. Haig l.b.w. b Cole	22
R. T. Pease l.b.w. b Barclay	0
J. M. Northen b Cole	4
P. T. O'Brien Butler b Cobb	34
E. A. Sykes c Rawson b Barclay	1
J. P. Thorp c Barclay b Cole	69
W. H. T. Wakely b Ruck	15
W. G. Lyon c Rawson b Cole	3
C. G. Buttershaw b Cole	1
H. M. H. Ley not out	5
Extras	11
Total	171

Second Innings.

P. T. O'Brien Butler b Cole	1
A. E. G. Haig b Cole	13
J. P. Thorp b Power	10
R. T. Pease b Ruck	25
M. St. J. Oswald c Rawson b Power	5
J. M. Northen b Cole	62
E. A. Sykes b Cole	7
W. H. T. Wakely run out	15
W. G. Lyon st Rawson b Cobb	3
H. M. H. Ley l.b.w. b Cobb	1
C. G. Buttershaw not out	5
Extras	9
Total	166

[The detailed scores total only 156—ED.]

Royal Signals v. Royal Tank Corps.

Played on the Officers' Club ground, Aldershot, on 3rd and 4th June. Time saved the R.T.C. from defeat.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

First Innings.

Lieut.-Col. G. G. Rawson c Lindsay b Briggs	19
Capt R. L. M. Rosenberg b Stuart	3
Capt H. S. Lewis-Barclay b Stuart	2
Sergt P. M. Ryan c Briggs b Stuart	26
Lieut E. S. Cole b Briggs	0
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham b Stuart	9
Lieut F. G. Whiteway-Wilkinson l.b.w. b Stuart	2
Lieut F. H. Pellew l.b.w. b Lindsay	22
Lieut A. B. Ruck l.b.w. b Briggs	9
Lieut G. Tucker b Stuart	3
Corpl G. Benfield not out	4
Extras	10
Total	109

Second Innings.

Lieut.-Col. Rawson c Noel-Clarke b Stuart	5
Capt Rosenberg l.b.w. b Stuart	0
Sergt Ryan c Groves b Davis	49
Capt Lewis-Barclay c Noel-Clarke b Drew	127
Lieut Cole c Davis b Lindsay	15
Lieut Pellew not out	40

Capt Thursby-Pelham c Fisher b Drew	4
Lieut Whiteway-Wilkinson b Stuart	6
Extras	31
Total (for seven wickets, declared)	277

ROYAL TANK CORPS.

First Innings.

Lieut.-Col. Hulton b Cole	6
Lieut Rash b Barclay	0
Lieut Fisher c Rawson b Barclay	4
Major Broome b Cole	17
Capt Drew l.b.w. b Barclay	0
Corpl Lindsay b Barclay	19
Capt Groves c Rosenberg b Cole	6
Lieut Noel-Clarke l.b.w. b Cole	6
Private Stuart b Barclay	0
Sergt Biggs c Benfield b Cole	0
L/Corpl Davis not out	0
Extras	2
Total	60

Bowling—Lewis-Barclay, five for 23 ; Cole, five for 31.

Second Innings.

Lieut.-Col. Hulton c Thursby-Pelham b Cole	0
Lieut Rash b Cole	0
Lieut Fisher b Benfield	26
Major Broome c Ryan b Benfield	32
Capt Drew c Ryan b Barclay	4
Corpl Lindsay c and b Pellew	15
Capt Groves b Barclay	51
Lieut Noel-Clarke b Cole	49
Private Stuart not out	8
L/Corpl Davis b Barclay	38
Sergt Biggs not out	0
Extras	8
Total (for nine wickets)	231

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers.

Played at Aldershot on 5th and 6th June. Royal Signals won by six wickets.

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

First Innings.

Lieut R. N. Foster c Ryan b Cole	4
Lieut L. J. Harris l.b.w. b Cole	11
Corpl Sheehan c Cole b Pellew	68
Major Æ. F. Q. Perkins b Barclay	0
Capt L. F. Hancock c Barclay b Cole	89
Lieut.-Col. B. L. Eddis b Pellew	1
Q.M.S. Wright c Cole b Pellew	1
Lieut R. C. Graham c Barclay b Cole	13
Lieut M. D. McLagan b Barclay	2
Lieut W. R. G. Walker b Barclay	2
Lieut H. H. C. Withers not out	10
Extras	16
Total	217

Bowling—Lewis-Barclay, three for 57 ; Cole, four for 62 ; Pellew, three for 45.

Second Innings.

Lieut Foster l.b.w. b Cole	9
Lieut Harris c and b Cole	12
Corpl Sheehan c Ryan b Pellew	5
Major Perkins c Walford b Pellew	3
Capt Hancock l.b.w. b Barclay	19
Lieut.-Col. Eddis c Rawson b Barclay	16
Lieut Graham c and b Barclay	3
McLagan st Ryan b Pellew	3
Lieut Walker c Ryan b Barclay	12
Lieut Withers c Cole b Barclay	17
Q.M.S. Wright not out	5
Extras	1
Total	105

Bowling—Lewis-Barclay, five for 25 ; Cole, two for 24 ; Pellew, three for 55.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

First Innings.

Lieut.-Col. G. G. Rawson c Withers b Wright	12
Capt R. L. M. Rosenberg c Perkins b Wright	0
Capt H. S. Lewis-Barclay c Walker b Eddis	5
Sergt P. M. Ryan c Hancock b Wright	13
Capt J. E. S. Walford c and b Wright	69
Lieut. E. S. Cole c Withers b Eddis	37
Lieut F. H. Pellew c Wright b Hancock	22
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham c Perkins b McLagan	17
Lt. F. G. Whiteway-Wilkinson c Foster b McLagan	4
Lieut A. B. Ruck l.b.w. b Hancock	0
Corpl G. Benfield not out	2
Extras	10
Total	191

Second Innings.

Lieut.-Col. Rawson c Eddis b Harris	7
Capt Rosenberg b Wright	29
Capt Lewis-Barclay l.b.w. b Harris	1
Sergt Ryan c Wright b Harris	9
Capt Walford not out	61
Lieut Cole not out	15
Extras	11
Total (for four wickets)	133

Royal Signals v. Royal Army Service Corps.

Played at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, on 8th and 9th June. Time saved the R.A.S.C. from defeat.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

First Innings.

Lieut.-Col. G. G. Rawson c Bolton b Hinde	3
Capt R. L. M. Rosenberg c Clarke b Harrison	1
Capt H. S. Lewis-Barclay c Paul b Harrison	5
Sergt P. M. Ryan b Hinde	5
Capt J. E. S. Walford b Harrison	32
Lieut E. S. Cole b Hinde	27
Lieut F. H. Pellew b Hinde	0
Capt C. K. Thursby-Pelham not out	6
Lieut F. G. Whiteway-Wilkinson l.b.w. b Harrison	2
Sigmn C. F. Rider b Harrison	0
Corpl G. Benfield b Hinde	0
Extras	1
Total	82

Second Innings.

Lieut.-Col. Rawson b Hinde	1
Capt Rosenberg c Bolton b Marrison	43
Capt Lewis-Barclay c McAvoy b Marrison	8
Sergt Ryan c Varney b Clarke	15
Capt Walford c Stewart b White	14
Lieut Cole not out	100
Lieut Pellew b Varney	11
Capt Thursby-Pelham not out	25
Extras	12
Total (for six wickets, declared)	229

R.A.S.C.

First Innings.

Capt T. E. Clarke l.b.w. b Cole	8
R.S.M. Marrison b Cole	6
Corpl Bolton b Pellew	8
Major E. L. Tudor c Wilkinson b Cole	13
Colonel W. N. White c Ryan b Pellew	12
C.Q.M.S. McAvoy c Ryan b Pellew	19
L/Corpl Paul b Barclay	4
Sergt Varney c Rawson b Pellew	2
Private Stewart st Ryan b Pellew	9
Major P. A. Arden c Ryan b Pellew	6

Capt H. M. Hinde not out	1
Extras	1
Total	89

Bowling—Lewis-Barclay, one for 27 ; Cole, three for 24 ; Pellew, six for 37.

Second Innings.

Capt Clarke c Barclay b Cole	21
R.S.M. Marrison c Barclay b Cole	40
Colonel White c Rosenberg b Cole	33
Corpl Bolton b Barclay	5
Major Tudor c Barclay b Walford	42
Major Arden c Pelham b Cole	2
L/Corpl Paul b Cole	0
Sergt Varney not out	27
Private Stewart not out	7
Total (for seven wickets)	183

[The detailed scores total only 177—ED.]

Bowling—Lewis-Barclay, one for 27 ; Walford, one for 33 ; Cole, five for 71.

Royal Signals (Aldershot) Individual Championships.

These were held at Mons Barracks, Aldershot, on 10th and 11th June. Mrs. Hawtrey presented the prizes at the close. The following are the results:—

100 yards—1, Lieut McOstrich (A) ; 2, L/Corpl Gray (2) ; 3, L/Corpl Denyer (A). Time, 10 2/5 sec.
220 yards—1, Lieut McOstrich (A) ; 2, Sigmn Dennett (A) ; 3, L/Corpl Denyer (A). Time, 22 4/5 sec.
440 yards—1, Lieut McOstrich (A) ; 2, L/Corpl Sadler (2) ; 3, Sigmn Pollard (A.D.B.) Time, 54 4/5 sec.
120 yards hurdles—1, L/Corpl Sadler (2) ; 2, L/Corpl Simon (2); 3, L/Corpl Smith F. A. (2). Time, 18 4/5 sec.
880 yards—1, Dvr Farrell (2) ; 2, Sigmn Atkinson (A) ; 3, Sigmn Scott (2). Time, 2 min. 8 4/5 sec.
One mile—1, Dvr Farrell (2) ; 2, Sigmn Atkinson (A) ; 3, Sigmn Scott (2). Time, 5 min. 7 sec.
Hammer—1, Corpl Hickmott (A) ; 2, Sergt Westwood (1) ; 3, Sigmn Warner (A). Distance, 91 ft. 1½ in.
Putting the weight—1, L/Corpl Sadler (2) ; 2, Sergt Bloodworth (A.D.B.) ; 3, C.S.M. Trapmore (A). Distance 35 ft. 11¾ in.
Throwing the discus—1, Sigmn Warner (A) ; 2, L/Corpl Sadler (2) ; 3, Sigmn Pask (A). Distance, 102 ft. 2½ in.
Javelin—1, Sigmn Bishop (1) ; 2, Sigmn Tucker (1) ; 3, L/Corpl Sadler (2). Distance, 121 ft. 3½ in.
High jump—1, L/Corpl Purdy (A.D.B.) ; 2, Sigmn Draper (A) ; 3, Sigmn Bishop (1). Height, 5 ft. 2 in.
Pole vault—1, Sigmn Roderick (A) ; 2, Sigmn Goring (2) ; 3, Sigmn Williams (A). Height, 8 ft. 6 in.
Long jump—1, Lieut McOstrich (A) ; 2, Sigmn Green (A) ; 3, Sigmn Draper (A). Distance, 20 ft. 7 in.
Victor Ludorum—L/Corpl Sadler (2).

Note:—(A) = "A" Corps Signals. (1) = 1st Divl Signals. (2) = 2nd Divl Signals. (A.D.B.) = Air Defence Brigade Signals.

No. 3 Company, 2nd Divl. Signals, Aldershot.

Football.—For the benefit of old members of L Section and the Company in general, it may be of some interest to say that L Section again reached the final of the inter-Section shield, but owing to drafts taking away the majority of its members, it was not up to anything near its old standard ; nevertheless, the team put up a fine show, and were only beaten by 4—2 by No. 6 A.F.A. Section after a hard game. We offer No. 6 Section our congratulations on winning the shield for the second time.

L Section team:—Gunn, goal ; Kitwood and L/Corpl Mallard, backs; Dickinson, L/Corpl Adlington and Driver Leggott, half-backs ; Shaw, Driver Smith, Billingsly, Winn and Rice, forwards. What do old L Section-ites think of this?

In the various games towards the unit trophy we are more than holding our own, having already won the cross-country and rugby, and share the football with Twoco, who got a fright after extra time, which unluckily for us was not allowed to count, as the Company team won by 5—4. The team was:—Gunn, goal ; Nelson and L/Corpl Mallard, backs ; Heslop, L/Cpl Reardon and Dickinson, half-backs ; Shaw, Kitwood, Holmes, Martin and Taylor, forwards.

Rugby.—We played No. 1 Company in the first match and came out victors by 5—0, which was entirely unaccounted for by One Company. Against Twoco we again did the trick by 8—0. There was no score against us in either match. This says a lot for the keenness shown by all who took part, seeing that fifty per cent had only played in one game previously.

Cross Country.—The cross-country proved a walk-over for us, so we omit the score, as we are generous to the feelings of the also-rans.

We are more than hopeful of repeating our successes in the remaining games, especially swimming and water-polo.

The first meeting of the inter-Company athletics found us in our usual position i.e. at the top, with our Twoco in second place. All who competed are to be congratulated on their efforts.

At the second meeting something went wrong, and we were nearer the bottom than the top. Our only excuse is that we were short of Sergt Hammond, L/Corpl Mallard and Driver Smith, and in consequence several of our team had to compete in events they were unaccustomed to.

We are now confident of repeating both in the inter-Company and unit athletics what we have proved we are capable of doing ; so make yourselves known, all who are not already included, as there is plenty of room for you.

Cricket.—Owing to the weather taking a hand in the proceedings, we have not yet found our cricket team, but we are certain we can find a team to carry on the good work. The sergeant-major has had no practice, but is ready to play in matches. L/Corpl Reardon is again in the Aldershot Signals team.

Aquatics.—The Company have four members representing A Group in the Water Polo League team, which is doing remarkably well this year, although twice handicapped by the absence of two players attached elsewhere. The representatives are Sergt Archbold, L/Corpl Mallard and Drivers Smith and Hudson—not to mention the match when L/Corpl Denbow turned out and did his bit.

L/Corpl Gray and Sigmn Robertson have represented the Group in open relays at regimental sports.

We have suffered a great loss in the transfer of Sigmn Holmes to the Army Reserve, and we are certain that our loss will be an immense gain to some civilian athletic club, as he was the star turn at all athletic meetings. Good luck, Stumpy!

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Salisbury Plain Area Athletic Championship.—Held on 13th and 14th June. We might have done slightly better in one or two events, but hope to improve in these before the Southern Command championship. The teams were:—

Discus—L/Corpl McKenzie and Sigmn Bain.
Pole—Corpl Peake and Sigmn Milligan.
Three miles—Sergeant Cotterell, Corporal Broadley, Signalmen Robinson and Greatorex.
High jump—Corpl Butler and L/Corpl McKenzie.
Mile—Sergeant Cotterell, Corpl Broadley, L/Corpl Beale and Sigmn Robinson.
Long jump—Corpl Butler and Sigmn Hudson.
880 yards relay—L/Corporals Pells and Moorhouse, Signalmen Hudson and Marples.
Javelin—L/Corpl Moorhouse and Sigmn Hudson.
Two miles relay—L/Sergt Iveson, Corpl Broadley, L/Corpl Beale and Sigmn Kirk.
Hammer—Signalmen Bain and Catherall.
440 yards relay—L/Corps Pells and Camm, Signalmen Hudson and Marples.
480 yards hurdles—Corporal Butler, L/Corpl Pells, Signalmen Mitcheson and Lucas.
Shot—L/Corporals Moorhouse and Adams.
One mile relay—Corpl Parry, L/Corporals Beale and Pells, and Sigmn Marples.

We give below the tabulated results of the meeting. The first teams scored 14 points in track events and 7 in field events, other teams being awarded points in proportion.

The figures 1 to 15 over the columns represent respectively: 1, Discus; 2, pole vaults; 3, three miles team race; 4, high jump; 5, mile team race; 6, long jump; 7, 880 yards relay; 8, javelin; 9, two miles relay; 10, hammer; 11, 440 yards relay; 12, 480 yards hurdles relay; 13, 16 lb. shot; 14, one mile relay; 15, total points scored by each unit.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11th Hussars	5	3	12	1	12	5	12	2	14	2	4	10	4	14...	100
9th Field Brigade.R.A.	3	4	2	7	10	6	14	4	10	6	6	—	7	10...	89
Southern Cmd. Signals	6	5	14	5½	14	7	6	6	12	5	12	14	2	6...	114½
2nd R.W.F.	2	6	19	4	8	1	10	7	6	4	8	12	6	4...	88
2nd K.R.R.C.	1	1	6	5½	4	4	—	—	4	—	2	8	5	8...	48½
1st K.O.Y.L.I.	4	2	4	2	2	3	—	5	—	3	14	—	—	1...	40
5th Battu R.T.C. ...	7	7	8	3	6	2	8	3	8	7	10	—	3	12...	84

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Cricket.—So far the unit has played four matches and has won them all.

May 21st v. West Bergholt—4th Divl Signals (Sigmn Marshall 59) 192 for seven wickets; West Bergholt, 140 for three.

May 30th v. Thorington—4th Divl Signals (Sigmn Walton 37 not out) 90; Thorington, 59 (Sigmn Walton, three for 12).

June 6th v. Horkesley—4th Divl Signals (Sigmn Marshall 103 retired) 153 for eight; Horkesley 66 (L/Cpl Spencer, five for 8).

June 10th v. Witham—4th Divl Signals (Sergt Dempsey 29) 104; Witham, 92 (Sigmn Backhouse, four for 26).

The following players usually provide the unit eleven:—Major Cobb, Lieut. Gardiner, Sergt Dempsey, Corporals Edge and Worth, L/Corpl Spencer, Signalmen Backhouse, Lockhart, Marshall, Pettit, Pope, Rose and Walton, and Driver Briggs.

Congratulations.—To Sigmn Marshall, who has been selected to play for the Corps at the Oval on 18th and 19th June.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Football.—We had a pleasant surprise when the secretary of the Saturday League informed us that fourteen medals were due to us for being runners-up in the Scarborough and District League cup. The night of the carnival dance (June 5th) was chosen as an appropriate occasion for the presentation. The president of the league (Sir Kenelm Caley) being indisposed, the vice-president (Mr. Brown) deputised for him.

In his speech, Mr. Brown hoped that next year he would not have to hand us runner-up medals, but rather that he would be called upon to present us with the cup and winner's medals. He was ably supported by Mr. Hawksby, the secretary.

The following were the recipients:—Sergt Brandon, L/Sergt Devey, Corpl Pope, L/Corporals Boyd (captain), Ferrier, Mayer and Spargo, Signalmen Bywaters, Cooper S., Cord, France, Thornton and Whitehead, and Driver Beeden.

Three rousing cheers were given for Mr. Brown and Mr. Hawksby; we really do appreciate their kindness. I am sure all the team were very pleased with the medal, which bears the Scarborough coat of arms and is a real memento of our first effort in civilian football.

Rifle Club.—A general meeting was held on 1st June, presided over by Capt W. A. Dimoline, M.C. R.S.M. Hughes was elected to the committee; Sergt Atkinson replaces Sergt Washford, who has left for the T.A.; and Sigmn Allen joins vice Sigmn Sedgewick, posted away.

It was unanimously decided that the present rate of subscription (9d. per month) should stand throughout the year. The balance sheet shows a credit of £7/8/9.

A programme drawn up and published for the month includes: two practice shoots per week, two prize shoots for excellent prizes, and two shoots for newspaper certificates. We are, unfortunately, still handicapped by bad weather.

A team is being arranged to attend the Northern Command small arms meeting, where we hope to meet with some success. The team will be selected from the whole unit and not confined to the rifle club only.

The *Daily Telegraph* certificate was won by L/Corpl McLean, and the *Daily Mail* certificate by Sergt Minion.

On May 17th a prize shoot was held, the result being:—1st, L/Corpl Collett; 2nd, Sigmn Ford; 3rd, Capt Dimoline; 4th, C.Q.M.S. Sheale; 5th, Sigmn Hipple. Prizes totalling £2 were presented to the above.

On Sunday, May 30th, we turned out a team against the G.P.O. and won by 59 points.

Tennis.—Nothing very exciting has happened since the opening of the season. Difficulty has been experienced in arranging fixtures, and with the weather to contend with, we have been able only to put in practice when the opportunity afforded.

One match only has been played this season, v. the Burniston Road Tennis Club, and this resulted in a win for us by 14 sets (97 games) to 5 sets (63 games). In this match we were represented by the following:—Singles, Corpl Weeks and Sigmn Lowings; Doubles, C.Q.M.S. Hales and Sergt Brandon, and S/Sergt Adams (R.E.) and L/Sergt Pinkstone.

A number of our members have entered for a tournament being run by the Burniston Road Club, and we are hoping to annex a few of the spoils.

Cricket.—The qualifying round for the Scarborough and District cup was played on June 11th, after being postponed twice through rain. The pitch was dead, but proved a bowler's friend, the pace of the ball never being mastered. The Gas Company ran out winners by 11 runs.

The results of this month are:—Played 7, won 4, lost 3. Brief details are given of these seven games.

v. Sandybeds, lost by 15 runs (L/Corpl Ferrier 25)
v. G.P.O., lost by 35 runs (Corpl Badham 26)
v. Cloughton, won by one wicket (L/Corpl Ferrier 28; Sergt Minns seven for 36, Sigmn Drury three for 29)
v. Y.M.C.A., won by 85 runs (Sigmn Drury 40, L/Corporal Wright 27; Sigmn Davies E. seven for 15, L/Corpl Wright three for 17)
v. Gas Company, lost by 11 runs (Sigmn Drury 21; Sergeant Minns five for 15, Sigmn Davies four for 26)

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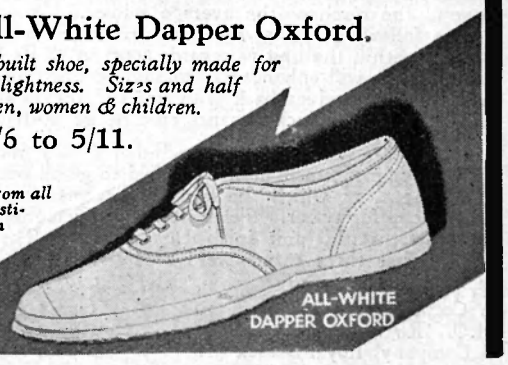

v. G.P.O., won by 111 runs (Sigmn Drury 65, Sigmn Foster 34 ; L/Corpl Ferrier six for 23, Sigmn Drury two for 0, Sergt Minns two for 16)

v. Hunmanby, won by 120 runs (Sigmn Drury 20, L/Corpl Ferrier 29, Sergeant Minns 52, Corpl Badham not out 37 ; L/Corpl Ferrier eight for 19, L/Corpl Wright one for 1, Sergt Minns one for 6)

No. 1 Company played No. 3 in the shield event. No. 1 won by 65 runs (Sergt Minns 75, L/Corpl Ferrier 24).

In a unit 1st XI. v. the Rest game (fourteen fielders) 421 runs were scored in two and a quarter hours. Sergt Minns 103 (retired), L/Corpl Ferrier 57, Corpl Badham 51, for the XI., and L/Corporal Mayer 62, Signalman Taylor 31, Sigmn Wheeler 24, C.Q.M.S. Sheale 18, for the rest.

A few matches are being arranged for a second eleven, as the interest in cricket is increasing.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

April.

On arrival, our new C.O. immediately inaugurated a fresh sports organisation within the unit, which soon showed promise of offering even better facilities for "le sport" than hitherto. In addition, it proposes to cater for a much wider demand, and the supply embodies some of those forms which are normally beyond the reach of the average soldier.

The following will give the reader some idea of the activity present within the unit as regards sport in all its forms. At the same time it will enhance his opinion of this unit. Ex-members will wish themselves back with us, and the newcomer to India will pray for the lucky chance that he be posted here.

Football.—We have just concluded a very successful season. At the commencement it was decided to go all out for the Garrison League, of which the winners become the holders of the Uberoi cup for a year. Eleven teams competed, and I am pleased to report that this unit finished up winners. The final positions of the first three teams were as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts.
A Corps Signals	10	8	1	1	17—6	... 17
H.Q., R.A.F.	10	7	1	2	21—8	... 16
B Company, Royal Sussex	10	7	2	1	28—7	... 15

It speaks well for our defence that it conceded only six goals ; but as both regular players and reserves played so well, it would be unfair to eulogise individuals.

On Saturday, April 18th, we played H.Q. R.A.F. (the runners-up) in an exhibition match, and again beat them—this time by 3—2. Sergt Williams excelled himself in this game by recording the hat trick.

After the game the G.O.C. presented the cup to Signals, together with a small replica to be retained by this unit, as no medals were presented—this being the first season this competition has been held. A cup was also presented to the runners-up.

It may interest old members of A Corps to know that the team was selected from the following players:—Goal, L/Corpl Dalton ; backs, Sergt Pillinger (once of Colchester) and Sigmn Clarke ; halves, L/Corpl Gibbons, Sigmn Myers, Corpl Curtis ; forwards, Sergt Williams, Signalmen Steer G., Rutherford, Kay, Wills, Thomas, and L/Corpl Drury (since repatriated to U.K.).

Our defence was practically the same throughout the series ; but we had to juggle a little with our forwards before we could produce a "Chapman combination." However, we managed to win through, and once again Signals came out on top.

Hockey.—Very few matches have been played, as the season is nearing its end ; but as two tournaments awaited settlement, a few friendlies were played with the following results:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals
1st Eleven	4	2	1	1	... 10—4
2nd Eleven	3	2	0	1	... 7—3

In the Charlotte Cabral all-India hockey challenge shield competition, we drew a bye in the first round, beat the Young Men's Zoroastrian Association in the second, and the Sind Police in the third. Our victory over the latter, though well merited, was nevertheless a great surprise to the local enthusiasts, and left us in the semi-final round as "5—1 on" favourites.

Unfortunately, the move of the unit to Quetta for manœuvres, etc., necessitated our being scratched, as the other contestants declined to postpone the competition until our return ten days later. It was hard lines to lose in such a manner, but I hope to report a more favourable result to the last remaining competition in my next month's notes.

Cricket.—The season opened with the laying of a concrete practice wicket and the erection of nets, presumably to prevent the tubby fraternity from bowling too many wides. Preliminary canvassing by the committee resulted in the usual rush of aspirants for places in the eleven. Two trial matches were held, following which twenty-two candidates were weighed in the balance and a final selection made.

Up to the time of going to press, four matches have been played with the following results:—

v. Karachi Port Trust, lost by four wickets (L/Sergt Wedgebury 23, Sigmn Chitty 16 ; Sigmn Fearnley two for 10, Sigmn Hill two for 11)

v. R.A.F. Depot "A" team, won by 46 runs (Corpl Curtis 81 ; Sigmn Thomas five for 30)

v. Sind Madressah, lost by six wickets (Corpl Ward 20)

v. Sind Police, won by three wickets and 104 runs (Corporals Ward and Curtis 46 each, Sigmn Chitty 31 ; L/Corpl Gordon seven for 21)

Billiards.—A team representing this unit's w.o.s and sergeants' mess (winners of the McEwan cup, open to all sergeants' messes in the Karachi Garrison) played the junior n.c.o.s and men's team (winners of the Scissors cup, open to all military teams in the Garrison), the match resulting in a win for the latter by a margin of 215 points. Scores:—Sergt Watmore 150, Sergt Taylor 111, L/Sergt Wedgebury 39, L/Sergt Bridge 112, Sergt Mills 150—Total 562. L/Corpl Dalton 119, Sigmn Smith 150, Sigmn Steer G. 150, Sigmn Austin 150, L/Corpl Houghton 108—Total 677.

Tennis.—In the Sind Brigade Area inter-regimental tennis singles tournament, Captain W. M. Clapp and Sergt Shardlow, of this unit, both won through the preliminary rounds. The former lost to Sapper Gonsalves, R.E.A.F., who eventually won the championship by beating Sergt Shardlow after a very hard struggle in the final by the odd set in three.

During the Easter holidays a tennis at-home was held on the men's court, at which we entertained the R.A.F. Depot team. The play consisted essentially of single-set doubles games, and finally ended in favour of the R.A.F. Many spectators attended, and a very pleasing exhibition was witnessed. Several freshmen to Akor tennis circles (including our new C.O.) gave very creditable performances. It certainly seems as if Akor will make its name in Sind tennis this year.

The return match held at Drigh Road resulted in a draw, in which 32 sets were shared.

The Easter holidays also witnessed a unit open doubles tournament, in which partners were drawn by lot. After a series of hard-fought games, the final was decided between L/Corporal Gordon and Sigmn Humphrey—L/Sergt Bridge and Sigmn Wills. The former pair were winners after a very close match.

Athletics.—Representatives of this unit once more added to the unit trophy collection. The occasion was the open half-mile at the regimental sports of the 2nd Battn Royal Sussex Regiment. L/Corpl Webb was first in 2 min. 9 sec., with Sergt Shardlow third.

Cross-Country.—Early in the month a mounted steeplechase-cum-cross-country run was held, with dismounted hares laying a paper trail for the horsemen to follow. Both the runners and horsemen thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The latter certainly didn't assert that we foot-sloggers picked the easiest of courses. Still, better luck (or worse) next time.

Later, we entertained the R.A.F. Depot to a cross-country at-home, with the object of following up the return match with an athletic one of about ten or eleven events. The course of about four miles was anything but easy. Unfortunately, we were deprived of the services of some of our best men at the last moment. The result was that the R.A.F. had no difficulty in beating us. Nevertheless, we trust that fortune will favour us next time we meet them, and then we hope to report a result decidedly in our favour.

May.

Winter sports have at last given way to those of summer. Preparations for the inter-Section sports have already commenced. These, by the way, are to be on a much larger scale this year.

Further field and track events are to be introduced for the first time, and it is hoped to hold a unit sports meeting later in the year.

Cricket.—This sport is quite in its stride now, and matches are the order of the day. The results are as follows:—

v. Ralli Bros., won by 11 runs (Corpl Curtis 71 ; L/Corporal Gordon five for 47)
v. H.Q., R.A.F., lost by 98 runs (Corpl Ward 35)
v. British Military Hospital, drew (A Corps Signals 156, B.M.H. 121 for eight wickets ; Corpl Ward 53, Sigmn Thomas 39 ; Sigmn Leake four for 10)
v. C Company Royal Sussex, tie (84 runs each)
v. M.T. and W.I.R.S., R.A.F., won by 1 run (Corpl Curtis 38)
v. B Company Royal Sussex, lost by 20 runs (Lieut Lewis 39 ; L/Corpl Gordon seven for 30)
v. Karachi Parsi Institute, lost by nine wickets (Lieut Lewis 31, Corpl Ward 27)
v. Hindu Gymkhana, lost by six wickets (Lieut Lewis 25, Lieut Worrall 22)
v. E.R.S., R.A.F., won by 13 runs (Corpl Ashford five for 8, L/Corpl Gordon four for 21)
v. British Military Hospital, won by 86 runs (Corpl Curtis 39 retired, L/Corpl Gordon 33 retired, Corporal Fisher 21 not out ; L/Corpl Gordon five for 6)

Hockey.—We finished the season by winning the British Union Jack Club hockey cup. The results of the ties were as follows: —First round, beat Sind Brigade Headquarters by 5—2 ; semi-final, drew with E.R.S., R.A.F. (no score) and won replay by 4—1 ; final, beat A.R.S., R.A.F., by 4—0.

The G.O.C. presented the trophy to A Corps Signals, who now become holders for the third time.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Sport.—The Murree football tournament is due to begin on June 4th, when it is hoped our favourites will succeed in lifting the much-coveted trophy. They leave us on Saturday next for training at Upper Topa. May the best team win!

During the month only two matches have been played, as follows:—v. 7th Battery R.A., which we won by eight clear goals ; v. 1st Divl Signals, which resulted in a draw of two goals each.

Hockey.—We have been far from successful at this sport this month, having failed to record a victory. The loss of Sergeant Solly, Corpl Worth, L/Corpl Dale and Sigmn Wilson is proving far more serious that an first anticipated. We hope, however, to find a winning combination in the near future.

The results of matches to date are as follows:—v. 4th Brigade, lost by 0—1 ; v. Indian Hospital Corps, lost by 0—3 ; v. R.A.M.C. drew at 1—1.

In addition, two scratch games between No. 2 Company and the Tank Testing Section have both resulted in victories for our visitors.

The Mattan cup inter-bay competition, at present being played for by No. 2 Company and Headquarters, is proving a fight between Nos. 1 and 4 bays, with the former slightly in the lead.

H.Q. 1st Indian Divisional Signals, Upper Topa.

Football.—v. K.S.L.I., won by 4—0 ; v. R.A.F., won by 1—0 ; v. Kohat Signals, won by 1—0 ; v. B Corps, won by 3—1 ; v. Rest of Topa, lost by 0—4.

Topa Signals v. K.S.L.I., won by 2—1 ; v. Welch Regiment, won by 3—1 ; v. R.A.F., lost by 1—2 ; v. K.S.L.I., won by 5—3.

Hockey.—Trial match: Whites 1, Colours 0. Topa Signals 3, Welch Regiment 3. Whites 2, Colours 1. Administrative Staff 3, Rest 3. Topa Signals 3, K.S.L.I. 2. Topa Signals 2, K.S.L.I. 3

Tennis.—The following matches have been played this month: Officers v. sergeants (mixed doubles), won by officers. Royal Signals officers v. K.S.L.I. officers, won by the latter by 34 games. Junior n.c.o.s and men v. sergeants, won by the former by 20 games.

Polo.—The annual "O" handicap tournament was played at Rawalpindi at the beginning of April, to wind up the polo season. Four teams were entered: the K.S.L.I., the Welch Regiment, the 4th Field Brigade R.A., and the "C. and M."

The C. and M. (i.e. Civil and Military) are so-called because vice-captain D. Anthony Brown, the Deputy Commissioner, played in two games ; but the team really consisted of 1st Indian Divisional Signals. Back, Lieut. J. N. Barker (1st Indian Divl Signals) ; No. 3, Major I. F. G. Hall (Sam Browne's Cavalry, 12th F.F.) ; No. 2, Captain C. M. F. White (1st Indian Divl Signals) ; No. 1, Capt. D. Anthony Brown (1st Indian Divl Signals).

Major Hall at one time commanded 1st Indian Divl Signals ; therefore the team was really representative of this unit.

There being only four entries, the tournament was played on the American system. C. and M. won all their matches, thus winning the tournament, beating K.S.L.I. by 3—2, 4th Field Brigade R.A. by 5—2, and Welch Regiment by 5—0.

The match against the K.S.L.I. was most even and exciting, the game being won in the first chukker of extra time, after the K.S.L.I. had threatened the C. and M. goal with a good run from the throw-in.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Ranikhet Detachment.

Sports.—We have enjoyed a fair measure of success so far, as regards soccer, this being the only game we have played. In the Alma Barracks Depot League we were undefeated, winning the cup with a "possible" number of points and a goal average of 13—3. This is rather an improvement on previous years, when we have generally been nearer the bottom than the top. However, now that the cup is ours, strenuous efforts will be made to retain it.

In the Ranikhet and Lucknow Districts soccer tournaments, we have been fortunate to play against some of the premier teams in India. Although we can only claim one victory in the latter tournament, we have given all teams a good game, and in some cases we might consider ourselves rather unlucky. Each match has been lost by the odd goal only. This is the first year that we have had to be seriously considered as opposition to these crack teams.

The Depot sports are being held shortly, and we hope to make our presence felt in this in some way or another.

Finally, having entered Corpl (Puncher) Fee and Signalman Trevenna in the individual boxing, we hope to see them winning their weights.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Sport.—Since our sporting section returned from Pindi, time has been occupied in trying to get into trim for the Brigade football and hockey tournaments. The hockey team, after winning the first round, fought well and hard in an endeavour to beat the Frontier Force (who afterwards proved finalists) but without success. Extra time had to be played, as there was a clean slate. The extra time, however, accounted for a 2—0 defeat, which was rather hard luck after putting up the show they did.

Football.—Our team had rather a hard time in the tournament. Playing H.Q. Wing Norfolk Regiment, we made two draws (both after extra time) and finally beat them on a neutral ground by 1—0.

Our next opponents were B Company of the same regiment. Here, again, we drew at 0—0, missing a penalty in the last few minutes of the game. For the replay, unfortunately, our team began to dwindle, what with the sick list and other things, but we again drew at 1—1.

Things were beginning to look tiresome—having played five matches in as many days. Troubles never come singly, hence we found ourselves deprived of two more players who had to go to Pindi on a Trade Board.

To get the second replay postponed more than one day proved impossible, so after a single day's grace we again took a neutral field, minus some of our best players. We tried, but lost by 0—2 after a hard game, in which everyone showed the true sporting spirit. Six games in seven days, with odds against us—I think it only right to say "Well done!"

Cricket.—For this, also, a tournament has been arranged, but as yet no matches have been played. It is hoped that an account of some will be available for next month's issue. Needless to say, practice has started, and the "whites" are now being hauled from the boxes by several would-be Bradmans.

Congratulations.—To 4th Divsigs, Colchester, on doing so well in the Army cup.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

Boxing.—On April 18th, under the distinguished patronage of His Highness the Emir Abdulla of Transjordania and His Excellency the High Commissioner for Palestine (Sir John Chancellor), an excellent programme was witnessed when the Palestine Command team met the Iraq Command team and defeated them by eight fights to six.

A.C. Simpson (welter-weight champion of Iraq, 1930) met L/Corpl Snow of this unit in the light-weights. In the first round several good blows were exchanged, Snow's left coming well to the fore. From a spectator's point of view, this round easily went to Snow. In the second round Simpson tried hard to get the lead, but could not overcome his opponent, a well-timed blow by Snow at the end of the round putting the airman down for the count, from which only the gong saved him. The third and final round was easily Snow's, the man from Iraq fighting a losing game throughout.

To quote from *The Egyptian Mail* of April 26th: "This match was most interesting and easily the best fight of the evening. Simpson showed, by the way he framed and by his confident work in the early stages, that he was no novice. He flattered only to deceive, however, and appeared to tire quickly. His opponent, a very sturdy fighter, never gave ground and hit hard and with certainty."

Throughout the fight our man's blows were excellent and well-timed. I repeat the words of the judge: "I must congratulate you on putting up by far the best and cleanest fight that I have seen for some time," which statement is heartily endorsed by all who were present. This, with his well-known prowess in all other branches of sport, easily earns for our Betty the title of "the best all-round sportsman in Palestine."

Cricket Averages to May 30th, 1931.

BATTING.

	Innings	Not out	Highest	Total	Average
Corpl Atkinson	11	3	81*	468	58.5
Lieut Preston	2	1	31*	31	31
Sigmn Hill	5	3	16	25	12.5
L/Corpl R. Smith	11	1	47	115	11.5
Lieut Pritchard	1	—	9	9	9
Sigmn Pritchard	10	1	25*	73	8.11
L/Corpl Cooper	10	—	23	79	7.9
Sigmn Hurley	4	1	11	23	7.6
L/Corpl Snow	12	—	31	85	7.08
Sigmn Samuel	7	—	21	47	6.71
Sigmn Locker	9	1	17*	48	6
Corpl Luther	5	1	11*	22	5.5
Sigmn F. Nicholson	8	—	15	41	5.125
Sigmn Wilson	5	—	11	22	4.4
Sigmn Hammond	3	—	11	12	4
L/Corpl Field	2	—	7	7	3.5
Sigmn Davis	2	1	2	2	2
Corpl Cox	7	—	5	10	1.43

* Not out

BOWLING.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Sigmn Hill	13	—	10	2	5
Corpl Cox	45	—	18	3	6
L/Corpl Snow	674	6	230	26	8.843
L/Corpl R. Smith	104	16	362	40	9.05
Sigmn Hurley	4	—	21	2	10.5
Sigmn Pritchard	14	1	67	4	16.75
Corpl Atkinson	28	2	121	7	17.285
Sigmn F. Nicholson	84	21	260	13	20

CATCHES—Sigmn F. Nicholson, 7; Corpl Cox, Sigmn Pritchard and Corpl Atkinson, each 4; Sigmn Morgan and L/Corpl Snow, each 3; L/Corpl R. Smith, 2; L/Corpl Field, Sigmn Hurley, Sigmn Wilson, Sigmn Hill, Sigmn Samuel and L/Corpl Cooper, each 1.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Last month the Small Units held a trial meeting, to select a representative body for the Garrison athletic meeting. The Corps did very well and managed to walk off with quite half the prizes.

Considering the bad state of the ground (after about a week's rain) and the inclement weather conditions, the times returned spoke of whole-hearted effort. Here are some of the results noted on the spot:—100 yards, Sigmn Gillott (10 1/5 sec.); 220 yards, Sigmn Gillott; pole jump, Sigmn Thom; hurdles, Sigmn Thom (2nd); 880 yards, Sigmn Thom (2nd).

Other men who did well and were chosen to represent Small Units were:—440 yards, Signalmen Bryce and Browne; 880 yards, L/Corpl Maguire and Sigmn Wild; one mile, Signalman Hornsey; putting the shot, L/Corpl Bolton and Sigmn Powley.

In the Garrison meeting, held a week later, the Small Units were unfortunately outclassed, and except for a few second places, there is nothing to report except a fine show of sportsmanship.

Cricket.—Royal Signals 105, Royal Engineers 96.

Tennis.—Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers: First team lost by 3—6; second team won by 5—4.

Inter-Unit Cup.—An athletic meeting, one of the list of events necessary for bagging this trophy, was held on Wednesday, 29th April. The W/T Section were successful in this, and so got two points to the F.E.C.'s one.

On Wednesday, May 6th, hockey was played, the W/T Section again being triumphant by 1—0.

Further events to be played off are tennis, billiards, ping pong, swimming and water polo.

Neither side gives much on the whole, and as the time goes on excitement runs high, and the affair looks like developing into a blood feud between telephones and head-phones. Who says "2 to 1 on the Wireless Section"?

Whist drives refused to die, and so were killed last week, when the final drive was held.

We are heralding the outdoor season with a dance, to be held on the tennis court on May 16th. The two B's (Brown C. and Browne W.) wish to know whether they may be admitted free, as the 16th happens to be their birthday!

Jamaica Signal Section.

Football.—At the close of the season, the Staff and Departmental team again finished at the top of the league. Thirteen games were played, of which they lost only one and drew one, and obtained 23 points out of a possible 26.

Corpl Dicker (Royal Signals) played in the majority of these matches, so can be considered as greatly assisting in the winning of the shield. Sigmn Barwick, unfortunately, was unable to participate, as he was stationed at Port Royal for practically the whole season; but he will have plenty of opportunity of getting back to his form in Catterick, we hope.

Cricket.—The S. and D. team suffered a few losses last trooper, and so they have only played one friendly game wth the R.A.M.C., whom they defeated by a few runs. The other teams, I understand, have one or two dark horses, so the S. and D.s may have to go all out if they are to retain the shield again this year.

Swimming.—This form of sport was practically unknown among the S. and D.s heretofore, but since the arrival of Lieut Wyncoll (R.A.S.C.), who is a very fine swimmer and a keen promoter, it has given one and all a surprise to find what good stuff we have.

It is Lieut Wyncoll's intention to produce an S. and D. team that will beat the 1st West Yorks Regiment, who are stationed with us, and everybody is very keen on future contests.

A scratch team was formed (without trial) of the S. and D.s soon after Lieut Wyncoll's arrival, but, as was to be expected, the West Yorks beat us by 41 points to 18.

On the 13th May the S. and D. held a swimming gala in the Garrison baths, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

The Signals supplied two of the prize-winners. Sigmn French won the 100 yards free style after a very stiff fight, and the 100 variety, and was second in the high dive (this decision, I may say, was given after some delay, and in my humble opinion it was hard to say whether French should have been first or second; however, the judges said second, so that's that). Sigmn R. F. Smither was second in the 75 yards back race.

As a result of this meeting, many good swimmers were discovered, and it is hoped that when next we meet the West Yorks we shall have a team that can give them a good run for their money, and that the Royal Signals in Jamaica can boast of at least one member in it.

THE WIRE

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- Editorial Notes -

Subaltern, R.Signals, not for India this year, is willing to exchange. Write "SUBALTERN," c/o The Editor.

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Captain, R.Signals, ordered to India in December, wishes to know if the wife of any n.c.o. or man sailing about the same time would undertake the duties of nursemaid to two small boys, aged three and five respectively, on the outward journey. Write "CAPTAIN," c/o The Editor.

❀ ❀ ❀

WANTED, by A Corps Signals, Karachi, India—Bound volumes of THE WIRE from 1920 to date. Please communicate direct with the Officer Commanding.

❀ ❀ ❀

The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, which has a just claim to be regarded as one of the best military combinations in the country, had a large audience when it played at Bath on Monday, July 6th. In addition to those who attended the popular evening concert in the Royal Victoria Park, there were many thousands of unseen listeners, part of the programme being broadcast from Cardiff.

Skilfully handled by the conductor, Mr. R. R. Ricketts, the Band is a splendid body of musicians as a whole, besides containing many fine solo performers.

The concert included a novel item in the form of an international transcription of "The Old Folks at Home" in the musical idiom of eight nations: America, France, Scotland, Spain, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Hungary.

A celestaphone and xylophone duet by A. A. Robinson and A. G. Reilly, and a selection of hunting songs, were other very acceptable numbers—*The Bath News*.

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Those of us who were privileged to attend the Royal Signals Old Comrades Re-union at Aldershot on July 18th and 19th witnessed a wonderful gathering.

Mons Barracks was once again besieged by "civvies," and once again the latter were accorded a welcome which will long remain in their memories.

Despite the very uncertain weather, it soon became evident that there would be a good muster of visitors at the sports. Old faces, almost forgotten but little changed by the passage of years, began to appear on the scene, and before the afternoon was half over we were vividly reminded of other sports of pre-war days on the old R.E. recreation ground in Stanhope Lines. "Rookies" who first enlisted as recently as 1899 and 1900 were jostling elbows with hoary old veterans who were discharged to pension about the same time, and one began to wonder who was going to put in an appearance next.

The scene at the concert held in the large hall was one to be remembered, and it is described in detail by our old friend Lawrence H. Drake on page 304 of this issue.

In his speech of welcome to the old comrades present, Colonel H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer Aldershot Command, remarked that it was very gratifying to see such a representative gathering in attendance. Many had travelled a long way to get there, and it spoke volumes for the spirit behind the movement.

He pointed out that the occasion marked the inauguration of the Aldershot and District Branch of the Signals Association, and expressed the hope that it would grow to be a real live body. It was known that many of the old comrades present were already members of the Association, but he appealed to those who had not yet joined—and particularly those living in the Aldershot area—to do so without delay.

He was sure he expressed the feelings of his listeners when he said that what was needed most was some arrangement by which those old comrades who were experiencing bad times, and were unable to afford the travelling expenses, etc., could be brought to functions of this description, and he looked forward to the time when the Aldershot Branch would be in such a sound finan-

cial position that it could undertake such accommodation (loud cheers).

On behalf of all ranks of the Aldershot Command, he wished those in attendance an enjoyable evening, and hoped that the present occasion was only the first of many more to follow.

The church parade on Sunday, July 19th, was attended by eighty-five old comrades, under the leadership of Major R. G. Williams, M.V.O. The church was packed to its full capacity, and the service was conducted by the Rev. E. H. Thorold, C.B.E., M.A., K.H.C., A.C.-G., with the Rev. J. J. E. O'Malley, O.B.E., M.A., S.C.F., assisting.

On the return march to the parade ground, the old comrades contingent was momentarily side-tracked whilst the troops went ahead and lined both sides of the roadway, ranks facing inwards. Then, led by the Corps Band playing " Boys of the Old Brigade," the veterans marched through the avenue of serving soldiers and took up their position on parade for the commanding officer's final dismissal—a delightful gesture, and one greatly appreciated by all who were privileged to take part in it.

Colonel Hawtrey personally greeted each old comrade on parade, after which the latter assembled for the photograph which forms a loose leaf Supplement to this issue.

A most welcome and appetising luncheon was set out in the large hall, and that enterprising and inventive genius, Q.M.S. George Bayliss, and his small band of energetic helpers gave another example of their capabilities as caterers par excellence.

The General Secretary of the Signals Association, speaking on behalf of all the old comrades present, expressed grateful thanks to the warrant officers and sergeants for their splendid hospitality. He spoke of the indescribable pleasure that functions of this description give to ex-Service men generally, and expressed the opinion that it would be difficult to find another military centre which laid itself out to give its representative old comrades such a rousing and cordial reception. He hoped that this was only the first organised re-union in Aldershot, and that many more would follow, it being his opinion that should Aldershot renew their invitation in 1932, they would get the shock of their lives. He asked the old comrades to rise and show their appreciation in the time-honoured fashion—which they did right royally.

R.S.M. G. Edwards responded and, modestly discounting his own share in the arrangements made for the old comrades' reception, spoke in glowing terms of the yeoman service rendered by Q.M.S. Bayliss. He added that however much their visitors had enjoyed themselves, their pleasure was nothing compared with that felt by all ranks of Royal Signals in the Aldershot Command at having such a large representative gathering of old comrades amongst them at their first re-union. He also expressed the hope that we should all meet again under similar conditions next year, and added that both he and all members of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess would look forward with pleasurable anticipation to that next merry meeting.

Q.M.S. Bayliss spoke of the pleasure it had given him to undertake the task of catering for their visitors—a pleasure which was enhanced by the appreciation shown for what had been a most enjoyable duty. He hoped to have the privilege of officiating again in a similar capacity next year.

Musical honours were called for by Q.M.S. Wensley, which brought to a close what can only be described as a Royal Reception.

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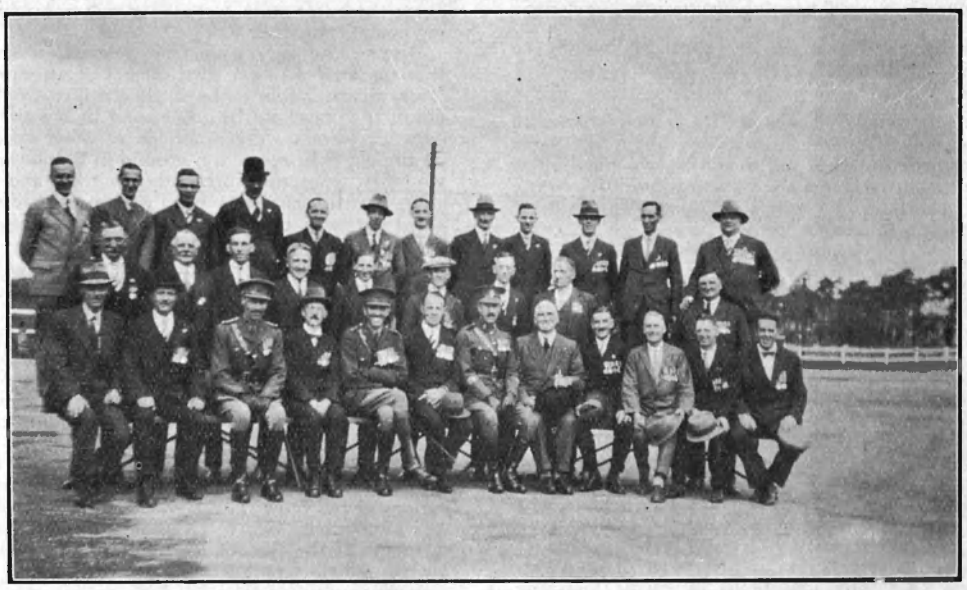
A smaller, perhaps, but none the less enjoyable re-union was held at Bulford on Sunday, July 5th, when thirty old comrades from the Salisbury and District area were entertained by the 3rd Divl Signals.

The warrant officers and sergeants very kindly provided a motor coach to transport their visitors from Salisbury, who arrived in good time in fall in with the unit on church parade. The service was conducted by " Padre " Wilcox, who delivered a most inspiring address to his mixed congregation.

The parade reformed outside the church, where the old comrades were inspected by the Colonel Commandant of the Corps, Lieut.-General Sir John S. Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who afterwards took the salute as the column returned to the parade ground.

Before the final dismissal, Lieut.-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., in a short speech of welcome, spoke of the pleasure it gave him to see such a good muster of old comrades in attendance. It had been his privilege to serve for many years with fellows who were represented on that occasion by their guests of the day, and he spoke in glowing terms of the ties of old associations and the spirit which such associations kept alive. He extended a very cordial welcome to the old comrades present, and expressed the hope that they might all meet again under similar conditions for many years to come.

A photograph of the old comrades detachment was taken, with the commanding officer, adjutant and R.S.M. of the unit, after



Re-union of Royal Signals Old Comrades, Bulford Camp, Sunday, July 5th.

Back row *(left to right)*—Messrs. Young, Croker, Hunnisett, Jones, Lapham, Wootton, E. S. King Cockett, T. H. Wathen, Piercy, Plummer, Sweeting

Centre—Messrs. T. Wathen, Chick, Butt, New, E. W. King, Sanger, Cole, Cornell, Snook

Front—Messrs. Eyles, Johnson, Capt. Bury (adjutant), ex-Lieut W. Ison, Lieut-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., W. Butler, R.S.M. W. Clark, Collins, Wyatt, Dowty, Cannell, Daniels

which the visitors were entertained in the sergeants' mess, where Colonel Naylor and many of his officers also adjourned to chat over old times.

❀ ❀ ❀

Before closing these notes, may we appeal to all old comrades who are not yet members of the Corps Association to communicate with the General Secretary at 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, immediately? THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes

To the Chief Signal Officer, Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and Men of the Aldershot Command;

also to

Lieut.-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and Men of 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford.

On behalf of Royal Signals Old Comrades generally, and particularly those attending the recent Re-unions at Aldershot and Bulford, I am asked to convey to you a message of thanks for the very cordial welcome extended to us.

No one but an ex-Service man can fully appreciate the pleasure derived from gatherings of this description, and we can only express the hope that this year's functions are symbolical of many more to follow.

Gentlemen, we thank you for your kind hospitality!

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Salisbury and District Branch.

The annual re-union of the Salisbury Division Old Comrades Association, R.E. Signals and R.Signals, was held at Bulford Camp on Sunday, July 5th. The 3rd Divisional Signals Sergeants' Mess kindly provided a charabanc to convey the members from Salisbury.

Shortly after their arrival they paraded with the 3rd Divisional Signals, under Mr. W. Butler, the General Secretary from the headquarters of the Association. After a handshake from Lieut.-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., the officer commanding 3rd Divisional Signals, the parade marched off—the old comrades leading, preceded by the Corps Band—to the Garrison church, where a parade service was held. A most inspiring address was given by the chaplain, who welcomed the old comrades.

At the conclusion of the service the parade re-formed outside the church, where the old comrades were inspected by their old and respected commander Lieut.-General Sir John Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who expressed his pleasure at meeting them again. The return march was then made to the parade ground, passing Sir John Fowler, who took the salute.

Colonel Naylor addressed the parade in feeling terms. He spoke of the ties of old associations, and the spirit of good fellowship which such associations kept alive. He urged the men under his command, who had been too young at the time to serve with the old comrades in the war, to join the Corps Association and so help to keep that spirit alive. He also spoke most kindly of the old comrades, and said he was glad to see them again. He himself had served through the war in France and knew something of what they had been through.

The parade was then dismissed, and a photograph taken of the detachment, with the colonel, adjutant and R.S.M., after which all adjourned to the sergeants' mess, where they were joined by the officers. Many old friendships were renewed, and a hearty lunch was enjoyed. Laughter could be heard on all sides as some memory of the past was trotted out and recounted.

After lunch, the Branch secretary (Mr. F. Cole) thanked the president, officers and members of the mess, on behalf of all the old comrades, for all their kindness and hospitality. He apologised for the absence of Sergt-Major A. E. Smart, who had another engagement that day. He said that all the old comrades deeply appreciated the way in which the mess had entertained them, having done everything possible to make the re-union a success and a real pleasure to them all. He looked forward to many more such meetings in the future.

R.S.M. Clark (the mess president) responded and said it had

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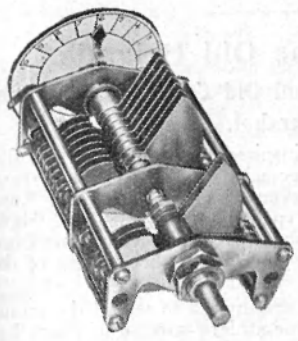

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given his colleagues much pleasure to have been able to meet so many old friends. He welcomed them all most heartily, and wished them to know that as civilians they were always welcome there, whatever their Army rank may have been. He hoped to have seen many more, but there were still some who were too shy. They need not be, and he hoped they would come next time. It was no trouble to the mess to make whatever arrangements were necessary, and they were only too delighted to do it. He then spoke of the larger re-union to be held at Aldershot on July 18th and 19th, and urged all who could do so to turn up. He had heard from Aldershot that they were ready and willing to cater for four hundred. He also made an appeal for more old comrades in the Salisbury area to join the Corps Association.

The vice-chairman of the Association (ex-Lieut. W. Ison) spoke of the pleasure it gave him to meet so many old friends, and as an instance of what he meant, he said that an old comrade of his, whom he last saw in the Dardanelles, had quite by accident strolled into the mess and they had met again for the first time since 1916, and no doubt others had had similar experiences. He also echoed the sentiments of the secretary, and thanked the mess most heartily for all their kindness.

Mr. W. G. Collins, of the Salisbury Post Office and a member of the O.C.A. committee—a very old Signals man of the 1st Telegraph Battalion R.E.—spoke in suitable terms, and the proceedings terminated with three hearty cheers on both sides and the singing of " For they are jolly good fellows " and " Old soldiers never die." FREDERICK COLE, Hon. Secretary.

3 Haviland Cottages, Quidhampton, Salisbury.

❀ ❀ ❀

We should be glad of an opportunity to communicate with other Old Comrades to whom the Corps Association is not yet personally known, and would be grateful for the names and addresses of such prospective members in order that we may write to them describing our activities without delay.

❀ ❀ ❀

It is notified for general information that the next Annual General Meeting of the Signals Association will take place at Headquarter Offices, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, on Wednesday, October 7th, 1931.

All who contemplate being in attendance are asked to notify the General Secretary in writing not later than Monday, October 5th.

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	Labourer
2—Ex-Signalman	Car Washer
3—Ex-Signalman	Plateman
4—Ex-Signalman	Labourer
5—Ex-Signalman	Labourer
6—Ex-Signalman	Porter
7—Ex-Signalman	Porter
8—Ex-Signalman	Labourer
9—Ex-Signalman	Cleaner
10—Ex-Signalman	Porter
11—Ex-N.C.O.	Caretaker
12—Ex-Signalman	Motor Driver
13—Ex-Signalman	Factory Hand
14—Ex-Sapper	Handy Man
15—Ex-Signalman	Barman-Handy Man
16—Ex-Signalman	Policeman
17—Ex-Signalman	Shorthand-Typist

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

Cases are becoming frequent of men who have served in the Corps calling on individual officers, the officers commanding units, or Branches of the Association, and telling a sad tale of destitution. Unfortunately, it sometimes happens that men who do this are only too well known at the Association head office in London, and are aware of the fact that they will get nothing more there,

In June I had to write strongly about two such men. However sad the tale may sound, it would be as well if officers, secretaries of Branches, or others to whom appeals may be made, would first ask Mr. Butler, the General Secretary, if anything is known about the applicant. A telephone call to " Victoria 2081 " may prove cheaper in the end. A call would have saved a Branch, situated about eighty miles from London, a matter of £3 on June 24th.

I am sometimes asked why I do not issue a " Black List." The reply is that the issue of such a list has been carefully considered more than once, and it is feared that it would in the end do more harm than good. A black list does exist, but I cannot broadcast it. If anyone has a good reason for enquiring whether any particular name is on it, we will tell him. But please ask before money is handed out to unknown men, and do not—as is happening too often—wait to learn that the name is on our list after the man has vanished.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:—

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—1st Divl Signals, Aldershot; Lieut J. H. A. Hallett; B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi, India.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—N.C.O., R.Signals. Domestic difficulties and illness. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

2—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties and illness. £1/7/6 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

3—Ex-Signalman, Aldershot. Domestic difficulties. £5 allocated as a loan from Association funds.

4—Ex-Signalman, Newport, Mon. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

5—Ex-Signalman, London. Unemployed. Accommodated with board and lodging for seven days and also with employment. (£1/1/0 grant.)

6—Ex-Signalman, Reigate. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

7—Ex-Signalman, Portsmouth. Domestic difficulties and illness. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

8—Ex-Signalman, Southall. Domestic difficulties and unemployment. £4/15/0 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

9—Ex-Signalman, Aldershot. Temporary difficulties. The sum of 5/- allocated as a grant from Association funds to reimburse Aldershot Branch for expenses incurred.

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

"The Boys of the Old Brigade."

Athletics, Mounted Sports and Old Comrades' Re-Union at Aldershot.

It was a happy thought that inspired the holding of the first Old Comrades' re-union on the occasion of Signals Week, 1931, and the attendance of ninety-seven ex-members of the Royal Corps of Signals and its prototype, the erstwhile R.E. Signal Service, gives Captain E. J. Murphy and his able committee every incentive to organise an annual sporting and social event of this kind.

Sports.—The Old Comrades were invited to attend the annual sports held on the remarkably fine athletic ground at Mons Barracks on Saturday, July 18th. The results of the sports were:—

ATHLETICS.

440 yards relay (four×110)—1, A Corps Signals; 2, 2nd Divl Signals; 3, 1st Divl Signals. Winning team: 2/Lieut T. A. K. Howe, L/Corpls Denyer and Green, Sigmn Dennett.

880 yards relay (four×220)—1, A Corps Signals; 2, 2nd Divl Signals; 3, 1st Divl Signals. Time, 1 min. 39 1/5 sec. Winning team: 2/Lieut T. A. K. Howe, L/Corpls Green and Denyer, Sigmn Dennett.

One mile relay—1, A Corps Signals; 2, 2nd Divl Signals. Time, 4 min. 4 sec. Winning team: Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich, L/Corpl Green, Signalmen O'Donnell and Batting.

One mile open relay—1, 2nd Battn Scots Guards; 2, No. 1 Company R.A.M.C.; 3, 2nd Battn King's Regiment. Winning team: Sergeant Henderson, Guardsmen Troughton, Davidson, Elliott and Manus.

Two miles relay (four×880 yds.)—1, 2nd Divl Sigs. ; 2, A Corps Signals ; 3, 1st Divl Signals. Time, 9 min. 13 sec. Winning team: L/Corpls Saddler and Mollard, Sigmn Kelly, Dvr Farrell.

One mile team race—1, A Corps Signals (1, 2, 5, 7), 15 points ; 2, 1st Divl Signals (3, 6, 9, 10), 28 ; 3, 2nd Divl Signals (4, 8, 11, 12), 35. First man, 5 min. 1 sec. Winning team: Sergt Jones, Signalmen Atkinson, Bilben and Mitchell.

Three miles team race—1, A Corps Signals. Time, 19 min. 31 sec. Winning team: L/Sergt Jones, Signalmen Bilben, Atkinson and Mitchell. 1st and 2nd Divl Signals teams did not qualify.

480 yards hurdles (four×120)—1, 2nd Divl Signals ; 2, A Corps Signals ; 3, 1st Divl Signals. Time, 1 min. 20 sec. Winning team: L/Corpls Saddler and Reardon, Sergt Matthews, Sigmn Simons.

High jump—1, A Corps Signals, 10 ft. 2 in. ; 2, 1st Divl Signals, 10 ft. ; 3, 2nd Divl Signals, 9 ft. 6 in. Winning team: L/Corpl Denyer (5 ft. 2 in.) and Corpl Frampton (5 ft.).

Long jump—1, A Corps Signals, 40 ft. 8¼ in. ; 2, 2nd Divl Signals, 37 ft. 2¼ in. ; 3, 1st Divl Signals, 34 ft. 2¼ in. Winning team: Lieut. F. I. N. McOstrich (20 ft. 7 in.) and Sigmn Green (20 ft. 1¼ in.).

Polo vault—1, A Corps Signals, 16 ft. 3 in. ; 2, 2nd Divl Signals, 14 ft. 9 in. ; 3, 1st Divl Signals, 14 ft. 4 in. Winning team: Signalmen Williams (8 ft. 6 in.) and Roderick (7 ft. 9 in.).

Javelin—1, 1st Divl Signals, 245 ft. 4 in. ; 2, A Corps Signals, 224 ft. 3 in. ; 3, 2nd Divl Signals, 221 ft. Winning team: Signalmen Tucker (132 ft. 4½ in.) and Bishop (112 ft. 11½ in.).

Hammer—1, 1st Divl Signals, 176 ft. 2 in. ; 2, A Corps Signals, 149 ft. 9½ in. ; 3, 2nd Divl Signals, 79 ft. 3½ in. Winning team: C.Q.M.S. Westwood (91 ft. 6 in.) and Driver Borrow (84 ft. 8 in.).

Discus—1, A Corps Signals, 184 ft. 8½ in. ; 2, 1st Divl Signals, 175 ft. ; 3, 2nd Divl Signals, 163 ft. 11 in. Winning team: Signalmen Warner (97 ft. 11 in.) and Paske (86 ft. 9½ in.).

Shot—1, 2nd Divl Signals, 61 ft. 11 in. ; 2, A Corpl Signals, 56 ft. 10¼ in. Winning team: L/Corpl Saddler (32 ft. 9½ in.) and Driver Farrell (29 ft. 1½ in.).

Old comrades' race—1, Mr. Campbell ; 2, Mr. Morgan ; 3, Mr. Adams.

Old soldiers' race—1, R.S.M. Edwards ; 2, R.Q.M.S. Bayliss ; 3, Sergt Withers.

Ladies' race—1, Mrs Bayliss ; 2, Mrs Rawson ; 3, Mrs Deamon.

Children's races—Boys over 12: 1, W. Morman ; 2, B. Hoare ; 3, W. Tolley. Girls under 12: 1, B. Bough ; 2, B. Baxter ; 3, W. Waters.

Band race—1, Bandsman Rowe ; 2, Bandsman Forster ; 3, Bandsman Micklon.

MOUNTED SPORTS.

Open jumping competition (open to Government horses, other than officers' chargers, ridden by w.o.s, n.c.o.s or men on the strength of units in the Aldershot Command)—1, L/Corporal Deeks, R.E. ; 2, Sergt Matthews, R.E. ; 3, Sergt Webb, Y Company R.A.S.C.

Communication relay race (open to one team from each Signal unit in the Aldershot Command)—1, 1st Divl Signals ; 2, A Corps Signals ; 3, 2nd Divl Signals.

Open section tent pegging—1, A Corps Signals ; 2, Military Police ; 3, Royal Horse Guards. Winning team: Captain E. J. Murphy, C.Q.M.S. Hore, Sergt Searle, Farrier/Corpl Fuller.

Wrestling on horseback (open to teams of eight w.o.s, n.c.o.s or men from Signal units in Aldershot Command)—Won by 1st Divl Signals. Winning team: Sergt Bernasconi, L/Corpls Payne and Hunt, Signalmen Baddeley and Robinson, Drivers Ward, Brady and Emblem.

Old Comrades' tent pegging—1, Mr. Jack Cadwell ; 2, Mr. P. Simnett ; 3, Mr. Tich Adams ; 4, Mr. G. Ruffle.

Final points for Prickett cup—1, A Corps Signals, 68 ; 2, 2nd Divl Signals, 47 ; 3, 1st Divl Signals, 39.

Smoking Concert.—In the evening a smoking concert—although it more closely resembled a variety bill of first-class performers—was arranged for the visitors in the Institute Hall. A programme of ten items, voluntarily contributed by serving and ex-members, occupied the time until 10 p.m., Captain Murphy, as master of ceremonies, keeping the ball rolling by virtue of sheer hard work, although he found ample support. The Band, under the direction of Mr. R. R. Ricketts (surely the most popular of bands!) led the way in community singing that threatened to incur barrack damages to the roof. Here is the programme we all enjoyed so much:—

Band Overture, "Martial Moments" (Winter).
Community Singing: The Crowd.
Humorous Monologue: Corpl J. A. Brown.
Song, "Tripe": C.Q.M.S. F. McDonald.
Speech, "Nuff Said": Colonel H. C. Hawtrey.
Song, selected: Old Comrade Smith.
Instrumental Duet, Celestaphone and Xylophone: L/Corpls Robinson and Reilly.
Song, "Old Soldiers Never Die": An Old Comrade.
Song, "Another Little Drink": Ye Olde Comrades.
Community Singing: The Crowd again!

At the conclusion of a memorable evening's enjoyment, the community joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne" with great verve.

The Church Parade.—On Sunday the Old Comrades paraded, eighty-five strong, and attended divine service at Marlborough Lines Garrison Church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. E. H. Thorold, C.B.E., M.A., K.H.C., A.C.-G., who also delivered a very impressive address. The Rev. J. J. E. O'Malley, O.B.E., M.A., S.C.F. (in charge) assisted.

Unfortunately, the weather was dull and intermittent showers marred the arrangements for the taking of a photograph following the return from church, but the programme was adhered to. Colonel H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command) took the salute, and the Old Comrades marched back to the parade ground in Mons Barracks between two long ranks formed by the younger and serving generation, and to the tune of "The Boys of the Old Brigade"—a happy gesture. Incidentally, the General Secretary of the Association (Mr. W. Butler) informed me that the "old timers" had produced 279 medals on parade—he assured me he had counted them!

The Old Comrades were inspected by the Chief Signal Officer, who later presented long service and good conduct medals to Sergt W. G. Withers and L/Sergt F. Joyce, D.C.M., after which

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a photograph recorded a re-union which will long endure in the memory of those who came from places far afield to meet again those old comrades who, with them, learned to appreciate the true meaning and value of esprit de corps.

Again, many thanks to the organisers for affording their old comrades so much enjoyment from both sporting and social standpoints. I was informed by Captain Murphy (whose committee included R.Q.M.S. G. Bayliss, C.Q.M.S. F. McDonald and C.Q.M.S. Hore) that the vast amount of preparation in connection with the erection of marquees and tents on the sports ground, and the hundred and one other arrangements necessary at such a time, fell to the lot of men who were taking part in a signal scheme on the Monday morning, and whose equipment and saddlery had perforce to be cleaned in their own time. Well done, fellows! L.H.D.

Corps News—Officers

MOVE—
Capt W. F. Sugrue from Aden to Colchester (4th D/S.)

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 16/6/31.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Capt F. J. Allen is seconded whilst Adjutant, The Madras Signal Company, Auxiliary Force, India, 23/6/30.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals—W. P. Doyle to be 2/Lieut. 17/6/31.

War Office, 19/6/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS
Lieut. J. O. Walker resigns his commission, 20/6/31.
G. Morris to be 2/Lieut. 20/6/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
43rd (W.) Divl Signals—P. W. Shaw to be 2/Lieut. 20/6/31.

War Office, 23/6/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
55th (W.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut G. Drewry to be Lieut. 15/3/31.
2/Lieut J. B. R. Machan to be Lieut. 1/5/31.
2/Lieut. J. E. Clare to be Lieut. 1/6/31.

War Office, 26/6/31.

Mentioned in Despatches for distinguished service rendered during the operations on the North-West Frontier of India during the period 23rd April to 12th September, 1930:—
Royal Signals—Lieut. F. C. Seely.

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Lieut.-Colonel C. L. Day, on completion of four years service as a Regimental Lieut.-Colonel, is placed on the h.p. list, 26/6/31.
Major R. A. C. Henderson, M.C., to be Lieut.-Colonel, 26/6/31
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 26/6/31:—
F. S. Straight, M.C., and remains seconded.
F. W. S. Jourdain.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
46th (N.M.) Divl Signals—N. B. Scott to be 2/Lieut. 27/6/31.

War Office, 30/6/31.

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF
Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C. to the King, relinquishes the appointment of G.S.O. 1st Grade, W.O., 30/6/31.

War Office, 3/7/31.

REGULAR ARMY—
Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C. to the King, retires on an Indian pension, 30/6/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS
H. J. H. Webb to be 2/Lieut. 4/7/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
43rd (W.) Divl Signals—L. E. O. Evans to be 2/Lieut. 4/7/31.

War Office, 7/7/31.

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF
The undermentioned appointments are made:—
Colonel R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., from C.S.O. (Cl. X) Southern Command, to be G.S.O. 1st Grade, War Office, 30/6/31.
Colonel F. A. Heymann, O.B.E., from half-pay list, to be C.S.O. (Cl. X) Southern Command, 30/6/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
53rd (W.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut S. C. Cadogan to be Lieut., 21/6/31.

War Office, 10/7/31.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS
R. L. St. C. Douglas to be 2/Lieut. 11/7/31.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
43rd (W.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut G. L. W. Edwards to be Lieut. 9/7/31.
53rd (W.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut L. C. Tovey resigns his commission, 1/6/31.

- Plain Tales -

Lightning Sketch No. 2.—Taken from life. Scene: Parade ground. Troops waiting to fall in for a big ceremonial. Characters: two signalmen of A Company S.T.C. (India).

Sigmn Y: "Ha! ha! you won't half stop something, coming on parade like that."
Sigmn Z: "Why, what's wrong?"
Sigmn Y (convulsed with laughter): "You've got no bolt in your rifle."
Sigmn Z: "Good heavens! you're right; but (catches sight of Y's rifle) what about you with no magazine?"
Sigmn Y: "Wha-a-at!"

* * * *

Little White Lies.—"Now, sit still; this won't hurt you."
"My dear, what a lovely frock! Suits you perfectly."
"We do so admire your children. Much better behaved than ours."
"Cigarette? Sorry, old man. This is my last one."
"Come on! Have a drink, mon. Ah'll be very offended if ye dinna hae juist one."

* * * *

Financial Notes.—10/- £1 £5 £10.

* * * *

Agricultural Notes.—Beware of the bull. Please shut the gate. Trespassers will be prosecuted.

* * * *

Garden Notes.—Seeds, 7/6. Neighbour's chickens, 15/0. More seeds, 5/0. Neighbour's cat, 8/2. Sloan's liniment, 2/6. Beer, £1/4/3.

* * * *

Grey and Wet.—That doesn't sound much like India, does it? For the information of friends at home, the heralds of the monsoon arrived on the evening of Saturday, 13th June. We cannot truthfully say that the monsoon has started, but there has been enough rain to make things decidedly sticky. Although the temperature has dropped from its customary 115 to about 100, humidity is considerably higher. There are certain peculiarities attached to the monsoon which are never referred to in the newspaper meteorological reports. It very rarely rains on Sunday mornings until after church parade. This is one of the good points about the monsoon, because heavy rain automatically cancels a church parade. It hardly ever rains on Saturday mornings until after the weekly drill parade. The die-hards who were alternately praying and gasping for the monsoon are already moaning about the inconvenience of heavy rain.

Ladies' Paragraph.—A writer in an American magazine modestly claims: "America still produces the most beautiful girls in creation." After burbling to some extent about their complexions, he says: "They are not only beautiful, but upstanding, self-reliant, free, fearless, and superior to mere man."

This is certainly the stuff to give the troops, but why doesn't an Englishman write something of the sort about English girls? An advertisement writer would do: he does not, as a rule, mind deviating from the truth.

If the skin, nose, lips and eyebrows of the beauty scheme of an English girl fall a little below the American standard, it is only because the poor girls have no one qualified to advise them in the proper use of cosmetics.

As regards eyebrows, I can confidently state that if a mixture is made of Barleux's No. 1 grease (non-corrosive), gum arabic, flour, brandy, soot and Lyle's Golden Syrup, in equal parts, and applied to the eyebrows at night, one can spend an interesting morning in wondering how the deuce to remove it.

* * * *

Pat Mills.—There are quite a lot of people in the Royal Signals who know L/Corpl Pat Mills of the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore, described as the best middle-weight boxer in India. Some of them may be wondering what he is doing these days. I will tell you. When he is not engaged in amending the contours of people's faces (at so much per contour) he officiates as secretary to the halt, the lame, and the blind, and occasionally the swingers, and has a charming little office all to himself. Visitors are reminded to bring their small kit and mosquito net. Before proceeding to Part II. of our biography, we must explain about Gunboat Jack.

Gunboat Jack is a negro boxer, something over ten stone, who announces himself with becoming modesty: "Champion of all weights in the East and Far East, the Black Secret, wizard of the Orient, etc., etc."

We may now quote the following from *The Madras Mail* of Sunday, June 14th, 1931 (and, with our usual discretion, will refrain from making comments of our own):—"Gunboat Jack given verdict against Pat Mills.". . . "A draw would have been a better decision. Challenger's ceaseless attack. Clever in-fightin. A great battle." . . "As on the last occasion when these two fought in Madras, and Jack was given the decision, the verdict was followed by shouts of disapproval from a section of the spectators." . . . "But the margin was so fine that, taking into consideration the fact that the soldier did practically all the attacking in almost every round (ten rounds) a draw would have been a fairer decision."

* * * *

Pour la Patrie.—[Continued at the earnest request of both readers.]

The murderous Veiled Toothpegs, modern descendants of an old desert race, roamed the sandy wastes in their six-wheelers. The Sheek-Shiek-Shikh Hab Dabs knitted his brows and tore a bird's nest from his beard. "Abdul!" he cried.

Abdul crawled out from the tool box at the back of the lorry and prostrated himself in front of the Shek—in front of his master. "Go and see what causes yonder cloud of dust, imbecile."

Abdul rolled in the sand again and then sprang on to his N.B.G. model (all chain driven). He vanished over the dunes at 40 m.p.h.

The old Shrie-Sheik—old Hab Dabs guessed, rightly or wrongly, that a caravan was causing the dust, and he rubbed his hands with glee, there being nothing else available to rub them with. He took a chakkamohsha (telescope) from the rack and focussed it on the spot where Abdul should be by this time. The faithful servant was there, and was signalling frantically. Hab Dabs scrawled the message on the back of his income tax form and his face lit up. He had lantern jaws. A few minutes' work with the Pyrene apparatus and all was well.

The Shi—pah! the old reprobate cleared his throat noisily and roared "The parade will fire a joie de vivre, facing left. Number one leading." His orderly at once blew a fanfare on a native flute and threw a handful of bunting overboard. The entourage swung round with wonderful precision and the desert air was shattered by a burst of gunfire.

CHAPTER SIXTY-SIX.

"Sacre blanc," said le Majeur Maggotte. "What was that noise?"

"That is the quartermaster issuing sigrees for drying clothes, monsieur," replied Lieut. Stique de Bouton (whom we have not met before—and a good job, too).

"Fool!" snarled le majeur. "The monsoon is nearly finished!"

"Tippes, mon majeur," said the audacious subaltern, dodging through the doorway.

Another crash of firing brought the O.C. 2nd Chaussettes to his feet with a bound. "Quelque chose must be up avec quelque chose," he muttered in his pure French.

The Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore, Dance Band.

Left to right—L/Sergt Sayers (piano and arranger), Sergt Barlow (alto and soprano saxophones), Sigmn Pay (violin), Sigmn Mitchell (tenor saxophone and clarinet), Corpl Barlow (violin), Sigmn Softley (trumpet), Sigmn Davies (banjo), Sigmn Rogers (drums)

He buttoned on a Thermos flask of cognac. The scene outside his office beggared description. Dead and dying littered the whole area. Maggotte was furieux. The parade ground was splashed with blood. He screamed for the sergeant-majeur, the orderlie-sergeant, orderlie-caporal, le caterer and everyone else he could think of, likely to be useful. " Chein d'un chein d'un chein," he yelled. " Get all these bodies dressed by the right. I won't have my men dying crooked even if they were all criminals. Here, take this piece of string. I'll come back later."

A low moan attracted his attention, and he made his way towards a feebly waving hand. " Mon pauve Pierre," said le majeur, his eyes filling with tears as he poured himself out a tot of cognac.

" Water!" moaned Pierre.

" Eh?"

" Pani. Water. Un petit peu de l'eau."

" Hi! bring some water, you blokes."

They emptied a bucket of it over the stricken man.

" Mon pauvre Pierre," said le majeur, his eyes filling with tears as he poured himself out another tot of cognac.

" Garn!" said Pierre, whose upbringing was not of the best.

BARLEUX.

A Year in the Arctic.

BY W. C. H. MANSFIELD.

(Continued)

Their return journey was hazardous in the extreme. The land was covered with ice and drift snow, and progress was almost impossible.

To their immense joy, on November 9th, they met a party under Chapman on their way to the ice-cap station. The bad weather, however, was still making matters very difficult, for terrific gales were raging.

After taking ten days to climb the plateau, a change of plans was necessary. All that could be dumped was discarded, and Chapman, Wager and Courtauld went forward—on Armistice Day—along the flagged route to the ice-cap station.

This journey was probably the most difficult experienced since the commencement of the Expedition. The first sixty miles of the remaining hundred took three weeks. Travelling was impossible for half that time, and the route-marking flags were, in the main, lost in the snow. The sledges were continually breaking and had to be repaired on the spot. The general temperature registered 60 degres of frost, and the height made the effect distressing and exhausting. Toes, fingers and noses were often frost-bitten.

On November 30th they were about forty-two miles from the station, with dog food almost gone, but in compensation the weather suddenly improved. Travelling mainly by moonlight, and steering by the stars, the ice-cap station was reached on December 3rd in a temperature of 80 degrees of frost, with only half a day's dog food left. Bingham and D'Aeth were safe and sound. For eight weeks they had only each other's company.

A blizzard was responsible for a welcome two-day stay at the ice-cap station, where one dog was killed to feed the others.

In view of the weather, it was agreed by the whole party—with the exception of Courtauld—that the ice-cap station should be abandoned. Courtauld, knowing the importance of keeping the weather records, steadfastly refused to listen to his comrades' representations. He said that he was fit and well and quite able to stay alone (there were insufficient supplies for two) for a prolonged period.

He was given all the available food and fuel, and on December 5th Chapman and the others started for the base camp. Courtauld then commenced his lonely vigil, which he knew for certain would last at least thirteen weeks, but which actually lasted for twenty-one.

The returning party had a pretty bad time in getting back to the base camp. The journey was carried out in bad weather, on half-rations composed of pemmican and margarine and with a shortage of dog food. In addition, the three sledges had all broken down, but after fourteen days they got back—only just in time.

On March 9th a party under Mr. Scott left the base camp in relief of Courtauld, but owing to the bad weather they could not locate the ice-cap station, and had to return after a fruitless search lasting seventeen days. A Moth aeroplane also made a search on March 26th, without success.

These two failures to locate the ice-cap station gave rise to great anxiety, and the assistance of Captain Ahrenberg, a prominent Swedish airman, was sought to fly over the ice plateau and locate the station.

In addition, on April 21st, Mr. Watkins, with two others and five weeks provisions, set out to try and locate Mr. Courtauld.

On May 1st Captain Ahrenberg left Bergen, Norway, to fly to Greenland. At 6.15 a.m. a start was attempted, but the machine was too heavy, and part of the reserve of oil and petrol had to be thrown overboard before, after an hour's delay, it would rise. Thorshavn Harbour was reached at 11.20 a.m., and after a careful check of the fuel, which had shown signs of unreliability, the journey was resumed at 4.30 p.m.

The next hop, to Reykjavik—a distance of 540 miles over the open sea—was covered in a little under six hours, and a perfect landing was effected after what had been a filthy flight in wind and rain ; in fact, Captain Ahrenberg was obliged to fly as low as 300 feet from the ground on many occasions.

The next day Captain Ahrenberg made a start for Greenland, but he received a wireless message reporting bad weather off the coast and he returned. On May 3rd, however, the trip from Reykjavik was successfully negotiated. He landed at the Settlement at 4.30 p.m. after a flight of over five hours. During the latter part of the flight from Reykjavik to Angmagsalik, Captain Ahrenberg was in wireless communication with the base camp, where the Expedition party were in a state of consternation regarding his safety.

The weather off the coast of Greenland was rapidly becoming worse, and landing would be impossible with bad visibility. Oil was therefore burnt in a bath on the fjord to make a smoke signal for locating the landing ground.

With the weather still becoming worse, and wireless communication being difficult in consequence, oil was rushed by sledge to the mouth of the fjord, where another signal was lit. A wireless message was sent telling him to hurry—then came a prolonged silence. When he was overdue it was feared that he had been compelled to make a forced landing, but later the welcome news of his arrival at Angmagsalik was received.

On May 7th Captain Ahrenberg in the Swedish plane, with Lieut. D'Aeth as observer, flew into the ice-cap. After going 120 miles, D'Aeth saw Mr. Watkins' sledging party about five miles south. On approaching them, he saw four men and knew that all was well: the fourth member of the party was none other than Courtauld, who was apparently quite fit, for he was walking behind the sledge. The plane dropped supplies and returned.

Much credit is due to Captain Ahrenberg for his navigation in difficult conditions over the ice-cap, without any landmarks. The Swedish Aero Club, in recognition of his praiseworthy efforts, have awarded him a gold medal.

Mr. Watkins' party, which set out in relief of Courtauld on April 21st, arrived back at the base camp on May 11th, and Courtauld was able to have his first proper wash and brush-up for seven months and his first taste of good wholesome food. His seven months growth of beard made it hard for his companions to recognise him.

His relief was celebrated by the native settlement with a general holiday, and the greater part of the locals made a trek for the base camp to tender their congratulations.

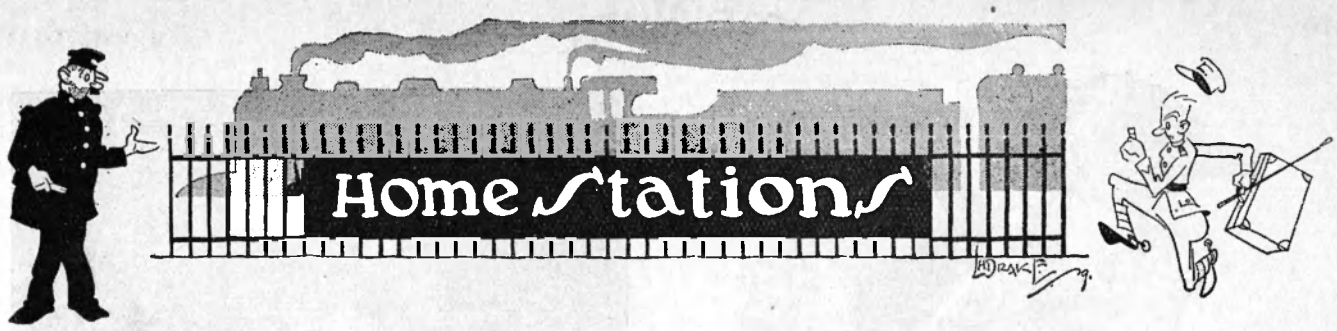
The perfect organisation of this Expedition and the great courage shown by all its members combined to bring about its success. It can be readily realised what hardships had to be suffered, and that the attendant danger was well known to each of them before they set out.

These men, imbued with the spirit of adventure and without thought of personal gain or fame, went solely for the benefit and progress of humanity on a long and hazardous journey, from which there might easily have been no return.

They have earned the congratulations and respect of the whole world.

Corps Promotion Roster.

For convenience and to save space, this has been placed at the end of Territorial Notes (page 336).



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—Our first effort at cricket was not exactly a success. Against E Company we could not pull out our best. Having disposed of them for 58, we thought we should be able to pass their total with any luck. However, we didn't have any luck, and we were disposed of for a total of 19. I won't say who was the highest scorer this time!

Against F Company, though, with the services of Captain Walford, we did much better, scoring 196—as good as many county scores—and although F stood up to our bowling well and came near to our total, their last wicket fell at 173. Highest scorers: Captain Walford 51, Lieutenant Lloyd 44, and Betts 35. Captain Walford claimed eight wickets for 69 runs.

A great deal of energy is being expended in the hope of winning the shield for the best garden in the lines, presented by the commanding officer, and the improvement generally is apparent. All eyes are turned on the supper for the first, second and third prize winners. We hope the Mounted Wing will be in at the death!

Hints on Gardening.—It isn't necessary to transplant virginia stock separately, one foot between each root, to obtain the best results. Evidently somebody has got Barleux's notes on gardening a bit mixed up.

We are now beginning to feel the strain of the recent recruiting campaign. The Dismounted Wing are getting through their task comfortably and distributing the personnel to E and D Companies and Mounted Wing much faster than normal—and we shall soon be supplying field units with some good drivers.

Marriage.—Sigmn Omond W. S. was married to Miss Edith Hindle at the parish church, Darlington, on July 7th. Our hearty congratulations to them.

Sergeants' Mess.—So far, we have tested the putting green with a tournament, in which L/Sergt Quinn ran out winner of the singles with 207 for 72 holes, with C.S.M. Young and Sergt Hall (208) as runners-up. C.S.M. McGrath and Sergt Hall beat R.Q.M.S. Dolbear and Sergt Quinn in the final of the foursomes.

We hope to play the officers at cricket. No date has yet been fixed, but it is expected to take place shortly.

Promotion.—Congratulations to L/Sergeant Bailev, who has attained that rank.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

Preparations for the Horticultural Show—From newspapers in general, delete "Men are now recruited from universities, public schools, etc.," and substitute "Only men who are experienced gardeners need apply for admission to the Royal Corps of Signals."

During fine weather, when the overflow of water has drained from the gardens, one may see (if one looks hard enough) signs of blossom. The old phrase "Everything in the garden is lovely" is now a trifle careworn and hackneyed, and anyone using that expression is immediately answered "Tips" and presented with looks of haughty disgust.

Everyone is sweating, in the real sense of the word. "—.30 a.m. parade" is merely another translation of the word "Gardening," and everyone (above the rank of signalman) is interested in the forthcoming horticultural show, which is to take place very soon.

L.S. and G.C. Medal.—Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Gibson, Sergts Gale and Sherwood, who were presented with the L.S. and G.C. medal on Sunday, July 5th. Perhaps the signalman who asked "Why is it called a 'rooty' medal?" will get a satisfactory answer from one of the above-mentioned.

Departure.—Only the best wishes go with R.Q.M.S. Dorrington, who has left us for Aldershot. Before his departure a farewell concert was given in the sergeants' mess and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

D Company, Training Battalion.

Obituary.—We regret to announce the death of Mary, the only child of Corpl and Mrs. J. Collins. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the parents in their great loss.

General.—No statue of Rima adorns our lines, but many birds (feathered) seem to find sanctuary in D Company. It is a pleasure to take one's "annual" these days, and to hear the bath attendant's birds convince us we are "sweet! sweet!"—and what could be more pleasant than to be awakened by the orderly cook's cock linnet, even though it needs an hour to reveille?

Things are not waxing so furious these days, although we still have to fire our musketry course. With that completed, the road will be clear for the carrying on of Mitchell Avenue—a highway that will make the old Romans turn in their graves with envy.

Promotions.—Heartiest congratulations to C.S.M. Johns and C.Q.M.S. Deptford on promotion to those ranks, and to L/Corpl Chadwick on his elevation to the Corps roster.

I understand that those who drank the health of Corporals Webb, Johns and Smalley, did so at their own expense.

Crashes.—Sergt Pickering, of Egypt fame, has crashed at last; but most people will be pleased to know that there will be no promotion as a result of this accident.

Things We Want to Know.—Who was the sergeant who saluted a signalman and his car?

When will Steve of Meerut realise that you don't swank until the job is completed?

When are we going to have a fine week-end?

Who pinched the fire-bucket?

When will Sergt Nicholson oblige the club and take his foot off the brake?

Can anyone imagine Swin in a sweet shop?

Where did Ticky's hat come from?—was it a race-course?

JOSOPE.

E Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Owing to our correspondent being on leave, these notes are rather short.

Musketry.—The first party fired their annual course a few days ago, but I regret that no entrants for Bisley have been found.

Promotion.—U/L/Corpls Atthill and Dawton to be L/Corpls on the Corps roster. Congratulations!

Arrivals.—We extend the glad hand to C.S.M. Elkington F. from D Company, and others too numerous to mention.

Departure.—R.Q.M.S. Dorrington A. G. to A Corps Signals on June 27th. All ranks of the Company join me in wishing him and his family the best of luck in their new station. How about the R.105, sir; any increase in the rattle?

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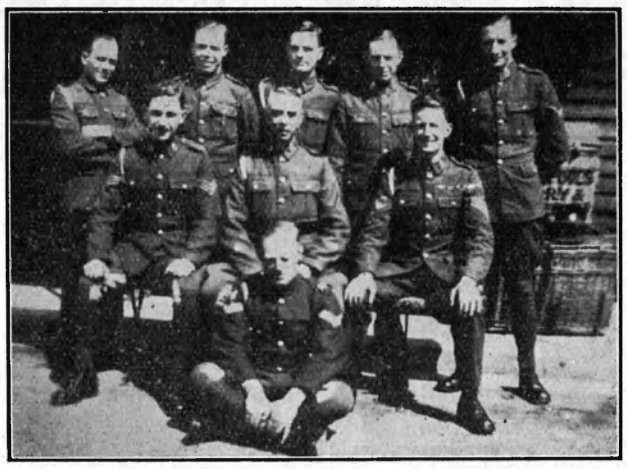

The accompanying photograph of the administrative staff, the hub of the Company, was taken after pay. Witness the happy faces! THE WATCHER II.

F Company, Training Battalion.

At the time of going to press, we are busily engaged in preparing our Company gardens for the Battalion competition, and making arrangements for mid-summer leave.

I must let all and sundry know that the weather prophet has taken a kindly look at us recently, and we have had some good weather ; in fact, summer is here at last, plus an occasional thunderstorm.

Our cadre personnel are in the throes of musketry, carrying out preliminary instruction.

The Northern Command individual athletic championships were held on June 19th and 20th, and the team events on the 26th and 27th. Results are published in the Sports news.

Our long-awaited Boys' Club has at last been opened, and it is a home from home for our boys. Games of all kinds have been provided, and we hope to have keen competitions during the winter months.

The Garrison enlisted boys' cricket competition commenced in early June, and we hope to get into the final stages. Results of games played will be seen in Sports news.

Rumour has it that the now famous drainage pond is shortly to be stocked with all kinds of fish. Trout, pike, gold fish or minnows—I wonder which? Time alone can tell.

Congratulations.—To R.Q.M.S. Gibson H. on his having been awarded the L.S. and G.C. medal with gratuity (phew! just imagine: eighteen years undetected). Also to L/Corporal Lauriere J. L. on having obtained a position on the Corps roster.

Arrival.—We welcome Corpl Mayson B. O. from Bulford, and hope he will settle down among us (of course, flag drill is a blow after dealing with the unknown quantity).

Departuros.—Sigmn Watts to Scarborough. Boy Tizard A. to his home (discharged on medical grounds). Signalmen Shove R. L. and Griffiths R. H. to A.F.V. Signals. Sigmn Buckman R. E. to E Troop Cavalry Divl Signals. Sigmn Brownjohn C. A. to 5th Divl Signals. Sigmn Metcalf L. to 3rd Divl Signals. Signalmen Fitzpatrick P. L., Larkin E. and Manley E. C. to 4th Divl Signals. Sigmn Honor V. C. to A Corps Signals.

S.O.S.—Wanted, a belt for our Joe ; abnormal size surcingle will fit splendidly. Can anyone oblige, please? A.O.K.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

Congratulations to Colonel C. H. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer Aldershot Command, on being appointed A.D.C. to His Majesty the King.

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return ?

Also to B Cable Section on obtaining second prize in the class for matched pairs of light draught horses, in the Horse Show held this year.

From the 22nd to 27th June, the unit was encamped at Basing, whence it took part in the annual Staff College exercise. Except for one day of heavy rain, the weather was all that could be desired, and the period of camp was generally voted as all too brief.

The exercise, this year, was continuous for sixty-two hours, and all sections of the unit had a pretty strenuous time. In a letter received from him, the Commandant of the Staff College wrote that "The whole of the Royal Corps of Signals who worked with us played up splendidly. It was a real pleasure to work with them."

In this exercise we were very glad to have the assistance of a mechanized Cable Detachment and a D.R. Detachment from 3rd Divl Signals. We trust that they enjoyed their stay with us in camp. The D.R.s, as usual, had a good deal to do.

From the 8th to 10th July, the Cable Sections went into camp near Frensham big pond, and on the 9th the remaining Sections of the unit went out to take part in the Command artillery exercise. The work was not strenuous, and ended at midnight on the 9th/10th July. The weather was good, and we very much enjoyed the whole scheme.

The Command Searchlight Tattoo was once again an unqualified success. Generally, it was considered the best performance held so far. The unit was busily engaged in providing all the necessary communications, and the fact that there were no hitches proved the efficiency of the work carried out by the Construction Section and telephone operators.

Arrivals.—From Training Battalion, Q.M.S. Dorrington, Signalmen Honor, Drury, Grace, Gunner, Holme, Waugh, Cook and Johnson. From overseas, Sergt Littlefield. From D Troop, Corpl Powell. We extend to them all a hearty welcome.

Corpl Roberts rejoined from his attachment to the Depot Battalion.

Departures.—To Reserve, Corpl Crawford, L/Corpl Knight and Sigmn Furney. To discharge, Corpl Foakes. Our best wishes for success go with them.

Signalmen Dryburgh and Donlon left for A.V.T.C., Chiseldon, preparatory to leaving for civil life.

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Corpl Smith E. A. to Corporal, May 23rd. Signalmen Connaghton, Prince, Hurditch, Donovan, Watts, Rankin and Waters to L/Corporals (unpaid), June 15th. Congratulations! "Nothing succeeds like success."

Education.—At a re-examination at Sarafand, on June 18th, Corpl Mullins obtained a "distinguished" award in maths for the special certificate.

L/Corpl Connaghton passed in maths ("distinguished") and map reading towards the 1st class.

Trade Qualifications.—As operator signals B.i., Sergeant Bremner, Corpl Dunn, L/Corpl Waters and Sigmn Hutchcroft. As operator signals B.ii., Signalmen Robinson, Hawcroft and Bisby. As operator signals B.iii., Signalmen Lester and Miles. As operator W/T B.i., L/Corpls Harris and Hall; as B.ii., Sigmn Fox; and as B.iii., Sigmn Tindle.

L/Corpl Rankin passed as clerk C.iii.b, and Sigmn Hope as draughtsman C.ii. As linemen C.ii., Signalmen Bingham, Costigane, Fowler and Meeson. Sigmn Hatcher was re-mustered as clerk C.iii.b.

Altogether a very successful month.

Service.—Re-engagements to complete twenty-one years: Sergts Searle and Cole, L/Sergt Jones, L/Corpls Brett, Swift and Stanton, Sigmn Smith W. J.

Extensions to eight years: L/Corpls Williamson, Denyer and Hurditch, Signalmen Old and Bennett.

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. O'Donnell, at Aldershot, on June 26th, a daughter (Maureen).

Marriage.—At Farnham, on June 13th, Sigmn Jenner to Miss Kate Chapman.

Gardens.—It is not my intention to dispute the evident fact that agriculture, in some form or other, is the natural tendency of man. We must agree that this pursuit was, years ago, the only means by which it became possible to provide for the many mouths of one's dependants; and I think we must also concede

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that a good crop or a beautiful display of flowers is ample recompense for the labour of the gardener or agriculturist. But, with all the redeeming features in view, there must be limits to all things.

Not many miles away from here is a man who suddenly became inspired with a desire to own a garden of great beauty. There is no doubt that in his mind were visions of things quite unobtainable, but he did his best and adorned an ordinary patch with various specimens of flowers—incidentally, already cultivated and pretty.

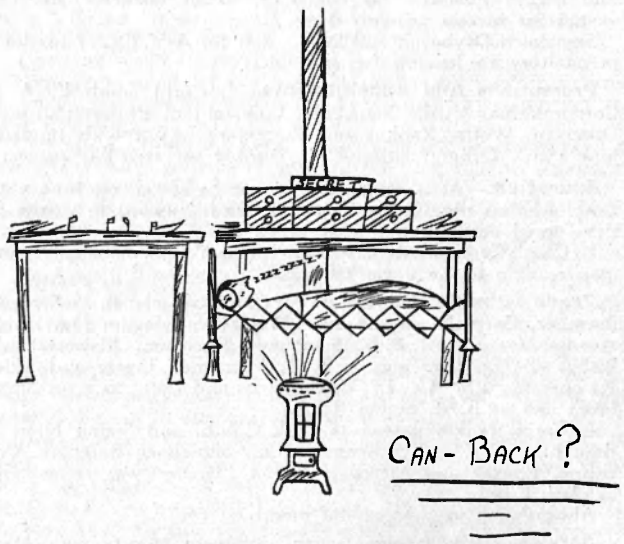
Had this been the summit of his ambition, everything would have gone well and commendation would have been his, but he was too ambitious, and continued his gardening well into the night.

He had a habit of chanting throughout his task, and the dull monotonous rhythm wafted on the air was most oppressive. We could have tolerated this, and would have borne with him—perhaps helped or given him encouragement. We would have watched his flowers grow, and would have smiled sadly with him when the autumn came and the last withering petal fluttered to the ground.

But. . . one night—when every law-abiding citizen and every right-thinking person was wrapped in sleep, or moaning restlessly as dreams brought haunting glimpses of an unclean past—this man. . . this gardener. . . this unnatural person moved about his garden as a man bereft: like Moses, who, counting his tribes, found one missing. The watering can had gone! "Oh, night! move thy cloak that I may see and find that which is lost."

His chanting ceased, and the air became strangely still—suggestive of the calm preceding the storm. Flower pots clicked as they were rudely rolled aside, and tools fell noisily as he flung them far from his sight. I sighed uneasily as I thought of the results if the watering-can were not found before dawn.

But the issue was near at hand. He burst into the room and cried "Where's the watering-can?" Remarks of unwholesome intent were hurled at him, and he withdrew. Later he located the can. Perhaps he took it back!



But this is my quarrel with agriculture—if it were not so, I would not have told you: May not some regulation be made—something that will restrict gardeners to normal working hours?

Are we to endure the torments of these strange people who work when others sleep, and who have no compassion upon those who, being natural, sleep when they *should* sleep?

Perhaps gardening is just a flame, ignited by a spark from human tendency, and will, like all flames, exhaust itself and flicker out. The gardens look wonderful and charming. They are worthy of the efforts of the gardener, but nature's laws are inexorable and do not allow for cultivation of flowers when the sun is not there to help.

The Lighter Side.—A candidate at an O.T.C. examination was asked to explain the qualifications of a signals assistant. This is what he wrote: "A signals assistant, as I understand

him, is a chap who acts as a subaltern to the Brigade Signal Officer."

Asked to explain the working of a heliograph, another candidate wrote: "It consists essentially of a parabolic mirror, arranged to pivot about a horizontal axis."

Unit Headquarters.

Wearily the scribe looked round him at the sea of vacant unhappy faces (no! they were not the 1st and 2nd Div. personnel on Signals sports days) seeking that ever elusive sprite, inspiration. Stroking his head lightly with an axe, felling, he pondered awhile and sighed heavily. After a short pause, repeating the movement with true military precision, he ruefully gave up the search and decided to try to be sensible. Judge for yourselves the result.

You will probably see no sense in the foregoing paragraph. "There is no salient fact at which to clutch," you will despairingly cry. I knew darned well you would. However, be of stout heart, my cabbages; it is but I (or possibly me) painting you a vivid soul-stirring pulsating (my compliments to the talkies) pen picture of myself striving to write WIRE notes. Anyway, you will agree that I have made a start. All I need now is a route diagram, and none shall stay my hand or say me nay.

There is a great deal to tell you, so of course I shall have very little to say. Seriously, though, life is very full these days. Everyone seems to be on the qui vive—which may, or may not, mean what I think it does. E'en so, what care I? There seems to be a look of expectation over all the land of Mons. Even the regimentally employed have become slightly animated, and this last fact caused me to look round for the cause—and success met my efforts. Lend me thin ears (that was intended to be *thine* ears, but this is an American typewriter and it refused to print the "e"; anyway, thin ears are preferable to thick ones) and I'll whisper my news to you.

I think it has something to do with the Prickett cup, the Signals Band, and A Corps Signals. Mark well that tactful order in which those three are written; but, anyway, just watch out.

Casualties.—Bearing in mind the statement that is to follow, I look at the heading and I am sore distressed. Our Sigmn Jenner (enquiries at R Dept.) has taken unto himself a wife. In consequence, he has been marked "P.A." for the term of his natural life. Anyway, good luck to them both. Apropos wives, can anyone solve me this problem: "What would an English wife say to an American girl friend?" How could you, Harold?

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Official.—Last week (Thursday, July 9th, to be precise) three young and trusting lads set forth on an adventure called, for want of another name, the R.A. exercise. All went well, but strangely enough the three brought back more than they took out. I refuse to give any further details on this, but an artist I know of could probably enlarge on the subject. He is not the only one, either.

Leave.—Corpl Wheeler and L/Corpl Mortimore are at present upholding the traditions, but there are others who will also do so in the near future. Unfortunately for the two first named, the weather is also upholding its best traditions, but I expect they will find something to do, nevertheless.

Explanations.—The cartoon that should find its way somewhere amongst these notes requires no explanation: hence the heading of this paragraph (oh, your English humour!) To those who do not know the personality concealed by the nom de plume Dingleberry, I say Oswaldtwistle.

Having successfully filled a page or so with these notes (ahem!) and at the same time carefully suppressed any atom of sense that would bob up from time to time, I make my exit amidst tremendous applause.

Tail Piece.—Same to you! PIP.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

General.—" And that's that!" So said all of us on Saturday, or rather Sunday morning, June 21st, when the Aldershot Command Tattoo closed down. One and all felt that they had had quite enough for one year. Everything passed off quite o.k., and many pleasant remarks were passed around on the Sunday morning which, I hope, will compensate the lads for all their loss of sleep, etc. The Section was once again admirably helped out by No. 3 Company, to whom we offer our thanks.

Following on the heels of the Tattoo was the Staff College exercise—arranged, I believe, for the benefit of the married personnel (?): No. 1 M.T. being made into two improvised Cable Sections, one going to 1st Div. and the other to 2nd Div. Improvised gadgets are all very well on paper, but they are the limit of endurance in actual manipulation. However, we did our job, and another feather is attached to our cap. Signalmen Cameron and Crowther looked after the inner man wth credit. Thanks!

On Tuesday, June 30th, the annual demonstration for the Gentlemen Cadets R.M.A. was carried out, the M.T. Section once again doing their bit—not forgetting our C.S.M.

The individual athletic championships were held at Mons Barracks, and the unit is to be heartily congratulated on gaining first place with 106 points. The Section assisted the unit as follows:—

100 yards—Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich (O.C. Section), 1st.
220 yards—Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich, 1st; Sigmn Dennett C. 2nd; L/Corpl Denyer J. 3rd.
440 yards—Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich, 1st.
Long jump—Lieut F. I. N. McOstrich, 1st.
Pole vault—Sigmn Williams, 3rd.

Arrival.—Gummy from B Cable. Still hovering about.

Departure.—Sigmn Allum to Army Reserve.

Congratulations.—To B Cable Section on gaining second prize with the best turned-out pair at the Aldershot Command Horse Show.

To Sigmn O'Donnell L. on the arrival of a daughter on June 27th. How's that, Bert?

To L/Corpl Sadler (2nd Divl Signals) on carrying off the Victor Ludorum prize for the second year.

To U/L/Corpls Prince and Connaghton on putting their feet on the first rung of the ladder.

Overheard.—" Yes, and I come from an electrical family. My old man was an electrician in a butcher's shop—cutting out lights."

Tattoo Patron: " Can you help me, soldier? I have lost my wife." Voice from the rear: " You're lucky, guv'nor; I can't lose mine." DANGLER.

No. 1 Company: A Cable Section.

Appropriate: Most.—To Dapper and Betsy, the stable will stamp three times with the off fore hoof, taking the time from Nigger.

" Thank you, Dora. Betsy has asked me to let you know that although as a matched pair in the Command Horse Show we took no prize, we were left in until there were only thirteen pairs remaining for final judging, and as the unofficial can carriers, we consider that figure the most appropriate one at which to be wheeled out."

Hear! hear! Now let us hear Betsy speak for herself.

" Well, Dora, I'd rather not; but if I must, I will ask Tommy to get on his feet like the remainder, and we will all give three stamps with both fores, and three wags left and three right with our tails, in due honour to Betty and Bruce, of B Cable Section, for taking the second prize in the best matched pair class."

" Hark at the stableman, Molly. He thinks we are cutting up rough."

" Dora, darling, this month has certainly been the 'crowded hour' all right. What with the Staff College exercise, R.A. exercise, Horse Show and Signals Week, things are looking up; and do you know, I'm feeling all the better for it. Give me the picket line every time, *and* the extra oats."

" Talking of the Staff College exercise, Molly, and the 'crowded hour,' do you recollect the evening when the O.C. Section took the lorry away for five minutes with the rations aboard?"

" Ha! ha! yes; and he didn't come back for two-and-a-half hours. Ho, ho! he, he! what a joke!"

" That's no joke, Molly. Do you know the troops were talking of eating our oats?"

" Tell me, Dora; did you hear that one about wet signoritas at Frensham?"

" Yes, Molly, I heard it, and I noticed how nicely you dodged the column on the journey home."

" Now, now, Dora, don't be nasty. Old soldiers, you know."

" Did you hear about the chappy who didn't think those string nose-bags for the hay were very safe for oats?"

" Jumbo got quite funny over the tail bandages yesterday. He said 'It's a good job they start at the top and not at the bottom, else we would soon be killed by strangulation.'"

" These WIRE notes seem a good thing to me, Dora. Do you know, I never heard a single he-man's question last month."

" Yes, it's funny, Molly. I think we might take it a bit further and mention that a bar of chocolate from the drivers on pay day would be acceptable."

" Okay, baby. You always were our optimist."

" Talking of oats, here comes the sergeant with some stale crusts. He throws a lot away, too." FEED AWAY.

No. 1 Company: B Cable Section.

Many moons have passed since B Cable last contributed any notes to THE WIRE ; but even as the greatest authors must at times rest their tired brains and relax their grip on pen or pencil (or whatever it is they use), so the mighty brains of the Section have been finding relaxation in such pastimes as Staff College exercises and R.A. demonstrations—not to mention the Horse Show and Tattoo.

Talking of the Horse Show, old B Cable-ites will be interested to hear that No. 8 stable did their bit, Bruce and Betty being awarded the blue rosette for matched pairs of light draught. The event was duly celebrated by our drivers, one of whom is still trying to find out how and when he returned to barracks. In spite of caustic remarks, such as " This ain't a casting parade " and many others of an equally complimentary nature from our less successful rivals, I think that one and all will admit that the horses were a credit to the Section.

Entertainments.—Weird and wonderful noises have of late been heard in 26 West. For the information of those who may be feeling curious, it is only Beekay's Syncopated Orchestra at practice—but more about this in later issues, after we have made our debut.

Salvete.—Drivers Douthwaite and Cook have joined us from the S.T.C. Long may they reign in the lead and centre lead respectively.

Vive Vale.—At the time of going to press, L/Corpl Hurditch and Sigmn Revell have been provisionally warned for draft to Aden—the Signals' Garden of Eden. As Company and unit camp may interfere with the publishing of any notes from this Section next month, we take this opportunity of wishing them all they wish themselves. Hitch and Mitch, the Siamese twins, have both offered to put their puggarees on.

Gazette.—Although at the time of writing there are no marriages, births or deaths to record, at the present rate of progress it appears that Ferdi had better indent for a good supply of A.22's. Farnborough, Hook, Ramsgate and Manor Park are all well in the running. Farnham was scratched recently. In the case of Farnborough, it is evidently a case of " Veni (on a lady's bicycle), vidi, vici."

Latest Jazz Tune.—The Aldershot wail: " Oh, Victor, my boy! why did you trust him so?" BEEKAY.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

We are grateful to our friends overseas for their kindness in at last publishing some notes. They were received with more than interest, and the hope is expressed that, now a start has been made, the production will be kept up.

Our own activities have changed but little, for schemes are still the order of the day. By night, the order varies somewhat —if some seven blankets, a camp bed and an oil stove can be called a variation. Of course, they might not be used ; but " the unwinking eye" was never applied to the Army, we would remind readers.

Another Impending Disaster.—The Company moves to Larkhill in August, and rumour has it that One Company are sending a cook and washbowls. Oh, what will the harvest be?

Something New in Notes.—After a very one-sided game, One Company gained an easy and hollow victory over Four Company in the recent Fuge trophy match. It was not the poor batting of Four Company that contributed to their downfall, but rather the all-round excellence of Oneco's bowling and fielding. The latter showed delightful and refreshing freedom during their stay at the wicket, and easily reduced the opposing attack to impotence. We heartily congratulate them, and are grateful for the lesson given. May we prove apt pupils!

Phew! Nature's gentlemen is a hard role to fulfil. Let us away to something more in my own line.

" Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all its sons away." We know, but how long before she operates on Cooper? Replies to reach this office not later than the 25th.

Promotions.—Sigmn Waters W. G. to U/L/Corporal. Congratulations!

Sigmn Ball from Div. 5 to Div. 4 Health and Strength League. Raspberries!

Re-Engagement.—Sergt Cole A. W. to complete twenty-one years with the Colours. Caramba!

Late rumours from the course indicate a strong tendency for the Company to go hiking. Now, this is all to the good, but why has an electric iron been purchased? People don't go rambling in ironed and spotless linen. We have at the moment some five hikers, all afflicted the same way. It's deep—very deep!

Sunshine Sketches: No. 6.—Bombardier Brennan (by Slightly Out of Mind). No mean performer, this colt, mind you—except in money matters. He only spends money on principle, never on anyone else ; so backers are advised to be wary. Is a big noise in local cinemas ; especially so when the film does not suit him. Won the Argument Stakes with plenty to spare, and has never really been extended. Is a local, which accounts for the burr in his voice, and has been East, but climatic conditions destroyed his complex(ion). Trained and owned by someone in the West End (Blackdown, Ha, Eng.).

Now, that should be sufficient for this month. You must work out your own salvation till a season hence.

Too Late for Classification.—Reg.: Am writing when I've got over the shock of this effort. Don't weaken. T.

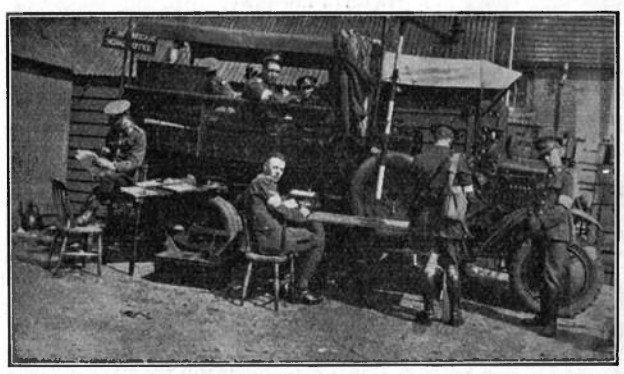
1st Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The Company has been reduced this month, owing to one Section going on their annual visit to Bordon. Old members of L Section will remember this trip ; it will probably bring tears to their eyes.

Unit exercises now being completed, the Sections are concentrating on collective Brigade training.

Owing to the glut of inventions recently brought to light, the lorries move off on schemes like Pickford's vans inside and Wall's ice cream barrows outside. One Section has suggested adding cocoanut shies to make the picture complete. Apart from the flippancy, we consider ourselves absolutely efficient and ready to take on the biggest job.



" Roaring K." Brigade H.Q. at Fleet.
(on the recent Exercise with the Staff College)

The three Sections recently eclipsed themselves on a four-day exercise with the Staff College. Although little sleep was obtained, everybody was as fresh at the end as at the beginning (no Hungarian raspberries, please).

Marriage.—The Company whole-heartedly congratulates our O.C., Capt R. H. Rayner, M.B.E., on his recent marriage to Miss Betty Courtauld.

Promotion.—Sergt Westwood to be C.Q.M.S., 15/5/31.

Arrivals.—Drivers Swann and Lewis from Catterick. May their stay be long and pleasant!

Departure.—We regret the departure of our racing tipster Alec to Catterick (who said that the rations were bigger?) Never mind! all the best in your new adventure, Alec.

"A" Set mk. iii. worked from a Morris six-wheeler.

Sports.—At the moment sport is occupying most of our spare time. The great thing is the Cobb inter-Company trophy. At short notice a swimming team was collected, who were unlucky to be 5½ points behind No. 1 Company. These points were pulled up in the athletics, with a few extra to boot. The issue will depend on the cricket and football, which I am certain is a foregone conclusion. No. 1 Company, take note!

THREECOY.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—As usual, there is very little of interest to report; and had it not been for the reminders and little happenings given me by various people, this month's notes would not have materialised.

One good thing turned up, though, in the form of our poet, who under great stress turned out the following ditty:—

"IF WE SHOULD GO ON!"

In olden times the operator was a specialist—
There were three different kinds of him upon the Signals list.
They'd operators visual, line, and W/T.
Till, one fine day, somebody said "Now, now, just let me see.
Why shouldn't one man do the lot?" No sooner said than done:
They took the blessed three of them and rolled 'em into one.

Consider now the sad case of Augustus Vere de Vere.
A pleasant young chappie, Gussie was. He is no longer here.
He set off as a wireless op, but found to his dismay
They'd made an operator signals of him one black day.
He learnt about the radio, and magnetism too,
And how to go south without a compass, Gussie knew.

He mastered all the code of Morse (he shook a wicked dot):
What Augustus did not know of sending wasn't such a lot.
He learnt to read a buzzer, a helio, a flag,
A land line or a wireless set, *The Times*, the "Happy Mag."
There was no limit to his powers; indeed, I rather think
He'd read the sergeant's fortune if he had enough to drink.

And then upon a big black horse they placed our Gus astride,
And, heedless of his frenzied shrieks, they taught the lad to ride.
He learnt to sit a motor-bike and on it travel far,
And then, to cap the blooming lot, he had to drive a car.
Moreover, if his head had stood the strain, they meant to try
To take him in an aeroplane and teach him how to fly.

But Gussie just gave up the ghost and went right off his dot.
Sparks flew from his noble brow, his brain had got so hot,
"If C will equal E on R, unless you are an ass,
You'll slip her gently into third, declutch and give her gas,
And always hold on with your knees, or else you'll bite the dust."
And with these last affecting words, our noble Gussie bust.

BLACK.

Old Comrades Re-Union.—And the Sons of Signals had been stirred up and assembled a multitude of great forces, and had departed for a far country, for the land was at war. Even with their chariots and their steeds had they departed, and the sages and the wise men remained in their tents. And on the following morning, while it was yet dark, the sages rose early and attended the muster with their followers. And the sages held council and said "Why do we suffer this harsh treatment?" and they rent their garments, even the Kew-em of Oneco. Then one of them, who was very wise, even the Ar-kew, said, "We shall no more attend the muster, for do not we require to rest our wearied grey matter?" And the sages were glad and rejoiced among themselves, saying, "Behold, a learned judge sojourns with us." And in the days that followed the sages lay in their cots and tarried there till the sun was risen. But when the warriors returned, for the battle had gone well with them, they laughed and waxed joyful at the discomfiture of the sages.

Unusual Occurrence.—On the morning of the twelfth day of the seventh month, lo! the Ess-em sent forth word that the heathens and they who do not attend the tabernacle, even them with wives, should scrub out. And the heathens foregathered, and with them the layers of bricks with their mops, and the kips were shifted, even the flea pit of Doodle. Much water flowed and cleansed the floor even to the whiteness of driven snow, and the workers rested from their labours. And lo, a new song was heard in the land: "I'm a cleaner; aren't we all."

The Company Gazette.—A hearty welcome is extended to 2/Lieut Harrison, who joined this merry band (?) from Catterick last month.

Sigmn Osborne also arrived from Catterick.

There are two departures to note—Signalmen Hinton C. and Francis J. to Brighton, with No. 6 Artillery Section—which reduces the number of operators to eight.

Promotions.—Corporals Frey and Rumble to that rank. The usual congratulations!

Tail Piece.—

Ten little operators stood smartly in a line:
One went up to cut the grass and then there were nine.
Nine little operators awaiting their sweet fate:
One went to the sergeants' mess and then there were eight.
Eight little operators gazing up to heaven:
One went off to draw some juice and then there were seven.
Seven little operators full of derelict tricks:
One went on coal fatigues and then there were six.
Six little operators—five of them could drive:
One went on instruction and then there were five.
Five little operators waiting for some more:
One went on a cooker, cleaning; then there were four.
Four little operators. Now, just let me see:
One went to B Section and then there were three.
Three little operators wondering what to do:
One stepped on a Carden Lloyd and then there were two.
Two little operators stood there in the sun:
One went on tent erecting and then there was one.
One little operator thought the work was done:
Simply rolled up on the spot and then there was none.

FUTURIST.

No. 3 Company.

General.—The Company have done several combined Divisional schemes with the 1st Division and A Corps around local areas, and results have been good.

Arrival.—Driver Ogden from the Depot Battalion.

Departures.—Signalmen Cameron and Collins to the Depot Battalion on posting.

Tattoo Returns.—And it came to pass that one of the tribe was led away, even unto the land of Shot, and loud was the rejoicing in Firtifour when it was known that his name was Goofus (even the mechanical one). From thence the bidding for old cars increased tenfold, but lo! he fell by the wayside and he walked

down the hill that is known as Gun. And his heart was heavy and his head hung low when he came upon the fair one, for had he not promised her the joys of travel even as Boadicea at the Toodleoo. And he was cast away from the tribe into the garden of the Ar-ess-em. And in the morning he arose and was sad, for he had visited his fathers and they were angry, and lo! he saw himself likened unto a Mormon (even a straight and narrow one). And the water wagon rejoiced, for had it not acquired a master of renown, even the aforesaid one. And Goofus raged, and loud were the shouts as he rode away to glory, for at last he had found his chariot. And it was said in the land of Threeco that he was famous, for his harem was large and airy, even the one in the land of Shot.

Courses.—Corpl Douglas to the A.V.T.C., Hounslow, via the forage barn.

The Biscuit.—This is awarded to Dickinson for deciding to go through with it.

Births.—On the Basingstoke Canal, to the Swan family, total number now reads seven. Ration indents arranged accordingly. Heath, please note.

Promotions.—L/Corpls Dale and Ravenhall to be Corporals.

Ref. Last Month's Notes.—Geordie now denies the announcement that he is entering next year's T.T. race. Instead, he is going all out for the pillion relay from Newcastle to Horsham. His only trouble, so far, is that he does not know any girl in Doncaster, but we hope to make the acquaintance of one for him in the near future. THREECO.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

One could travel westward to the tranquil country of Somerset, or eastward to the low-lying levels of Essex, or even, provided one's tastes were of sufficiently wide order, southward to the sandy wastes of Hampshire, and somewhere in these regions could be found—at the moment—various detachments of this industrious unit.

The communications necessary to the smooth working of the Searchlight Battalion R.E. summer camp at Warley are being maintained by G Cable Section, who with their usual efficiency quietly but quickly connect up cable and other technical things peculiar to Signals, to searchlights, height finder positions, and all the other dedalous gadgets essential to the ultimate discovery by searchlight of the night raiders of the skies.

A detachment also remains at Watchet to keep a very Signal-like eye on the communications there.

Here, at Blackdown, the rear party continues to carry out the normal routine work, with a few bonuses in the way of picquets thrown in, whilst the D.R.s enjoy the fruits of many schemes in the neighbourhood.

Arrivals.—We heartily welcome to the unit, 2/Lieut G. E. Aldridge from Catterick. One now hopes to see the D.R. Section turn out en masse during the forthcoming cross-country season!

We also extend the glad hand to Signalmen Joyce, Chadwick and Aldridge from the Training Battalion. At the moment, with few men here and many and varied duties, they are particularly welcome. They have been posted to that Section whose lullaby is the chug-chug of the motor-cycle and whose swan song oft-times drowns the roar of the engines.

Congratulations.—We congratulate Sigmn Vidler G. on being rewarded—after much patient waiting for a vacancy—with his class ii. rating, and Signalmen Joyce, Chadwick and Aldridge, also, on being remustered D.iii.

En Passant.—Much wailing and groaning may be heard around the department of the pay johnnie. Numerous duties—too numerous to mention here—have apparently fallen about him like a mantle, and in the maelstrom that engulfs him he may be heard feebly muttering " And what do I do in my spare time?"

Our much harassed cook also deserves a few words of sympathy during his reign as rear party grub chief. Cheer up, Black! the camp wallahs will soon be back.

Voila tout! B.S.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

General.—We were very pleased to note the re-appearance of several units abroad in the pages of the Corps Journal, but there are still a few others from whom news is eagerly awaited. What is the matter with your scribe, Wazirdist Signals? We turn to the foreign pages each month but find khuch nahin. Look to it, please!

Social.—On July 2nd the commanding officer and Mrs. Sykes were at home to the married families of this unit and E and F Troops, Cavalry Divisional Signals. The officers of the three units were at home to the single personnel and their lady friends.

The day dawned in a very disheartening manner, the clerk of the weather deciding that heavy rain was an appropriate setting for a garden party. Towards the middle of the morning it cleared off, and from then on all was bright and merry.

The Tattoo ground, the entrance corner of which was the site of the party, looked wonderfully green after the rain, while the sun had been sufficiently strong to dry it off. The Royal Signals Band, under the able conductorship of Mr. R. Ricketts, was in attendance and rendered a delightful programme of modern and classical music. Several people were heard to remark that it was one of the best military bands they had heard.

Soon after four o'clock, Mr. Dobson's Tattoo riders gave a display of trick riding. This proved very popular indeed, and judging by the standard of that performance the D.R. display at this year's Tattoo should be even better than on previous occasions. We will endeavour to publish a few photographs of the various tricks at a later date.

Tea followed the D.R. display. The N.A.A.F.I. did the catering and provided an excellent tea and ices. A vote of thanks is certainly due to the N.A.A.F.I. staff for the excellent service.

After tea the Band again delighted us with more selections from their programme, which concluded with the Corps March.

The guests, having spent a very enjoyable time, left at about a quarter to six. This annual garden party is a much appreciated event, and all who were present hope to be able to attend many more.

The fortnightly whist drive was held on the 30th June and was quite a successful affair. The number of tables was smaller than usual, but this was due to a fairly large percentage of our regular patrons being away on schemes. We hope to see them all again at the monthly dance on July 13th, more of which in the next issue.

Arrivals.—Sigmn Coles P. from School of Signals ; Signalmen Griffiths R. and Shove R. from F Company, Training Battalion. All three have since left us for F Troop Cavalry Divl Signals. We wish them a very pleasant stay in this part of the country.

Technical.—On June 30th the unit supplied one M.A. set for the demonstration to the R.M.A. Cadets at Aldershot. 2/Lieut. T. E. Dobson was the demonstrator, and the set was working to another M.A. set supplied by F Troop Cavalry Divl Signals, at Tidworth.

R/T communication was first established in the morning, but we had to revert to W/T in the afternoon owing to heavy local interference. A certain amount of amusement was caused about the middle of the afternoon, when it was discovered that all the metal parts of the vehicle were " alive."

The M.A. set was also out on the Southern Command signal exercise on 6th/7th July, but unfortunately was forced to retire early in the day owing to a breakdown.

We have now on charge to this unit the public speech equipment, Capt C. T. Hughes, M.C., being in charge and C.Q.M.S. Hall and his merry band on the staff. This apparatus is housed in a specially designed trailer which presents the appearance of a pantechnicon and has been unofficially named " the Caravan." The public speech equipment travels round to the various demonstrations and is used to announce the important items. Inside the studio are the usual broadcasting instruments. Four outsizes in loud speakers are used in connection with the studio, and are attached on very long connecting leads to facilitate their being moved about.

Congratulatory.—Our congratulations are offered to Corporal and Mrs. Tidey on the happy arrival of a daughter (June) at Portsmouth on June 26th,

Hearty congratulations to Corpl Harbottle on his promotion to that rank w.e.f. 15/5/31 (mine will be the usual, Fred. Thanks!)

The unit's congratulations are extended to Sigmn Smeed L. J. on his having obtained a "pass 1st class" in magnetism and electricity at the recent City and Guilds examination.

Dole Dodgers.—The following, having decided that it is a cruel hard world in civvy street, duly signed along the dotted line and are now waiting to be measured for topees, camels, snow shoes and other queer things peculiar to foreign service:—C.Q.M.S. Rushworth V., L/Sergts Jones C. and Davis H., L/Cpls Choulerton J., Vine J., Newnham C. and Shove J., to complete twenty-one years, and Sigmn Lane to complete eight.

L.S. and G.G. Medal.—On Sunday, July 5th, L/Corpl Wells was awarded the long service and good conduct medal. Well done! It has been rumoured that the rush to re-engage was brought about by this award. Because one has been awarded, they think they stand a chance. Well, well! one never knows!

Answers to Correspondents.—Shady, G Troop: No! H.320 is not like Johnnie Walker. In fact, all the "H" family have gone to a far far better land. In their place are the Guys. No more do we creep around the Plain all out at 5 m.p.h. No, sir; we hold our own with anything except an aeroplane, and we are hoping to fit wings at a later date. For all that, Shady, it was a sad day when H.323 went away.

Sport.—It is now some time since we appeared in the Sports section. We have at long last induced the cricket secretary, who usually is a very shy person, to write a few lines about our team. I hope you will find room for us, Mr. Editor.

Trade Tests.—Further congratulations are handed out to L/Corpl Steele H. on his re-classification as clerk C.ii. Now for that C.i., eh? H.Q.

No. 4 Tank Signal Section, Catterick Camp.

General.—We noticed in the July WIRE a lament from the scribe of our parent unit A.F.V. Signals, Tidworth, that there is an absence of notes from Tank Signal Sections. Although this Section is possibly the smallest as far as numbers are concerned, we feel quite strong enough to have our say in the matter.

The chief trouble with regard to Tank Sections is that we are usually doing *real* work all day, and getting so grimed up in general that we are unable to get down to ordinary routine such as writing notes. Most unit correspondents being fairy-fingered clerks, they can, no doubt, find more time to spare.

Now that we have started, we will endeavour to tell the world a little about ourselves.

The Section is under the command of 2/Lieut A. B. Whatman, and consists of one lance-sergeant, one lance-corporal and five signalmen. I will not detail all their names, as several of them do not desire the police to know where they are.

During the last month we have been very busy fitting R/T sets into tanks, training Royal Tank Corps personnel as Company R/T operators (?), and taking part in local schemes—and at last our labours have had some reward, as the Royal Tank Corps operators are considered sufficiently trained to carry on by themselves.

The 4th Battn Royal Tank Corps have made us very comfortable in our various spheres, and even if Catterick Camp doesn't suit all of us, it is not the fault of the 4th Battn R.T.C.

We cannot, unfortunately, get much in the way of sport, as there are not enough of us to make a team; but Mr. Whatman played for the Royal Tank Corps Officers' Mess in a cricket match against the sergeants.

The remainder of the Section seem to shine more at ping pong. In any case, they usually win a few packets of cigarettes on Thursday evenings in competitions held in the Y.M.C.A.

A demonstration of controlling a tank by R/T was given on Thursday, June 25th, to the officers, n.c.o.s and men of the 26th A.C. Company (Yeomanry). They all seemed very interested in the proceedings.

We are expecting shortly to move to Redesdale—'way up near the Scottish border—to attend the annual gunnery practice of the Royal Tank Corps.

We hope to subscribe a monthly contribution to the notes of this Magazine during the period we are on detachment.

4.T.S.S.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—We have been busy during the first part of the month, getting in as much Section training as possible before Band Week and the two signal exercises in the first part of July.

Sections had their first try-out on a W/T day scheme, and later on had a combined unit scheme which carried on until midnight. Many good lessons were learned on these two schemes, and there is no doubt all concerned benefited.

The athletic team have had a steady period of training in the evenings that have been available, and competed in the Southern Command championships on June 30th and July 1st, putting up a very good performance in being placed second to the Army champions, the 1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I.

The Corps Band were welcomed again on June 29th. Arriving about 4.30 p.m. they very soon commenced their programme by playing at the officers' mess that evening.

The officers said good-bye to Col. R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., our late C.S.O., that evening; and very sorry we were to know he was going, for not only had he shown the keenest interest in the Signals units in the Command, but also in the Salisbury Branch of the Signals Association, which he did much towards forming and which he supported whole-heartedly in its activities. I hear he has taken up the appointment of G.S.O.1 at the War Office, which is very gratifying to us all.

On the same evening the officers welcomed our new C.S.O., Colonel F. A. Heymann, O.B.E.; and we now extend our welcome, for we know him as one of the original Signals officers with a very wide experience.

The Band gave an hour's programme in the lines on Tuesday morning, and an open-air concert in the evening. On Wednesday they played at the Southern Command sports, and on Thursday entertained the Signal units at Tidworth. Friday was the unit sports day, and the Band did us very well, and in the evening they played at the Sergeants' Mess ball. On Saturday they were rained off the cricket ground, but it managed to keep fine for the church parade with the Old Comrades on Sunday. After church they hurried off to keep an evening engagement at Bath.

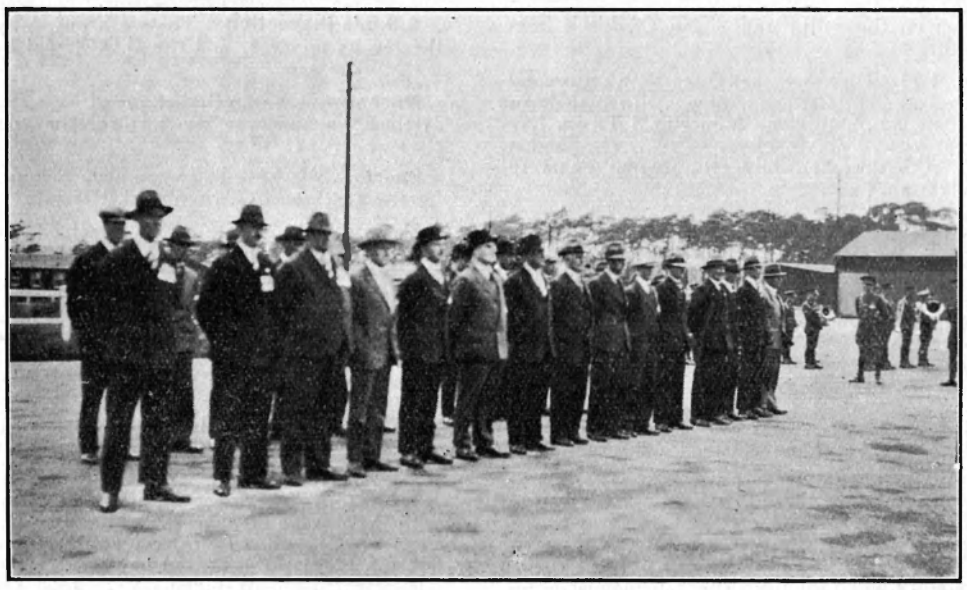
Gymkhana and Sports.—This hardy annual was held on the Beacon Hill ground on Friday, July 3rd, and was well attended. The sun shone brilliantly all the afternoon, and a full programme was run through very smoothly. The boot race did not take place, as for some unknown reason there were no entries.

During the afternoon we were treated to a D.R. display by some of the D.R.s who will take part in the Tidworth Tattoo. The speed at which the various evolutions were carried out was amazing, and their antics on motor-cycles were worth going a long way to see. Those fortunate enough to see the display at Tidworth Tattoo are in for a real thrill.

Annual Church Parade with Old Comrades.—The weather looked gloomy on Sunday, July 5th, and we were afraid we should not have a good muster of old comrades, but thirty of them came along. The unit were on parade when Mr. Butler, the secretary of the Signals Association, marched his company on parade, halting between the leading Company and the Band.

The seating in church was arranged so that the old comrades and w.o.s and senior n.c.o.s were seated on the left of the junior n.c.o.s and men. Padre Wilcox officiated and preached the sermon, making special reference to the origin of signalling. The padre claimed an ancient connection between the Royal Army Chaplains' Department and the Signals through the medium of a Chaplain-General who wrote an article about two centuries ago, urging officers to study communications: in other words, forecasting the modern importance of signals.

We had great pleasure in seeing one of the oldest of comrades, Lt.-General Sir John S. Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant Royal Signals, at the church, and when the parade had formed up to return, he inspected the old comrades and made a short speech.



The Old Comrades on Parade.

On return to camp, after the unit had reformed, our C.O., Lieut.-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., made a very nice and appropriate speech, saying how much we all appreciated that spirit of comradeship which made the old comrades turn up on these occasions, and telling them how welcome they were.

After the parade had been dismissed, the old comrades, the commanding officer, adjutant and R.S.M. formed a group for a photograph (see Association Notes in the earlier part of this issue). They then adjourned to the sergeants' mess for refreshments and lunch, so I will say no more about it until next year.

Sergeants' Mess.—We had been rubbing along very quietly until the Band arrived, when a certain liveliness began to creep in, culminating in the ball held on July 3rd.

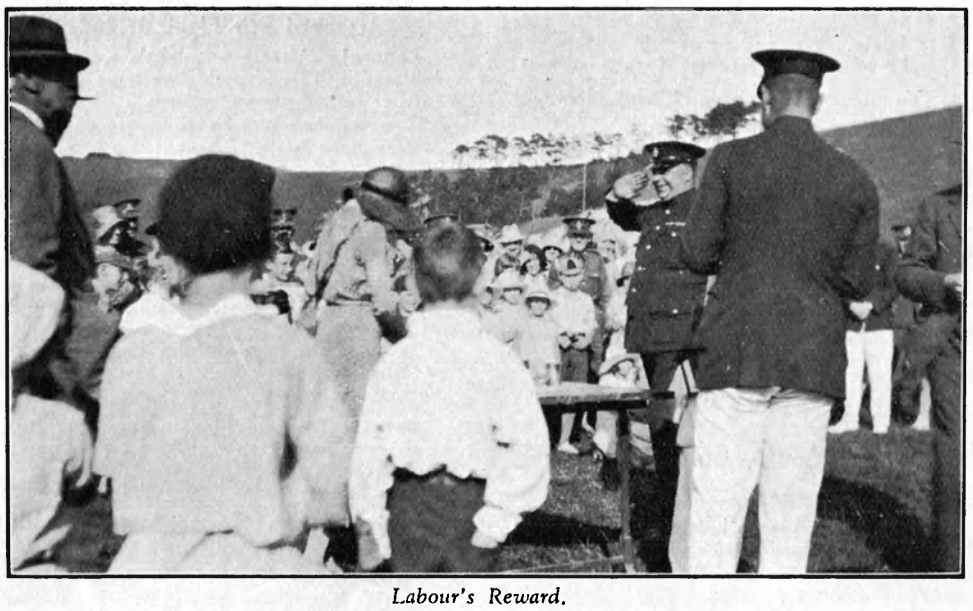
People had had a good afternoon at the sports, but came along in large numbers to the ball which was held in the Garrison Hall. Just before 10 p.m. we had great pleasure in welcoming Colonel E. A. Osborne, D.S.O. (a well-known Signals officer, who is now G.S.O.1 3rd Division) our own commanding officer and officers and their ladies. The fun was then at its height, the Band seeming to enjoy it as much as the dancers.

Supper was laid for 260 guests at two sittings, and here we must say a word of thanks to Captain R. J. N. Solly, who so very kindly played the piano whilst the Band were having supper.

The end came too quickly on this occasion, for the room was packed at 2 a.m. when "The King" was played. Every one voted the ball a great success, and they were sorry when they had to go home.

The Corps dance band worked extremely hard, and we are grateful for their excellent performance.

Arrivals.—Corpl Prees from Training Battalion on June 18th; Drivers Boot and Burrows from Depot Battalion, and Signalmen Catt, Gales and Taylor from Training Battalion, on the 19th; Sigmn Angell from Depot Battalion on the 20th; L/Sergt Ryan



Labour's Reward.

Lady Fowler presents the prize for the Comic Tug-of-War to C.S.M. Freemantle
(Sir John Fowler on the left)

from Depot Battalion on the 23rd ; and Sigmn Craddock from E Troop on the 30th.

Departures.—Corpl Hassell, discharged June 25th ; Corporal Mayson to Training Battalion, Catterick, June 27th ; Signalman Matchett to Depot Battalion, and Sigmn Milner to E Troop, July 4th. L/Corpl Dempsey to A.V.T.C. Hounslow, July 1st. Sigmn Rushmere to A.V.T.C. Aldershot, July 6th. Sigmn Paine to Depot Battalion, July 10th.

Re-Engagements.—Sigmn Paine H. to complete twelve years with the Colours, June 11th. L/Sergt Talling and Corpl Gatford to complete twenty-one years, June 12th.

Marriages.—Corpl Kennedy to Elizabeth Delia McNamara, at West Ham, June 14th. Sigmn Hadland to Eunice Annie Cook, at Brimscombe, June 20th.

Promotion.—L/Corpl/ Lapper to be Corporal, vice Corporal Bailey (promoted), May 5th.

Courses.—Corpl Kennedy attended a cook's course at Aldershot from May 4th to June 12th, and obtained a certificate.

Birth.—To L/Corpl Boniface, a son (Brian Ernest Robert) at Bulford, on June 9th.

No. 2 Artillery Signal Section, Okehampton.

We were all very sorry when informed that our popular O.C., Lieut. W. G. R. Elliott, would not accompany the Section to the R.A. practice camp on account of ill-health, probably brought on by adverse weather conditions encountered during Brigade training. We sincerely hope, sir, that you will soon recover.

2/Lieut. D. White has taken over the command during the absence of Lieut. Elliott, and we all extend a hearty welcome to him, trusting that his short stay with us will be both interesting and pleasant.

Departure.—Hungry, of the Cable Detachment, has said farewell on transfer to the Army Reserve. The best of luck in civil life, Charlie. We hope to meet you again some day at the Ormonde Hotel, Hastings.

A True Story.—The Yale key of the Section stores outer door was lost. Yes, absolutely gone! Two corporals, late of this Section—one known as Bill, the other as Smudge—went together to Egypt. One day, many moons afterwards, the one named Bill, in looking through his seventh suit-case, came across a key. He thereupon showed it to Smudge. The latter, good man that he is, took necessary action. Sequel: *our* key duly arrived at Larkhill by ordinary letter post.

Work.—Plenty of it lately. We participated in all the big shows that mattered, and received good reports. Keep it up, lads!

Congratulations.—To Signalmen Cowen H. and Harvey J. on obtaining their 2nd class educational certificates. Have a shot at the 1st, Fairy, when you get settled down in Egypt.

Overheard—In the Sergeants' Mess, Bulford, during Band Week: "Now, John, march like a sergeant-major!"

Tips.—If you want to locate Eddy Section when out on Salisbury Plain, look out for their drum horse.

We heard the Corps Band—yes, at Bath—by wireless. Next year, with a bit of luck, we hope to see it—by television!

Personal.—Will No. 2319858 Sigmn Carpenter T., somewhere in India, kindly inform No. 2319863 Sigmn Taylor J. if he has met Ghandi yet?

Lastly.—We conclude our notes with a "snap." JOYLE.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

No. 1 Company.

Arrivals.—We welcome Sigmn Hancock from Egypt, Signalmen Taylor, Terry and Wilkins from S.T.C., and ex-Boys Manley, Larkin and Fitzpatrick, so the re-forming of A Section has at last been begun.

Departures.—L/Cpl Spencer (to No. 2 Company), and Driver Mortimer discharged.

G.O.C.'s Inspection.—The work put in by all ranks produced the results required, and the G.O.C. said he was very satisfied with all he saw.

Musketry.—We are rather proud of ourselves just at present, as the Company averaged 3.7 over the points required for 1st class shot: i.e. 58.7.

Sports.—We have to congratulate Sigmn Marshall on playing for the Colchester Garrison cricket team.

Swimming.—We are rather hopeful of being first or second in the Garrison swimming championships.

No. 3 Company.

General.—J and L Sections left us on July 1st to join their respective Brigades at Shorncliffe and Dover. Our best wishes go with them. May they earn the praise due to their efforts, as in previous years.

With only K Section left, our Company has, of course, a very depleted appearance, but nevertheless our enthusiasm is overcoming numerical handicaps.

Training.—At present we are doing a weekly all-day scheme with the Brigade Intelligence staff, and so far have impressed the Brigade staff with our efficiency and keenness. Many little faults occur in the day's work, but our post-scheme discussions tend to eliminate the points noted. Very soon our ambition will be realised: a scheme without a single hitch.

Arrival.—We welcome 2/Lieut P. H. P. Hobson from Catterick, and trust his stay with us will be a prolonged and happy one.

Departures.—Signalmen Wilson L. W. and Kirby F. have gone down. Our best wishes for their future well-being in civilian life go with them.

Sport.—During this summer we intend to play the Signal Section of each Battalion in the Garrison at cricket.

We have already played the Royal Fusiliers, and have become acquainted with the people we will co-operate with during training. The match resulted in a win for us, the scores being: Royal Fusiliers 53, K Section 100 for three (declared).

Congratulations.—To Sergt Terrell, Corpl Ball and L/Corpls Hooren and Giddy, on upholding K Section's prestige in the unit swimming sports. THREECO.

E Signal Section.

Attached 8th Field Brigade R.A., Shorncliffe.

General.—After a fortnight's recuperation at that well-known hill station Trawsfynydd, we have returned to Shorncliffe for a further course of sun bathing.

The weather was as good as could be expected, with local storms (very local). I hear it is a lovely place when the weather is fine—although I must admit we had a couple of fine days.

There was a saying that when one could see through the Gap it would be fine weather. It was seen several times, but I'm afraid that kind of weather forecast was rather a poor one. It is probably a legend of earlier times.

Training.—Since our return, we have commenced musketry in the hopes of making a good return and improving the average of the unit.

Some of the men are now busy at school every day, working for the 2nd class certificate of education. I hope they all pass with flying colours.

Sports.—We are now in the R.A. Brigade Cricket League, and count as a Battery. As soon as we can, we hope to show some results.

The Section is also busy training in vaulting and tent pegging.

Arrival.—Driver Souter A. from Colchester. May his stay with us be a long and happy one!

Departures.—Lieut H. N. Crawford has left us for Weedon. We wish him all the best of luck in the future. Sigmn McTigue A. and Driver Harvey N. S. D. have also gone to Weedon on duty.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

V.A.D. Inspection.—The annual inspection of the V.A.D. of the North Riding area was held in our barracks on Saturday, June 20th. From 9 a.m. onwards the various contingents commenced to arrive, and by midday over two thousand men and women were on parade.

During the morning a number of nursing competitions were held in the various lecture and school rooms which were placed at their disposal, these being followed by the annual inspection in the afternoon by Sir Hugh Bell.

After the inspection, a display was staged to illustrate the work of the V.A.D. in a civilian capacity by the rescue of men and women from the burning wreckage of a train accident. The patients were conveyed to field hospitals by ambulances, and the hospitals were opened for inspection by the public after the cases had been treated and placed in their beds.

We very much regret to hear of the death of Sir Hugh Bell, which occurred a week after the inspection. He will be a great loss to the Association as well as to Yorkshire. Although over eighty-seven years of age, he was an example to most young men, as he displayed untiring energy in helping to organise many public causes.

Corporals' Mess.

General.—This month we have to congratulate Corpls Burgess C. A. and Collins D. J. on their promotion to L/Sergeant. It is hoped that the Wee Mon will drop in occasionally downstairs and render that masterpiece of his, "The Gyppo Swan Song," to his late cronies.

The monthly medal and title of H.H. Ananias goes to our most worthy brother T. Mayer for his story about the tea-bucket. Perhaps Doughy will be able to go one better after his sojourn in the wilds of Wathgill.

L/Corpl Godfray has at long last realised his ambition by moving off to Tynemouth Castle on temporary duty. He was never really happy here since visiting that place last year. The 1/7 per day had a lot to do with his misery, and the misery of Bill Forster and the Mess in general.

L/Corpl Boyd has decided to make it pontoons only, as he wishes to join the band of old sweats.

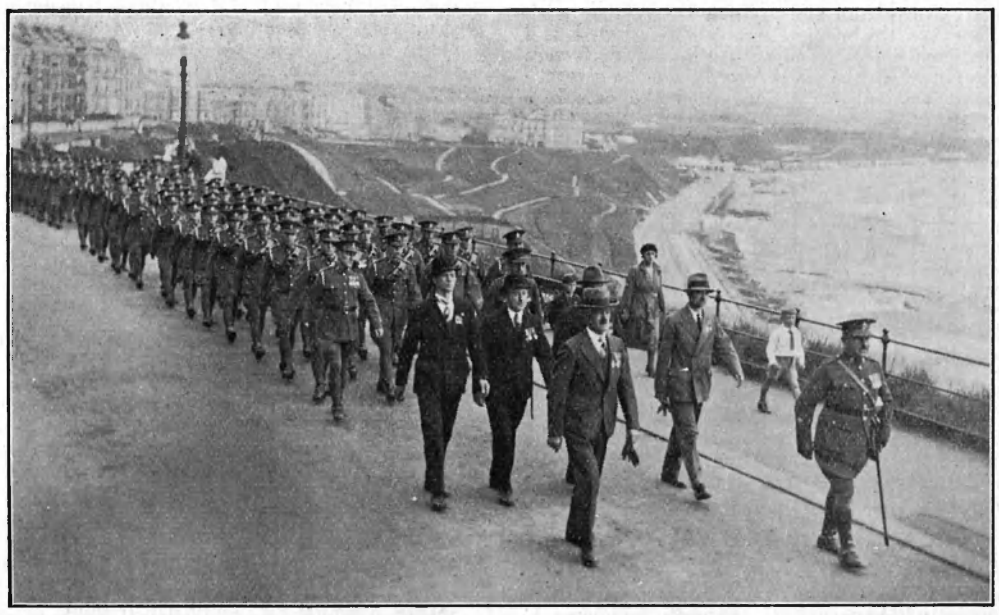
L/Corpl Swan has delayed the drawing of the dole for a further two years.

Our C.O., Lieut.-Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C.

Corpl Weeks A. has departed for pastures new, having decided that he would try the air of Salisbury for a change. Best of luck, Simon ; don't forget the lads when the news comes through.

Thirty members of the Corporals' Mess, Depot Battalion, paid a flying visit to Scarborough during a week-end, and we hope they enjoyed themselves while with us, despite the rain, which made cricket impossible.

HAGGIS.



The Old Comrades Church Parade.

UNITS ABROAD

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

General.—At present we are experiencing a very uneventful period, but there is every indication that we shall see several reforms in the near future. Quite half the unit have enjoyed a welcome ten days rest at the Manora leave camp on the other side of Karachi harbour. This leave forms an ideal break from the monotony of normal routine, and I don't think there would be many refusals should an opportunity of repeating it be forthcoming.

The first intensive training class for operator-signals has just completed a month of study. The test period was a process of elimination, with the ultimate object that only the fittest should survive. Keen interest was shown throughout both by students and instructors, in view of which it is surprising that the majority failed to pass out. Still, the fact that only one-third of the course proved successful indicates that a high standard was expected, and all the more credit is due to the successful candidates, not forgetting the instructors.

The first riding class has successfully passed out, and a second has commenced. The usual tumbles resulted, and some had to walk back to the stables. As regards their long-eared pals, general soreness of the mouth prevents them from publishing their first-hand knowledge.

The remainder of the unit are busily exploring the mysteries of squad drill, the rifle as an aid to bodily exercise, and the gas-mask as an aid to beauty.

Social.—During the month of June an all ranks fancy dress dance was held. Many old friends repeated their visits, accompanied by several newcomers. The evening proved an undoubted success: a fact which reflects great credit upon the committee, who were untiring in their efforts to make things run smoothly. The band, as usual, gave a very fine programme. This, in the face of adverse conditions—the heat was oppressive, and many were liquidating their interest—was a grand exhibition. A number of costumes were in evidence and presented the judges with a difficult task. However, the winners were finally selected, and the prizes distributed amid great applause. An interesting feature was the statue dance, in which the poses forced upon the competitors when the music suddenly ceased afforded the onlookers much amusement.

A hockey dinner was held at the British Union Jack Club on the 18th June, to celebrate the close of a very eventful season. Those present included the team, reserves, umpires, and Messrs. Britto, Murray, Brotherston, Hampton and Blake. The latter are well known throughout the district for their activity in civilian hockey, and their names will conjure up memories of many a fine tussle to ex-members of this unit.

Our appetites appeased, and filled with contentment, we fell to telling each other what fine fellows we were. Sergt Shardlow briefly recounted the hockey history of the unit, to which the C.O., Major P. A. Hitchcock, replied with a very inspiring speech. Sergt Taylor next said a few words about our prowess in civilian hockey, to which each of our guests replied in turn. After the speeches one of our number regaled us with a few songs at the piano. His technique was so sparkling, and his repertoire so extensive, that no one dared risk comparison with him.

The close brought many regrets that it was all over, and it was unanimously agreed to make it an annual affair—for such are the trenchermen we have in our team!

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the following:—Sergeants Godbold A. R. and Fairman H. on attaining their present rank. Corpl Young on his promotion to that rank; and L/Corporals Robertson J. C., Pengelly and Jones L. O. R. on obtaining a foothold on the bottom rung.

Educational.—The following are the achievements of the intelligentsia in the March examinations:—1st class: L/Sergeant Smithers, Signalmen Fearnley and Hiscock passed in all subjects; L/Sergt Bridge in mathematics; Signalmen Jones B. A. and Connolly L. in map reading. Special: R.S.M. Wray G. "D" in Urdu; Corpl Jerram F. and Sigmn Squibbs W. passed in English "C." 2nd class: L/Corporal Jones L. O. R. and Signalmen Dymond, Dyball, Gallery and Howlett passed in all subjects.

This Month's Howler.—Sergt: "What is the excitant in an inert cell?" Sigmn: "Bitumen!"

This Month's Great Thought.—There are some men who refuse to go home.

Agony.—2315 UEZO YYNOR FS WJLNY FXCAGBY ELS V QLM 76 UOHORFMB QLNI.

Sigmn F. Dymond of this unit would appreciate news of No. 2319811 Sigmn Allen C. whereabouts unknown. AKORPZ.

Peshawar District Signals.

June 28th.

Apology.—The absence of notes from this unit during the last few months, we regret to say, is due to our regular correspondent being on leave in the land of thunder, lightning and rain. Roll on, and let's have some of it—or will you bring some back with you, Nick?

General.—I don't mean the burra sahib, so don't get a shake on. We offer a hearty welcome to Capt G. S. Hurst, who has taken over the command of No. 2 Company (commonly known as the Kajuri Company).

On March 13th we said good-bye to our last draft for Blighty. Tears prevent my mentioning their names, but bear up, lads; it's a case of gone but not forgotten.

Appointments.—Congratulations to the following on attaining the dizzy height of U/L/Corpl:—Signalmen McAuliffe (what, again this joke, Johnny?) Nobby Clarke, Pike (ex-Iraq wallahs, please note), Hamer, Bayley and Robinson. Now, what abaht signing on? Yes, sir; yes, sir; three bags full.

Departures.—On May 17th Lieut. D. G. C. Cowie, R.A., left us to rejoin his unit. This officer will be sadly missed, especially on the field of sport—any old game you like.

Agony Column.—Sigmn Taffy Marlow wishes to know if Dick Humphries, believed to be in 4th Div. Colchester, is still in the ranks. What about it, Dick?

Will the Leek correspondent kindly remember that we have out here a few ex-53rd members? What about some cheery news? Then we will knock 'em back when we roll home this trooper.

Rugby.—As the temperature is only 110 degrees in the shade, nuff sed, although we have a good team here. You ask Kohat District Signals about it.

Football.—As this is usually played between lights out and the rising of the sun, I'm afraid we see very little of it.

Hockey.—Daisy Dillon said he would go on home establishment next year if his team don't win the Hot Weather League. We are just half-way through it, having played five, won four, and lost one—to our old opponents the 31st Battery R.A. Still, we are confident of showing 'em how to play hockey next time we meet. At the time of going to press, the 31st Battery are unbeaten.

Vocational Training.—Sigmn Rocky Knight left us to commence a course of vocational training at Bannu. My word, Rocky! you don't 'arf pick your health resorts. TAFFY.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 1 Company.

Assaye Lines.

General.—As predicted in our last month's notes, the camp period brought forth many moans and groans—and compared with other camps, a small portion of these were !egitimate. Still, it's all over now, so we'll let the matter drop. At the same time, mention must be made of the attempt to reform the speech of the unit in general and No. 2 Company in particular. Unfortunately, the shortage of funds did not allow of our getting text cards, but it was really good to listen to some of the remarks which took the place of time-honoured ones. Mrs. Grundy would have been very pleased!

We all congratulate K Section on their fine effort in winning the inter-Section khud race, and Corpl Spearpoint on being first man home, closely followed by Sigmn Shubrook. Mention must also be made of A Section's splendid effort. The fact that they arrived too late for the start points to fine foresight on the part of the team leader. M.I.M.

During the camp period two staff exercises were carried out, and the unit came through with flying colours. Since our return to barracks a Staff College exercise has been held, and that also proved a success for Signals.

The Regimental Joking Society (whose membership is secret) have been very active again just lately. It appeared in unit orders that Tuesday, June 9th, would be as much like a holiday as possible. No one appears to know what a holiday is like, as no check parade was held. Still, most of us finished work for the day at 13.00 hours, so we can't moan.

This Month's Best.—Tired operator (on advanced signal centre exchange): "Signal Training Centre speaking, sir."

Phonograms on the Last Scheme.—"You ɔw oɔɔ. . . . eight?" "Eh! No, you xyz: ate."

We should like to know.—If Tashy found his dropping-up station?

If, and when, the C.S.M. will have a well-trained rider?

Where the mounted scouts got to on return from camp?

If the line on the right of the road is air-line?

How many of the men who marched from Kabul to Kandahar on Buffalo Dill's famous stew are alive?

When Bill is getting married?

If Tich will be there as best man?

When Bill is taking the pigeons to Z . . . . . t?

What the letters "W.W.D.S.C." mean?

Arrival.—Tosh from Sharman's Hotel.

A Soldier's Epitaph.—

Here lies the body of old Bill Steer.
Some say he died through drinking bad beer.
The concoction which killed him, between me and you,
Was a portion of Buffalo Dill's bully stew.

PUFTER.

No. 2 Company.

Taveta Lines, June 15th.

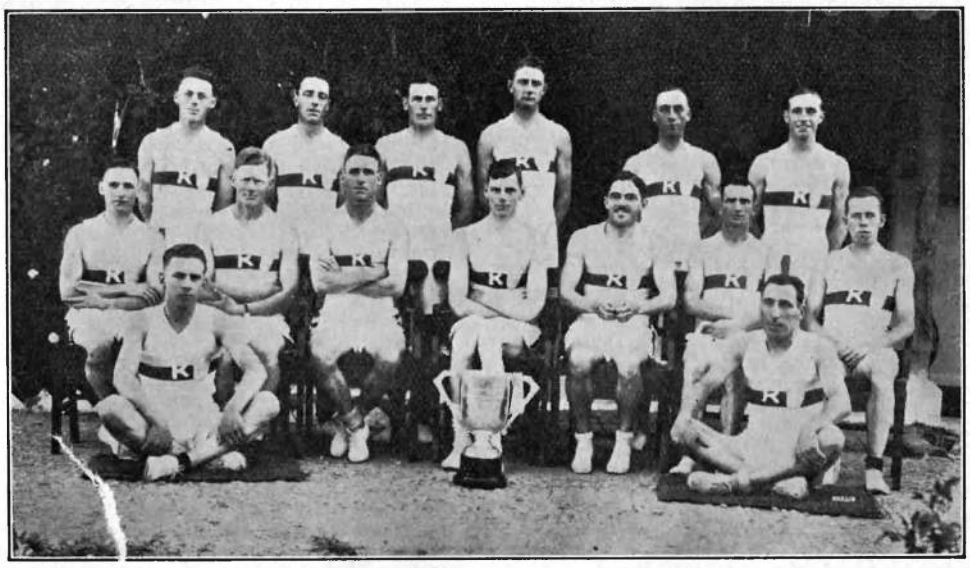
General.—So far, June has been a most uneventful month. A Staff College exercise and good progress in a football tournament just about sum up the unit's doings. There is really nothing to write about. Of course, I could relate thrilling tales of hunting trips and the like; how we tracked the khutcha naik to his lair; exciting encounters with flocks of flying dhobis; nights spent beneath the stars with the dreamy-eyed maidens of the tribe of the Chota-Tops. But, then, nobody would believe me, and as the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth is expected of me, I will close this paragraph. The people who are continually clamouring for the truth never appreciate it when they get it!

At Random.—A short time ago Harvey Thorley decided that his was a retiring nature, and so proceeded to work up this theory. Last week, however, he made a great comeback and is once more in the limelight. An order was issued to the effect that mosquito nets would be taken on the Staff College exercise. Harvey, observant as ever, at once noted the fact that there were no sky hooks in the scheme area, and so proceeded to confound the mosquitoes by taking down his poles and tying them into a neat bundle for loading. Then pity for his less observant comrades caused a lump to rise in Harvey's throat, so he proceeded to help them out by taking down poles in all directions. He still lives!

Then, one Trunky included a groundsheet in his dhobi list, with a covering note that he wished it to be washed in lux. If he carries out his threat to send his kit box, the dhobi is expected to resign.

Cross-Country Running.—Herewith a photograph of our team which did so well in winning the Baluchistan District cross-country run. They are, from left to right:—*(standing)* Sigmn Pfaff, Sigmn Fresle, L/Corpl Wainscoat, Sigmn Summerskill, Sergeant Keegan, Corpl Spearpoint; *(seated)* L/Corpl Perkins, Sigmn Shubrook, Sergt Gibbard, Lieut. Minshall, Lieut. McCormack, Sigmn McLean W., Sigmn Pewtner; *(in front)* Sigmn Rockall and Sigmn Hayden.

Appointments.—We congratulate U/L/Corpls Greenman C. and Coxon A. on being raised to the dizzy heights.



No. 2 Company Cross-Country Team.

Marriage.—Corpl Spearpoint F. to Miss E. Vickery, at Quetta, on May 19th. Congratulations, Speary!

Obituary.—We were all extremely sorry to read of the death of Sigmn Farrow L., late of this unit, in a railway accident near his home at Yarmouth, within a few months of his transfer to the Army Reserve. He was a very likeable fellow and popular in the unit. We sympathise with his parents in their bereavement.

Agony.—Sigmn Spafford of this unit would very much appreciate a note from Sigmn Heslop, last heard of in Egypt Signals.

This Month's Problem Story.—A certain gentleman set out on a motoring trip to Chaman, taking with him twelve pigeons, intending to release them at intervals during the journey. The pigeon orderly, following his instructions, waited patiently by the loft to receive them as they arrived. At dusk his weary eyes espied two pigeons climbing dejectedly into the loft. He examined them and found their legs to be coated with mud and their claws very much the worse for wear. The problem is: How did they get home, and where are the other ten?

Pfaffisky Biscuit.—This goes to Corpl Spearpoint for remarking, a week after his marriage, that he had had no time to do anything the week before, as he had been "awfully tied up."

Toots by Timex. No. 5: A Chronicle of Misdeeds.

An error, last month, I committed
Concerning the "arms" of two men:
I said that they carried revolvers.
This was not the case, I found, when
I heard that they each carried rifles.
The error which came from my pen,
I'll say I regret, but little I fret:
Revolvers were issued to them.

My error should cause no commotion:
Their "bag" would have been just the same
If each one had carried a field gun
While searching the hills for big game.
Firearms were no use to these huntsmen:
No game in their hunting ground came.
Their guns were not used; their spurs were abused
For making the hunt seem so tame.

* * * *

A Corps Memorandum was issued
Which stated that we would do drill
As laid down in "Engineer Training."
We noticed no changes until
Instructions, one day, we were given
To stand on parade very still,
While guns on our right fired in their might
The National Anthem at will.

I'm sure that in "Engineer Training"
The Anthem is not shown as "fired."
It may be that Al Capone's doings
Are secretly read and admired.
If Al were to publish a drill book,
I guess the effect he desired
For anthems would be three hits out of three--
And shooting until you were tired.

* * * *

Four remounts arrived from Sarghoda
To help eat our bran mash and hay;
They could not be issued at that time—
The unit was camping away.
The remounts were placed in the horse lines,
And with them an old dun or bay—
One remount fell sick, and then, in a tick,
There sure was the dickens to pay.

All Companies wanted the old nag—
They thought 'twas a remount, for sure;
But one was receiving the vet's care,
Although the C.O. issued four.
Headquarters at last had succeeded
In getting the horse—but, oh lor'!
K Section looked round, the error was found--
They have No. 30 once more.

Corporals' Room.

General.—Since our return from camp, the entertainments committee have been making up for lost sleep, but now there are rumours that a dance is to be held in the very near future.

During the last few nights a mouse hunt has been organised, and so far the total bag is two, one of which goes down to Corpl Ward. The other is equally shared between Dicky Bray and General's mouse-hound.

The Sergeants' Mess still keep side-stepping our challenge to a football tournament, but fresh efforts are being made to bring this off. A chatti has been provided for members who are going "on the tack" in training for this event.

Casualty.—Corpl Spike Spearpoint joined the Benedicts Society during the camp period. We all wish him the very best of luck in double harness.

Cans, sweeper's, mk ii.—Unfortunately, we cannot make any award for the last month, as Corpl Ward is using it for his "tash" wax.

SWEATING.

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Upper Topa.

June 23rd.

"Where every prospect pleases and only man is vile."—That quotation should not be taken too literally: it's merely to show long standing acquaintance with the works of the immortals. Man, up here, is certainly anything but vile.

When I see our athletes nipping nimbly from khud to khud, with gay abandon and bronzed features, followed at a more gentle pace by the students with bulging foreheads and massive note-books, I murmur ecstatically, "Beautiful! beautiful! surely, Nature can show me no sight more wonderful than this." That may possibly give the impression that we are merely on a "back to nature" course—perish the thought. We work, thanks to our superiors, on a splendid system, exercising both body and brain, and from the appearance of the troops in general, the result is very gratifying.

Tea dances and light refreshment in Murree also help to subscribe to the happy effect, but that comes under the heading of "Sheikhs, system of training," and is more or less unofficial. Further particulars on this subject can be obtained from Hock Junt.

As for knowledge, visit our lecture rooms, note the array of instruments, diagrams, wires, and other complicated things, see the serried rows of hopefuls listening breathlessly while an instructor defies the atom, and hear the frenzied scratching of pencils as each student tries to follow the intricate process and put it into words. A most uplifting sight, I can assure you, and the key words to the whole thing (whispered in awed voices) are strange ones: "Beetoo, deetoo, cee one."

Then, of course, there's gardening activities. Sounds strange for Topa, I know, but the zeal of our pioneers is equally amazing. Large slices of rock-strewn waste have been fiercely attacked with excellent results. Soon we shall be admiring the flaunting blossoms of roses and radishes, and drinking in their haunting perfumes.

Social.—The Electrons (as our concert party are appropriately named) are deserving of more than passing mention. The troops in general are a critical audience, and for a concert party composed entirely of local talent to capture their interest and win their applause, in spite of the popularity of the talkies, is no mean achievement. It says much for the ability and whole-heartedness of all who helped to make it a success.

The first performance, given in the theatre here, was evidently appreciated by others, for soon after requests for a tour in the Murree hills began to pour in—prompted undoubtedly by the liquid notes of the lady songsters, the breezy eloquence of the male partners, and the musical evolutions of Bones and his satellites.

By kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Drayson, performances were given at Gharial, Murree and Lower Topa, each proving a great success—especially so in the case of Lower Topa, where the "flighty" men of the Royal Air Force literally went up in the air with rapture.

Now that the tour is over, we imagined that the artistes would rest on their laurels awhile, bu. not they. In the intervals of signing their autographs in the books of adoring fans, an entirely

new programme is being devised, and it is to be hoped that when presented it will meet with the success it deserves.

The party is composed of Mrs. G. Spencer, Mrs. G. Perry, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. W. Smith, Sergeants Murphy W., Nobby Hall, Hunt and Dipple R. and Signalmen Warren and Saunders. Sergt Salmon is producer, Sergt Monk business manager, and Sergt Smith W. stage manager. The officer i/c party is Major D. A. Brown.

Gharial Gymkhana and Amusement Park.—This was held on June 19th and was very successful and amusing. Pony and mule races were held, and the whole show was organised on the lines of a regular race meeting. To this unit fell the lot of providing the amusement park, run on the lines of a good old English fair. Major D. A. Brown was in charge of the fair ground, ably assisted by members of the concert party and other willing helpers. Everyone spent a very enjoyable day, and the committee were able to hand over the profits, a sum well in excess of Rs.500, to the Gharial Flats funds. By the way, for the benefit of those who have not had the advantage of a summer season in the Murree hills, the Gharial Flats are the sports grounds for the nearer galis of the Murree hills.

Barrack Room Conversations.—" My old man was a professional footballer until he went deaf and couldn't hear the ball coming."

" The instructor tells us that current flows from the positive of the battery and always returns to the source of supply. If that's so, why do batteries get run down?"

Supporting the Theory of Telepathy.—Sergeant (after speaking for five minutes by phone from guard room to jhikka gali): " Eh! have you got a telephone at that end?"

Almost Unbelievable.—One morning L/Corpl Yalden went without his breakfast.

Who said " It's laid down in tabloid form?"

Congratulations.—To Major D. A. Brown, M.C., on his promotion to that rank.

To C.Q.M.S. Weston and Sergt Spracklen on obtaining the elusive 1st class certificate of education ; to L/Corpl Patrick on passing in all subjects except geography ; and to Sigmn Cutler on passing all subjects except a language for the special.

To Sergt Francis on taking on for twenty-one years.

To L/Sergt Dipple on passing the C.i. clerk's test ; to L/Corpl Brookes and Signalmen Bartlett and Bethell on qualifying as operators visual C.i.; to L/Corporals Dickenson, Powner and South, and Signalmen Metcalfe, Duffy, Kelly, Duckett and Stamps as operators signals B.ii., and to Sigmn Lawley as B.iii.

To all new arrivals on joining the finest unit in the Army.

To Sergt Francis on joining the unit Kennel Club.

To the Kennel Club of India on refusing to accept the unit dogs in the K.C.I. as being of " uncertain pedigree."

Appreciation.—I would like to thank all who have assisted in the production of these notes, and I sincerely hope they will continue to give their assistance in the future.

Plains Detachment, Rawalpindi.

General.—As the unit is spending the summer season in the hills, a few words about the unfortunates left on the plains may be of some interest.

We took the title of Plains Detachment when the unit left Rawalpindi, and up to June 1st were commanded by Captain H. A. Spencer, M.C., with Lieut. W. A. K. Stodard as second-in-command. On June 1st Capt G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., assumed command, and on the same day we were visited by Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Drayson, M.C., the unit commander, who, from all accounts, was very pleased with the way things are being run in Pindi.

The average strength of the detachment is about sixty British ranks, which seems rather a large number ; but when one conciders the reasons for our being left here, it will be seen that every one is needed.

First of all, Simla not having troubled us with mechanisation, we have 250 long-faced friends to care for ; secondly, in case of trouble in Pindi or on the Frontier, we provide V/T alarm stations and three emergency columns. We also have two classes undergoing riding instruction—many of the jockeys seeking the comforts of the saddle for the first time—and two classes undergoing technical instruction.

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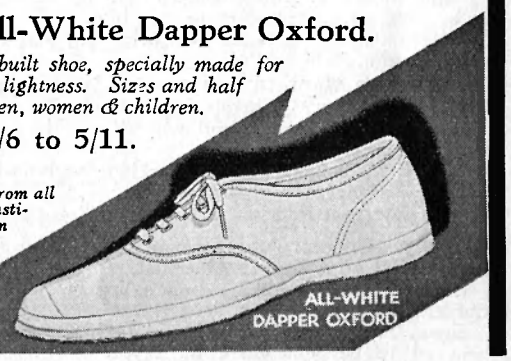

The dining hall at breakfast time fairly echoes with such remarks as " Knees in," " Toes up," " I got over all right." I ascertained later that the jockey who passed the last remark *did* go over, but with a greater velocity than the steed he was riding.

Things We Know.—That the repatriation list has been published.

That one can get a wet shirt in crossing the Sohan river.

That four n.c.o.s had a good time in Murree recently.

Things we should like to know.—If Corpl " Pig " Smith had a wet night on June 7th?

What precautions did Corpl " Plum " take on the same night?

Is it true that a Farrier in Pindi is sueing the Murree Brewery for damages for causing him to fall down a khud?

TONY RED.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Meerut.

General.—No. 1 Company are now at Ranikhet for the second half of the hot weather season. No doubt, they were glad to sever their connection with their long-faced friends. They have about ten weeks intensive individual training before attempting to augment their income.

No. 2 Company are just about settled down after their tour in the hills. The results of their Trade Board at Ranikhet were very satisfactory. We hope the results of No. 1 Company's Trade Board will be as satisfactory as theirs.

During the month we said good-bye to Captain F. K. Wilson, who has left No. 1 Company, after a short stay of eight months, on reposting to Waziristan District Signals. We were sorry to lose him. Lieut L. de M. Thuillier has now taken over the reins.

Lieut L. D. M. Patterson has rejoined us after a long course at the Equitation School, Saugor. Congratulations are extended to him on passing.

It was with great regret that we learned of the illness of Mrs. Bailey, wife of Captain J. W. Bailey, M.C., late of this unit. We sincerely hope that she is now on the road to recovery.

Several B.O.R.s are turning native. They may be seen rolled up on charpoys like wire-worms. Leading lights in this respect are Lofty and the one and only Jeb from Jubb.

Congratulations.—To the undermentioned on their respective promotions:—Sergt Gould J. to be C.Q.M.S. Corpl Short F. appointed L/Sergeant. L/Corpl Stedman W. promoted Corporal. Signalmen Cleary, Potesta, Reynolds, Main, Hutchinson and Barden appointed U/L/Corporals.

Also to the undermentioned intellectual individuals on obtaining certificates of education at the recent examinations:—1st, Sergt Male, L/Sergt Carfrae, L/Corpl Potesta, Signalmen Brown and Trevenna. 2nd, Signalmen Wood and Corcoran. We are now awaiting their applications for transfer to the A.E.C.

Signalmen Fox and Sherry let the certificate slip through their fingers once again.

Arrivals.—Corpl Fee, Signalmen Cripps, Cockram, Leonard (both of them) from the S.T.C. We extend the usual glad mitt.

Sigmn McCarthy from an E.F.ii. course at the S.T.C. As anticipated, he was successful.

Departures.—C.S.M. Hebberd left us for Sialkot on May 29th. We were very sorry to lose him.

A/U/L/Corpl White M. to Lucknow. Best of luck in your new venture.

Things We Want to Know.—Has Strick caught the elusive "anopheles" yet? There's a mozzie on the maidan, Strick.

Who is the Kinkajou, and why doesn't he wipe up Strick's stamp album?

Who is the gentleman from Manchester who said "Don't confiscate your topee"?

Who says that Puncher is, or was, a "gripper"?

Agony.—L/Corpl Potesta would like to hear from Signalman Murrell W. of A Corps, Aldershot.

L/Corpl Dodd would welcome a line or two from Signalman Cordell of Egypt Signals.

Sigmn Sherry would be pleased to hear from Driver Quinn, believed to be somewhere in Egypt.

Sigmn Wood would like to get in touch with the Erbs, J. Ray, T. Pettit, and Busty Hardy, late of 1st Div. Aldershot, who have been posted to the following "foreign" stations:—Bulford, Woolwich, Colchester. He would also like to know how many of the White-Eyed Kaffirs are still performing 20 to 25 E. and P. Israelites, get busy.

Finale.—Our heart goes out to those brave individuals who are still soldiering on as U/L/Corporals in India. Thirty-eight of them have at last got a pukka sweat on. There are ten in this unit. Let's hope it won't be long before the wine flows freely.

Ranikhet Detachment.

General.—The first half-season is now finished, and No. 2 Company, plus various details, have returned to the plains to renew their acquaintance with the long-faced friends usually located in the stables.

Many of the lads have said goodbye to Ranikhet for good and all, being of the opinion that they will be on the boat for England before the next hill season. I do not know what other people think about it, but it's a terrible existence, living with all these T.X. people. One gets nothing but civvy street, together with all its advantages. As there are fifty-nine going this year, it can be realised what the general topic of conversation is. However, we all get the boat in time, even if it is not till 1935.

During the last few weeks at Ranikhet, "those above all" attempted to turn Ranikhet into something resembling the centre of Sahara. We have been rationed with water for days on end, and we all thought it would finish up with washing in lemonade; but the advent of the monsoons has altered that, thank goodness!

Khud fires were also very much in the fashion, having broken out on numerous occasions, mostly on holidays and after lights out; but these were successfully put out, thanks to the infantry members of this hill depot.

The Trade Board finished up very successfully from everyone's point of view, the number getting B.ii. operator signals rating being much in excess of previous years (the college boy recruit of to-day being so much more intellectual is the apparent reason). It is quite a change now to walk into the bungalow and see no note books in evidence.

The "affaires d'amour" are continuing as well as can be expected. We are living up to the standard described by Kipling some few years ago. I wonder whether he ever made a visit to Ranikhet.

Arrivals.—Sergt Barnes (both of them) from Meerut, to take over stores for the second half party.

Departure.—Sigmn White to Lucknow, vice Sigmn Peacock. We hope he has a good time.

We Want to Know.—If Southampton still exists? Are passages allotted or raffled? How is Sailor faring with the Terriers? How did he wangle on? (during the two minutes silence, perhaps). Who is endeavouring to bring out a new way of taking a bearing?

This Month's Great Thought.—God bless all B.ii's, for they know not how they passed.

Kohat District Signals.

May.

Though not too hot to write notes, it is nearly too hot to do the things worth writing about. One needs to be "some chronicler" to compile notes about the doings of a perspiring heap of humanity which feebly creeps from shade to shade, dodging King Sol all day and meekly pleading for the spot of leave to come quickly.

We can report a record, however; in fact, the Sergeants' Mess broke two records during May—one by having a fire burning merrily on May 13th (and that's a coaled one!) The other one was a plum label entitled— No, it was *not* one of Gracie Fields'; for Bringe said she was a classic, and Bringe is an honourable man.

The C.S.O. Northern Command, Colonel E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., gave us a two-day inspection on May 11th and 12th. We trust all went well, despite the fact that the cooks' "jab roster" was a trifle *passe*.

Our animals are looking so beautifully plump, so very sleek, and so fit these days. We would recommend to other units a gentle application of carrots (the Q.M. can always oblige—bless him) served as a duff, and a moderate supply of kurly greens (any grass farm manager will know what these are) sandwiched between Army biscuits as an *entrée* to the mid-day meal. These appear to be unto a mule as Yeast-Vite tablets are to me: cram-full of vitamins A—Z. (By the front, class, go!)

I do not wonder that the despatch riders, at present on riding school, cannot enter into the spirit of things. The horses can, though, for they daily despatch riders!

The talkies are coming to Kohat. My hat! The old cinema by the cemetery—so many of you know it—will henceforth be our Mecca. Old Kohat-ites will realise what an outstanding truth this is. Many of the new Kohat-ites have never sin-em-afore, but we won't mec-ca song about that.

We welcome Sergt Howard T. A. from Quetta, in relief of Sergt Keepen A. T. (who, we understand, struck a cushy billet: to camp in less than two days). Oh, Jimmy! the magnetic lure of those Brigade Sections! Enjoy yourself, Dick. We want to make you and the memsahib happy and comfy.

Congratulations to our jazz pianist, Sergt V. Bardoe. His wife, we understand, has presented him with a baby grand (*and* some music): a son, Charles Thomas, born on March 14th.

Congratulations also to L/Sergt Finn V. on passing fourth in the "S" course at Jubbulpore with 80 per cent. There's nothing fishy about Finn.

L/Corpl Morris has gone to Kasauli to learn how to conquer the germs of unfitness with masses of musc.

Corpl Adams and Sigmn Cook have also gone to Kasauli, but to the Malarial Treatment Centre—because the germs conquered them. Apropos germs. Adams went because he 'ad 'em; but that does not necessarily mean that Cook went because he was to cook 'em.

C.Q.M.S. Smithies is attached to the R.A.F. locally on a vocational training course of motor driving and mechanics. This all "Leeds," we hope, to a good position somewhere in "the pudden' county" in a few months time.

Sigmn Richards to Calcutta on vocational training as an electric wireman. His first job at Pompey, we are told, will be to light

up the Nab and the Warner with a glittering R.O. as a greeting to the Navy.

A little news filters down from Upper Topa. We learn that our lads passed well, and that Ghandi's economic campaign is to be struck a death-blow, for our fellows are determined that K.D.S. shall have a rise in wages this year.

Who was the junior n.c.o.—the blank file on communication drill—who bravely tried to make a lonely pine slope arms? Upper Topa?—up the pole, we fear.

To be sung with fervour to the tune of " All by yourself in the moonlight ":—

" There ain't no sense, trying such pretence
All by yourself up in Topa.
There ain't no thrill, doing shouting drill
All by yourself up in Topa.
There ain't no fun, standing beneath the trees
Trying to make a pine tree stand at ease.
Drill's a farce—makes you feel an ass
All by yourself up in Topa.

The Sergeants' Mess have nothing to report except that its members are occupied with the daily round (your turn, matey) and the common task, and that Sergt Bardoe figures largely in the list of recommendations for chartered accountants.

The Corporals' Mess also sent in a nil report. " It is too hot, now," they say. Poor boys. They miss their leading lady, Nutty, while he is home on leave.

The corporals' room is not closed down, however, for every afternoon from somewhere in that vicinity we hear some weird screeches. Two men are learning to play a saxophone, one a violin, one the trombone, and the inimitable Pin gets stuck into the drums now and then as an afterthought.

Entertainments.—These have been few and far between: the heat successfully stops all such fun. We enjoyed a professional show in the unit theatre, given by a company who styled themselves " The Road Show." So delightful and refreshing were they that several of the local lads twisted the next night at the Chota Club. Was that where they caught the sand-fly fever which was reported at the village hospital next morning? (Who ran the bar, Mush?)

Then, of course, it is always an entertainment during the hot weather to see the old stagers and the home estab. wallahs sweating and a-peering to see the boat list appearing.

Casualties.—We regret that Lieut. H. Worrall has been unfortunately laid aside in hospital for a few weeks with dysentery, but we learn that he is to be sent home for a while for medical reasons.

Naughty Ninety Squad, Note.—Look you, Signalman Taffy Thomas is eagerly looking for a line from Signalmen Cripps and Aldridge, who came out to India in March, 1931. Indeed to goodness! So, Jillo and Likko, look you!

A F(l)itting Lament to Several Dead Flies.

(Inspired by the news that one of our number nearly exterminated himself by an overdose of Flit)

Summer heat and murky haze
Bring us sand-fly mozzy days:
Leaping, jumping, how they nip,
Vicious, stinging in your kip.

" They shall not reign in *my* digs,"
Said a man of K.D. Sigs—
Chin set firm, and cans of Flit—
How he chased 'em out of it!

Exit mozzy. Exit fly.
It tickled him to see 'em die.
Plied his Flit pump high and low
Into corners—there they go!

Windows shut and doors all tight—
Flit attacks to left and right—
S-s-s-s-s it hisses. Plonk! they fall—
Down drops hornet, mozzy and all.

But human bodies *must* have air,
Hands grow feeble, eyes now stare,
Footsteps totter, head reels round—
Flitter flutters to the ground,

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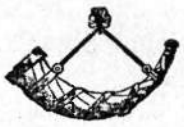

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Heads, it's mozzies! Tails, it's flies!
From the ground they seem to rise:
Point in judgment. What a rout!
There, it's tails—and t'odd man out.

There's a moral to this poem:
When you're flitting in your home,
You should ope the door or else flit from it—
For this little Signal fellow
Nearly turned from green to yellow,
And to cleanse his bunk we'd have to bomb it.

WOG.

June.

General.—There are only a few now left in Kohat, owing to the number who are seeking higher rates of pay, additional education qualifications, and muscle-building certificates.

Entertainments.—The talkies have come and gone. What an experience! The unit turned out en masse to see " The Singing Fool," and the excitement ran high. Some of the old sweats (we have some real primitive men here) were going to see their first talkie. The comments before the show were nothing to those after it. I'm afraid the apparatus had an off day, and some wit said he didn't know if Al Jolson was singing " Sonny Boy " or if it was a talkie exhibition of road-breaking operations in Piccadilly.

Upper Topa.—No news has trickled through from Upper Topa up to the time of going to press. We have another batch of keen hikers going there, trying to get some more pice. Good luck to all of them! Signalmen Merritt and Dart have gone to Jubbulpore for a similar reason. We wish them the same.

Sergeants' Mess.—Nil report. I think their correspondent was doing his nightly P.T. (arms bend). Anyway, I couldn't dig him out.

Corporals' Mess.—The sergeants were at home to the corporals the other day. We played tennis in the afternoon, and

the corporals, I am sorry to say, were " easy meat." But, still, we have our revenge to come.

One of the juniors was a little late in turning up, owing to an appointment with his charpoy. One of the sergeants said that if the time he spent in similar appointments were subtracted from his total service in India, he would only do about three years out of his five (I'm inclined to think that this sergeant was perhaps a little jealous?)

After the tennis we all adjourned to the sergeants' mess for a games tournament, and I think that honours were pretty even at the close of a very enjoyable night's entertainment.

A.T.S.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

June 16th.

General.—There is never any peace for the wicked. The unit was just getting down to a nice cushy (?) period of individual training, when some silly blighters in Burma decided that it was time to start a little bit of trouble—and of course the powers-that-be had to call on the 4th Indian Divl Signals for a couple of Sections to help them out (unless we have a good opinion of ourselves, no one else will).

After many inspections and much packing and unpacking of stores and kit, we eventually managed to get J and A W/T Sections out of our way. They were really annoying during those last few days in barracks. They have been away for about ten days now, and if they have reached Burma, they must be having a " swimming " time (Burma is really pleasant during the monsoon.)

The Buggy Ride.—Suddenly the peace of the evening was shattered by the crack of a whip ; there was a clatter of hooves and a jangle of harness—mingled with " noises off " from the canteen—and Ben Hur rode by in his chariot. He was evidently going to compete with other gladiators or heavy weights (and I thought that Bug Tash had learnt his lesson!)

Gone Native.—Extract from Regimental Order dated May 20th: " Orderly havildar, L/Corpl Garner."

Memories.—Tug Wilson: Please note that the red tape on the unit parade state board has been renovated. I thought this might interest you.

Birth.—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. Batchelor on the arrival of a brand-new son: Sydney.

Hear all, see all, say nowt.—A remark appended to the bottom of a letter: " Shall I pass this to the C.S.M. or put it in the w.p.b.?" I am not going to add anything to this.

Twenty-two and nine did not make twenty-seven when I went to school.

A new arrival's first impression of Trimulgherry: " Sand, rock, stone, heat, and . . . ."

Sentry on No. 1 post: " Please, sergeant, will you relieve me at five to eight, because the sentry on No. 2 post will be challenging at eight o'clock and I do not want to answer him, as we are not on speaking terms." You may not believe this, but it is perfectly true, and they were two D.R.s.

Q (on inspecting an anti-dim outfit in a gas mask): " So they use four by two, now, do they? Last time I had one of these, I had to clean it with a flannel shirt."

R: " When you were in Peshawar?"

Arrival.—Lieut. J. M. C. Hoblyn has joined us from England, where he has been spending his leave. We extend a welcome to him.

Education.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Marshall B. (now at Karachi) and to L/Corporal Booth on obtaining their 1st class certificates ; also to Sigmn Bailey, who got half way there with maths and map reading.

Extract from an Application.—" May permission, please, be granted for ' soft music ' to be played in the followers' lines from 06.00 hrs. to 14.00 hrs.?" And people still want to come to India!

Appointment.—After many years of waiting, L/Corpl Hamilton A. has at last managed to get paid. The age of miracles has evidently not passed.

Personal.—Monty is now at Trimulgherry (and well we know it). Bulford and Egypt Signals, please note,

Signalmen Brown A. and Howard N., at Trimulgherry, would like to hear from any ex-members of No. 111 Squad (Nelsons) Catterick, 1929.

This Month's Award.—A feather bed and a night dress go to Sigmn Brown for the feat of sleeping for twenty-two consecutive hours.

W.F.K.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

General.—Sialkot offers little in the way of excitement these days, and consequently our ramblings will have to be brief.

At the time of writing quite a few of our locals are, we trust, enjoying the khud air, whilst others have distinct visions of being there in the very near future. The remainder sweat: the eternal round of stables and bronco busting, etc., typical to Twocav.

The King's birthday was duly celebrated on June 3rd. The unit took part in the Brigade parade, after which the day was observed as a holiday (what a wealth of meaning does the word " observed " hold).

Our sheiking squad are again in their element, mainly because of a tennis tournament open to all units of the Brigade. Needless to say, the idea has been splendidly supported from the very first. Over a hundred games have been arranged. Our debut was made only a few days ago, when a red-letter match took place between the sergeants and other ranks of this unit. Some very interesting games were played, and finally the day was won by the O.R.s. Of course, we have now larger chest measurements, coupled with a jaunty air, when in the vicinity of any court. I hear that many annas are going towards cutting creases, hair oil, and other commodities—all of which, I am told, go towards the making of a Tilden.

Although boxing isn't exactly a household word here, it is rumoured that a certain admi is stealthily training for some big event. If this is correct, then it will behove us to be tight-lipped when within range of what is likely to become a deadly left. However, bungalow bookies will surely be in clover if Battling Bill (the Bulford butcher) ever meets Tornado Tim (the Texas terror). Their respective managers, I understand, are endeavouring to arrange this contest with side stakes of 231,476,589 roubles, plus a 26 h.p. flying bedstead which feeds on oats. Ringside seats will be free to anyone plucky enough to sit so near, whilst exits will be open from the start—thus giving everyone a fair chance should the contestants get rough. (Note: Drivers' leg-irons will not be used, and fruit is strictly forbidden.)

Truth is stranger than fiction, so people say, and yet we wonder if the present ride's parade positions are in accordance with their capabilities. Probably Gladstone will still be murmuring " Wait and see " in 1999—and the Chip Club will be the winner.

Education.—As a unit we are rapidly becoming part of what is known as an educated Army. Congratulations are herewith handed out to the following, who gained their 1st in the last examination:—C.Q.M.S. Austin, Signalmen Grafton, Donovan, Robertson, Stocks and Brown (" D " in map reading). The following passed in the subjects named:—S/S Agar (English), Sigmn Brett (maths, English, map reading), Sigmn Smallwood (geography, English and map reading), Sigmn Webb (English and map reading), Sigmn Younie (map reading). It is to be hoped that the missing links will be found before very long. Still, if good wishes will help them, they are already secured. Well done, everybody!

Arrivals.—Lieut F. W. P. Bradford from Waziristan. C.S.M. Hebberd M. from Meerut. Our best wishes for a pleasant stay are extended to both.

Queries.—Did the 3rd Cavalry Signal Troop's " rough of the roughest " (winner outright of the brass cup) entertain the audience of the handy hunter's handicap with hair-raising riding, as related in " Wild West Riding," on that wonderful piece of horseflesh in Bara? No? Congratulations, Brassie! the pleasure is yours. R.

Was it really a glass of Eno's or has Spud discovered a way of bleaching beer?

If " fare ware and tear " originated at Jubbulpore?

Practical Hints.—To voc-ites (bricklayers): A hip flask makes a good substitute for a spirit level. A spirit level makes a

rotten substitute for a hip flask. It is better, therefore, to invest in a hip flask. The flask should be of a nice curved shape and not too small. Keep it partly full (by keeping it partly empty, or by partly filling and partly emptying it). To use as a spirit level, lay it on its side and don't touch it. This requires practice. Don't strain yourself.

Advice.—To people contemplating India: Don't.
On beauty—how to avoid sunburn: Stay in England.

The Local's Lament.—I'm riding with tears in my eyes, for "cross stirrups" is all that we do (publishers, beware!)

Agony.—To Heath and H.E.H.: Many are asking "Whose turn is it?"

To Sheik Lord, 2nd Div. Quetta: Your scrawl was ever bad, I'll admit, but if you were to write, even that would be forgiven. So what about it? J.

And by the Way.—

The siren shrieks the knell of parting day;
The dirty tramp puts slowly out to sea;
The ploughman homeward plods his beery way,
And wonders what the — there'll be for tea.

That is what the shoemaker threw at his wife: the last. So, till next month, cheerio! L.A.L.

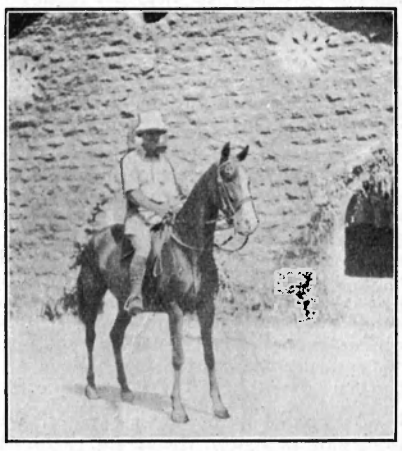
No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

July 1st.

General.—Now, isn't life "one d—— thing after another?" What with the sergeant-major's watch losing ten minutes during stable hour, prickly heat, dust storms, and various other things, life is only just bearable.

Rides are still in full swing, and our future roughs appear to be making great headway under the tuition of Corpl A. E. F. Lourie. The two photographs shown are of Corpl Lourie and his remount Golden Auriol, winner of the Vaughan cup and runner-up in the Solly Flood trophy.

The usual parade was assembled on the Garrison parade ground to celebrate His Majesty's birthday, and the rest of the day, with the exception of grooming and watering, was observed as a holiday.



Corpl Lourie and his winning Remount.

Amid the frantic endeavours to perform all our various duties during a twenty-four hour day, we still find time for such things as store cleaning, and keen competition between the wireless and visual is in progress. The aforementioned think their little nests are "it," but it is said that wonders can be worked with paint and brush. I'm not going to mention any names, but of late complaints have been made by some of the "lazy C" regarding paint splashes on horses returning from the forge. Mind you don't get painter's colic, Sandcrack Pete.

In the midst of a cloud of dust, a gracious remount rider was performing frantic evolutions in an endeavour to pick up a certain object. The renowned Sandcrack Pete (alias Pinchwithers) was overheard to say "I bet that won't be in THE WIRE."

We welcome back Lieut D. M. Smyth, who has rejoined us after a well-earned leave at Naini Tal and is now officiating C.O. By the time these notes appear, Captain M. Duke will have left us for his annual leave. May you have a good time, sir!

In Action

Congratulations.—To No. 1 Cavalry Troop on their 100 per cent. membership. We still have one or two who prefer to borrow THE WIRE.

To L/Corpl Tim Kelly on being awarded the "Jimmy" for hockey.

To Bill Boyed on his recent promotion. Hope to see you next year, Blanco.

Education.—Corpl Bill Hill awarded a 1st (well done, Bill!) L/Corpl W. Bailly passed in all subjects with the exception of geography (hard luck, Schoolie!)

Casualty.—A super sheik: Flash 'Arry, alias Muckin Wallah, alias Pompy, last heard of in the land of the rebels. Beware, you rebel maidens!—er—L/Sergt W. Challen to the Burma Police, Rangoon.

Doubtful Alibi.—Officer: "Where were you at nine-thirty on the seventh inst.?" Prisoner: "Sir, I took a 'ball of chalk' down the 'Frog and Toad,' met me 'Struggle and Strife,' we then opened the 'Rorie O'Moore,' climbed the 'Apples and Pears,' gits in the 'Fevver and Flip,' laid our 'loaves of bread' on the 'Weeping Willow,' and 'plou'd the deep' until 'Cafferine Mavoorn,' sir." Officer: "Alibi proved; case dismissed."

Agony.—Prickly heat and Angola shirts.
Robo: Rob wants to know if you want his durrie.
Busty Jervis, alias Ghandi: Have you located that dis. in the lead in, yet?—Bill. STEVE.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

July 4th.

We tender apologies to all interested in this unit for the absence of notes during the last few months. The scribe's job having changed hands, our best endeavour to contribute regularly to these columns is assured.

Education.—The unit was well represented at the last examination for 1st class certificates, and to the following, who passed, our congratulations are tendered:—Sergt White F. R., L/Corpls Chambers, Gibbs, Taylor P. and Hewson, Signalmen Ormiston, Cooper J., Jones C., Wormald and Williams T. G.

Corpl Brown and Sigmn Ellis were successful in passing part of the examination for the special certificate.

At a recent examination for 2nd class certificates, the four successful candidates were Signalmen Drain, Pople and Partis, and Driver Graham.

Promotions.—Corpl Stibbs to L/Sergeant. L/Corpl Weir to Corporal. To the following who have been initiated into the Corporals' Mess circle as brand new "unpaids," congratulations;—Signalmen Mohrstadt, O'Neill, Hewson and Hardwick,

Think of a few months ahead (or is it years?) when the pay comes through.

Corporals' Mess.—The latest novelty among the corporals is the growing of moustaches. The few clean-shaven members of the Mess must seem quite out of fashion at mess meetings, etc. However, after Christmas, most of the tashes will probably be shaved off again. Until then, the fine for losing the brush amounts to something like ten shillings. The Black Hand gang also exists, and some are wondering who put the treacle in Goolam's slippers.

Leave.—By the time these notes appear, Major Tillard, O.B.E., M.C., and Lieut. Cole will be in harness again, and we will all be glad to see them.

Lieuts. Adams and Bell have left us for a few months vacation in the U.K., and the following other ranks have also decided to spend a few months in England:—L/Sergt Murphy, L/Corpls Chambers and Taylor P., Signalmen Kilpatrick and Huson. It is rumoured that Spud has gone home to tie the knot. Let us hope that all the little Spuds turn out as good as papa at sports.

Entertainments.—Two dances have recently been held in the barracks: one in the T.I. room and the other in the Corporals' Mess winter garden. Both proved successful, and all ranks who attended spent an enjoyable evening on those occasions. A free bus service was run between the Abbassia post office and the barracks, both before and after the dances, saving numerous patrons a long and tiring walk. All connected with the organisation of the dances are to be congratulated on their efforts, and it is hoped that all future dances held in the barracks will prove as successful.

Change-of-Air Camp.—The annual change-of-air camps have started again, and both married families and single other ranks are spending a few weeks by the sea, swimming and loafing around. The married families seem to enjoy their holidays more than the single soldiers, but then, who caters or cares for the lonesome ones? They are supposed to be able to look after themselves.

Sergeants' Mess.—Unfortunately, we have no news from this quarter, but will try to find some for next time. At present things are much the same, and apart from L/Sergt Stibbs, no new members have joined the circle.

Shorts.—A certain n.c.o is receiving private tuition in Arabic: a rival for the bold Maurice at last!

The messing is improving.

Paddy Pop Gun is on the tack—but only pro tem.

To Waxey Buckley, 2nd Divl Signals: Well! *what* about it?

Obituary.—It is with deep regret that the death of No. 2318851 Sigmn Stuart Daniels, late of No. 1 Company, is announced. He died at Moascar, Ismailia, of pneumonia, on Thursday, July 10th.

Always a keen follower and supporter of the Corps in all branches of sport, he will be missed by many who knew him. He had only been with the unit for fifteen months, but soon became popular among us all, and was serving at an out station at the time of his death.

The funeral took place at Moascar on the same day, and was attended by officers and other ranks from Abbassia, who laid three wreaths on the grave—from the officers, sergeants, and other ranks of Signals. Our condolences go to his family in their grievous loss.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

By the time these notes appear, some of the personnel of the first individual training period will have returned to the fold, eager to impart their superfluous knowledge to the first unfortunates who get in their way. We hope they have passed with flying colours.

Leave.—Some of us have had our fortnight's annual leave at Alexandria, and are full of a wonderful collection of vitamins. We were fortunate in being attached to the 12th Royal Lancers detachment, and so were excused the duties which are apt to come along at the fresh air camp. The majority evidently believe that handsome men are slightly sunburnt.

Courses.—L/Corpl Brice has returned from the muscle factory at Alexandria after a six weeks course on Glaxo. We did miss your smiling face, and your songs of an evening, Bertie!

We Want to Know.—Who is the optimist we hear saying "Eleven months and one day to do"? (no prize offered for the solution).

Is Ghandi starting his salt campaign in Helmieh, Ike?

Promotions.—Congratulations to L/Sergeant Emsley C., our F-of-S., and to Corpl Shaddick, on their long awaited promotion.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

British Headquarters, June 26th.

General Situation.—With the advent of warm weather, the competitors for the all-China civil war competition once again line up for their usual annual tussle, although up to the time of writing the first round has not been played. The Canton generals are prospective adversaries of the Nanking crew, the winners of this round being drawn against a very likely team known as the Mukden gang. The members of this Section eye these little pleasantries askance, having recollections of previous disturbances with the resultant outstanding peak on the traffic chart. However, up to the time of going to post, nothing has happened to disturb the even tenor of our way.

Shanhaikwan.—Our summer camp has opened, and extra-brown faces seen in this office from time to time indicate that certain individuals have returned from their six weeks busman's holiday at this wonderful seaside place.

An innovation at this year's opening was the laying of a field cable telephone system in the camp, with a four-mile extension to the railway station. This line is, in places, but a few yards from the Great Wall of China; surely this must be the farthest corner from dear old England in which Signals have ever laid a line? Having no lineman in the Section, we were compelled to recruit the services of our office clerk and the available operators, who put up a good show over very difficult country.

The medal is awarded to the Foreman-of-Signals who went into the Japanese fort to ask permission to put a portion of the line on the Japanese permanent route. He emerged about four hours later, full to the ears with tea and Japanese beer, but his object was attained. The outstanding incident of his sojourn seems to be his attempts to eat raw eggs with the aid of chop-sticks, the difficulty of which feat does not require much stretch of the imagination to understand.

Old Shanghai hands wll no doubt remember Signalman Tim Blackham, who is at present convalescing at Shanhaikwan after a very severe bout of pneumonia. We have been hoping that the sea air would place him firmly on his feet once again; and according to the latest bulletins, our hopes seem to have been fulfilled.

Amateur Photography.—The senior members of the Section were recently privileged to accompany the Rev. H. R. Norton, C.F. (our padre) on a tour of the Chinese portion of this city, which is normally taboo to the Tommy. Sergt Napper secured some good photographs, and it is hoped to forward them with our next budget, to enable the Editor to fill in a spare corner. "Dusters" won a camera in a raffle, and attempted to take some pictures of the famous Shanhaikwan line section. His attempts were, however, doomed to failure; the results all came out in reverse and also in a slight fog. We are therefore reluctantly compelled to withhold these masterpieces.

Education.—As predicted in our last notes, we were able to show them a thing or two in the recent examinations for 1st class and special certificates. Here are the results:—Awarded special certificate, C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) West; passed in subject towards special certificate, physics (E and M), Sigmn Sherwood; awarded 1st class certificates, Lance-Corporal Skiffens, Signalmen Welch, Gautier ("D" in maths and M.R.), and Peters ("D" in maths); passed in subjects towards 1st class, maths and map reading, Sigmn Woodard ("D" in maths). Well done, lads! that's the (public schoolboy) spirit.

Short Waves.—Our Peking station has recently been renovated and re-designed with the aid of a little outside assistance from the R.E. Foreman-of-Works. Old Peking hands who remember the W/T office of their days would be impressed by the new S/W station, which we flatter ourselves is as near perfection as local material and "grey matter" can make it (no bootlaces or string, now, Charlie).

We note with pride and pleasure the published design of the new transmitter at Shanghai, and we are now standing by anxiously waiting to hear from it.

Personal.—An ex-member of the Singapore Signal Section wishes to congratulate L/Corpl Macdowell, of the North Ireland Signal Company, on his recent marriage. What about a return supper in Raffles, Mac? HSING HAI TU.

Shanghai Signal Section.

June 21st.

General.—Following an extraordinarily long spell of rain, summer is now upon us in earnest, and hard-hitting singlets are once again the vogue of the sun-tan followers.

Captain R. R. A. Darling paid us an unofficial visit whilst on a short stay here from Hong Kong, and we all trust that he enjoyed his brief sojourn in the Paris of the East.

The swimming bath now accounts for most of our spare time, and following a sleepless night owing to our old friend the mosquito, a plunge is a great refresher, believe me.

Departure.—The Rut to Stayabed. Home papers, please copy.

Births.—Since our last notes, there have been quite a number of births in the Section.

To Mrs. Floss (once again) ten bonny pups. The mother and two of her offspring are progressing favourably, but we are sorry to have to report the death of the remainder owing to birth control in the third degree.

To one of our yellow sparrows, one chicko. We are anxiously awaiting the results of another three eggs. The owner of the sparrow says that the eggs should come out o.k., as they were all marked " new laid."

We would like to know.—Who reported " dental " one drill parade morning, and had a sound tooth extracted for his trouble?

Who bought cream flannels so as to extend his " service "?

Is it true that " Olga Boatmen " is now the " Song of the Bunk "?

Who buys " Ruby Queen " and yet smokes " Gold Flake "? Some say 'tis the Bright Ideas King, alias the Rut!

H.M. the King's Birthday Parade.—This parade was held on the racecourse, and I dare say that, owing to the difference in time between Shanghai and other places where British troops are stationed, Shanghai must have held the first parade in the world to pay tribute to H.M. the King on that glorious morning of June 3rd.

The parade was held at 8 a.m. (about midnight in England) and the turnout was splendid. The weather clerks were on our side, and what with the bright dresses of the fair sex, the khaki drill of the troops, and the white of the sailors, with a green background predominating, the effect was most inspiring. A very large gathering, composed of all the nations represented in Shanghai, witnessed the parade. The *feu de joie* was admirably done, rippling up and down the line like the crack of a whip.

The Signal Section was too small to be present on this parade, but, as usual, we were behind the scenes in the administration part. Two of our despatch riders acted as escort to H.B.M. Consul-General on his journey from the Consulate to the racecourse. We also installed the phones which were the means of communicating the signals to the guns of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps for the firing of the royal salute.

Grey Matter.—Congratulations to the following on gaining 1st class certificates of education:—L/Corporal Somers, Signalmen Vigurs and Butler (" D " in map reading). Sigmn Wilson passed in three subjects towards the 1st class certificate. Get your eye down, Ginger, for the next sitting. Awarded 2nd class certificate, Sigmn Keeble. Congratulations, George, on getting down to it, and so eliminating the only 3rd from the Section. Taffy Morris, of Hong Kong, please note. We now have 30 per cent. of the Section in possession of the elusive 1st.

Heard in the Canteen.—Buck (shouting to chap just entering the canteen): " Have a pint, Jock?" Eighteen eager voices answered " Yes."

Tail End.—Attention is invited to our Sports notes this month. DEBROY.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, June 13th.

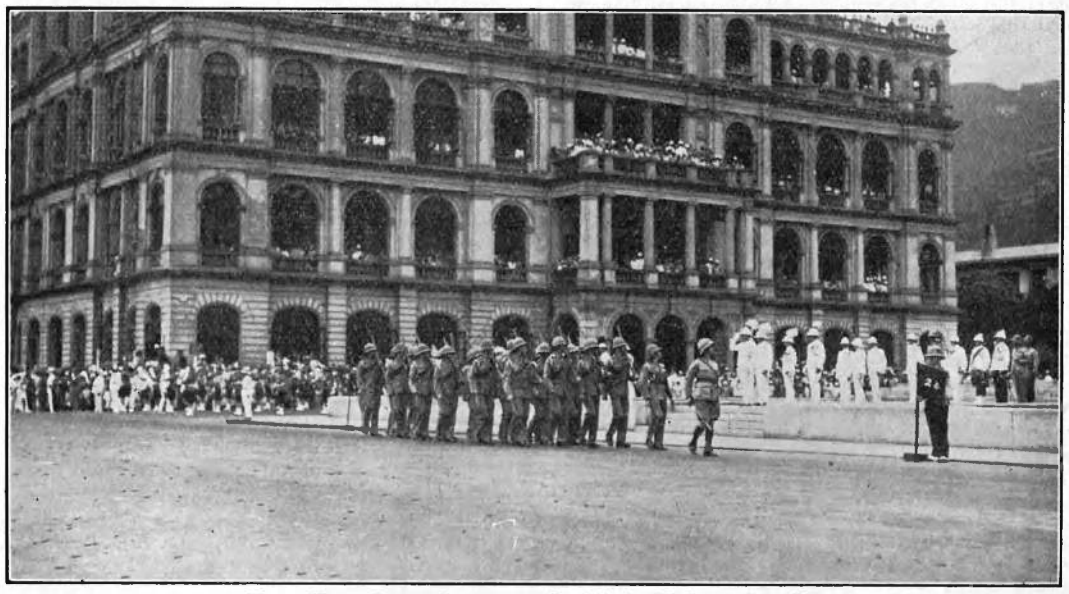
General.—We start this month with a good old Englishman's moan on the weather. We will soon need special thermometers to register degrees above working inclination. Mind you, that isn't as high as you'd think, in some cases.

Trade Test.—This event is awaited with some trepidation by many. We take it for granted that you wish us all the luck we wish ourselves.

Kit Inspection.—When will I cease to get a sweat on at the mention of this dread ritual? I have had to invoke the muse to effectively describe the one we had this month.

A " bed, Macdonald," spread in martial mode—
With clothing piled, and socks of many sorts
And savours, books of pay and prayer and song;
Mess-tin strap rolled, fresh from the spit and polish,
And boots well boned—all ready for the eye,
Eagle-intense, of him who rules our lives
And " puts us down " for what we'd well forego.
—(*With apologies to Mrs. Tighe*: " *The Banquet.*"

King's Birthday Parade.—On June 3rd a selected few (twenty-four) turned out under Lieut. Gough to march past H.E. the Governor and H.E. the General Officer Commanding. The small-



Hong Kong Signal Section at the King's Birthday Parade.

ness of our party was made up for by a really good turn out (see photo) on which we were complimented by the C.O. We marched past to the strains of " Begone, Dull Care," for the first time in Hong Kong, to the delight of all.

They're At It Again.—It's those decorators I spoke about last month. Even the signal office—the holy of holies—is not inviolate from the depredations of these vandals. For once, though, they must be congratulated on leaving the job better than they found it, although their methods of work strike hot irons into the soul of a conscientious ex-decorator. However, we hope to get rid of the breed in about a day (by the Chinese reckoning), and to once more concentrate the signal office from its present rather scattered locations.

Music: Far East v. Far West.—Just opposite our barrack room, on the other side of Haiphong Road, an old native schoolmaster, complete with very elementary school, lives and has his being. Every afternoon he puts the local juvenile talent through its paces —the result being a weird but not always unmusical noise.

Also, in the barrack room next to us, a gramophone player, complete with gramophone, lives and has *his* being. Every afternoon he puts his pet through its paces—the result being a weird but not always unmusical noise.

Now, the fellows in our barrack room were listening to the old schoolmaster's efforts the other day, and arguing as to which of the two noises was the more horrible, when up struck the gramophone with a record called (I think) " Hullabaloo."

There and then the argument was decided, and a voice, gently remonstrative, wafted across the dividing wall: " For blankety blank's sake, stop that apostrophised and adjectival row ; we're trying to listening to some music in here."

For Sparks.—Wireless in the unit has taken great strides of late, and I am endeavouring to obtain a coherent account of it all from our tame atom splitter for THE WIRE in the near future.

I am sorry, P.W., but I don't think that there is sufficient interest to justify the publication of the league table you requested.

Drifted.—I will open the Scots' Corner myself this month. C.C.R. to Holme, Steer, White and all old friends who have stamps to waste: Address, Brown, Hong Kong Sigs.

Will 2318443 Macarthy please communicate with L/Corporal Maguire of this unit? (I believe that one's been in before.)

Water Polo.—This becomes more popular here each season and heroic things are expected of the unit team.

Tennis.—The results to date are very gratifying. The first four matches in the inter-Company cup were wins, including one against the holders, who won the cup from us last year.

ADSUM.

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta, July 9th.

General.—Phew! it's hot for notes, but I suppose we have to let people know that we are still alive and " swimming," and the sunshine of the Med. is at its warmest. Those who may enquire of the conditions here are quite easily answered in one word: " hot."

But apart from the heat, work is still going merrily on, and to ex-members of this Section perhaps it would be interesting to know what some of the lads are doing.

The embracing air of Hal Far R.A.F. exchange still holds Sigmn Drake, now known (as at Aldershot) as Ginger. Signalmen O'Neil and Loveday are still at the Seaplane Hotel—sorry, I mean base at Calafrana, where we believe they find swimming as good as at Haywharf. Sigmn Stretch is with the Gunners at Tigne Garrison.

The remainder are still going on fine. Sigmn Bozeat (3rd Div. please note) is a Channel swimmer—or aspirant, should I say? Signalmen Baker and Burrows are still our noble D.R.s, and would sure like to show their faces at the Olympia some day (Tidworth, please jot down these names). Sergt Callegari also finds it a bit warm, I believe, but the twins are getting on fine (for Scarborough). But this is not all, and I must pass on.

Congratulations.—To our Foreman-of-Signals, Q.M.S. Flynn G. H. R. The following was published in Fortress Orders on Friday, June 12th:—" Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 3rd June, 1931. The King has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday, to give orders for the following promotion in and appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: —To be Members of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order, Warrant Officer class ii. Quartermaster-Sergeant George Henry Rogers Flynn, Royal Corps of Signals. . . . ."

This is, indeed, a most coveted Order, and we offer our Q.M.S. a hearty handshake and heartiest congratulations.

The next is to L/Sergt Bevis on his appointment to that rank, and Corpl Keywood on his promotion. The former is w.e.f. 15/5/31, and the latter 30/4/31. All the best to both of them, and may they " wet " it yet.

Leave.—Captain R. Sutton-Pratt is at present in England on leave, and we hope he will enjoy this spell in the home country (leave is always o.k., but it's coming back that you feel most).

Important Item of Interest.—A matter of great technical interest to us at the moment is the projected installation of a new C.B. telephone system by Messrs. Siemens, of Woolwich, under contract with the Malta Civil Government.

Civil telephone facilities have, up to till now, been provided by a private company owning a magneto earth return system, somewhat past the first burst of youth (and as Stephen Leacock so aptly says in " Winsome Winnie ": " If the first burst was like this, then what would the second and third be like?")

The Civil Government, recognising the importance of a modern and efficient telephone system, after due consideration decided to instal a complete new system—lock, stock and barrel. In due course, English firms were invited to submit tenders. For technical reasons it was thought that a manual C.B. system was preferable to automatics, and that view was confirmed by prominent G.P.O. engineers.

The Command Signal Officer, Captain G. Rivers Halliday, was invited by the Civil Government to act as their technical adviser, and for the past year he has been officially connected with the various negotiations leading up to the contract being given to Messrs. Siemens.

The problems involved in reaching the stage of awarding a contract are many and varied, but at all times interesting, often calling for decisions which require careful thought.

Two of Messrs. Siemens' engineers arrived in the Island about a fortnight ago, and are engaged in carrying out a detailed survey of the situation. We shall follow the installation with keen interest—all the keener since, at this time last year, we were engaged on our own problems of a similar nature. Through Captain Halliday's official connection with the scheme, our Foreman-of-Signals (Q.M.S. Flynn) is persona grata with all concerned, and will no doubt learn many useful wrinkles from Messrs. Siemens' engineers which he will pass on to the rest of the Section for our mutual benefit.

Other Technical Notes.—With regard to the C.B. telephone system of our own, things are panning out quite well: still at least a 100 per cent. system. Of course, we are all looking forward to the next winter season to see the results of the present work that is going on.

Last week the Section received the test set, portable, No. 2, which during the first lecture we found quite interesting. Everybody, I think, got to know " D "—and " D " showed us how to find many things!

I do not think this is new to our Q.M.S. ; in fact, I think he is very closely connected with its specification.

I also learn that this year is the centenary of the man who made many things possible in electricity and who brought to light electro-magnetic induction. This man was Sir Michael Faraday ; and this may be expressed as " Nelson's Column for Nelson. . . The farad for Faraday."

Agony.—There was indeed agony at Haywharf when Sigmn Eccles tried to complete the 100 yards test but only managed 33¾ of it. The timely arrival of our Q.M.S. and Knocker Johnson saved our draughtsman. Being at hand myself, I had visions of indenting for a new spoiler of paper.

Sigmn Pinky Green still remains in oblivion, and Sigmn Bert Stretch wishes to be remembered to our late colleague in P/L., F.E.C., etc.

More Handshakes.—To Sigmn Chapman on being presented with a son, born at King George V. Hospital and baptised at Sarria Church, on June 8th, John Augustus. We offer them all the best.

To our O.C., Captain G. R. Halliday, whose wife presented him with a son at a recent date. Here we must also offer our heartiest congratulations.

To the D.R.s who put up such a good show at the Olympia and kept the light blue, dark blue and green flying.

Finis.—For myself: "Shut up!" FANNY.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

June 30th.

Adios.—We have said our farewells and expressed our wishes for a pleasant journey, etc., to L/Corpl Cook F., who left us early in the month, via the s.s. *Maloja* for three months furlough in the United Kingdom. For some weeks preceding his departure, his sole attraction in the canteen was Messrs. Ind Coope's now famous advertisement "I hear you calling me." Need we say more?

The great argument in the Section at the moment is "Does absence make the heart grow bolder or colder?" The *Hertfordshire Daily News*, copies of which are eagerly awaited here, will probably give us a leader on the question.

E. and O.E.—It has been pointed out that one of the most unique features of the Fortress—the wonderful system of underground passages and tunnels known as the Galleries—was not mentioned in our short description of the Rock published in a recent issue of THE WIRE. This omission is doubly regretted, as the Galleries as they now exist were evolved from the suggestion of a sergeant of our related Corps the Royal Engineers.

For the benefit of those who have not yet had the good fortune to visit Gibraltar, and in order to appease our informants, the Galleries were first commenced during the great siege of Gibraltar, about 1780-83. The original tunnel was built for the purpose of offensive artillery operations, and during the period of construction it was found that openings to the air were necessary for the purpose of ventilation. The Galleries as now known are a development of the original idea, and consist of a system of underground passages and halls, or chambers, where guns may be seen in position. From the many embrasures, unsurpassed views of Algeciras and the surrounding hills may be obtained. The Galleries are open to the general public, and in almost every case they are included in the itinerary of the tourist.

Excursions.—Saturday, June 12th, was a day of interest for the unit, as on that day we travelled via motor coach to Malaga for the customary annual outing. We gathered at Wellington Front at 7 a.m. (married men were there, complete with passes duly backed and signed) and as the city authorities prohibit large coaches from entering Gibraltar, we travelled in two local buses to La Linea, where we found a coach de luxe awaiting us.

The journey to Malaga was a very interesting one, and as the road follows the coast line, we experienced a cooling breeze for practically the whole of the journey. A halt was called at Estepona (a small fishing village) where lunch and . . . . were consumed. Even although one of the party mistook lunch tongue for "common garden bully," we pass a vote of thanks to the n.c.o. i/c messing for the efficient way in which he looked after the inner man (or should it be men?) en route.

Malaga was reached about noon, and after lunch (the proper one) at the Hotel Londres, the Section dispersed in various ways for an afternoon's enjoyment.

The return journey was commenced about 6 p.m. and to judge by the various musical (?) instruments which the Section had acquired during the afternoon, the jazz band emporiums appeared to have been doing a roaring trade. Song and music were the order of the day on the journey, and after hearing Sigmn H. L. Taylor's solo, accompanied by himself on the banjo, we are convinced that his musical attainments have not been given the publicity they deserve. (Will the B.B.C. please note?)

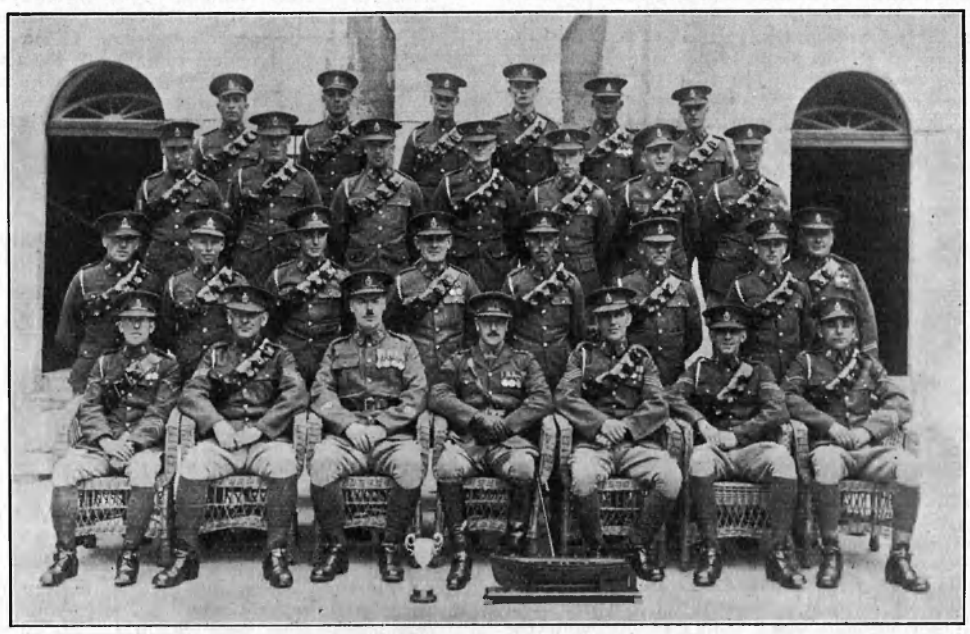
Barracks were reached about midnight, but apparently the journey had been too tiring for one member of the party, who, leaning over Line Wall, was heard to enquire "When are we going to get to Estepona, George?"

Despite the peace offerings brought from Malaga, our married personnel were left in the cold by their respective better halves on the 25th inst., when the fair sex proceeded on the H.H.H. motor-boat *Carmela* for a day's outing to First River.

As on this day mere man did not exist, and it appears as if even the boatman has been sworn to secrecy, we regret (apart from saying that an excellent lunch and tea were taken with them from the Fortress) we cannot give even the briefest description of the picnic; but to judge from the pleasant smiles and kindly greetings which met us on their return, we can safely assume it was a great success.

Tell the World.—"When is a courtyard not a courtyard?" is this month's South Bastion conundrum. For the benefit of those not in the know, the answer is "When it's a backyard."

We congratulate Signalman O'Brien(t) on achieving his long cherished ambition and becoming the proud possessor of an independent swimming pass. He evidently believes in the tale of Robert the Bruce and the spider!



Gibraltar Signal Section.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

This is the time of the year when there is very little doing except musketry. All three Companies have got through most of their classification, and so far as one can tell without having the full results, it seems as though there will be a slight improvement upon last year.

There has been a much larger entry for the miniature range competition this year, and the leading results are as follows:—1st, C.Q.M.S. Peat, 87; 2nd, C.S.M. Watts and Sergt Johnson, each 85; 4th, Sergt Whittington, 83; 5th, Sergt Daniels and Sigmn Robinson S., each 82; 7th, Sergt Constable, 79; 8th, R.S.M. Grist, 78; 9th, Lieut Walters, Lieut Cobbing and L/Cpl Baker, each 77.

The work on our new drill hall seems to be progressing well, and as we shall have a very good range, there is every reason to hope that next year's competition will be bigger and better than ever.

JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Exeter.

General.—Major J. W. Western wishes to express, through the medium of these notes, his most sincere thanks to all those very kind friends who have sent him nice messages on the occasion of the recent honour which was bestowed upon him. He also thanks the Editor for so kindly culling so much from the local press.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

All is bustle! Amid preparations for camp—the real great business of our year—one really hasn't time to settle down and calmly survey the situation. H.Q. are producing circulars daily, too!

However, we are off to Christchurch, Hants, again, and to the same spot as last year. B Section ought to be glad, as they may not have so many holes to jump! The jolly old Thirds (3rd Divl. Signals) are to be with us again. Bless 'em. We enjoyed this experiment of intermingling last year, and I guess we shall enjoy it again, as the Thirds are sure to send along such "naice" people. It did good in several ways last year, and one in particular was the happy fraternisation at dinners, both at Exeter and at Bulford, afterwards. Strong links were forged in the chain that binds us. I hope their tug-of-war team won't train so hard this year—we don't want to be dragged too far from camp!

A word of welcome to Mr. L. E. O. Evans, who has just received his commission in the unit and is posted to No. 1 Company. He is one of Exeter's rugby fifteen, so we shall bespeak his help on the sporting side.

OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

First of all, this Company must offer their heartiest congratulations to Major Western on his well-deserved honour. Although late, sir, they are none the less sincere, and we wish you "good luck and good health."

This Company will soon be moving into newly decorated quarters in the drill hall here, and we are to have a club room of our own. We shall then have a real home to which we can invite our friends for rest, recreation and refreshment.

We are eagerly looking forward to meeting our old friends at Christchurch, and to continuing the friendly rivalry with the other Companies both in the field and in other places.

We shall unfortunately be greatly depleted in numbers, owing to our having to supply three R.A. Brigade Sections for practice camp, but what we do bring will be "the goods," and I am sure they will give a fine account of themselves in the many activities of camp.

News in Southampton is at a premium, so that I am afraid this will be all I can give; but we must put ourselves "in the picture" or else we shall be in trouble with the members of the Company and, above all, with Old Spark.

PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

All ranks are looking forward to a return visit to Christchurch this year. The drill halls are hives of activity with the packing up and the Company storeman checking the number of costumes, bathing, G.S., returned from last camp.

Congratulations to the Plymouth officers on opening their own mess; and a word of welcome to Mr. P. W. Shaw, who has now joined the Plymouth Section as 2/Lieutenant.

A party of six officers and thirty men of the Company spent an enjoyable evening at Plympton on June 27th, when they saw the play, "Eliza comes to stay," in which our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel The Lord Basing, and Lady Basing each took a part.

Congratulations to Mr. Guy Edwards on obtaining his second pip, and to Sergts George Marks and Bursell on their promotion.

THREECOY.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

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

General.—By the time these notes appear, we shall be in the midst of annual training. This is always a big event in a Territorial unit, as it provides the one period of the year when we get down to proper soldiering. Given fine weather, Canterbury should be an ideal camp, both from the training and the social point of view. We of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies will be glad to renew acquaintance with No. 2. We hear quite a lot of their doings through the medium of their scribe.

Shooting.—The shoot for the Middlesex Justices' shield, of which we were holders, took place at Purfleet on July 5th. Conditions were all in favour of good shooting, and expectations ran high when our team scored 772—or 131 more than last year, when we carried off the trophy. Unfortunately for our hopes, this score was tied by the 7th Middlesex Regiment, and as a shoot-off was not allowed, the destination of this handsome trophy was decided by the highest score in the "fire by movement" practice. This went in favour of the 7th Battalion Middlesex, so until next year—when we hope for better luck—we must spread out our silver to cover the vacant space.

Trade Tests.—The following are congratulated on having qualified for higher ratings:—L/Corpl Brown, Signalmen Ball, Jordan, Green, Dearlove and Woodman.

Recruiting.—A welcome is extended to all new arrivals, and we hope they will like their stay with us.

W. THOMAS, A/C.S.M.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—By the time these notes appear, we shall be on our annual training at Canterbury. Everyone is looking forward to spending a happy fortnight there. We all hope the weather will be more kind to us than last year.

Owing to pressure of work, due to the preparations for camp, our notes must be short and sweet.

Nothing of an exciting nature has occurred during the past month except the rifle meeting held at Purfleet [referred to in the notes above.—ED.]

Recruiting.—Recruits still continue to come in, but it looks as if we shall just be beaten on the post in our effort to be at full strength at the commencement of annual trainmg, failing by about two or three. Still, we venture to say that it won't be many weeks after camp before we shall be up to our full complement.

Social.—The usual concert was held during the month, and a very happy affair it was. An interesting presentation was made to L/Sergt Weaver. After serving nine years in the unit, we are sorry to see him go. Sergeant Weaver made a suitable response.

Congratulations.—To those mentioned in Part II. for more legs—especially to L/Sergts French and Romaine. We'll see you in the mess at camp. NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

H.Q., Phœnix Street, Derby.

Annual camp is now here, and by the time these notes appear in print, it will be concluded. After all our doubts, we are going to Buxton at the third time of asking. We shall be able to give our experiences in our next notes. We are hoping the weather improves, for to-day is St. Swithun's and rain has been tumbling down all day. Let us hope the legend that this is a forecast for the next forty days will prove incorrect.

Each Company has held a week-end camp in the vicinity of its headquarters.

No. 1 Company held theirs at Ilkeston, which was entirely new ground to them. The weather was kind to them and much useful work was done, the outing being much appreciated by the large numbers who attended.

No. 2 Company held theirs at Ashover. This was also new ground. The weather on marching out was vile, and rain continued throughout the night, but Sunday opened gloriously. Ashover is a delightful spot, and on Sunday afternoon scores of hikers passed the camp on their rambles, which goes a long way in saying it must be a very popular spot. No. 2 were able to take horses to their camp, so besides other useful work, the young hands were able to test their skill, for there are numerous budding equestrians in this Company. A good volunteer was found for stable picket. After being on for more than the usual two hours, he said he did not wish to be relieved, as he loved talking to the horses. Another bright young lad woke Tommy Hewett and said, "I am sure something is going to happen." "Why?" said Tommy in his usual sweet voice. "Well, all the horses are whisking their tails." Collapse of T.H.

No. 3 Company visited the old favourite spot Trent. Like the other two Companies', this camp was very well attended and much useful work was accomplished.

Our heartiest congratulations go to No. 3 Company on winning the Forman cup. This is not the first time the cup has been won by them, for at one time they were the unit most to be feared. The shooting took place in wretched weather, and the results were the closest on record. The winners obtained 189 points, the second 188, and the third 187. Surely, there cannot be much closer results at Bisley!

We offer our heartiest congratulations to 2/Lieut N. B. Scott on his posting to No. 1 (Derby) Company, and we welcome him to the unit. We feel assured he will be very happy amongst us.

MEREBIMUR.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals
and Supplementary Reserve.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

General.—We have very little to write about. The Companies are busy in preparing for the forthcoming annual training in camp, which takes place at Troon from the 17th to 31st July.

The Glasgow units are well up to establishment, and it is good to see the enthusiasm amongst the recruits (nearly one hundred) who have joined us since last camp.

The Corps Band.—During their Glasgow tour, we were delighted to have the Corps Band with us at an impromptu social evening arranged by the members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. The musical items they contributed were greatly enjoyed by all present, and we sincerely hope to see them again next year if Glasgow figures in their season's programme. Judging from the remarks of the very critical audiences they attracted in the various municipal parks in Glasgow, they certainly have "got there" and are a credit to the Corps. LOWSIGS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Park Street, Cardiff.

General.—Preliminary training has been more or less completed with week-end courses for No. 3 Company, M.T. and D.R. Sections, and recruits, as a grand finale, and everyone is looking forward to camp at Porthcawl to demonstrate the value of the training they have received under their various instructors. No. 1 Company held a voluntary week-end course at Cefn-Mably on 11th and 12th July. A useful amount of work was accomplished by the Cable and Wireless Sections.

Shooting.—At long last the officers have lost the proud boast that no one else has held the Salmon trophy for miniature range shooting, open to all sections in the unit. They were beaten this year by J Section with a score of 103, the n.c.o.'s mess team being second with 101, and the officers third with 98.

The final shoot-off for those who scored a possible was held on Friday, June 26th. Sergt Llewellyn and Corpl Steel each scoring another possible, a further shoot to decide the issue resulted in a win for Sergt Llewellyn, who scored yet another possible against Corpl Steel's two points less.

On the occasion of the presentation of the Victory shield medals to No. 2 Company rifle team, the excellent smoking concert was voted by all the best that had been held at the drill hall—which is saying a good deal. This is the second year in succession that No. 2 Company have received bronze medals in this competition, and we all hope that next year they will be successful in winning the shield and silver medals.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of the commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Seel, M.C., Major F. N. Fawcett (O.C. No. 1 Company) kindly consented to present the medals. C.S.M. Baxter, D.C.M. (No. 2 Company) presided, and the visitors included Capt. Illtyd Stockwood of Bridgend, who, as the originator of the competition, congratulated the Signals as a technical unit on the fact that they had finished fourth in the first year, and second on the last two occasions—really a wonderful performance.

Although we were not successful in getting into the final of *The Western Mail and South Wales News* challenge cup, the match was fought out on our range at Park Street. Captain G. Tayleur (adjutant of this unit) who organised this year's contest, presided at a smoking concert held after the match, being supported by Sir David Hughes Morgan, BART., J.P. (chairman of *The Western Mail and Echo Ltd.*) and Lieut.-Col. Heir Davies, D.S.O., T.D. (secretary of the Glamorgan T.A.A.). Mr. R. J. Webber, J.P. (joint managing director of *The Western Mail and Echo Ltd.*) made the presentation.

Congratulations.—We offer our sincere congratulations to Lt. S. C. Cadogan on obtaining his second pip. THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Stratford, London, E.15.

No. 1 Company.

On June 18th, Lord Marley, Under-Secretary of State for War, made an inspection of the buildings at these headquarters, and we think that he was impressed.

During the month the Company fired their musketry course on the miniature range, and on Sunday, June 28th, the recruits fired on the open ranges at Rainham.

By the time these notes appear, we shall have returned from our annual camp, which is being held from July 26th to August 9th at Shorncliffe. At present we have only a few who cannot attend, so the percentage of attendance should be high.

We are very pleased to state that R.S.M. Adams H. L. has been granted another extension on the permanent staff.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Section training is the order of the day, and every Thursday evening we see quite a good number of the Company at work on signal office erection and signal office routine in general.

Musketry.—We fired our annual course on the miniature range at the Cedars drill hall on June 11th and 18th. The shooting was quite good, considering the lighting arrangements on the range.

Our recruits journeyed to Rainham on Sunday, June 28th, to complete their course by firing on the open range. A very enjoyable morning's shoot, *not* marred by the fluttering of lances—the cavalry were not on parade. Well done, boys! a few more rounds and we would make marksmen of you.

Annual Camp.—A pleasant time is bemg looked forward to, as well as some hard work.

No. 3 (Southend) Company.

Trade Board.—We congratulate the following on attaining their trade rates, after many hours of hard work:—Sergt Bradbury, operator signals B.iii. ; L/Cpl Jeffery, operator signals B.ii. ; L/Corpl Baxendale, operator signals B.iii.; and Sigmn Palin, signals assistant " E."

Farewell Concert.—A farewell concert in honour of ex-C.S.M. Turner A. was held in the drill hall on Wednesday, June 17th, and we had a very good evening's entertainment. The local talent was very much appreciated by all, and we thank the following for their services: Messrs. Scott, Young, Newell, Haswell and Hobbs, C.S.M. Dowie, Corpl Rixon and Sigmn Langley.

The commanding officer and the O.C. Company spoke of C.S.M. Turner's service with the Company, and his untiring energy and devotion to its interests for the past six years from its formation. When C.S.M. Turner was presented with a beautiful clock (given by the officers, n.c.o.s and men of the Company) it was obvious that he had a wet face ; we are not sure whether it was with beers or tears.

It was at first thought the farewell concert was to be a double event, but unfortunately C.S.M. Leckie had left the Company to take over Corps duties with the 5th Divl Signals at Scarborough.

Wireless.—We hope C.S.M. Cooley will shortly give us a few tips on how to obtain an " Echo " set for a mere song. Who said he will present the club with one? We thank him for the notes he has written in " The Echo " regarding the unit.

Billiards.—A billiards handicap is now in progress in the club room. and one or two dark horses have been found. All games have been keenly contested and proved exciting. We hope to announce the lucky winner in next month's issue. The next handicap will take place after annual training.

Efficiency Cup.—Lieut. T. M. Wilks has offered a silver cup (on view in the canteen) for the best all-round man in H Section, to be presented in November to the winner. Competition is great. L/Corpl Skingsley is ahead at present, having brought three new recruits to the Section. We hope to see a few more competitive cups in the other Sections. S'END.

Bedford Detachment.

The Drill Hall, Ashburnham Road.

Training is still going with a swing. The numbers attending each evening are on the increase, which is very satisfactory.

Recruiting is still on the increase. We have two Sections, the 233rd and 234th, which are now nearly up to establishment.

All members have been hard at work of late, increasing their knowledge in readiness for annual camp. Several enjoyable Sundays have been spent at Cardington on schemes.

Everyone is looking forward to annual camp.

On Sunday the Sections are due to go to Yelden to fire the musketry course. We hope to have quite a good average.

E.A.N.

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

Commissioned.

*4334721 R.S.M. Turner A. 10/5/31

Appointed R.Q.M.S.

2306259 Dorrington A. 30/4/31

To be W.O. II. (C.S.M.)

*1038454 Hebberd R. 12/2/31
2311664 Seymour A. 30/4/31
2306272 Johns W. 5//5/31

To be C.Q.M.S.

2306505 Bevan B. 16/4/31
2311723 Yates W. 30/4/31
2311537 Deptford T. 5/5/31
1857300 Westwood F. 15/5/31

To be Sergeant

2557106 Lambke E. 28/1/31
*2310593 Cadell T. 7/2/31
*2314867 Wagg W. 11/2/31
*2312430 Jarvis L. 12/2/31
2311403 Handley F. 16/4/31
2314121 Mackie A. 15/5/31
2309311 Newmarsh E. 15/5/31
2306789 Harris T. 15/5/31

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

2313556 Brown F. 3/2/31
2310962 Field E 12/2/31
*2303777 Fraser J. 28/3/31
2310502 Moore J. 9/4/31
391388 Benfield G. 11/4/31
2558951 Wills G. 16/4/31
2310467 Matthew F. 22/4/31
2315149 Tudor E. 25/4/31
2310470 Baldock G. 29/4/31
6745065 Bernasconi E. 30/4/31
2312809 Bailey G. 5/5/31
2310835 Wells A. 9/5/31
2314300 Bevis M. 15/5/31
2316034 Burgess C. 15/5/31
2309580 Collins D. 23/5/31

To be Corporal

2314709 Richards S. 12/3/31
2317550 Atkinson R. 17/3/31
2313971 Webb A. 1/4/31
2310585 Whitehead C. 1/4/31
2315760 Webb A. 8/4/31
2310890 Weir R. 9/4/31
4436107 Walsh H. 13/4/31
2316171 Orton P. 16/4/31
2308588 Peake C. 17/4/31
2318478 Johns W. 19/4/31
2317275 Norman B. 25/4/31
2308524 Smalley J. 29/4/31
2313865 Dendy E. 30/4/31
2311316 Keywood F. 30/4/31
2316135 Lapper S. 5/5/31
2317499 Dale G. 9/5/31
2315133 Knight H. 15/5/31
2313972 Frey N. 15/5/31
311923 Heffernan P. 15/5/31
2316092 Ravenhall E. 15/5/31
2317659 Rumble J. 15/5/31
2311031 Harbottle F. 15/5/31
2313714 McDowall G. 15/5/31
2313525 Smith E. 23/5/31

Appointed Lance-Corporal

2313794 Moody R. 7/12/30
5988076 Cook F. 12/12/30
2315879 Cairns J. 3/1/31
2314493 Pinn P. 21/1/31
2318693 Gay E. 29/1/31
2317030 Beardmore T. 31/1/31
2310906 Swinson L. 3/2/31
2315727 Snow H. 11/2/31
2561192 Hall R. 18/2/31
2316222 Smith F. 17/3/31
2318127 Chadwick F. 26/3/31
4339620 Crowley F. 30/3/31
5330617 Edwards G. 1/4/31
2319016 Dawton L. 8/4/31
4792569 Lauriere J. 16/4/31
2320265 Atthill A. 19/4/31
2317770 Stevens B. 1/5/31
2317334 Gibson C. 9/4/31
33928 Brown R. 9/5/31
2316479 Brennan W. 15/5/31
2317576 Williamson T. 15/5/31

Discharges.

2306175 C.S.M. Sharpley W. 4/5/31
*1408335 C.Q.M.S. Disbrey A. 8/4/31
2306261 C.Q.M.S. Cooper H. 19/6/31
*1863113 Sergt Brown J. 27/3/31
*1404946 Sergt Weston W. 12/4/31
2307563 Sergt Willis T. 22/5/31
1858964 Corpl Tilling F. 1/6/31
3948816 Corpl Underwood W. 4/6/31
6133083 Corpl Hassell A. 26/6/31

To Army Reserve

6394540 Corpl Holtham E. 6/5/31
2316464 Corpl Price H. 6/5/31
2316764 L/Corpl Goode E. 14/3/31
2316606 L/Corpl Nolan M. 24/4/31
2316349 L/Corpl Barron A. 6/5/31
2317049 L/Corpl Pond F. 4/6/31
2317067 L/Corpl Saltern F. 21/6/31

* *Special Roster, India*

Corps Cricket.

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C.—This match, played at Kennington Oval on June 18th and 19th, ended in a draw. The great feature of the game was the huge score of 225 compiled by Captain Lewis-Barclay.

R.A.O.C.

	1st Innings.		*2nd Innings.*	
Lt.-Col. L. L. Hoare	Pellew	55	c Walford b Barclay	0
Lt. L. C. D. Robinson	c Rawson b Walford	7	not out	1
Major J. H. D. Sheppard	c Rawson b Barclay	9	b Cole	66
Major G. W. Palmer	c Rawson b Walford	51	c Marshall b Pellew	47
Sergt Partridge	c Barclay b Cole	0	not out	14
L/Cpl Kelly	c Wilkinson b Pellew	35	b Cole	9
Lt. E. St. J. Hooley	b Barclay	0		
Capt H. R. Skinner	c Ruck b Pellew	16		
Pte Welcome	not out	10		
Armr/S/Sergt Moyle	b Cole	5		
Pte Clark	b Cole	0		
	Extras	13	Extras	2
	Total	201	Total (four wkts)	139

Bowling—First Innings: Walford, two for 48; Lewis-Barclay, two for 55; Cole, three for 48; Pellew, three for 35. Second Innings: Lewis-Barclay, one for 20; Cole, two for 59; Pellew, one for 31.

ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut.-Col. G. G. Rawson b Clark	57
Capt R. M. L. Rosenberg run out	33
Capt H. S. Lewis-Barclay c Skinner b Moyle	225
Sergt P. M. Ryan c Partridge b Clark	21
Capt J. E. S. Walford c Kelly b Partridge	66
Lieut E. S. Cole b Welcome	39
Lieut A. B. Ruck not out	11
Extras	8
Total (six wickets, declared)	460

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

Individual Championships, 1931.

[* = Standard]

100 yards—1, *2/Lieut Stoneley (M/W); 2, *L/Cpl Collett (D); 3, *Sigmn Thomas (M/W); 4, L/Corpl Hicks (F); 5, 2/Lieut Goldsmith (D). Time, 10 2/5 sec.

220 yards—1, *2/Lieut Goldsmith (D); 2, Sigmn Thomas (M/W); 3, L/Cpl Hicks (F); 4, Cpl Gratwicke (F); 5, Sigmn Player (D). Time, 24 2/5 sec.

440 yards—1, *2/Lieut Stoneley (M/W); 2, *Sigmn Page (D/W); 3, 2/Lieut Reeder (D/W); 4, Sigmn Bucke (D/W); 5, 2/Lieut Eraut (D/W) (*in heats). Time, 54 sec.

880 yards—1, *Sigmn Page (D/W); 2, 2/Lieut Eraut (D/W); 3, Sigmn Bucke (D/W); 4, L/Corpl MacCulloch (F); 5, 2/Lt Conner (E). Time, 2 min. 8 2/5 sec.

One mile—1, Sigmn Fearnley (D/W); 2, 2/Lieut Eraut (D/W); 3, Sigmn Pollard (D); 4, L/Corpl MacCulloch (F); 5, Sergt Caley (E). Time, 5 min. 2 4/5 sec.

Three miles—1, 2/Lieut Agar (D); 2, Sigmn Fearnley (D/W); 3, Sigmn Fairley (D/W); 4, L/Corpl Taylor (D/W); 5, Sigmn Toft (E). Time, 16 min. 43 sec.

120 yards hurdles—1, *L/Corpl Johnson (D/W); 2, L/Corpl Hopwood (D/W); 3, L/Corpl Boy Goodall (F); 4, Corpl Gratwicke (F); 5, Corpl Kenny (F). Time, 17 4/5 sec.

High jump—1, *L/Corpl Dawton (E); 2, Sigmn Fitzpatrick (F); 3, Sigmn Powell (School) and Sigmn Cox (D/W) tied; 5, Sigmn Thorpe (D) and Sigmn Williams (D) tied. Height, 5 ft. 2 in.

Long jump—1, *Sergt Jennison (E); 2, *Corpl Harbin (F); 3, 2/Lieut Goldsmith (D); 4, 2/Lieut Blum (F). Distance, 21 ft. 7½ in.

Pole jump—1, *Sigmn Buckman (F); 2, *Corpl Morgan (M/W) and *Sigmn Vaughan (M/W) tied; 4, Boy Banbury (F); 5, Sigmn Foster (E) and Sergt Jennison (E) tied. Height, 9 ft.

Shot—1, *Sergt Luck (School); 2, Sigmn Mills (M/W); 3, L/Cpl File (D); 4, Sergt Jennison (E); 5, L/Corpl Hatton (D/W). Distance, 33 ft. ½ in.

Hammer—1, *Corpl Kenny (F); 2, Corpl Longhurst (D/W); 3, Sigmn Mills (M/W); 4, Corpl Rawson (D/W); 5, Sergeant Sexton (School). Distance, 95 ft. 10 in.

Discus—1, *L/Corpl Hatton (D/W); 2, Sergt Baker (School); 3, Sigmn Stace (D); 4, Sigmn Thorpe (D); 5, Sergt Jennison (E). Distance, 91 ft. 7 in.

Javelin—1, *Sigmn Thorpe (D); 2, *Sigmn Caulfield (D); 3, *Driver Button (M/W); 4, Sigmn Ballard (D); 5, C.S.M. Payne (D/W). Distance, 139 ft. 9½ in.

Victor Ludorum Cup—2/Lieut C. H. Stoneley.

Pinsent Cup: Individual Company Championship—Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the prizes were presented by Mrs. C. H. Prickett.

Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Athletics.—This season has been a satisfactory one for the Battalion, particularly when one remembers the short time that recruits stay here.

In the open relay races, we have won two and been second in the third. In one race we entered two teams, the "B" team being just beaten by the Training Battalion for third place.

In the Command we came sixth with 31 points, the standard throughout being better than last year. In every event except the pole jump, last year's results were beaten. The Battalion team were in every track final except hurdles and and 220 yards, and in the four×880 yards relay the Battalion were an easy first in 8 min. 36 sec.—last year's time being 12 sec. slower.

The successes in the open relays were largely due to the splendid running of 2/Lieut Stoneley and Sigmn Page in the 440 and 880 yards respectively. The latter, unfortunately, arrived here too late to enter for the Command individuals, but he won a good race for the Garrison against Atlanta Club in 2 min. 4 2/5 sec. 2/Lieut Stoneley won the Command individual 440 yards, and again for the Garrison against Atlanta, in 53 sec. odd—a fast time for the slow Stadium track. We wish him luck in the Army championships.

E Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Athletics.—We still have two more fixtures to complete before the placings in the Inter-Company League will be to hand. Keep it up, Eddy; we are not doing so badly.

Our first attempt in the Cobb cup competition proved rather successful, with two firsts out of four events. Well done!

Cricket.—The Company cricket team is having a fairly successful season to date, having won three out of four games. One more match, Eddy; what is it to be? Top? We hope so.

I think there will be some nice bowling averages to report at the conclusion of the season.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Athletics.—We offer our congratulations to the Battalion team on their show in the championship meeting. Outstanding performances are given hereunder.

2/Lieut R. J. Perry ran out winner of the individual pole jump with a vault of 9 ft. 3 in. Well done, sir!

The pole jump team championship fell to 2/Lieut R. J. Perry and Corpl Harbin. A whisper: Corpl Harbin will be competing in the Army championships (pole jump) at Colchester, and we are hoping for victory.

Our mile team ran splendidly, winning this event in good style.

In all other events teams were entered, and points obtained which gave us fourth place—not bad, at all. We hope to do better next season.

We have once again sealed the fate of the S.T.C. inter-Company challenge shield (first step to the Mackworth trophy for 1931-32). Some fine running was witnessed in the S.T.C. individual championships held in June.

We have to congratulate 2/Lieut Stoneley on his splendid performance in winning the Victor Ludorum cup at the first time of asking. We anticipate that he will soon obtain Army honours.

Our boys entertained a team of boys from Barnard Castle on June 18th, and after some exciting events we ran out winners by three points.

Our teams are to be congratulated generally on their splendid performances.

Cricket.—Inter-Company League. The Company team have completed two fixtures to date, and won one and lost one. We won by 36 runs against Dismounted Wing, but lost by 23 runs to Mounted Wing.

Enlisted Boys Competition.—In this we entered four teams: Signals I., II., III. and IV., and games played are hereunder.

R.Signals IV. v. 2nd Battn Leicestershire Boys, won by an innings and 30 runs.

R.Signals I. v. 2nd Battn D.L.I. Boys, won by an innings and a few runs.

R.Signals II. v. R.Signals III. No. II. team won.

The next round will be played in the near future, and we are drawn to play R.Signals II. v. R.Signals IV., and R.Signals I. v. Prince of Wales's Volunteers. It is quite possible for us to have two teams in the semi-final. We are hoping for this, and for a win in the final.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

The Searchlight Battalion R.E. summer camp at Warley rather broke up our cricket eleven. Eventually, however, with the aid of one or two Sappers and the remainder left behind, we managed to muster an eleven almost up to the strength of our first team. Several matches were played, and only one was lost. Good performances with bat and ball were witnessed.

L/Sergt Bloodworth H. has been outstanding of late. With an average of something around the 70 mark, one gathers that something has happened. His bowling, also, has very largely contributed to our successes.

Perhaps the brightest feature of all is the remarkably high standard of fielding our team has shown. Rarely does a match pass without two or three batsmen being run out through smart picking up and true and accurate throwing in.

In view, however, of our near fixture with one of the Signal Companies at Aldershot, when we meet in the second round of the Rawson shield competition, it would be better, perhaps, if I did not give away all the secrets of the team.

The batting of most members has improved considerably, and now that the actual team is together again, we hope to be able to pass through to the final round of the shield.

Cross-Country.—The photograph of the cross-country team, winners of the 1st Air Defence Brigade cross-country championship, 1931, appears with these notes. The team enjoyed a very successful season indeed, being winners of the Blackdown Garrison Group run as well. Keep it going, Signals!

1st A.D.B. Signals Cross-Country Team.
Winners of the 1st A.D.B. Cross-Country Championship, 1931

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Cricket.—The team continue to do well. They had been successful in all their matches prior to the advent of Sergt Ryan. We hardly expected to lose in *his* first match, but managed to do so to the School of Artillery. However, we can't put that down to him, for he has been picked to play for the Garrison.

Southern Command Sports.—Here are the full results (field events count 4 points and track events 8):—

Teams.—11th Hussars, 1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 2nd Battn Wilts Regiment, and Royal Signals, Southern Command.

The figures 1 to 15 over the columns below represent respectively (1) shot, (2) long jump, (3) discus, (4) pole jump, (5) three miles team, (6) high jump, (7) four×220 yards relay, (8) javelin, (9) two miles relay, (10) hammer, (11) four×120 yards hurdles, (12) four×110 yards relay, (13) one mile team, (14) four×440 yards relay, and (15) total points scored by each unit.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1st Oxford and Bucks L.I.	4	3	4	4	6	2½	8	4	8	4	8	8	6	8	77½
Royal Signals	3	4	2	3	8	4	0	2	6	2	6	4	8	4	56
2nd Battn Wilts Regt	1½	1	3	1	4	1	6	3	2	3	2	6	4	3	39½
11th Hussars	1½	2	1	2	2	2½	4	1	4	1	4	2	2	6	35

We were disqualified in the four×220 yards relay for a bad take over. Times and distances were:—

Shot—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 66 ft. 4 in.
Long jump—R.Signals, 40 ft. 8½ in.
Discus—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 208 ft. 11¾ in.
Pole jump—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 18 ft.
High jump—R.Signals, 10 ft. 11 in.
Four×220 yards relay—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 1 min. 35 2/5 sec.
Javelin—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 282 ft.
Two miles relay—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 8 min. 27 2/5 sec.
Hammer—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 201 ft. 9 in.
Four×120 yards hurdles—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I., 1 min. 10 2/5 sec.
Four×110 yards relay—1st Battn Oxford & Bucks L.I., 46 sec.
One mile team—R.Signals, 4 min. 45 sec.
Four×440 yards relay—1st Battn Oxford and Bucks L.I. 3 min. 37 sec.
Three miles team—R.Signals, 15 min. 37 2/5 sec.

The results of the unit sports are appended. In the mile L/Cpl Beale finished first and Corpl Broadley second, but like the good sportsmen they are, they handed back their prizes so that the fourth and fifth men could have them.

Unfortunately, a large number of the unit horses were detached with R.A. Brigade Sections, but we managed to get in a few jumpers and the competition was keen. We hope to start training for next season's mounted show in the near future.

Anyone who was at Maresfield in the early '20's will be pleased to hear that "Ted" is still jumping well. The winner of the jumping (Driver Whyman) rode him in the unit sports.

Mounted tug-of-war—1st, No. 1 Company.
Jumping (Capt. White cup)—1st, Driver Whyman (No. 3 Coy.) 2nd, L/Corpl Trivett (3); 3rd, Driver Whitwood (3)
Mounted potato race—1st, Sigmn Lewis (3); 2nd, Sigmn Dires (E Troop); 3rd, Sigmn Wall (3)
Boat race—L Section, No. 3 Company
Open mile—1st, L/Cpl Beale (1); 2nd, Cpl Broadley (3); 3rd, Sigmn Robinson (2); 4th, Sigmn Greatorex (2); 5th, Sigmn Ward (1)
Wrestling on horseback—No. 3 Company.
Mounted obstacle race—1st, Corpl Mitson (1); 2nd, Corporal Peake (2); 3rd, Sigmn Short (A.F.V.S.)
Comic tug-of-war—No. 3 Company
Cable wagon competition—B Detachment, No. 1 Company
Driving race—1st, Sergt Waldron and partner; 2nd, Corporal Peake and partner
Band race—1st, L/Corpl Williams; 2nd, Sigmn Purvis

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

Cricket.—Since the middle of June we have managed to run a cricket team, and it's not such a bad one, either. Here are the results of matches played so far:—

5th Battn R.T.C. Perham Down.—Lost by 43 runs.

5TH BATTN R.T.C.

Genower b Hankinson	0
Chambers lbw b Rawcliffe	0
Garside b Hankinson	9
Lieut Marsh b Rawcliffe	4
Harrison c Price b Rawcliffe	18
Francis b Hankinson	0
Mellon b Simcox	32
Lieut Green c Pittman b Harrop	16
Stone c Beasley b Simcox	10
Ryder st Pittman b Simcox	0
Murphy not out	0
Extras	16
Total	105

A.F.V. SIGNALS.

Beasley b Green	2
Price c Marsh b Green	22
Simcox b Green	0
Hankinson b Garside	3
Pittman run out	3
Rawcliffe b Green	0
Robinson not out	14
Warren b Green	0
Harrop b Green	1
Erridge b Green	0
Moore c Marsh b Green	3
Extras	14
Total	62

G.P.O. Tidworth and others.—Won by 42 runs.

G.P.O.

Baker c and b Rawcliffe	9
Hoare lbw b Rawcliffe	0
Brewer b Harrop	6
Lyons b Rawcliffe	2
Nodder b Hankinson	1
Moreton b Simcox	10
Atwell run out	1
More b Harrop	0
Chubb c Beasley b Simcox	2
Blackman not out	1
Dennis b Harrop	0
Extras	2
Total	34

A.F.V. SIGNALS.

Beasley c Brewer b Moreton	3
Price b Nodder	4
Hankinson b Dennis	34
Simcox b Dennis	5
Clark b Dennis	2
Rawcliffe lbw b Dennis	0
Warren c Brewer b Moreton	3
Lovegrove b Nodder	0
Harrop c Chubb b Nodder	2
Jones not out	11
Moore c Chubb b Moreton	6
Extras	6
Total	76

E Troop Cav. Divl Signals.—At Tidworth. Won by 36 runs.

E TROOP.

Rapson run out	17
Vost b Hankinson	0
Totterdell b Hankinson	0
Rhymer run out	1
Honnor b Rawcliffe	2
Parfitt c and b Hankinson	0
Richardson c Clarke b Rawcliffe	5
Foster b Rawcliffe	0
Jacobs not out	8

Smith b Rawcliffe	5
Taylor c Hankinson b Rawcliffe	0
Extras	11
Total	49

A.F.V. SIGNALS.

Beasley c Rapson b Richardson	17
Price lbw b Rhymer	0
Hankinson b Rhymer	7
Simcox b Rhymer	18
Clarke c Foster b Rhymer	0
Rawcliffe lbw b Honnor	8
Steele c Vost b Rhymer	4
Warren not out	9
Moore c Rhymer b Honnor	1
Featonby c Vost b Richardson	6
Erridge b Vost	1
Extras	3
Total	74

1st K.D.G.S.—At Tidworth. Lost by 88 runs.

K.D.G.S.

	1st Innings.		*2nd Innings.*
Curtis c Rawcliffe b Hankinson	16	c Rich'dson b Simcox	27
Carter b Hankinson	1	c Robinson b R'cliffe	2
Foster b Hankinson	0	b Hankinson	0
Jones b Rawcliffe	2	c Lovegrve b Simcox	13
Crotty lbw b Hankinson	0	c Loveg. b Robinson	1
Mather b Rawcliffe	13	b Simcox	16
Bardsley c and b Rawcliffe	1	b Rawcliffe	23
Keefe b Simcox	2	c Robinson b R'cliffe	0
Hayley not out	4	c Simcox b Rawcliffe	34
Philmore c Rawcliffe b Simcox	3	c Robinson b Simcox	0
Hunter b Simcox	0	not out	4
Extras	4	Extras	11
Total	46	Total	131

A.F.V. SIGNALS.

	1st Innings.		*2nd Innings.*
Beasley c Carter b Curtis	5	c Bardsley b Hayley	8
Simcox b Curtis	0	c Keefe b Hayley	4
Hankinson c Carter b Curtis	4	c Mather b Hayley	1
Robinson b Philmore	1	c Bardsley b Curtis	1
Clarke b Philmore	3	c Crotty b Curtis	16
Rawcliffe lbw b Carter	3	c Bardsley b Jones	0
Lovegrove c Jones b Carter	6	b Curtis	8
Erridge b Carter	1	b Carter	0
Featonby c Carter b Philmore	1	b Carter	0
Richardson not out	0	not out	12
Tickle b Philmore	0	c Mather b Keefe	9
Extras	5	Extras	1
Total	29	Total	60

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Swimming.—A very successful meeting was held at the Garrison swimming baths on July 6th and 7th. Owing to most of the Sections being away with their affiliated Brigades, it was not possible for them to compete ; but in spite of this, the entries were very large and necessitated a two-day meeting to run off the heats. With the talent available, we should go very near to winning the Garrison championships. The following were the results:—

Two lengths free style (unit championship)—1st, Driver Hill A. ; 2nd, Driver Cross A. ; 3rd, Corpl Ball T. Time, 48½ sec.
One length free style (novices)—First heat: 1st, L/Corpl Hooren H. C. ; 2nd, Sigmn Hines W. ; 3rd, Sigmn Wilkins R. Time, 21 sec. Second heat: 1st, Sigmn Roden L. ; 2nd, 2/Lieut. P. M. P. Hobson ; 3rd, Sigmn Marshall H. Time, 23 1/5 sec.
Diving from high board (unit championship)—1st, Corpl Ball T., 55 points ; 2nd, L/Corpl Langham G., 42¼ ; 3rd, Driver Cross A., 41¼.
One length free style (novices)—Final. 1st, L/Corpl Hooren H. ; 2nd, Sigmn Roden L. ; 3rd, 2/Lieut P. M. P. Hobson. Time, 22 3/5 sec.
Obstacle race—1st, Driver Cross A. ; 2nd, L/Corpl Giddy E. K. ; 3rd, Corpl Gourlay G. Time, 27 sec.
Two lengths breast stroke (unit championship)—1st, Sergeant Terrell W. H. ; 2nd, Corpl Ball T. ; 3rd, Sigmn Marshall H. Time, 1 min. 1/5 sec.
Two lengths free style (novices)—Final. 1st, L/Corpl Hooren H. ; 2nd, Sigmn Ledger S. ; 3rd, Sigmn Anderson P. Time, 59 sec.
Plunging (unit championship)—1st, Signalman Roden L., 33 ft. ; 2nd, Driver Cross A., 32 ft. ; 3rd, Corpl Gourlay G., 31 ft.
Fancy dress (novices)—1st dress prize, Sigmn Roden L. 1st race prize, L/Corpl Hooren H.
Two lengths back stroke (unit championship)—Driver Cross A., walk over. Time, 62 sec.
One length back stroke (novices)—First heat: 1st, Corpl Robson L. ; 2nd, Sigmn Smee T. ; 3rd, Sigmn Taylor J. W. Time, 33 sec. Second heat: 1st, 2/Lieut P. M. P. Hobson ; 2nd, C.S.M. Herbert A. F. ; 3rd, Sigmn Wilkins R. Time, 29 1/5 sec.
Diving, spring board (unit championship)—1st, Corpl Ball T., 44½ points ; 2nd, Driver Cross A., 43 ; 3rd, L/Corpl Langham G., 39.
Diving for plates (novices)—1st, Sigmn Smee T., 15 ; 2nd, Sigmn Etheridge L., 12 ; 3rd, Sigmn Leigh G., 10.
One length back stroke (novices)—Final. 1st, 2/Lieut P. M. P. Hobson ; 2nd, Corpl Robson L. ; 3rd, C.S.M. Herbert A. F. Time, 29 3/5 sec.
Throwing polo ball—1st, Corpl Ball T. ; 2nd, Sergt Terrell W. ; 3rd, Driver Cross A.
Six lengths free style—1st, Driver Cross A. ; 2nd, Corpl Ball T. ; 3rd, Sergt Terrell W. Time, 3 min. 39 sec.
Blindfold race—1st, L/Corpl Hooren H. ; 2nd, Sigmn Leigh G. ; 3rd, Sigmn Gartland J.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Athletics.—During June there was a certain amount of activity in the athletic line, such as inter-Company team competitions, our annual individual sports, and the Northern Command team championships.

Inter-Company Team Athletics.—The winners of last year's event—No. 1 Company—just managed to retain the cup and points for the inter-Company sports shield.

Annual Individual Athletics.—We treated this event as our annual sports, and entertained our friends. The weather, after a long spell of rain, did its best by allowing us to have a reasonably fine day.

The usual track and field events were included in the programme. The lighter side was supplied by a demonstration by the D.R.'s, organised by L/Corpl Henshaw. Tilting the bucket caused a certain amount of amusement, especially when C.Q.M.S.s Sheale and Moore entered as a pair. Their runs were so successful that they tied for first place, but not wanting another wetting, the first prize was handed over to the others.

A very good performance was given by Sigmn Hooper and Driver Read, who " fooled " most successfully the whole afternoon as clowns.

Our Corps Band played a very excellent programme, enjoyed by everyone present. Many congratulations to Mr. Ricketts—better and better each year. We are proud of our Band!

The signalmen and drivers entertained their friends to a very good tea, supplied by Terry's of York.

The individual results were as follows:—

100 yards—1st, Corpl Birkett, 10 2/5 sec. ; 2nd, L/Corpl Spargo ; 3rd, Corpl Burgess
220 yards—1st, L/Corpl Spargo, 23 sec. ; 2nd, Corpl Birkett ; 3rd, L/Corpl Boyd
440 yards—1st, Sigmn Watts ; 2nd, Signalman Cord ; 3rd, Driver Parrish
880 yards—1st, Sigmn Steele, 2 min. 14 3/5 sec. ; 2nd, Sigmn Watts ; 3rd, Sigmn Neale
Open mile—1st, 2/Lieut Eraut (Depot Battn S.T.C.), 4 min. 40 sec. ; 2nd, 2/Lieut Taylor (Training Battn S.T.C.) ; 3rd, Sigmn Hodson (5th Divl Signals)
Three miles—1st, Sigmn Steele ; 2nd, Sigmn Hodson ; 3rd, L/Sergt Gould

Shot—1st, Sigmn Woolcott, 33 ft. 10½ in.; 2nd, L/Corpl Ferrier; 3rd, Corpl Williams
Hammer—1st, Sigmn Woolcott, 90 ft. 1 in.; 2nd, Signalman Wheeler; 3rd, Sigmn Robb
Javelin—1st, Driver Fear, 117 ft. 5 in.; 2nd, L/Corpl Ferrier; 3rd, Sigmn Woolcott
Discus—1st, Sigmn Wheeler, 80 ft 2 in.; 2nd, L/Sergt Devey; 3rd, Sergt Fegan
Long jump—1st, L/Sergt Devey, 20 ft. 8¼ in.; 2nd, Corporal Birkett, 20 ft. 5 in.; 3rd, Sigmn Wheeler.
High jump—1st, Sigmn Guy, 5 ft. 2 in.; 2nd, L/Corpl Monaghan, 5 ft. 1 in.; 3rd, Sigmn Farmer
Pole vault—1st, L/Sgt Devey, 9 ft. 2 in.; 2nd, Sigmn Northall; 3rd, Sigmn Beavan
Veterans' race—1st, C.Q.M.S. Sheale; 2nd, Sergt Fegan; 3rd, S/Sergt Adams, R.E.
Ladies' race—1st, Mrs. Penfold; 2nd, Miss Lowens; 3rd, Miss Heritage
Boys' race—1st, Frank Anderson; 2nd, Reginald Bennett; 3rd, W. Leckie; 4th, A. Leckie
Girls' race—1st, Patricia Leckie; 2nd, Dorothy McIntosh; 3rd, Margery Moore; 4th, Joan Schneider

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Bradley.

Northern Command Championships.—We received a blow when we entered in the Command championships. Our downfall was due to a number of causes. The team trained on grass, and the cinder track did not help matters; the team, when travelling to Catterick, met with an accident, resulting in their arrival at 2 a.m. on the day of the heats; and last, but not least, the opposing talent was very high.

The best high jump at the meeting was 5 ft. 11 in. and the long jump 22 ft.; the javelin reaching over 140 ft. Standards on this type rather made us feel that we were novices.

We had the satisfaction of putting two battalions below our score, and hope that the experience of this year will help us to go further in 1932.

Many congratulations to both the Training and Depot Battalions on their very fine effort. Next year, we hope to figure near their final position at the meeting.

Mounted Sports.—The finals of the unit mounted sports were held on June 25th, the day after the dismounted sports, and we were indeed fortunate as regards the weather. Eliminating heats and rounds were carried out on Monday, 22nd, and Tuesday, 23rd. It was most gratifying to find such a record entry for all events. The standards attained showed a considerable improvement over last year's results, and the turn-outs of the M/T single horse and draught horses reflected great credit on all concerned.

The motor-cycle blindfold race was a novelty, and the skilled display by both driver and pillion rider deserves comment. The clowns, Drivers Read and Simkin, also deserve mention. They worked extremely hard, and had the satisfaction of knowing their efforts were greatly appreciated.

The all ranks tea tent proved a success, and will be repeated in future years.

The unit's most grateful thanks are due to the committee, who worked extremely hard to ensure that each event went off without a hitch. Our grateful thanks are also due to our medical officer, Lieut.-Colonel W. M. B. Sparkes, D.S.O., R.A.M.C. (ret.), for so kindly presenting, for the second year in succession, a cup for the officers' individual jumping competition.

At the conclusion of the programme of events, Mrs. Bradley very kindly presented the prizes to the winners.

Best M.T. vehicle—1st, Sigmn Hyde; 2nd, Sigmn Thornton
Best single horse—1st, Driver Evanson; 2nd, Sigmn Sanderson; 3rd, Driver McGregor
Best draught horses (pair)—1st, Dvr Webb; 2nd, Dvr Rudge; 3rd, Sigmn Keeler
Mounted tug-of-war—B Cable Section (Corpl Browne, L/Corpls Worthington, Mayer and Thorpe, Sigmn Robb, Driver Shorey)
Wrestling on horseback—B Cable Section (L/Corpls Mayer and Worthington, Drivers Shorey, Smith and Parrish, Sigmn Robb)
Balaclava melee—J Section (L/Corpl Manning, Driver Hazelgrave, Signalmen Cravens, Sanderson, Edwards and Heath)
Balloon post—1st, K Section (Sergt Vokins, Signalmen Barnes and Cook, Driver Sharp); 2nd, B Section (L/Corpls Worthington and Thorpe, Sigmn Robb, Driver Shorey)
Individual jumping: other ranks—1st, Sigmn Taylor; 2nd, Dvr Johnson; 3rd, L/Corpl Kelly
Officers' jumping—1st, Capt Chubb; 2nd, Major Nixon; 3rd, 2/Lieut Conway
W.O.s, sergeants and corporals' jumping—1st, Sergt Penfold; 2nd, Corpl Burgess; 3rd, Corpl Betty
Motor-cycle blindfold race—1st, Signalmen Guest and Hurt; 2nd, Signalmen Curry and Reay; 3rd, 2/Lieuts A. Hill and H. Winterbotham
V.C. race—1st, Sigmn Cooke; 2nd, Driver Smith; 3rd, Driver Wilks
Potato race—1st, Sigmn Taylor; 2nd, Driver Parrish; 3rd, Sigmn Peacock
Individual tent pegging—1st, Sergt Penfold; 2nd, Driver Hazelgrave; 3rd, Driver Boniface

Three hearty cheers for Mrs. Bradley were given, and then "The King," played by the Corps Band, brought a successful and very interesting day's sport to a close.

Billiards.—This branch of our sport, which a few weeks ago flourished most alarmingly, has, owing to our keenest members having joined a hiking club (our Infantry Brigade Sections move off on their long hike to Catterick on the 14th) declined almost to nothingness, so these will be our last notes until after Brigade training.

We are still struggling to complete our June handicap, but owing to the valiant efforts of our marker Sigmn Drury (who also leaves on the long hike) I am glad to say it will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion before the remaining four competitors leave for Catterick. The result will be published in the September issue.

Tennis.—There is still very little excitement to report in this sport, the reason being that everyone seems to be fully occupied with preparations for the unit annual sports. We managed, however, to get in one fixture v. Wykeham (West Ayton) on Tuesday, July 7th, on their courts, and the result was that we won by the narrowest possible margin—41 games to 40. In this match we were represented by the following:—C.Q.M.S.s Hales and Sheale, Sergt Brandon, L/Sergt Pinkstone, Sigmn Lowings, and S/Sergt Adams, R.E. (attached).

Owing to some bad secretarial or bus arrangements, the abovenamed had rather a novel experience. Firstly, they had very great difficulty in finding the courts at Wykeham. Having got over this obstacle and enjoyed the games, difficulty was experienced regarding a bus home; and after giving up all hopes of a bus, they resorted to "hiking it"—a distance of approximately seven miles. Two were fortunate in getting a lift in an ice cream van, and two more were fortunate, after a trek of two and a half miles, in getting on a fish van. The remaining two, having obtained a fair lead of the others, no doubt thought they were reaching barracks first to break the news; but just imagine their feelings when they heard "how we did get home." How's your poor old feet, Yorkie? Sigmn Lowings was the other poor unfortunate. You can guess the fortunate ones.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Football.—The annual battle for the Wallace cup is now relegated to the past. Having been regular winners of this trophy for a few years, we were very sanguine of our chances this year, as we have quite a respectable side. However, such was not to be the case, for having drawn a bye in the first round and easily disposed of A Company Prince of Wales's Volunteers in the next, we were knocked right off our feet by the 60th Field Battery to the extent of 0—2.

Throughout the present football season, we have been at a great disadvantage in that we have had to do without the services of four of our best players. Sergt Wooldridge has been forbidden, under medical orders, to play for a few months; Sergt McIntosh has left us for the School of Signals, Catterick, for a Foreman-of-Signals course; Sergt Jackson, who is essentially a centre forward, has had to play at outside left owing to an injury to his right foot; and Corpl Welch has been seriously ill and has now left Jubbulpore for a sojourn in the hills.

Sergt McIntosh will be a tower of strength (although he is somewhat lacking in inches) to the School of Signals. Not only is he a first class footballer, but he is also as renowned on the hockey field,

Apart from friendly matches with the attached Section and the R.A.M.C., we are now devoting our football attention to inter-bungalow matches, in most of which No. 8 come out on top. These matches are contested with as much vim and vigour as the English cup final. No. 8 have a team who cut out all the frills and Tottenham Hotspur stuff and make straight for goal, whereas No. 9 like the pretty stuff, which cuts no ice.

Hockey.—We are now holding what I might call an "eccentric" hockey tournament, organised by Lieut Knox and R.Q.M.S. Saunders. In the first place, the names of all people willing to play were obtained—no matter whether they had played before or not—and then they were sorted out into teams. The Depot players were each appointed as captain of a team. The whole idea was to discover any latent talent we might have. We managed to make up eleven teams, and as one can imagine, under such circumstances some very amusing hockey was witnessed. In some of the matches some excellent cricket strokes were displayed. After many weeks of toil and struggle, and quite a few drawn matches, we have at last got down to the final, which will be contested on Saturday, June 20th, by No. 1 team, captained by L/Corpl Shipton, and No. 7 team, captained by L/Corpl Dean.

Rugby.—We shall shortly be preparing for our all too short season. Rugger in Jubbulpore is only possible during the monsoon season, normally between the end of June and the beginning of September. During the remainder of the year the ground is much too hard and the weather too warm.

We have the makings of a fine team this year, although we have lost the services of Lieut Good, who is enjoying a well earned leave in the U.K. The main supports of our team this year will be Lieuts. Coryton and Knox ; and to add a lot of weight to the scrum we have the good fortune to have Sigmn Davenport here on a course. Altogether, things seem very rosy for a successful season.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Cricket.—This sport still continues its weary combat with the siesta habit, with very indifferent results. However, several matches have been played during the past month, and the following are the results:—

R.A.F. Depot "A," 78 ; Signals, 183. Won by 105 runs. Corpl Curtis 61, L/Corpl Gordon 40, Lieut Worrall 22 ; L/Cpl Gordon, seven wickets for 21

Sahta Sports Club, 152 ; Signals, 86 for seven. Match drawn. Sigmn Chitty 31 not out ; Corpl Curtis, three for 28 ; L/Corpl Gordon, three for 42

A.R.S., R.A.F., 141 for six (declared) ; Signals, 77. Lost by 64 runs. Lieut Worrall 32 not out ; Sigmn Welchman, three for 29

C Company Royal Sussex Regiment, 121 ; Signals, 188 for eight (declared). Won by 67 runs. Lieut Lewis 82 not out, Corpl Ward 45 ; Sigmn Welchman, four for 17

Borah Gymkhana, 135 ; Signals, 86. Lost by 49 runs. Corporal Ward 37 ; Sigmn Welchman, four for 40

Karachi Gymkhana, 98 ; Signals, 88. Lost by 10 runs. Lieut Worrall 24, Corpl Curtis 22 ; Lieut Worrall, six for 40 ; Sigmn Thomas, three for 13

2nd Battn Royal Sussex Regiment, 149 ; Signals, 140. Lost by 9 runs. Sigmn Wills 30, L/Corpl Gordon 27 ; Sigmn Wills, three for 18

Sind Police, 101 for six (declared) ; Signals, 60. Lost by 41 runs. Sigmn Chitty 16 ; L/Corpl Kavanagh, three for 18

W.I.R.S., R.A.F., 100 ; Signals, 61. Lost by 39 runs. Lieut. Worrall 29, Corpl Curtis 23 ; Corpl Curtis, three for 25

D Company Royal Sussex Regiment, 118 ; Signals, 89. Lost by 29 runs. Corpl Curtis, 27, Sigmn Chitty 22 ; Sigmn Conolly, four for 12

A.R.S., R.A.F., 106 ; Signals, 187. Won by 81 runs. Corporal Ward 56, Corpl Curtis 50 ; Sigmn Thomas, four for 24

Tennis.—During the last three weeks the unit tennis team have been busily engaged in playing off the British Union Jack Club Tennis League fixtures, together with a number of friendlies. Our team consisted for the main part of entirely new blood, who nevertheless gave a very creditable account of themselves, as the final placings show.

E.R.S., R.A.F., "A" team, 35 points for, 5 against.
A Corps Signals, 32 points for, 8 against,

The unit team narrowly missed first place. They should, when the freshmen become more seasoned, have no difficulty in carrying all before them.

Matches were decided on the best of three sets, and each of the eleven teams entered had to furnish first and second strings of both singles and doubles.

The following is a summary of individual players with their respective results:—

First Singles—Sergt M. Shardlow, played 10, won 10.
Second Singles—Sigmn C. Fearnley, played 10, won 8, lost 2.
First Doubles—Capt W. M. Clapp and Lieut Smijth-Windham, played 10, won 7, lost 3.
Second Doubles—L/Cpl N. Gordon and Sigmn J. Wills, played 10, won 7, lost 3.

Our first singles, in completing another league series without forfeiting a point, created the unique record of having done so for the fourth successive year.

The second singles is a greatly improved player, who did extremely well in conceding but two points.

Capt. W. M. Clapp was the mainstay of the first doubles, but was handicapped in that he had different partners. We feel sure that additional points would have been obtained if he had had previous opportunities of playing with either of his partners.

The second doubles gained many useful points more by sheer persistency in hitting at anything that came within reach than by true technique. They rallied splendidly, placing their shots well, but were frequently guilty of patting an easy kill.

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Upper Topa.

Polo.—There have been no tournaments lately, and our ponies are having a well-earned rest.

Young ponies are being trained both in Rawalpindi and at Upper Topa, where on the Gharial Flats slow and medium (three-a-side) chukkers are played three times a week when the weather permits.

We hope to produce two teams next winter, but a lot of time must be spent in the training of their ponies by all officers wishing to play before we can hope to compete seriously with other units within the district.

It is with great regret that we see Captain F. P. L. Gray is posted away from the Northern Command. He will be a great loss to the Northern Command Signals team.

Murree Brewery Football Tournament.—For this event two teams were entered, A and B, and our hopes were decidedly optimistic, but in spite of remarkably hard fought games and all round enthusiasm our teams somehow failed to "make the grade."

In the first match, B team were drawn against the I.A.O.C., and although play on both sides was very spirited, our team were lucky to win by the odd goal in three. The old men certainly displayed a great deal of Kruschen feeling.

In the second match, A team were drawn against the Field Brigade R.A., and it was undoubtedly the outstanding match of the season. Play on both sides was exceptionally clean and keen. At half-time the score was one all, and at full time the score was still the same. Extra time was played, and in the last two minutes the Field Brigade added to their score. A really splendid game, which we were unfortunate to lose.

The third game was played between B team and the Gordon Highlanders, and again, in spite of a very spirited defence, we lost by two goals to nil. Hard luck, lads! we'll " cart it " next year.

Murree Hills Boxing Tournament.—We take this opportunity of congratulating L/Sergt Tanner and Sigmn Delaney (B Corps Signals) and Sigmn Cleaver on their successes.

Plains Detachment, Rawalpindi.

Since the unit moved to the hills for the summer, leaving here only sixty men, including our Detachment commander and second-in-command (also acting as sports officer), w.o.s, and n.c.o.s, every facility has been given—and incidentally taken—for all sports.

We started a hot weather league for soccer and hockey, which is now in full swing, with unit fixtures. Whenever we have a day to spare with these unit matches, we more than hold our own, as results will show;—

Hockey.—v. B Corps Signals, won by 2—0 and 3—1 ; v. The Jain Club, won by 1—0 and 3—1 ; v. Pindi Rovers, lost by 0—2 and 1—5.

Football.—v. B Corps Signals, drew at 2—2 ; v. The Gordon College, won by 4—0, 3—0 and 2—1, and lost by 0—1.

The results of the Hot Weather League to date are shown herewith:—

FOOTBALL.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts.
Feroze's Extras	3	3	0	0	9—2	... 6
Gough Road Strollers	3	2	1	0	6—5	... 4
Hunt Club	2	0	2	0	1—4	... 0
Murree Brewery	2	0	2	0	1—6	... 0

HOCKEY.

Feroze's Extras	2	2	0	0	5—1	... 4
Hunt Club	2	1	1	0	3—4	... 2
Murree Brewery	1	0	1	0	1—2	... 0
Gough Road Strollers	1	0	1	0	0—2	... 0

The team names should not be taken seriously: they are adopted only for the duration of the tournament.

Our Detachment commander carries out the duties of referee, whilst our sports officer may be seen, looking very businesslike, on the sports ground almost every night.

Swimming.—I hope to be able to relate an adventure at the swimming baths in my next notes.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Ranikhet Detachment.

Soccer.—Tournaments having finished, we are playing a few friendlies with average success.

It is hoped that Jubbulpore will be kind to us during the forthcoming trooper and send us some football players, as we are losing several of our best men this year. What about it, Jubb.? About time, I should think.

Athletics.—At the Depot sports we managed to finish fourth out of seven detachments. As we were the smallest of the seven to enter, we did quite satisfactorily. We won the shot and the long jump, and gained second place in the 880 yards and mile relays.

Five of our team were picked to represent the Depot v. the other Depots in the Ranikhet Area, and as usual the Corps were not let down by their showing.

Kohat District Signals.

Football.—The unit has been playing quite a lot of football during the hot weather, but has not met with much success owing to the small numbers which are with us at present. Versus the Shining Stars, we lost by 3—5 and 1—4 ; and v. R.A.F. we won by 3—2 and lost by 0—4.

Hockey.—The following games have been played during this month:—v. Police, lost by 2—3 ; v. Military Subs. won by 5—2 and lost by 0—5 ; v. I.A.S.C., drew at 1—1 ; and v. R.A.F., drew at 1—1.

A number of inter-unit matches have been played, and a surprising number of new strokes have been introduced. Sigmn D—— R—— wants to know if any sports firm in Blighty can please supply him with a left-handed hockey stick. It must be well made to withstand the tremendous bashes of our Dicky.

Cricket.—The Hot Weather Cricket League has just commenced. These are time matches: the games start at 17.30 hours and finish at 20.00 hours. Two sides must bat in that time, so if you want to do anything at all, you must score fast.

The scores in our first match were: Kohat District Signals, 82 for seven (declared) ; Kohat Games Club, 78 for eight (close of play).

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Cricket.—A tournament is the order of the day. And great is the rejoicing thereat. Having the advantage of playing our games on the Officers' Club ground—which provides an unusually good wicket—interesting matches are always assured. Our first fixture was against A Company Norfolk Regiment, whom we beat to the tune of two wickets and 156 runs. The scores were: Signals, 212 for eight ; A Company Norfolk Regiment, 56. Much credit was due to S/Sergt Agar, who brilliantly hit up a score of 100 (not out), aided by Sigmn Jessop with 56.

Our second match, with B Company of the same regiment, proved something of a disappointment. Our opponents, batting first, closed with a score of 115. Misfortune was with us, however, when we lost our first three wickets for 19 runs ; and try as we could, we failed to hold our own, losing the game by 32 runs.

A third game, v. N Battery R.H.A., resulted in a win for us by 51 runs, the scores being Signals 141 and N Battery 90. This gave us two wins out of three matches, so we are still well in the running. Practice is very frequent and improvement is showing, so we hope to do well.

In a friendly match with H.Q. Squadron 9th Lancers, we lost. The scores were 102 for and 111 for six wickets against us.

Hockey.—This has been fairly well kept up, quite a number of games being played, with the following results:—

v. N Battery R.H.A., lost by 0—3 and 0—3
v. British Military Hospital, won by 6—1 and drew at 1—1
v. Commercial Club, won by 3—0 and 2—0, and lost by 0—1
v. Veterinary Hospital, won by 3—0
v. 32nd Field Troop, S. and M., won by 2—1
v. No. 1 Company Sikh Pioneers, lost by 1—3

Football.—Very little has been played during the past month or so. We beat the B.M.H. by 3—0 and 4—1, and N Battery R.H.A. by 1—0.

Tennis.—Two fixtures only to note: v. B.M.H., won by 81—63 and 115—97.

Tournament scores are unavoidably held over until next month.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

Cricket.—*Command Cup, First Round.* The R.E. knocked us out of this competition after a two-innings match. We may have been a trifle unlucky to lose, as we had a lead of 73 runs at the end of the first innings ; nevertheless, we're out of it—and so are the R.E. now. Had we had the services of Lieut Cole on this occasion, the result might have been different.

Small Units Cup.—In the first round No. 1 Company lost rather easily to No. 12 Section R.A.O.C. on the Ordnance ground. Batting first, No. 1 Company were all out for 138, in which Sigmn North (27) and Lieut Bell (25) were top scorers. The Ordnance started badly, the score board showing only 12 runs when the first wicket fell. However, they soon found their feet and declared at 173 for three.

No. 3 Company met and defeated No. 39 M.R.U. Company in the first round of the same competition by 65 runs. Sergeant Schofield scored 64 and Sigmn Clayton 38. Bowling: Gee, three for 7 ; Smith, three for 31.

In the second round No. 3 opposed the team which beat No. 1 Company, and lost a very close game by 21 runs on the first innigs. Lovett was top scorer, batting well for a little over two hours for his 43, Clayton helping with 32. Bowling: Captain Knowles, four for 18, and Corpl Collins, three for 37. With but an hour and twenty minutes left for both sides to complete a second innings, No. 3 Company went in to try and knock up a big score, but the bowling was too good, and although Captain Knowles scored 52 (including four 6's and five 4's) the whole side were out for 93. This left the Ordnance a comparatively easy task, and they soon passed our score with eight wickets in hand.

Tennis.—The Corps team played a friendly match against the Pay Corps on their courts and ran out winners by 11—7 sets. Holman and Cordell proved the best pair by winning five out of six sets.

Other friendly matches have been arranged prior to the Command championships, and we are hoping to reach the final. Our opponents in the second round are the Ordnance.

In the C. of E. Leagues the sergeants have entered a team for the senior ranks cup, and both Nos. 1 and 3 Companies are represented in the junior ranks cup. Not many matches have been played, but at present No. 3 Company are doing remarkably well and expect to win the cup at present held by No. 1, last year's winners.

Swimming and Water Polo.—The Corps have a team in the Cairo District League, and although not the best in the Garrison, it is far from the worst.

A swimming gala may be held shortly, and a team will be picked for the Command swimming championships. We hope to do a little better than last year, when we managed to gain but six points. Perhaps the draw will be a more favourable one for us this year.

Shanghai Signal Section.

Inter-Company Sports.—The annual inter-Company sports were held at the Stadium, on June 27th and 28th, before a good crowd of spectators. The weather, as if to make amends for last year's meeting, was glorious throughout and everything went swimmingly. The events were very keenly contested, and husky voices proved that the spectators played their part to the full.

Each team comprised four runners, and each member of a winning team was presented with a silver memento, with a cup for the unit with the best aggregate. Area H.Q. (in this case consisting of teams selected from the Signals and R.A.O.C., with two members of the Military Police) put up a very gallant show, finishing second in the grand aggregate.

Some very exciting finishes were a feature of these sports, and considering the size of the Garrison, the standard of athletics was very good. The results were as follows:—

Three miles (run on the race-course)—1, D (M.G.) Company R.S.F.; 2, Area H.Q.; 3, R.A.S.C.

High jump—1, Area H.Q.; 2, D (M.G.) Company R.S.F. Our O.C., Lieut J. W. Gordon, and the A.D.C. Shanghai Area, were our representatives in this, and topped the bill with an aggregate of 10 ft. 4 in., Lieut Gordon clearing 5 ft. 4 in.

100 yards—1, D (M.G.) Company R.S.F.; 2, C Company R.S.F.; 3, A Company 5th Fusiliers.

100 yards hurdles—1, R.A.S.C.; 2, H.Q. 5th Fusiliers; 3, Area H.Q. Considering the number of events which our handful of athletes had to enter for, we did very well to finish third m the hurdles.

440 yards—1, D Company R.S.F.; 2, Area H.Q.; 3, R.A.S.C. Second place was again our lot in this race. L/Corpl Knight (R.A.O.C.) ran a very fast quarter in the last lap, which enabled us to pip the R.A.S.C.

880 yards—1, D Company R.S.F.; 2, C Company 5th Fusiliers; 3, R.A.S.C. The winners had a splendid team, absolutely running away with the race. Area H.Q. managed to secure fifth place.

One mile—1, D Company R.S.F.; 2, Area H.Q.; 3, C Company 5th Fusiliers. [Special mention must be made of this race, as three of our team of four had, three days previously, finished in the seventeen mile Shanghai Marathon race—L/Corpl Ripley, Sigmn Croft and Sigmn Duke. The former finished eighth in a field of sixty-eight runners of all nationalities.] Twelve teams of four contested this mile, and the field hung pretty well together for the first lap. Then the runners began to thin out, and with about 200 yards to go, Lieutenant Fowler (D Company R.S.F.) sprinted away to put himself well in the lead. Ripley, however, was destined to run one of the finest races of his career: with a magnificent burst, he passed Fowler and went on to win by twelve yards. Duke was thirteenth and Croft fourteenth, and with our fourth runner, Sigmn Strangwick (who also ran in the Marathon, but failed to finish) coming in about thirtieth, we took second honours once again.

Shot putt—1, A Company 5th Fusiliers; 2, Area H.Q. Our aggregate for this event was 59 ft. 7½ in.

D Company R.S.F. won the cup for the grand aggregate with a total of 65 points, but they were closely challenged throughout by Area H.Q., who finished second with 45.

Cricket.—The season has now commenced in earnest, and we look like making a very good showing this year.

The Signals played the R.A.O.C. on June 10th, the game resulting in a tie of 81 runs each. Sigmn Croft was our outstanding performer in bowling, claiming five wickets for 19 runs.

Water Polo.—We hope to furnish quite a number of water polo results next month.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

Gig Racing.—Our interest in this branch of sport during the past month has, apart from practice for our crews, unfortunately been mainly confined to the role of spectators.

In order that we could get a line on our best men for subsequent events, we entered two crews for the challenge oar, but without a doubt we had very bad luck in the draw: both crews were drawn against strong seasoned opponents in the shape of H.M.S. *Cormorant* "A" crew and the Royal Engineers. However, we gave them both a good race, and although beaten, the plaudit of being good losers was almost as encouraging as a victory.

The rowing members of the unit have by no means been discouraged by this set-back to their ambitions, and as one entry for the July oar has been made by us, assiduous practice is the order of the day.

Cricket.—Various reasons have prevented our taking full advantage of the grounds allotted to us during June, and the only match of interest played during the month was against A Company 2nd Battn North Staffordshire Regiment. This turned out a very exciting match, and although it resulted in ultimate victory for us, the game was very even.

We batted first, but with five of our best wickets down for 19, our prospects were not exactly rosy. Q.M.S. Harris came to our rescue, however, and with a steady 14 retrieved the situation slightly. With our last pair in, the score board only registered 39, but a plucky display by them raised it to 52 before Uwins was caught. Our men appeared to have great difficulty in detecting the tricky ones of Pte Barker, who finished up with the analysis of seven wickets for 18.

Set to score 53 to win, our opponents thought victory was easy, but the opening pair being separated without a run on the board made them realise that cricket is very uncertain; and with five men out for 30, the prospects of a close finish were apparent. With nine out for 43—our bowlers at the top of their form, and our field now on their toes—their last man went out in a "do or die" spirit, but after scoring six he got in front of a straight one from Waller, leaving us victors by three runs. Our successful bowlers were Waller, who bowled unchanged throughout and took seven for 23, and Goodanew A., who had three for 10.

ROYAL SIGNALS.

Sigmn Burton run out	3
Sigmn Burt b Hewitt	2
Sigmn Morris c and b Barker	8
Capt House b Barker	6
Q.M.S. Harris c Davis b Barker	14
Sigmn Collins b Barker	0
Sigmn Goodanew A. b Barker	3
Sigmn Tavenden c Hewitt b Barker	1
Sigmn Blake b Barker	1
Sigmn Waller not out	7
Sigmn Uwins c Barker b Cox	6
Extras	1
Total	52

"A" COMPANY 2ND BATTN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGT.

Pte Hewitt b Waller	9
Pte Westwood b Waller	0
Pte Cox c Goodanew b Waller	4
Pte Cooper c Goodanew b Waller	7
Pte Thornton b Goodanew	8
Lieut. Murray-Brown b Goodanew	3
L/Sergt Leese c Burton b Goodanew	7
Pte Davis b Waller	3
Pte Morgan b Waller	1
Pte Barker not out	0
C.Q.M.S. Barker lbw b Waller	6
Extras	1
Total	49

THE WIRE

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- Editorial Notes -

Subaltern, R.Signals, not for India this year, is willing to exchange. Write "SUBALTERN," c/o The Editor.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are anxious to get into communication with an organisation describing itself as the 36th Divisional Signals, Royal Engineers, Old Comrades Association. Will any reader who knows the secretarial address of such a body kindly communicate with the Editor as quickly as possible?

❀ ❀ ❀

Our hearty congratulations are extended to 4th Divisional Signals, Colchester, on their very fine sporting achievements during July. Competing against six other teams, they succeeded in winning the inter-unit swimming championship; and at the Cavalry sports held at Colchester on July 25th, Captain L. B. Nicholls, on his five-year-old mare "Selima," won the open handy hunter competition with a clear run and no faults. Considering that Captain Nicholls was competing against such redoubtable opponents as thirty-two picked men from the Gunners and the Cavalry, his success is all the more commendable and adds appreciably to the prestige of the Corps.

❀ ❀ ❀

It is a well-known fact that the 4th Divl Signals mean to make another very determined try for the Army Soccer Cup during the coming season. Unfortunately, they will be losing four of last year's team, including Corpl Palmer (the captain) and Signalman Dalziel (the goal-keeper). Both of these players, together with Corpls Ball and Robson, have been provisionally warned for draft, thereby creating a regrettable disintegration which undoubtedly places us at a disadvantage against regimental teams. The exigencies of the Service must, of course, always receive first consideration, but it is of interest to note that our victorious opponents in last season's Cup final fielded the identical team which won the trophy the year before. However,

"The race is not to him who has the longest legs to run,
Nor the battle to the people who shoot the biggest gun."

Go to it, Colchester! The whole Corps will be, metaphorically, "on the touch line."

❀ ❀ ❀

We are asked by No. 1 (Madras) Signal Company, Royal Corps of Signals, A.F.I., Fort St. George, Madras, India, to broadcast the following:—

Wanted—Four coloured unframed prints of the following pictures:—"THROUGH"—"THE CABLE WAGON"—"BURIED CABLE"—and "THE MENIN GATE." Price offered, 10/- to 17/6 per picture.

Correspondence on this subject should be addressed to "THE ADJUTANT," No. 1 (Madras) Signal Company, direct.

❀ ❀ ❀

An ex-warrant officer of the Corps offers the following technical books for sale at the reduced price of 15/6 for the set, which originally cost 37/0:—

1. TELEPHONY. By Herbert.
2. ARITHMETIC OF TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY. By Herbert and De Wardt.
3. TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (CITY AND GUILDS). By H. P. Few.
4. THE DIRECT SYSTEM OF AUTOMATIC TELEPHONY. By Hudson.

The above will be sent post free to the prospective purchaser on application to MR. C. MCLOUGHLIN, 8 Evans Street, Willenhall, Staffs.

❀ ❀ ❀

We would again draw the attention of our ex-Service readers to that new section of the Corps Journal entitled "Time-Expired and Reservists" (see page 354 of this issue).

There are many ex-Royal Signals who are now in lucrative and comfortable employment; and for the general information and guidance of our serving readers, we invite contributions to this particular section, giving the writer's impressions of civil life as compared with that in the Army, general conditions of employment, and anything which may be of interest and value to those who are anticipating discharge in the near future.

We are indebted to several contributors for letters already received—and particularly to Mr. Frank V. March for a descriptive and illustrated account of his experiences in the back blocks of Australia, which we hope to publish at an early date.

❀ ❀ ❀

A Wail from our Printer.—We insert the following by special request, and would ask those concerned if they would be kind enough to fall in with the suggestions made.

"Dear Editor.—For the luv o' Mike, do ask your unit correspondents to have mercy on the poor printer in these hot dog-days—and all other days, for that matter. If some of them would only scrap all the " " ? and ! signs on their typewriters (leaving me to mark in the few really needed) *and* would only type their notes with an open space between the lines (so that I can make any necessary corrections in a manner legible to the linotype operator) my days may yet be "long in the land." If they don't help, however, our works will soon be closed for the guvnor's funeral.—Yours distractedly, the Poor Printer."

❀ ❀ ❀

Some unit correspondents are also reverting to the undesirable habit of mixing up their Sports Notes among the items of general interest, thus necessitating the carving up of copy into small strips which are awkward to handle. Will those correspondents please submit their Sports Notes on *separate* sheets in future?

❀ ❀ ❀

Bound Volumes of "The Wire" for 1931.—All readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1931 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. *No Royal Signals Mess Library is complete without it!* Price 8/- per copy, post free (at home or abroad).

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes

NOTICES.

It is notified for general information that the next Annual General Meeting of the Signals Association will take place at Headquarter Offices, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, on Wednesday, October 7th, 1931, at 3 p.m.

All who contemplate being in attendance are asked to notify the General Secretary in writing not later than Monday, October 5th.

❀ ❀ ❀

Will any P.T. Instructor who is contemplating taking his discharge in the near future, and who wishes to obtain similar employment as a civilian, please communicate with this Office immediately?

❀ ❀ ❀

EMPLOYMENTS.—Situations found for the preceding month, with the co-operation and assistance of the National Association for Employment of ex-Sailors, Soldier and Airmen:—

1	Ex-N.C.O.	Cinema Operator
2	Ex-N.C.O.	Hotel Porter
3	Ex-N.C.O.	Barman Handyman
4	Ex-Signalman	Cook
5	Ex-Signalman	Porter
6	Ex-Signalman	Porter
7	Ex-Signalman	Porter
8	Ex-Signalman	Porter
9	Ex-Signalman	Porter
10	Ex-Signalman	Chauffeur

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTION from Lieut.-Q.M. J. T. Cussens.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from—
The Rev. J. J. E. O'Malley.
56th (London) Divisional Signals, T.A., London.
42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals, T.A., Manchester.
Sergeants' Mess, 54th (E.A.) Divisional Signals, T.A., London.

APPEALS dealt with:—

1—Ex-Signalman, Doncaster. Domestic difficulties. £2 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

2—Ex-Signalman, Australia. In very distressed circumstances due to continued unemployment. £5 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

3—Ex-Signalman, Glasgow. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

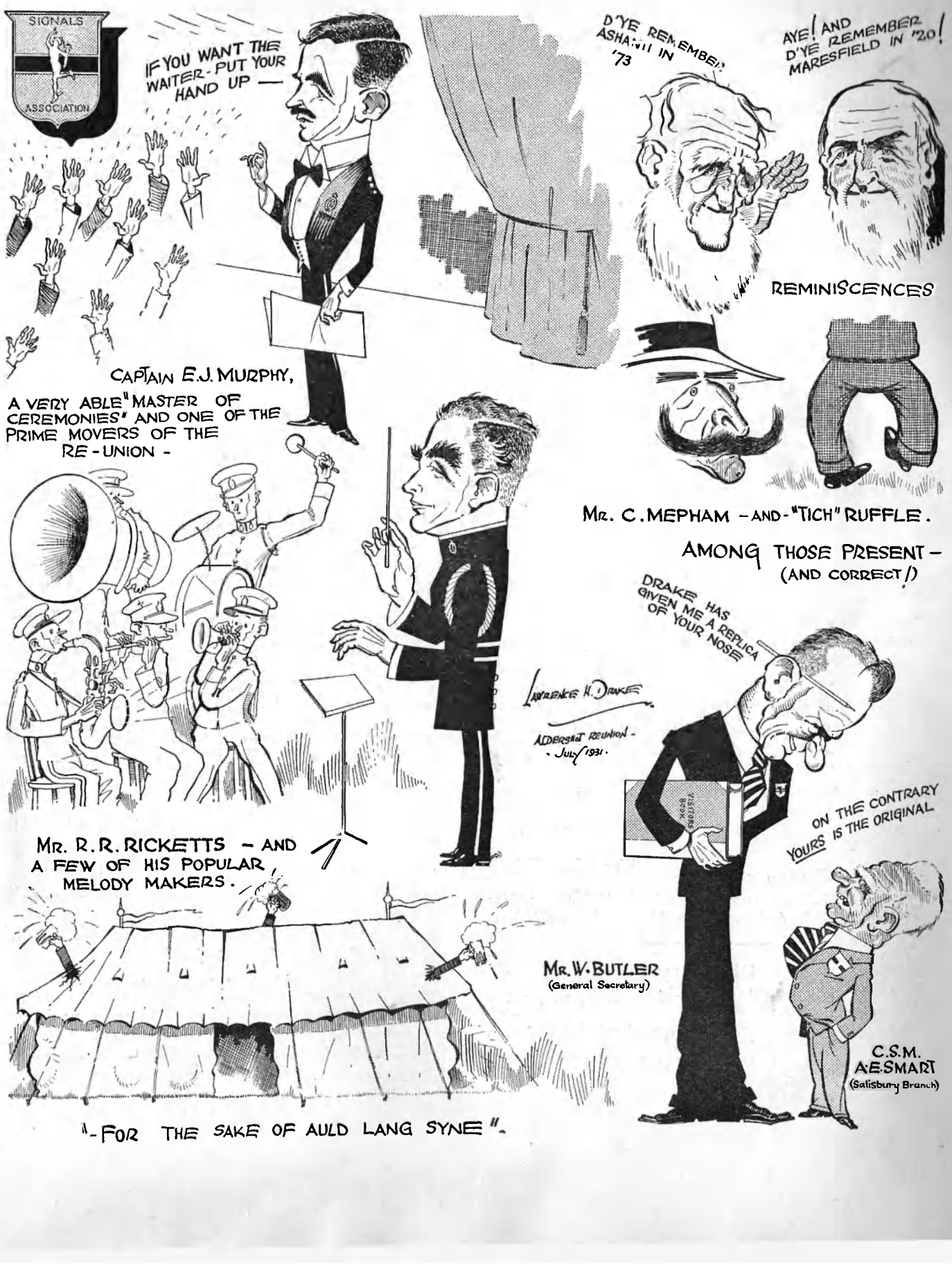
4—Ex-Signalman, London. Temporary difficulties. £1 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

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

By kind permission of Captain G. Knight, R.E., we are able to publish this photograph or one of the old original Cable "Carts," as used by the 1st Telegraph Battalion, Royal Engineers, in 1902

(Corporal W. Solly, R.E., in centre foreground)

"Lest Auld Acquaintance be Forgot." By L. H. Drake.



Corps News—Officers

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 14/7/31

The undermentioned is appointed Aide-de-Camp to the King:—

Colonel H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O., vice Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., (ret.) 30/6/31

War Office, 17/7/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains:—C. D. Hinds, 15/7/31; W. D. J. Harries, 16/7/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—Captain E. S. Coombes, from Active List, to be Captain, 18/7/31

Captain W. A. Rhind, from Active List, to be Capt. 18/7/31

War Office, 21/7/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

50th (N.) Divl Signals—Basil Minor to be 2/Lieut. 17/7/31

War Office, 24/7/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Coleman, O.B.E., T.D., to be Brevet-Colonel, 30/6/31

War Office, 28/7/31

REGULAR ARMY—RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lieut.-General Sir John S. Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., having attained the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 29/7/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

2/Lieut A. G. Coates, from T.A. Reserve of Officers, to be 2/Lieut. 29/7/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

56th (1st London) Divl Signals—Sigmn S. J. Lovegrove, from 47th (2nd London) Divl Signals, to be 2/Lieut. 24/7/31

War Office, 31/7/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

2nd Cav. (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals—Lieut. E. O. Bleackley, Reserve of Officers, to be Lieut. 1/8/31

43rd (W.) Divl Signals—A. S. Crocker to be 2/Lieut. 27/7/31

War Office, 4/8/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

50th (N.) Divl Signals—S. Robinson to be 2/Lieut. 5/8/31

War Office, 7/8/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Captain W. F. Sugrue is restored to the establishment, 7/8/31

2/Lieut A. B. L. Anderson resigns his commission, 8/8/31

Obituary.

It is with great regret that we record the passing away of two of our members, viz.:—

Farrier-Staff-Sergeant C. H. PRINCE, who died at Peshawar, India, on June 10th, 1931, and

A/C.S.M. A. G. LEE, who died at the Royal Herbert Hospital, London, on August 7th, 1931.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the relatives of these two non-commissioned officers.

Vocational Training.

Heating and Domestic Engineering.

A new Vocational Course in the above subject has just been opened, as with the tremendous development in central heating, the trade of Heating and Domestic Engineering has become one of the most important in industry.

It embraces many branches of engineering, and offers the congenial employment of the engineer without the disadvantages of other trades. Unlike most trades, this one is usually very busy during the winter months, and the initial outlay for a kit of tools is only a few shillings.

This modern industry originated from one of the oldest crafts of the present day, namely Plumbing, and consists chiefly of the installation of heating, ventilating and hot water systems.

This work was taken up as a speciality by men who foresaw there was room for advancement and scope in it, and with its development it has become separate and distinct from plumbing, except perhaps in country districts, where you still find the Plumber and Hot Water Fitter.

The trade is in its infancy, and the young man who takes it up has great possibilities in front of him, as in addition to the normal work of installing heating and hot water systems, there are many branches of the trade in which he can specialise. It is usual to commence as a Pipe Fitter, and with work and study develop into a fully-fledged Heating and Domestic Engineer.

In most of the electrical factories, Pipe Benders are continually employed on nothing else but pipe bending or steel conduit bending. It is here that the Fitter can bring out to his full extent the art of pipe bending. From an outsider's point of view, the work appears to be very simple. This is not the case by any means, but, like most difficult things, it is moderately easy to the man who is out to master it when he is shown "how."

Some Pipe Fitters are nick-named "Pipe Stranglers," and this is certainly a fitting name for them, as some of the work they produce is marvellous to behold.

Every factory where a steam installation is run usually employs Steam Fitters, who are engaged on nothing but the maintenance of plant. These positions are open to men with initiative and are invariably well paid jobs.

The various branches or sections of the trade are as follows:—

(1) The preparing and fixing of all types of heating apparatus, boilers, hot air stoves, etc., and the engineering work in connection with such work.

(2) The preparation and fixing of hot water heating and service systems in their entirety.

(3) The fixing of heaters, calorifiers, pumps and accelerators of all descriptions.

(4) The fixing of ventilating, air conditioning and drying plant and dust extraction apparatus.

(5) The preparation and fixing of pipes in all metals other than lead for hot and cold water, steam, oil, etc., in laundries, dye-houses, ships, factories, works and industrial buildings generally.

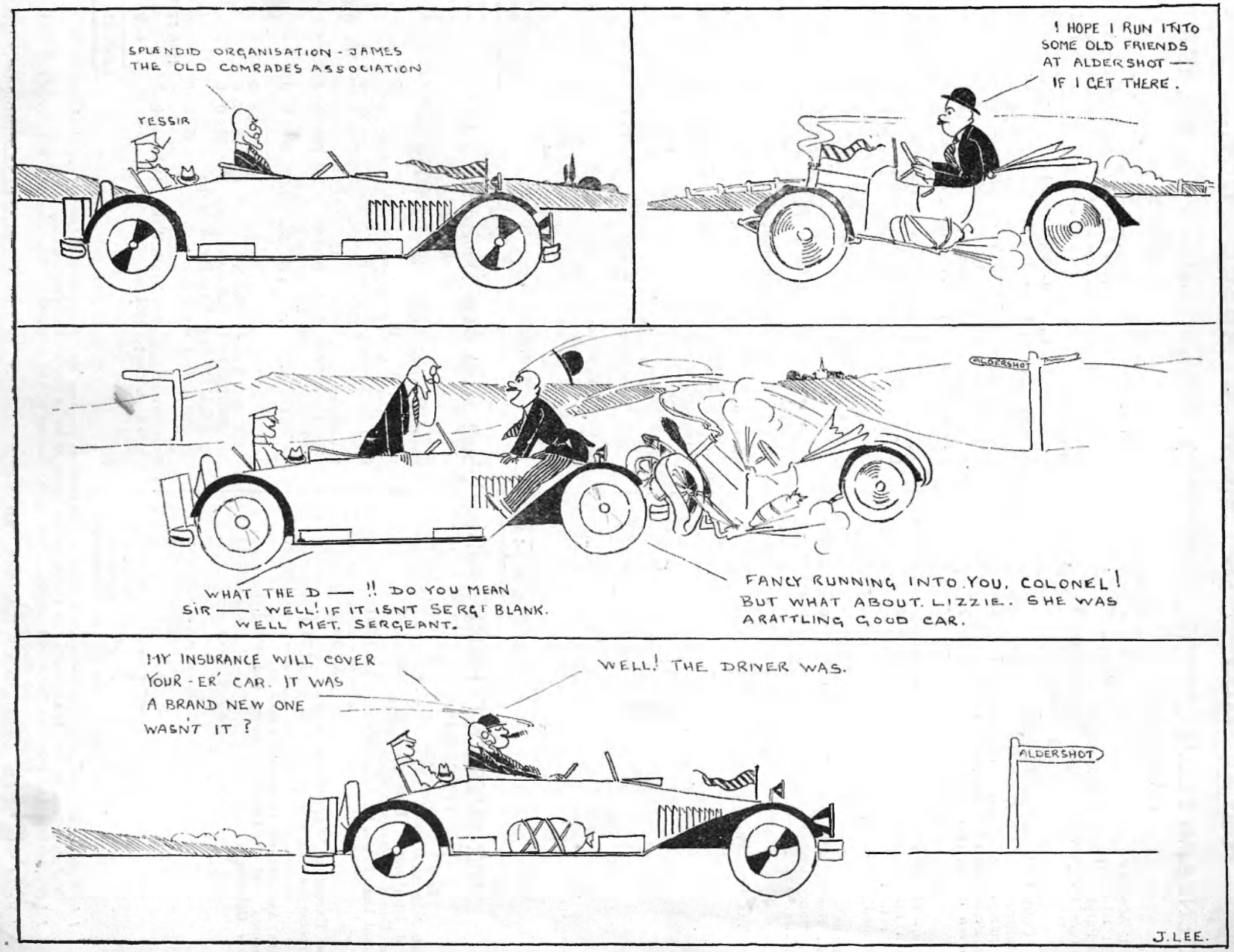
(6) The fixing of hydrants, fire mains, hydraulic and sprinkler installations, air compressor and refrigerating plant and accessories.

(7) Welding and jointing in connection with all the above.

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association?

If not, join now!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in finding civil employment. See how the Association helps its Members in that direction, as shown on page 346. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.


SPLENDID ORGANISATION - JAMES
THE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION
YESSIR
I HOPE I RUN INTO SOME OLD FRIENDS AT ALDERSHOT — IF I GET THERE.
ALDERSHOT
WHAT THE D — !! DO YOU MEAN SIR — WELL! IF IT ISNT SERGT BLANK. WELL MET. SERGEANT.
FANCY RUNNING INTO YOU, COLONEL! BUT WHAT ABOUT LIZZIE. SHE WAS A RATTLING GOOD CAR.
MY INSURANCE WILL COVER YOUR-ER' CAR. IT WAS A BRAND NEW ONE WASN'T IT ?
WELL! THE DRIVER WAS.
ALDERSHOT
J.LEE.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL FUND (comprising Old Comrades Association and Corps Publications) : Balance Sheet as at 31st Dec. 1930

LIABILITIES.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT—		
As at 1st January, 1930	1931 3 0	
Add Surplus of Income over Expenditure for year	233 12 0	
		2164 15 0
OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION—LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT, as at 1st January, 1930	297 9 2	
Add Proportion of Subscriptions received during year	75 9 5	
		372 18 7
(Note.—The proportion of Old Comrades Association Life Membership Subscriptions received prior to 1st January, 1928, have been incorporated in the Capital Account)		
CREDITORS—		
Rent, Heating, etc., accrued ...	23 6 9	
Accountancy Charges	26 5 0	
Sundries	6 15 8	
		56 7 5
INCOME TAX RESERVE		68 3 10
		£2662 4 10

ASSETS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CASH AT LLOYDS BANK LTD.—		
Current Account	432 17 7	
Cash in hands of General Secretary ...	9 4 10	
		442 2 5
DEBTORS—		
Subscriptions to "The Wire" and Old Comrades Association, due but unpaid	223 14 6	
Advertisements in "The Wire" ...	98 8 5	
Dividend on 5¼% New South Wales Stock, received 1st Jan., 1931 ...	3 19 1	
Sundries	21 18 10	
		348 0 10
AMOUNTS PAID ON BEHALF OF BENEVOLENT FUND ...		13 13 11
INVESTMENTS AT COST, 1st Jan., 1930—		
£850 5% War Stock, 1929-47 ...	852 12 4	
Additions during year at cost, £437/12/8 5% War Stock, 1929-47	450 0 0	
	1302 12 4	
£194/7/7 5¼% New South Wales Stock, 1947-57	200 0 0	
£226/8/1 4% Colsolidated Stock ...	200 0 0	
		1702 12 4
STOCK ON HAND, AT COST—		
Corps Ties	9 10 2	
New Signals History	13 6 1	
Association Badges	35 17 3	
		58 13 6
OLD SIGNALS HISTORY—		
As at 1st. January, 1930	35 8 4	
Less Receipts during year	0 10 0	
		34 18 4
OFFICE FURNITURE, AT COST—		
As at 1st January, 1930	57 5 6	
Additions during year, at cost ...	4 18 0	
		62 3 6
		£2662 4 10

BENEVOLENT FUND: Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1930

LIABILITIES.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT—		
As at 1st January, 1930	1020 1 6	
Add Funds transferred from Emigrant Loan Fund, 1st Jan., 1930 ...	310 10 11	
	1330 12 5	
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	34 14 11	
		1295 17 6
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—GENERAL FUND—		
Amounts paid on behalf of Benevolent Fund, *less* Collections		13 13 11
		£1309 11 5

ASSETS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CASH AT LLOYDS BANK, LTD.—		
Deposit Account	13 4 11	
Current Account	141 1 3	
Cash in hands of General Secretary	6 17 9	
		161 3 11
INVESTMENTS, AT COST—		
£650 5% War Stock, 1929-47 ...	650 12 4	
£291/15/1 additions during year, at cost	300 0 0	
	950 12 4	
£50 4% Victory Bonds	46 5 6	
£84/18/1 4% Consolidated Stock ...	75 0 0	
£72/17/10 5¼% New South Wales Stock, 1947-57	75 0 0	
		1146 17 10
DIVIDEND on 5¼% New South Wales Stock, received 1st January, 1931		1 9 8
		£1309 11 5

I have examined the above Balance Sheets and accompanying Income and Expenditure Accounts with the books and vouchers of the Association, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith.

I have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees. The Bankers have certified the correctness of the Bank Balances.

4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2, *27th May, 1931* H. S. BAKER, F.C.A., *Auditor.*

GENERAL FUND.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1930

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Salary of Secretary	350 0 0	
,, Salary of Clerk and Clerical Assistance	169 0 0	
		519 0 0
,, Accountancy Charges		105 0 0
,, Rent, Heating and Lighting of Offices		91 16 9
,, Telephone Charges		32 7 7
,, Printing and Stationery		60 12 3
,, Postages and Sundry Expenses		39 3 8
,, Travelling Expenses		23 3 5
,, Insurance		1 2 6
,, Audit Fee, 1929		3 3 0
,, Bank Charges		1 7 6
,, Donations and Assistance :—		
National Association of ex-Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen...	40 0 0	
Sundry Petty Cash Payments ...	6 17 0	
		46 17 0
,, Balance carried down		301 15 10
		£1225 9 6
To Income Tax Revenue Account		68 3 10
,, Balance, being excess of Income over Expenditure for the year transferred to Capital Account		233 12 0
		£301 15 10

INCOME.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Income from Publications—		
Sales of "The Wire"	1988 6 0	
Less cost of Printing	1895 19 9	
		92 6 3
,, Advertisements in "The Wire"		385 5 0
,, Sales of Officers' Gazettes ...	75 11 0	
Less Cost of Printing	57 19 9	
		17 11 3
,, Sales of Signals History	8 16 0	
Less Cost of Copies Sold ...	7 0 7	
		1 15 5
,, Subscriptions and Donations to Old Comrades Association		641 11 4
,, Income from Investments—		...
5% War Stock, 1929-47 ...	53 8 10	
5½% New South Wales Stock, 1947-57, *less* tax	7 18 2	
4% Consolidated Stock, *less* tax	7 2 8	
Interest on Bank Deposit ...	2 14 0	
		71 3 8
,, Sundry Income—		
Sales of Association Badges £23/5/6, *less* cost of Badges Sold, £10/17/2	12 8 4	
Sales of Corps Ties... 39 8 2		
Less Cost, Ties Sold 35 19 11		
	3 8 3	
		15 16 7
		£1225 9 6
By Balance brought down		301 15 10
		£301 15 10

BENEVOLENT FUND.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1930

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Relief and Grants for year ...	278 13 4	
Less Repayments and Contributions towards Grants	4 7 6	
		274 5 10
,, Maintenance Grants to Farningham Boys' Home		76 13 8
,, Bank Charges		1 15 0
,, Balance carried down		73 5 1
		£425 19 7
To Loan made during year	105 0 0	
Less Repayments	37 0 0	
		68 0 0
,, Loans made to Emigrants during year		40 0 0
		£108 0 0

INCOME.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Subscriptions and Donations—		
Annual, as per List 1	154 14 0	
Annual, as per List 2	54 1 0	
Various, as per List 3	30 1 9	
Signals Unit Branches, as List 4...	137 8 8	
		376 5 5
,, Interest on Investments—		
5% War Stock, 1929-47	39 15 10	
5½% New South Wales Stock, *less* tax	2 19 4	
4% Consolidated Stock, *less* tax	2 13 6	
4% Victory Bonds, *less* tax ...	1 11 6	
		47 0 2
,, Interest on Bank Deposit		2 14 0
		£425 19 7
By Balance brought down		73 5 1
,, By Excess of Expenditure and Loans over Income, carried to Capital Account		34 14 11
		£108 0 0

- Plain Tales -

Lightning Sketch: No. 3.—Founded on fact. Time: Reveille. Scene: a certain Infantry Regiment's guard room. Characters: R.S.M. and Trumpeter.

R.S.M. (sternly): "Come, come, my lad. Very poor attempt at reveille. Surely you can do better than that?"

Trumpeter (with early morning "liver"): "What the —— do you want for two bob a day—Jack Hylton's blinking band?"

Sequel: 168 hours.

* * * *

Local News.—The Talkies have again arrived in Jubbulpore. This time we are told it is a permanent apparatus, and it has been installed in the Empire Theatre. Now, the Empire Theatre is "the home of perfect talking pictures." We know this because they have caused the information to appear on their handbills. The first Talkie was "Rio Rita." I don't think they could find anything older, so we had to make do with that.

Having listened to numerous opinions on the film, I decided to give it a look up myself. Armed with one rupee and an open mind, I visited the "home of perfect talking pictures." All went well for the first thirty seconds, after which the apparatus "conked" for about a quarter of an hour. Perhaps I had better not weary you with a detailed account of what followed. The kindest thing I can say is that it was a complete washout.

I have been told that the night I went was the worst. Oh, yeah? The dialogue was indistinguishable. The words came out all rolled one into the other, deep and sonorous, like a loud-voiced preacher in a garrison church. It is hoped that a great improvement will take place in the presentation of sound pictures at the Empire Theatre in the near future.

There is one bright spot on the horizon. The Strand Theatre is in process of being converted to Talkies. They may turn out something good. One never knows.

* * * *

Practical Jokes.—An illuminating essay, written by myself, with examples devised by myself though, as yet, not tried out (by me, anyway). Practical jokes may be divided into three classes, as follows—well, this is optional and they may, if desired, be classed under one heading, i.e. practical jokes.

For a joke of this sort to be really successful, the victim must suffer some misfortune. It is wonderful how much humour we can find in the misfortunes of others. The stout gentleman who slips on a piece of orange peel invariably invokes roars of laughter, and incidentally puzzles those innocent folk who wonder how on earth he so quickly recognises the peel as that of a blood orange.

The old trick of balancing a bucket of some glutinous fluid on the top of a partly opened door has much to commend it, but this is now becoming a trifle hoary.

Considerable amusement may be obtained with a minimum of trouble by deflating your colonel's tyres just before he is due to go home. Spectators are strongly advised to select their points of vantage with extreme care.

Another mirth-provoking scheme is to remove the wheels and handle-bars from someone's push cycle and chuck them down a well. When you think the joke has gone far enough, you can tell the owner where the missing parts are. He is almost certain to join in the general laughter.

To be acknowledged as a good practical joker, one must acquire a reputation for being able to take a joke oneself. I once knew a major with one eye named Tinnwribbs. I forget the name of his other eye. He was a great practical joker. I will tell you how we put one over on him. This all happened several years ago. He left a rather valuable walking stick in our office, to start with. A silly thing to do, you'll admit. We sawed this stick into very small pieces and then lightly glued them together, so that when the major eventually recovered his walking stick, and put a little weight on it, the beastly thing collapsed. As luck would have it, this happened at the top of a flight of stairs. Naturally enough, we simply screamed. What the dickens did he think we did it for? For a long time after that we couldn't find very much to laugh at. It occurred to me afterwards that if the major saw the joke at all, he must have had an entirely different viewpoint from ours. There were twenty-five steps, if I remember rightly.

* * * *

Technical Titters.—Extracts from examination papers, op. sigs B.iii. "The sounder is an instrument so designed that when signals are received it makes the Morse readable."

Operators who experience difficulty with their sending are invited to write for illustrated catalogue of these wonderful instruments. Would make a nice present for the man at the other end.

"A 'D.C.' key is used on a Simplex set. When the switch is at 'send' you cannot be interrupted."

This, of course, is of paramount importance if you are half way through an Edgar Wallace book.

"Leg irons are used for climbing up iron poles."

At this rate, then, one might suppose that hammers, tele, sledge, are used to demolish obsolete instruments!

* * * *

Personal.—If the young signalman (new to the country) who insisted that an Anglo-Indian lady should address him as "sahib" when he asked her for a dance, will try the same thing on a certain Anglo-Indian lady that *we* know, he will hear something that will astonish him. And how!

* * * *

Pour la Patrie.—The unexpected onslaught by the Veiled Toothpegs had upset the plans of the 2nd Chaussettes. Their old enemies the Dervishes had disappeared in the confusion, and the roving band under old Sheikh Hab-Dabs had rushed away in their lorries after the wanton destruction. Perhaps Hab-Dabs had recognissed the dauntless Chaussettes and decided not to pursue the engagement.

BOOK TWO.

Pierre, fully recovered from his wounds (he had been shot through the teeth) kicked open the O.C.'s door and walked in.

"Bon jour, majeur," he said, removing a cigar from his mouth and a cigarette from his ear. "There's a lady wants to see you."

Le majeur sprang to his feet. "Not ——" he gasped. "Not mademoiselle ——"

"That's 'er," interrupted Pierre.

"Well, show her in, and—er—Pierre, you can pick 'em."

Mlle. Pauline Caraway tripped daintily into the office, bringing with her a faint smell of "Roses of Picardy" (2/6 a bottle, post free). Pauline did not beat about the bush. "Where is Pourboire?" she asked.

"We left him at the base. He had a puncture and couldn't come."

"Now listen, you pudding." Pauline dragged her chair over to le majeur's desk, and the scent nearly fixed his duft. "Attendez moi. Chambres a louer, defense de toucher et rien ne va plus!"

"You don't say." Le majeur went white, then red, then white again.

"Si. Pourboire has gone. No one knows where, not even himself."

Maggotte kissed the girl passionately, then rang the bell on his desk. "Tell the sergeant-majeur to gather the lads together—what's left of 'em. We'll have a couple of kit inspections and go back to Bidi Smell Shabbis. Oh! and put this lady under arrest."

Lieut. Sticque de Bouton saluted smartly, tripped over his sword, scrambled to his feet, saluted again and fell backwards into the passage, dragging his fair prisoner with him. The subaltern looked at Pauline and blushed. "Some baby," he said.

"Monsieur is not shy," replied the girl. "Allons."

Trumpets blared, Very lights shot up, vin blanc shot down, sergeants ran round in little circles, and caporals stood looking almost intelligent. In a remarkably short time, the remnants of the gallant Chaussettes were on their way back to their base nearly a thousand miles away. Le majeur Maggotte marched at the head of his troops. By his side was the adjutant's servant, Pierre.

"Look here, Pierre," said le majeur, breaking a long silence. "What do you think has happened to Pourboire?"

Pierre gave the matter a few minutes deep thought, then shifted his chewing gum from the left side of his mouth to the right side. "Je ne sais pas," he said.

Le majeur gave a little nod of satisfaction, and they marched on in silence.

(To be continued)

* * * *

Remove Headgear.—To the native trumpeter who, not knowing how to sound "Half-hour Dress," gave them two "Quarters" and got away with it.

To the lance-corporal who told some Indian soldiers that his job was looking after " wapas ata " pigeons.

To the man who wrote " Bacteria is an unhealthy place on the north coast of Africa."

To the smartest guard commander in A Company S.T.C. (I.).

BARLEUX.

Random Reflections.

Round the Outposts.

In our young days we were very familiar with the writings of Samuel Smiles, but we regret that in recent years we have allowed the acquaintance to lapse. Yet certain of the passages in his " Self-Help " were brought vividly to mind on a visit to the recently established posts on the plains outside Peshawar.

The British soldier usually makes the best of things at any time, and immediately he sees signs of a reasonable chance of settling down for a week or two, he invariably makes the most of his resources.

After a very unsettled year in the Peshawar district, the position became static in April. So far as Signals are concerned, the legacy from the recent operations consists of detachments at four new centres—Fort Bara, Fort Salop, Jhansi Post and Fort Milward. These names may conjure up mental pictures of lofty battlements, barbicans, drawbridges and similar adjuncts of the frowning fortress of mediæval times. In reality, they serve as picturesque designations for something much more simple, but probably quite as useful, whilst at the same time retaining that intimate personal allusion to individuals, units and formations which has become a tradition in the Service.

True, the mud walls of Bara still dominate the plain, but in the case of the others, we have miniature canvas cantonments surrounded by stone walls and the inevitable barbed wire. The only ambitious architectural achievement is at Jhansi Post, where there is a tower reminding one of a Highland keep ; but the architect appears to have mislaid the rocky crag on which it ought to have been perched.

We now ask the patient reader to come with us round these posts in turn. He will then discover that our opening paragraphs are not quite so irrelevant as he has undoubtedly decided ere now that they are.

Although Bara is nearest to Peshawar, we will proceed first to Fort Salop. This will give our friends at Bara a chance to light the fire and draw up the blinds before we descend upon them.

At Fort Salop, we find Corpl Gerrish and his wireless station looking very business-like. The close-clipped lawns by the main entrance form a bright spot. Although the tender grass was reared somewhere in the neighbourhood of the race-course—indeed, it looks suspiciously like a purloined section of a golf course—it has settled down well and amply rewards the care bestowed upon it. Inside, the living quarters would compare favourably with many of a more permanent nature. The home-made furniture, especially, makes one think that the applications from this detachment for vocational training ought to be few.

Our next halt is at Jhansi Post, where we find Corpl Butcher and his detachment from the 1st Indian Divl Signals. Here one is impressed by the magnificent pack of hounds, which (as the poet has said somewhere, on another subject) " grow in beauty as in strength." A few brave flowers struggle to maintain a precarious existence, and in time will no doubt overcome their difficulties and help to brighten up this parched spot. We hear

(Continued on page 355)

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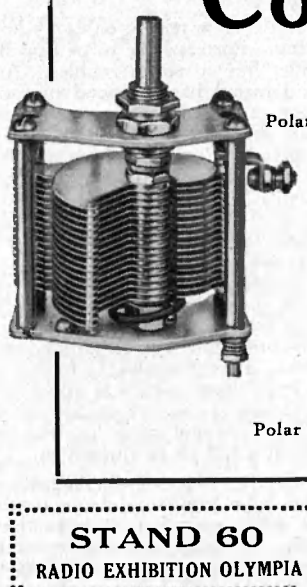
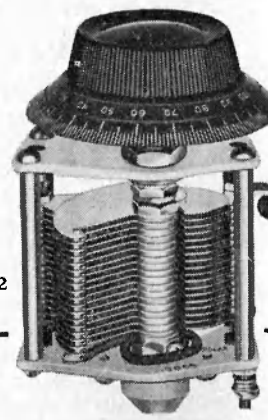


Polar No. 4

Polar No. 2



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[***Contributions to this Section of the Corps Journal are invited from all ex-members of Royal Signals***]

Berezniki Khimstroi, Ousolie, Verhne Kamsky,
Oural, U.S.S.R., July 31st, 1931.

The Secretary, Signals Association.

Dear Sir—At last we are here, actually working on the job. I must first of all thank you most heartily for giving me the opportunity of finding such a post.

Apart from the financial side of the question, the trip to Russia is an eye-opener for anyone these days, and I would not like to have missed the opportunity. If any of your American friends ever talk to you about " hustle " again, just tell them you know somebody who beat the record.

On Monday, July 20th, at 2.30 p.m. I had not heard the slightest rumour that such a job existed ; at 4.30 p.m. I was interviewed ; and by six o'clock I had photographs taken for passport, etc. The next day was " some hustle," you can believe me. I was at the office at 10 a.m., and then commenced a merry game, for in twenty-four hours I had to catch the Harwich boat train from Liverpool Street. Passport had to be got, with Polish visa, and also kit that would withstand 40 to 60 degrees below zero centigrade. Harrods supplied nearly everything, including Red Cross outfit, soaps (washing and toilet), coats, underclothing (woollens), suits, and everything that might be needed to stand twelve months use. *It is absolutely impossible to buy anything out here.* By 7.30 p.m. everything was ready, including two big packing cases full of office supplies (also for twelve months).

Goodbyes having been said, the boat train was duly caught, and without any cause for excitement Berlin was reached next morning at 7.15 a.m. Here I had to meet two engineers (one American and the other Swiss) who had been to Berezniki before. They provided one with plenty of food for reflection. Berezniki had no food worth eating, and so this had to be purchased in Berlin to last for some time to come. Have you ever been in a foreign country, unable to speak the language, and yet have to buy two or three months' food supplies? It is amusing, and a jolly good experience.

Next evening we left Berlin for Moscow, and here—or rather, next morning—began the most interesting part of our trip. Waking up at Warsaw, one realised there had been a war here also, besides that in which our own troops took part. Another thing, the further east one goes, the more interesting become the customs and modes of dress. One does not realise how large a country Poland is until it has been travelled through: from about 11 p.m. on Friday until 6.30 p.m. on Saturday makes a fairly large country out of a " spot " on a map of Europe.

However, Russia is what we are most interested in. The people, to start with, are—apparently, at any rate—well fed. There does not appear to be anybody suffering from starvation. They all seem quite well in that respect, but very few have any decent clothes to wear. That is the first thing that struck me as I went into Russia, and after a day in Moscow and another in Perm, I do not see anything different. In Moscow—where, by the way, we arrived at 10.15 on Sunday morning—I saw a woman with a dress and jumper which she had made out of tablecloths. The people, especially in the towns, have to queue up for hours for food, and everybody is rationed.

Moscow itself gives one the appearance of falling to pieces, but just at present I suppose it is in its " worst ever " condition. Practically every main street is torn up for road repairs, and hundreds of buildings are being knocked down ; and all hotels and large buildings are undergoing renovation both inside and out. When Londoners talk about the Strand or Piccadilly being up, they don't realise how much they have to be thankful for that every street where buses and trams run are not up at the same time.

One thing about the trams: every one that one saw—and there are plenty of them—was packed to its fullest capacity, people even standing on the steps. This is not only at rush hours, when people are going home from business, but all day long. One reason, I suppose, is that in Russia there is no Sunday, and only on one or two days a year is there a general holiday. One is Lenin's Day, and another the Anniversary of the Revolution. The Russians work four days and then have a rest day, which means that all workers get one complete day off in five—but not all on the same day. The factories are never closed, neither are the shops or offices.

Practically everything belongs to the Government. All houses do, and overcrowding is appalling. A house of two floors, with five rooms on each, will contain on an average eight families—four on each floor—with a communal kitchen. I understand that the amount of quarrelling at dinner-time is beyond belief.

We had lunch at the Grand Hotel (one of the three best in Moscow). This consisted of a little onion soup, a small piece of meat (called a beefsteak), and a few potatoes thrown in. A bottle of water was added, and the bill came to 8½ roubles—which at the rate of exchange meant 18/- per head. (The rouble is valued at present at 2s. 1½d.)

An egg costs 1 rouble ; a bottle of water, 1 rouble 25 kopecks—and such is the scale of living. Porters have to be tipped, and look askance at anything under five to seven roubles. Anyone living in Russia (a foreigner, I mean) has to spend nine or ten roubles a day, and unless one can produce the receipts in full when leaving the country, one has to pay the balance in cash.

There are very few tradesmen in Russia, and *no* professional men. An ordinary working man or woman gets from one to two hundred roubles per month. I may as well state here that the women work with the men. Tram drivers and conductors, bricklayers and labourers, road sweepers, wood-cutters, and so on, even to fitters' labourers, are women.

Rents are from 80 to 100 roubles per month for their one or two rooms. The Russians are just now beginning to wake up to the fact that they have no trained men for anything.

If you will take your map and find 57° longitude and 58° latitude, you will find Berezniki. It is from twenty-four to forty-eight hours (by boat) north from Perm, which is about latitude 53° or so. It is in the Ural mountains, which are very disappointing. These are, in fact, nothing more or less than a gradual rise in the ground, with a hill or so thrown in.

August 2nd.

It is now Sunday afternoon, 3.30 p.m., and I am continuing this letter ; but it makes no difference whatsoever to the Russians, as I have already said. All work is going on as usual. Berezniki is pretty bad as regards living conditions and quarters.

The job we are on is giving technical information on the erection and equipment of plant for making ammonia. It is a huge concern.

The Russians have no engineers, and all the fitters, pipe layers, gas-holder builders, etc., are foreigners—chiefly Germans. There are only about six Englishmen here, with one American and one Swiss (the latter two on our job and my colleagues), so it is pretty lonely. The chief thing we desire is reading material, so do not forget THE WIRE.

As soon as I can get a cheque-book I will send you the money for my life membership subscription and a year's subscription to the Corps Journal.

I am going to wind up now, but will write again later ; and I will try to get some snapshots of life and work here (I have my camera with me).

Yours very faithfully, W. MYCROFT.

[The writer of the above letter is an ex-Signalman, whom we were fortunate in being able to accommodate with such good employment. We wish Mr. Mycroft every success in his new venture, and shall look forward to a further account of his experiences at a later date.—General Secretary.]

Demick Farm, R.F.D.2,
White River Junction, Vermont, U.S.A.,
July 14th, 1931.

The Secretary, Signals Association.

Dear Sir—Many thanks for copy of THE WIRE. You will see by the above address that I am in the U.S.

The job I had at the Renown Fox Ranch terminated about two months ago ; the depression was responsible for my leaving, owing to a reduction of staff to save wages. However, I am not kicking. I held on to that job for nearly two years, and was only two weeks between leaving the ranch and commencing work here.

I had a letter from a signalman in India asking my advice on the conditions in Canada and prospects of employment there. I had to tell him that there were poor chances of a steady job, and that wages were as low as those of the Old Country ; also that the Canadian Government were having as much embarrassment as the British in trying to solve the unemployment problem.

The same applies to this country. I would not have got the job I am in now except that a friend of mine is manager here. I am only guaranteed three months work at that.

I certainly advise any man who is serving in the Corps to stay there: that is as permanent a job as any man can get these days. One should certainly consider it very seriously before leaving the Service to join the vast army who are striving to live through such difficult times as these are.

To the ex-Signals who are in civvy life and who are job-seeking, I wish them the best of luck, and hope that those " better times " we hear of so often will not be long in coming. The least we can do is to keep smiling and hoping.

Every success to THE WIRE, and best wishes to all members of the Royal Corps.

Yours sincerely, WM. MCDONALD.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 353)

that a portable lawn is to be imported in sections, so we anticipate still further additions to the amenities of this post.

Let us now cross the river and proceed on our way to Fort Milward. We find Corpl Hayes in his garden. What though some of it be in pots? the result is well worth while. From the nature of the decorations over the fireplace, one would gather that this detachment contains art connoisseurs of a high order. Let us also register a grateful vote of thanks for the fragrant cup of tea produced.

But time presses, so we make our way to Bara. This is the largest detachment, and we find Corpls Lacey and Phillips with their signal office, wireless, etc., and Corpl Denton, of B Corps Signals, whose small detachment indulges in hard work when opportunity offers. In Bara, the detachments are not troubled with the difficulties of canvas habitations ; they have, however, certain of those connected with mud buildings, and which old campaigners will appreciate. We would congratulate those concerned on the artistic decorative scheme in which the fire-bucket motif plays a prominent part.

This completes the circuit, and we leave for Peshawar, impressed by the cheerfulness of all concerned. One knows how trying things can be, living in a circumscribed space, seeing the same few faces day after day, carrying out the daily routine under a burning sun, with fever always hovering somewhere in the background. Under these conditions it becomes necessary to find some occupation for spare hours, something to keep the mind from becoming too introspective. What better, then, than to endeavour to add to the comfort of one's abiding-place, to brighten it up in any way possible ; in other words, to put old Samuel's philosophy into practice?

And that is what they have been doing on the plain, although they will probably say that they never heard of our philosopher.

GRIANTACH.

Peshawar, June 25th, 1931.

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. I. (R.S.M.)

2306968 Britton A. 10/5/31
2306193 McIntosh R. 10/5/31

To be W.O. II. (Q.M.S., F-of-S)

2307806 Goodridge C. 10/5/31

To be C.Q.M.S.

2308460 Littlefield D. 20/6/31

To be Sergeant

2306854 Ellis J. 30/4/31
1859026 Simmonds F. 20/6/31

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

2314647 Fields R. 17/4/31
2746102 Emsley C. 15/5/31
2315924 Stibbs T. 15/5/31
2314112 Brewster P. 24/5/31

To be Corporal

2314834 Simm M. 9/4/31
2308942 Shaddick A. 1/5/31
2312618 Wyman E. 24/5/31
2318947 Quiglev W. 5/6/31
4607658 Johnson S. 27/6/31
5241693 Pearson J. 1/7/31
2306651 Gresham J. 1/7/31
2312806 Hibbit W. 1/7/31
2316579 Martin W. 1/7/31

To be Corporal (Farrier)

2315119 Archer F. 11/6/31

Appointed Lance-Corporal

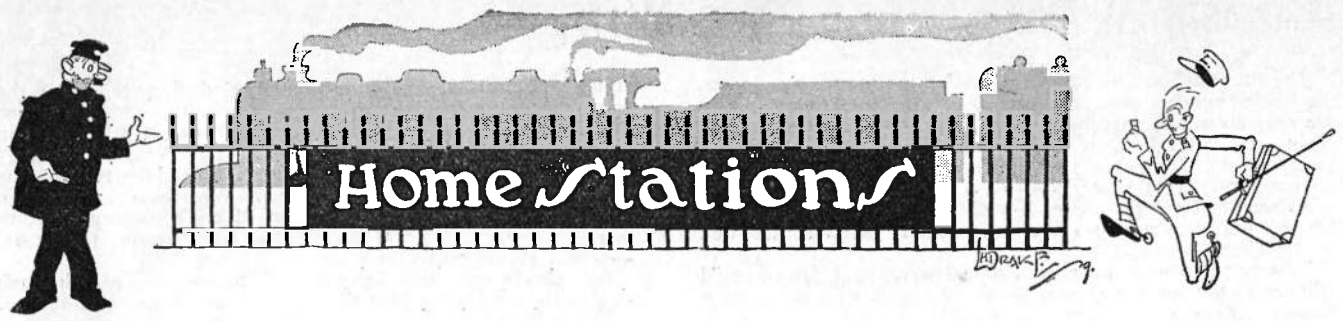
754344 Roberts C. 1/2/31
2308429 Russell J. 8/2/31
2316760 Winton F. 8/2/31
2315959 Pawsey H. 9/2/31
2314284 Davies M. 1/3/31
2316941 Best W. 1/3/31
2314133 Hamilton A. 10/3/31
7582263 Webb E. 17/4/31
2310878 Cabbett W. 30/4/31
2315302 Bell F. 5/5/31
2315565 Chidgey E. 9/5/31
314341 Etwell F. 15/5/31
5376660 Long G. 5/6/31
2317320 Burke W. 6/7/31

Discharges.

2306268 Sergt James H. 1/7/31
2314491 L/Sergt Macdonald H. 12/6/31
16620 Corpl Foakes W. 14/7/31
3903708 Corpl Podger M. 28/7/31
392597 L/Corpl Rosie A. 24/7/31

To Army Reserve.

1055165 Corpl Crawford E. 25/7/31
2315635 L/Corpl Knight M. 16/7/31



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

Events this month have moved swiftly, and altogether it has been very crowded—especially towards the latter part—entailing a great deal of work on the part of all ranks, but they rose to it, and some most excellent results were produced.

Taking events as they occurred. Firstly, we all offer our hearty congratulations to C.S.M. Young on gaining fifth place in the open jumping competition at Aldershot. Being "open to the world," and up against some of the finest horsemen from the Continent on real "blood," we appreciate his effort. Good luck! We wish he may do even better next year.

Inter-Stable Horsemastership.—The competition this year was spread over two days, July 29th and 31st. The trophy was a bronze horse on a solid oak base, presented last year by the commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C., for an inter-stable competition in horsemastership.

No. 1 Troop are to be congratulated on lifting the prize, which was won by No. 2 stable, of which Sergt E. S. Willis is in charge. We are sure Lieut Ponsonby will be glad to hear the news. Unfortunately, he is at present in hospital, but we hope he will soon recover and resume command of his Troop.

Competition was keen, and the order of merit was as follows: No. 2 stable, 77.6 points; Nos. 1 and 4 tied with 74.9; No. 3, 74.3; No. 5, 73.9; No. 6, 68.6.

Horticulture.—The Battalion lines were considerably improved in appearance for the garden competition which took place on July 26th. This was nicely timed, as the lines appeared at their best in the Command competition for unit lines.

The first three huts were U.7, U.19 and U.15. I don't know if the winners have had their supper yet, but I am sure they will be pleased to have one at the commanding officer's expense!

Sergt Morris W. J. is to be congratulated on getting the shield for the best-kept garden around married quarters. Housekeeping for that week was made considerably lighter by an order on the N.A.A.F.I. for £1, also given by the C.O. C.S.M. Payne and Corpl Sell were runners-up. The judging was undertaken by Mrs. Walsh and Major Kent, O.B.E.

So far, we haven't heard the result of the Garrison competition.

Command Military Display and Horse Show.—The Command Horse Show was held on August 5th and 6th, and was attended on the second day by H.R.H. Princess Mary. The weather could have behaved better, but lived up to its reputation.

The display included a thrilling trick riding exhibition by the 4th (Q.O.) Hussars, trick riding by despatch riders of the Training Battalion, Royal Signals, and a tandem drive by the Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, R.Signals, under Major C. P. Prescot.

In the horse show the Mounted Wing came out with honours, and those who were placed are to be congratulated on upholding the prestige of the Corps against all comers. In the following events the Mounted Wing were placed as shown:—

Unit team jumping (three horses)—1st, with a total of three faults. Team: C.S.M. Young, Sergt Bennett and Corpl Donahue.

Open jumping.—1st, C.S.M. Young, on "Baby," 1 fault; 2nd, Sergt Bennett on "Emu," 2; 3rd, Corpl Donahue on "Roger," 4. This clean sweep of the premier places is exceptional and worthy of the highest praise. There were fifty entries, and the course was of the same kind as that used at Aldershot, there being nine fences 4 ft. 6 in. in height.

In both of these competitions, the horses jumped in great style; and for three horses of one unit to go round an international course of nine fences with an aggregate of only seven faults is an extraordinarily good performance, of which they may well be proud.

Best trained Troop horse.—1st, Corpl Donahue on "Ada"; 2nd, L/Corpl Bull G. on "Sinbad"; 3rd, L/Sergt Bennett on "Tommy." There were twenty-four entries.

Section tent-pegging—3rd. The team comprised C.S.M. Young, Sergt Burr and L/Sergt Bennett.

Best pair of L.D. shown in hand.—4th out of thirty-five entries. Driver Vann L. W., with "Boxer" and "Mira," did very well to get so placed, and his turn-out was very good.

Major C. P. Prescot was first in class i. (for officers' chargers) with "Merry," and third in class xviii. (for heavy weight hunters) with "Killarney."

Sergeants' Mess.—A further putting competition has taken place, and Sergts Brown and Roberts won the foursomes, whilst Sergt Burr W. sprang a surprise and "walked" the handicap singles with a score of 95.

I have since learned that we don't play the game under Queensberry rules, but this, no doubt, will be rectified when we get them down in black and white.

On July 23rd we entertained the officers to a games tournament in the mess, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

We thought we were on a pretty good thing by asking them to include putting on our green, as we had the rough bits well earmarked, but they sprang a surprise on us and beat us by 8—6 matches, one being halved.

We managed to scrape home at billiards by 3—1 matches. Major Kent met with his first defeat on our table at the hands of the Farrier-sergeant-major. I saw the F.S.M.'s white go down with a bang, once, but I believe it counts two!

These two events made us level on points—but we had got the dart board going, and we made a clean sweep of five events to nil. Thus we wound up a most enjoyable evening with the score of 14½ to 9½ in our favour.

On Tuesday, July 4th, the 49th Divisional Signals (T.A.) carried us over to their mess for a smoker. Fortunately, they carried us back! So we gave them a return on Friday, the 7th, in our mess. We commenced with a games tournament, including putting, billiards and darts, which we won by 9½ to 4½. Then we unearthed our talent and spent a good couple of hours together, during which Captain Rosenberg produced the swimming cup which had just been won, and it was filled up with the best in the house and sent on its first journey round the mess.

We are now looking for an extension to house the cups won at the horse show and the swimming cup, which, with our existing trophies, will make a good show.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—The Wing is gradually coming back to normal as far as numbers are concerned, and the Training Battalion is now feeling the effects of our overflow. Like a surging tide it has filled their huts to capacity, and even tents, store, which (owing to the rush) have been brought from the quiet seclusion of the Ordnance Department. Owing to the presence of the many centres of depression which always hover directly above us, these tents have been thoroughly tested, and seams here and there have become porous in protest. Still, the spirit prevailing, even under those circumstances, has not been weakened by the influx of H_2O.

The men who have enlisted during the last few months have been worthy additions to the Royal Signals, and we have been

very fortunate indeed in finding amongst them so many men of outstanding athletic ability.

Space will not permit of a detailed list of the numerous recruits who have put up such splendid performances in every section of sport, but special mention must be made of Sigmn Page, our star half-miler, who has already successfully played his part as a Garrison representative (in the first few weeks of his service) and also of Signalmen Houghton, Ridley, Rousseau and Comery, and Driver Lowe, who helped the Battalion swimming team to gain such a runaway victory in the recent Northern Command championship.

The speed and style of these " mentions," both on the track and in the water, have been an eye-opener to the rest of the Command. They are not men of tremendous stature, but what is tremendous about them all is their understanding of " team spirit." Keep it up!

No. 3903708 Corpl Podger M. and No. 392757 Corpl Clark A. have left us on discharge from the Service. We wish them the very best of luck in civilian life.

Congratulations to Corpls Walsh H., Dendy E., Quigley W. and Johnson S. on their promotion.

Obituary.—It is with great regret that we announce the death of No. 2321599 Sigmn Wright F. on August 7th. He was a promising recruit of a few weeks service and a popular member of his squad. We extend our deepest sympathy to his relatives.

The interment took place at Catterick Camp military cemetery, Hipswell, on Tuesday the 11th, with full military honours.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

Catterick Garrison Military Display and Horse Show.—The Training Battalion took a conspicuous part in the display portions of this event, the despatch riders giving the same display as at Olympia, and also finding an escort for H.R.H. Princess Mary when she visited the show on August 6th.

On the first day of the show we had real Catterick weather, and the show ground was a sea of mud. This made motor-cycling a somewhat foolhardy pastime, and the display lost some of its customary pep in consequence.

Sigmn Swindells in a strong wind.

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The second day brought a glorious morning, and except for one very severe rainstorm, which drenched the escort, the sun shone until the show was over. The surface of the arena was good, having been liberally sanded, and the despatch riders put up an exceedingly fine show.

H.R.H. Princess Mary was graciously pleased to express her appreciation of the performance, which she had previously witnessed at Olympia.

Catterick Garrison Swimming Championships.—Very many congratulations to the Depot Battalion on winning, by such a substantial margin of points, the Garrison swimming championship. They will be the first to admit that the said margin was in no small part due to the fine effort put up by the Training Battalion in getting points for second place in the three lengths and one length relay races, thereby causing their main competitors for the championship to lose points.

In addition to this, the Training Battalion came fourth in the diving, which was a very close affair, the difference between the four leading teams being very slight.

Coming on the eve of the horse show, the swimming championships concluded a very fine week for the Corps, as out of the whole garrison there were really only four teams who showed any prominence, two of them being Signals.

The honours in the Battalion gardening competition have gone to D Company, the results being:—1st, S.20; 2nd, S.21; 3rd, S.10 and S.13 (tie). We congratulate them on the success of their efforts.

Arrivals.—We welcome Captain A. B. Bushby and family, who have recently arrived from India.

Departures (Imminent).—The posting rolls have arrived, and among those warned for India are L/Sergts Walker and Askew, and Corpls Yates, Humphries and Lloyd.

Visitors.—We have recently had the pleasure of entertaining members of the 49th W.R. Divl Signals (T.A.) and various units of the O.T.C., both senior and junior divisions; and although the weather did its best to refute the boast of the railway company that this is the drier side, we hope they enjoyed their stay.

Howlers.—We have recently learnt that "in the Ashanti war of 1896, a land line was laid *from Cape Town to Peshawar.*"

That "*heliotrope* is a means of communication in the Corps."

That "in the Gallipoli campaign, a message was sent through *on syphons*" (unciphered).

That "one of the branches of the Signals Association is the *Publicans* Branch."

Corporals' Mess.—It is whispered that, for the next smoker, a number of lance-corporals are preparing the "Policemen's Chorus."

Answer to Correspondent.—No, Film Fan! in this Corps, "S.A." and "it" do not necessarily mean the same.

D Company, Training Battalion

General.—Things are going very smoothly in the Training Battalion these days, and I very much doubt whether F Company's correspondent will be able to find that Company in the "throes" of anything this time.

Although the casuals have still to fire, most of us have completed our musketry course. L/Corpl Curtis is to be congratulated on scoring a steady 91 out of a possible 95.

Our sergeant-major has been warned for India again, and has gone on a month's furlough to recuperate.

Promotions and Appointments.—Hearty congratulations and "cheerio's" to Corpl Hibbitt and U/L/Corpls Cunningham and Hawkes on acquiring the ranks shown. Bill Hibbitt's little troubles apparently now start (see below).

Births.—It must be the excitement of the displays, because both of the proud daddies belong to the M.C. bays. Anyway, still more congratulations to Corpl and Mrs. Bill Hibbitt on the arrival of a son (William Arthur) on July 27th, and to L/Corpl and Mrs. Strugnell on levelling matters by the arrival of a daughter (Beryl Anne) on August 3rd. Miss Strugnell's pram will undoubtedly be cornering on two wheels in the near future!

Arrivals.—We cordially welcome Corporal Edwards from 2nd Divl Signals, and Sigmn Punter from A Corps Signals.

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Departures.—The best of luck to Sigmn Nobby Hall, who has left us for civvy street and the Army Reserve. He won't starve ; he has already found a good job locally.

Extensions of Service.—Corporal Dicker to complete twelve years ; Sigmn Caulfield to " eight and four."

Drafts.—Units in India may look out for the following from this Company in the near future (they have all been out before, so I really can't understand what makes them so keen):—C.S.M. Mitchell, L/Sergt Walker, Corpls Lloyd and Double.

The D.R. Team.—The despatch riders still continue their activity in the show ring. A display was given at Malton on the 22nd July, and it was much enjoyed by a large audience. On the way, the team took occasion to climb Sutton Bank on their Triumphs, and the average time of one minute fifty seconds for the solo machines showed that they can ride on the road as well as in the show ring.

The return journey of about fifty-five miles was performed in column in one hour and twenty minutes, as the light was failing ; and undertaken, as it was, within fifteen minutes of concluding the performance, it was a fine effort.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to give a performance at Darlington on July 25th, owing to rain. It is hoped to fulfil this engagement in September.

E Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Congratulations to the Red Devils on putting up such a good show at the military display held here at Catterick on August 5th and 6th.

We now have the little pay bloke back with us again. Of course, he would bring his R.103 with him! We are glad to have you back with us again, Tich.

Two or three of our ever-present n.c.o.s have been provisionally warned for service overseas. There is going to be much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth in Darlington—eh, Jock?

Births.—To Corpl and Mrs. Bye (Powell, late 2nd Div. Quetta) a daughter. To Sergt and Mrs. Swatton, a son and heir ; another budding horticulturist, Jack?

Arrivals.—We are being kept fairly busy with arrivals from the Depot Battalion, but we extend the glad hand to them all and trust their stay with us will be pleasant. We are expecting another batch shortly. What a wonderful memory our orderly corporal must have!

Departures.—Postings away are not very fast and thick, but a batch departed for field units a few days ago. We wish them the best of luck in their new stations.

There is somebody " sick at home " out in the country. Stanley, do you know anything about it?

Agony.—To Major, last heard of at A Corps Signals: What about the five hundred eggs and the frivolous complaint, Taff? Come on, do your stuff! pen and ink are not any dearer at Aldershot, are they? G.Y.

To Smudger, last heard of at Abbassia, Egypt: What about the " Prince," now, Smudger? Mick.

To Jackson, late of this Company, now somewhere in the wilds of India: Darkie is now on the poisoning staff, and wants to know if you have forgotten his address. G.Y.

To Interested, Quetta: Spud is now with the band at Catterick, back at his old place. THE WATCHER II.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

Thanks to the untiring energy of our athletic and mounted sporting enthusiasts, we can with great pleasure record the winning of the Prickett challenge cup for 1931—a great achievement, of which all who took part may well be proud. By " all," I do not mean just those who competed—to whom, of course, our special congratulations are due. Those who turned out and gave vocal support to the competitors are also included. Nor must we forget those who did their bit in the way of fatigues: their services are entitled to our appreciation and thanks.

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Aldershot Royal Signals Week was a complete success. We of A Corps Signals were delighted to see so many old comrades. Their stay was too short, and we hope they will not fail to come again next year and bring others with them. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Ricketts and his Band for the many musical entertainments provided for our enjoyment, and look forward to another visit from them next year.

At the end of July, No. 1 Company spent a pleasant, if somewhat damp, few days in camp at Thursley. A carefully thought out programme of work and play included an afternoon of sports, when the lighter side was allowed complete freedom. The " bumping off " event, in which competitors hopped about in a ring on one foot, bumping each other over, was really funny. The afternoon was concluded with a soccer match between the officers and sergeants of the Company. The officers won, but I think this was due to the fact that the sergeants were aware that the prize for the runners-up was a very large bottle of beer! The members of each team were afterwards introduced to Mrs. Giblin by Sigmn Cartwright, after which the officers were presented with the " cup."

At the moment of going to press, Aldershot Signals are engaged in the field with the 1st Division concentration. On the night of the 17th/18th August, the Division was bivouacked in the Thursley-Frensham area. On the 18th the troops marched from their respective bivouacs to the area north and north-east of Guildford. The clerk of the weather provided a complete day of sunshine for the march, the distance being up to twenty miles. As I write this morning—the 19th—the weather has resumed its normal condition for this summer ; the rain is fairly pelting down, and looks like staying the course! Both Cable Sections, a Wireless Section, and certain other personnel from the unit are taking part.

A mechanised Cable Detachment from 3rd Divl Signals, ten despatch riders (also from 3rd Divl Signals) and a H.T. Cable Detachment from 2nd Divl Signals, are attached to us and are providing certain Corps communications.

Arrivals.—From Training Battalion: Corpl Robertson, Signalmen Carr, Moore K., Oates, Waterston, Moore C., Coombs, Holt,

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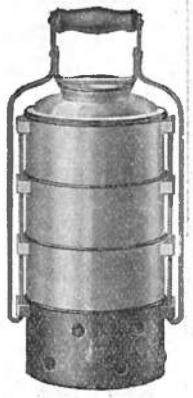

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Green, Lathbury, Moore P., Nesbit, Robertson, Sawyer, Davidson, Docherty, Pitt and Catt. From Depot Battalion: Drivers Mitchell and Moore A.

Departures.—To Reserve: Signalmen Allum, Robins, Gafga and Stanford B. To discharge: C.Q.M.S. Halls, F/Corpl Lancashire and Sigmn Pascoe. Good luck to them!

Promotions.—Sergt Littlefield to C.Q.M.S. L/Corpl Gresham to Corporal. Sigmn Archer to F/Corporal. Congratulations!

Trade Qualification.—Sigmn Walker re-mustered as operator W/T B.iii. on January 21st.

Courses.—Signalmen Reid and Bowen passed a course of instruction in water duties held at the Army School of Hygiene, Aldershot.

Marriages.—L/Corpl Swift to Miss Muriel Olive Gwendoline Reed, at Portsmouth, on October 7th, 1929. L/Sergt Mansfield (attached from India) to Miss Henrietta Elliott, at Boxmoor, on August 3rd.

Births.—To Corporal and Mrs. Powell, at Clapham, on July 3rd, a daughter (Gloria June). To Arm/S/Sergt and Mrs. Adams (attached R.A.O.C.), at Aldershot, on July 12th, a son (Terence Reginald). To L/Corpl and Mrs. Swift, at Portsmouth, on February 14th, 1930, a daughter (Audrey Valerie).

Gems of English Verse. No. 8: The Aldershot "War," 1931

'Twas a wintry day in August,
And everything was damp:
The rain came down in bucketfuls
And poured down on the camp.
Around the tent a river ran—
In places it came through
And made a mud-pie of the floor,
Where we sat feeling blue.

We pulled our groundsheets round our beds
(We mustn't wet our "kips")
And picked a paper up to read,
That once held fish and chips;
'Twas then we all forgot the rain,
Forgot even to smoke—
The paper told a tale of WAR
Writ by a paper bloke.

He told of how he came down here
And saw thousands of men,
And how next day they all had gone—
He couldn't find but ten;
And then of how he met a sergeant
Coming down the lane,
Who showed him things like "Hush hush vans"
And ammunition trains.

He'd seen the troops in action,
And he'd seen them out as well;
He'd seen them lie in ambush,
And had promised not to tell—
But now, back in the printing works,
His men worked with a song,
And told the world just how
The war in Aldershot had gone.

We hate to make him look a fool
Or spoil his bit of sport,
But concentration is not war,
And our young friend is caught:
We're here because—we're here,
And while we're here, we're wet,
And likely to get wetter still—
The war ain't *started* yet. —DASH.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

General.—The Aldershot Command horse show ended on Saturday, July 5th, and so another chapter is closed in the odd jobs of No. 1 M.T.

Our next item is Section training, which I believe will follow its usual course of a "paper transaction" only. However, perhaps we do not need training (?). Anyway, Willie Wiffers does not think we do—and such a compliment, coming from a

The above Advertisers support our Magazins. Will our Readers please support them in return?

youngster with eighteen undetected and twice around the world, goes a long way.

Although a modest Section and not given to blowing our own trumpet, I feel I must reproduce some extracts from two very nice letters recently received. These show that the M.T., although somewhat insignificant, are keeping the Corps flag flying.

Extract from a letter from the secretary of the Aldershot Tattoo Committee:—" My committee are very grateful to you and the Royal Signals for all the work in establishing communications at Rushmoor. I am afraid I must have worried each of them immensely, but I never went in vain to any member of the Royal Signals employed at Rushmoor for assistance."

Extract from a letter from O. i/c Communications, Bisley: " I should like to express my appreciation of the work done by this n.c.o. and man. They have been on their feet daily from 06.00 until 20.30 hours, and with the fifty-six telephones for which they have been responsible, there have been only two very minor faults." Well done, Bill and Bert!

The most outstanding affair for July was certainly Signals Week, which for the first time was marked by the old comrades re-union. The old comrades were mostly from the old R.E. Signal Companies, with the trend of conversation going back many years beyond the happy Maresfield and Crowborough days. May we see them all again in 1932!

The unit is to be heartily congratulated on winning the Prickett cup with a grand total of 68 points, while our nearest rival's total was 47. The Construction Section assisted with the usual champions, Lieut. McOstrich, L/Sergt Jones, L/Corporals Denyer and Green, Signalmen Dennett, O'Donnell, Mitchell and Williams.

The Company camp was held at Thursley from the 25th to 30th July inclusive. The weather was vile and really spoilt what was otherwise a good camp.

The Cable Sections had their well-deserved rest, while the Construction Section dangled about with eight and four-way. We assisted the Cable Sections in their holiday by lending them our vehicles and combination. Don't mention it! quite a pleasure—Arthur and Company.

Arrivals.—None. But we could do with some, Mr. Records.

Departures.—None at present, but a few will take place shortly, to satisfy this year's drafts.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant Withers on the receipt of his L.S.G.C. medal (have Scotland Yard lost all records?) To Sigmn and Mrs. Crowther on the safe arrival of a son. To Corporal Gresham on attaining that rank (" Be-jabers, yer popping up ag'in!")

Aberdeen Item.—As the Company do not supply notes for THE WIRE, it falls upon " your humble " to insert the following for one of the Company headquarters:—To Bob Barlow, Agra (if not Agra, he may be found wandering anywhere between that place and Jubb.): What about a snaky one on the straight one? —Joe Trayner.

To Tunny, India: Has Gandhi confiscated all writing material as well as salt?—Dangler.

To Arthur, A Cable: I've got it—" semi-calcined."

Signals Week Slogan.—" Business as usual." DANGLER.

No. 1 Company: A Cable Section.

Odds and Ends.—" Dora, I'm afraid you have your share of the vanity of woman. For the last week, you have been sulking because you were not taking part in the concentration ; and now to-day, since you heard that the C.S.O. is going to ride you and that you will mix with all the heads and high-brows, there is no holding you. Perhaps you can bring yourself to earth sufficiently to discuss the month's happenings."

" Now, Molly, don't get shirty just because you are an ordinary No. 6. I knew all the time that they were saving something for me ; in fact, only a couple of days ago I heard the sergeant fellow say ' In a few days time I won't have a horse, man or an inch of wire left, and that's the day I'll be ordered to turn out and lay a line '—so I knew I was for something good."

" All right, Dora, have it your own way ; but can't you think of something? Have you no impressions of the Company camp?"

" Impressions! I call that camp a symphony in rain, with a bright interlude."

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" Rather neat, Dora, but gives a wrong idea, you know. It did not rain all the time, and there were two official bright spots—the sports and the sing-song."

" Do you know of any *un*-official bright spots, Molly?"

" Do I, my dear! Who fixed the sergeant-major's haversack? Who doped Dangler's boots? Who cooked ' Feed-away's ' kip? and who presented B Cable with an extra spare whilst he slept?"

"Talking about high lights reminds me of that youngster Baby. At camp, she heard one of the officers say that he would not ride Nell now, but would ride later at nine. Baby and the picket line guard asked who had been re-named ' Later,' as it had to be saddled up by nine a.m."

" Tell me, Dora: why is everybody walking about with a strained expression these days? Do you think it's because of this war turn-out of the 1st Div.?"

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" No, Molly! haven't you heard? It's because THE WIRE is late. Why, I saw Dan Godfrey running round in little circles about it only yesterday."

"By the way, what do these fellows mean by ' being on draft '? What's ' on draft ' mean?"

" I cannot say, but Jumbo suggested that it's a game played by the old soldiers and O. i/c Records. It's an annual affair, and as far as I know they eliminate the pawns first and leave certain old soldiers and O. i/c Records in the final."

" I hear that some old soldiers have eighteen consecutive wins to their credit."

" Well, Molly, the old fellow who said that war was mostly waiting knew his stuff, so we had better prepare to stand and wait for the C.I.G.S. to-morrow."

" Molly, dear, did you hear how to catch flies?"

" What! put a bit of salt on their tails?"

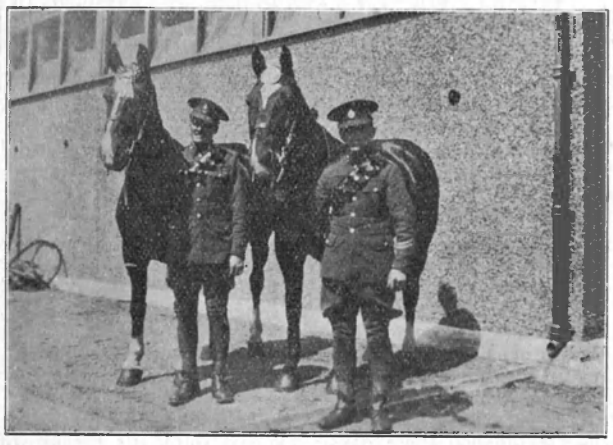
" Oh, no! you get a shallow tin, pour in a small quantity of petrol (if you have the petrol) and hold it under the fly's nose. The fumes will make it unconscious. You then arrest the fly and confine it."

The above is very helpful under canvas. FEEDAWAY.

No. 1 Company: B Cable Section.

Having broken the proverbial ice last month, it is now a case of " no rest for the wicked."

The tall dark handsome men of the Section (no, Lofty, you're not included!) are all anxious to be mentioned in despatches and to test the capability of the printers by handing m snaps of themselves for inclusion with these notes. I hope the Editor will not object to publishing a couple of the least damaging of these. Those whose snaps are not published are reminded that the daily papers are frequently offering prizes for beauty snaps. Sumner and Woodhams, please note.



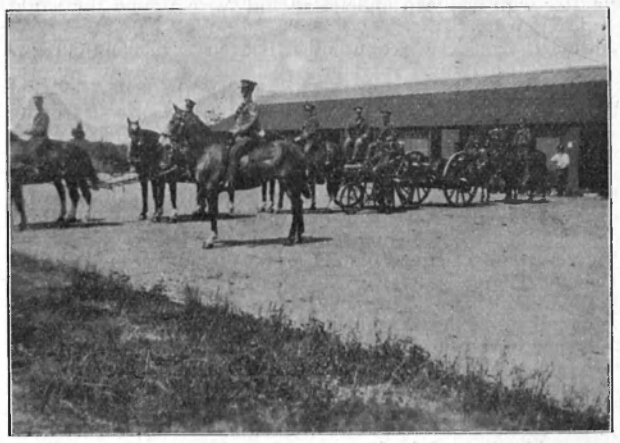
Bruce and Betty, awarded a Blue Rosette at the Horse Show.

Yes, Bruce's driver is wearing his own tunic and Dodger's as well!

Salvete.—Great excitement was caused recently by the rumour that three drivers were to be posted to the Section from the Depot. Alas for false hopes! that fickle jade Rumour has let us down again, our share being one only, to wit Driver Moore. We welcome him and trust that he will find that we are not such a bad crowd when he gets to know us. Two of our veteran drivers, mentioned in last month's notes, have been heard giving him some very useful tips on what to do when out on cable ; and such remarks as " In all my eight weeks service in A Corps," etc., are now frequently heard.

Memories.—Company camp is now nothing but a dim memory —to some pleasant, to some otherwise. Aquatic sports were held for the first three days, and the last two days were spent in drying off. 'Nuff said.

Pastimes—but not Sports.—At the time of writing, the password for entering any building in 'Shot is " Mob scheme." Section sergeants and storemen are to be seen having hectic races, scrounging to make up their stores to the establishment laid



Picked Detachment from "A" and "B" Cable Sections

ready to move off to the sports field for the communication race.

down in that weird and wonderful crossword puzzle known to the select few as " loading tables."

By the time these notes appear in print, mob schemes and loading tables will only be spoken of in whispers by the survivors. Some scribe of old once wrote that " Virtue is its own reward." Rumour has it that our reward is to be seven days leave. If those seven days do not materialise, Heaven help Rumour!

Cook's Tours.—Records are indeed playing their hands to the last deuce this trooping season, and are incidentally " playing the deuce " with many of our old stagers who were placed on the inventory many moons ago. One R.E. fixture is said to have remarked " I'm all for it " when his warning order was read over to him. We wonder!

We (and many others) would like to know.—Can a Geordie and a Swede take out naturalisation papers as cockneys by virtue of having spent two days in hiking about London? Replies to Chuck, No. 8 stable.

Latest Jazz Tune.—The Farnborough lament: " Oh, where is my wandering boy to-night?" Copyright. D. I. Ment and Girls Ltd. BEEKAY.

No. 3 Company.

General.—Someone once wrote " Oh, to be in England now that April's here!" Well, I think he must have had a perverted sense of humour—or was it a " she "? Anyhow, the least one can do is to alter that well-known saying to:—

" June winds,
July showers,
August hail
Destroy the flowers."

It would certainly be more in keeping with the times.

However, in spite of all these drawbacks and the constant wail of twisted music (bagpipes) stealing o'er the lea, on June 23rd the Company—at least, the majority of them—proceeded to Basing camp to take part in the Staff College exercise. Even at Basing the rain found us out!

The next item of interest in the progress of things was the regimental sports meeting and Signals Week, when a large number of old comrades invaded the barracks and had a good time. We were fortunate in getting a fine day for the sports ; the only time it rained at all was during the tea interval.

We were all very pleased to see A Corps Signals win the Prickett cup by a large margin of points. No. 3 Company take this opportunity of congratulating all of A Corps who took part, in one way or another, to bring about the winning of the cup.

The Band's performances during their short stay were thoroughly appreciated by everyone, and the week terminated with an excellent dance on Friday, 24th, which was well attended by all ranks.

After sports we had a very brief spell before the next exercise, and the August leave period terminated on Tuesday in order to give a demonstration on Wednesday.

This was closely followed by the re-organisation of Sections, etc., and loaning of personnel and vehicles for the 1st Division mobilisation exercise.

Arrivals.—During the past two months, quite a number have arrived in No. 3 Company, mostly from T.B. Catterick. We welcome the following to our Company, and wish them a happy stay, though in several cases it will only be a brief one (some from T.B. were warned for India before they eventually got here):—C.Q.M.S Littlefield from India. Corpl Powell from D Troop. Corpl Roberts S. (late of No. 4 W/T Company) returned from Depot Battalion. Signalmen Hulme, Waugh, Cook T., Johnson H., Honor V. C., Carr, Moore K., Oates, Waterston, Moore C. W., Coombs, Green, Lathbury, Moore P., Nesbit, Robertson W. R., Sawyer, Davidson, Docherty, Pitt and Catt.

Departures.—Only a few have left us so far—and those to civvy street, where we wish them the very best of luck.

Sigmn Frank Furney from "Q" Stores. Corpl Bill Foakes from the garage. Corpl Crawford, Signalmen Pascoe and Silas K. Gafga (pronounced Gaffey, so he says) and shortly C.Q.M.S. Halls (our beloved Monty) to the P.O. Aldershot.

Courses.—Sigmn Gafga completed a course at A.V.T.C. Signalmen Dryburgh and Adams proceeded on an A.V.T.C. course. Sigmn Pascoe completed a local course. Sigmn Reid completed a course at the School of Hygiene.

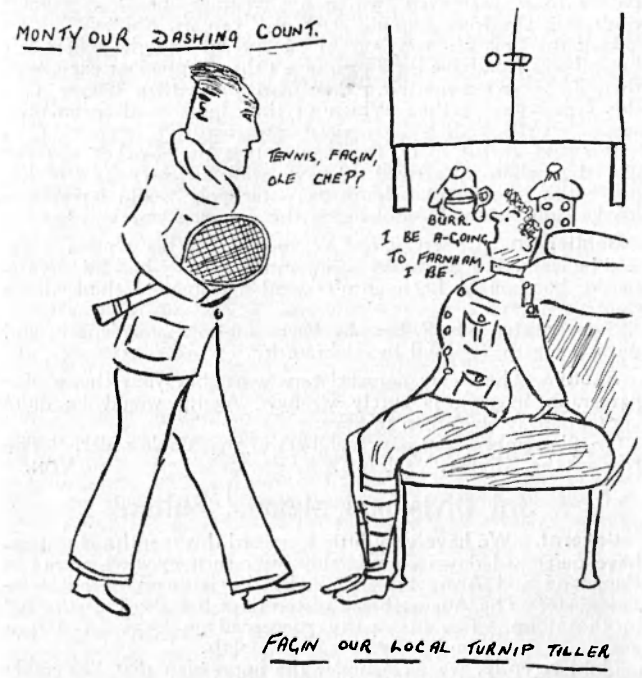
Marriage.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Swift A. on taking the fatal plunge. May all his troubles be little ones!

E.H.F.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

The notes this month emanate from the wilds of Chobham Ridge. If their general tone becomes as lofty as the place in which they are written, several readers will have my sympathy.

A wonderful panoramic view can be obtained from this spot, and all hikers are cordially welcomed—providing they bring their own tea and sugar. Particularly does this apply to Three Company of A Corps. Their members' ability to mop back the "brew," during a recent social call, evoked spontaneous admiration from all who were privileged to watch. It was no mean performance.



A little excitement has been caused by the announcement that three of our lads are due for service overseas. As two of these have already had experience of a Cook's tour, one can imagine the unfortunate plight of the third. Flying dhobis, loose wallahs, mozzies, and various other foreign bodies now appear in his romantic dreams of the mystic East. Just think of it! Twenty-one days in an open boat, and no hut orderly—hardships, my brothers, hardships!

Now for the names of this little band. First and foremost is L/Corpl Brennan B.—notorious as a "binder" in relating his experiences of China—now doomed for a tour of India. The news of his impending departure has spread like wildfire, and has caused many feminine hearts to flutter, whilst a deep depression will probably settle over West End, Chobham. Many readers will remember this youth as the person responsible for the quietude in China. Now, India must feel his potent personality. There is, however, no foundation for the rumour that Gandhi has postponed his visit to London.

Next comes little Tommy Holt, and once more he is visiting Palestine. Oh, Tommy, didn't you have enough of it during that twelve-month tour way back in '28? What will poor Clara say? Just think of it! No more shove ha'penny tournaments at the Mitre Hotel, and no more river trips (17/6). Never mind! you have only three more years to do, and no doubt during that period Clara will have purchased a distillery. Sigmn Holt's provisional warning caused such consternation in Reading that the pump handles of the "Mitre" were at once draped in black.

Last of all comes Sigmn Warwick. He has little experience of service abroad, his only foreign station being Catterick. Well, Bill Brennan will take care of you in India, old chap.

August leave is now a thing of the past. The resultant increase in the mail has been well up to standard, though indications are even now evident of an early decrease to normal. Several Rudolphs had some thrilling adventures to relate. I dare not repeat them here, otherwise local females would probably consider themselves back numbers.

In the working line we proceed apace. Next week will see the complete ensemble under canvas at this salubrious encampment, and the rebate from the R.E. canteen should thus soar to a record figure. A possible menace to our tranquility will be the rain. For a month, now, it has soaked us, and signs of sunshine would be doubly appreciated. Financially, the Company remains stable, though an early return to form of "The Mid-day Chronicle" would cause a favourable re-action.

Fagin Cooper is again in the limelight. Numerous complaints have been received from his comrades of the disturbance he creates at night. He will persist in muttering one peculiar sentence during his slumber hours: "Fifteen two—fifteen four—and one for his hat is five." Fagin, what bad habits they do teach one in Farnham!

It will probably interest some readers to know that Sigmn Holt has retired from the world of sport. He states that old age is creeping on and the laws of nature must be obeyed; consequently, he has now reverted to his favourite pastime of lying in the prone position.

Move.—Sigmn Holt from Mons Barracks to Blackdown—his first move this year!

Answers to Correspondents.—Just Married, Aldershot: No, my dear; C.R.A. means Commandant, Royal Artillery. Your husband is above suspicion.

Rosina, Jaffa: Sigmn Cooper hails from the Isle of Wight. I'm sure he doesn't know you.

Sunshine Sketches: No. 7.—Tich Hutchcroft (by Never out of Breath). A slightly-built youngster, with an enormous capacity for work. Was the original composer of "Moaning for you" and other well-known screen hits. Drinks out of a saucer because the spoon in a cup gets in his eye. He stopped thinking some years ago as the result of his boots pinching him. Has only one vice: he devours his bath water. Should run prominently before long.

Meditation.—When Cooper sends rabbits: that's thoughtful. When Cooper brings carrots: that's cunning. But when he says he doesn't want leave: that's (?)

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

At the time of writing, 1st Divl Signals are in a whirl, having been swept into the rising tide which constitutes the complete

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mobilisation of the 1st Division. Needless to say, No. 3 Company is included. Unfortunately, we have been snubbed, insulted, and several other things which could hardly be printed: in other words, de-mechanised. Instead of sailing along on wheels —our usual method of conveyance—we have to hike, or in common Army terms, "Bat along on our plates of meat!"

Two of the Infantry Brigade Sections—Roaring K and Fighting J—have amalgamated to form one at war strength. This Section has now donned the name of "The Dawn Patrol." Having seen the dawn for several consecutive days—and sometimes the midnight sun—we heartily agree that this is a fitting name.

After a lot of preliminary inspections, starting with the O.C. Section and finishing with the C.I.G.S., we have now got down to something concrete and are ready for the war which starts on Monday, August 17th. Primary hardening is the order till we move. This takes the form of route marches with the Brigade. Two have been completed, and the stamina of the Section is wonderful, although one or two have been noticed to sag at the knees at the termination.

To conclude our introductive narrative, the Section are eagerly awaiting the great hike and—last, but not least—the seven days leave which has been promised at the end of a great experiment. We are wondering how many members will be alive to enjoy it! The results will be published in our next issue.

Marriages.—Hearty congratulations to L/Corpl Stubbs on his recent marriage. We are eagerly awaiting his proposed book, "The Reminiscences of a Roue." Stubbo, the old days are o'er. May all your troubles be little ones!

Arrivals.—We extend the glad mitt to Signalmen Hezseltine and Nursaw from Catterick.

Agony.—To Spud Murphy, late of this Company: I am writing to tell you that many of your old friends (ex-India and otherwise) will be joining you this trooper. Please receive them kindly. Yours, etc.—Elk. THREECOY.

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2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

So little of interest has occurred this month that these notes must of necessity be brief. In addition to that, the scribe has been away for a fortnight.

Trooping Season.—Several well-known members of the Company are to leave us this year, and in an interview the other day, one (a noted sheik) said that he was not altogether sorry, as the attentions of his clientele were becoming very persistent. However, here are the anticipated departures so far: C.S.M. Gradden, Corpls Staerck and Frey, L/Corpl Cooper, Signalmen Guest, MacDougall and Richardson, to India. Sigmn Cook to China. Sigmn Turrell to Sarafand. L/Corpl Lindsay to Malaya. L/Corpl Hayden to Gibraltar.

Notices.—Messrs. Smith and Trotter, garage proprietors, announce that in future they can guarantee personal service at any of their branches at all hours of the day and night.

Operators and fatigue men supplied at short notice. Apply to Sergt Curtis, No. 1 Company garage.

Another Cockney War Story.—For a while, at the beginning of the month, a few of our elite were attached to the 56th Divl Signals (T.A.) in their summer training camp at Roedean, Brighton. All thanks are due to those who made our visit such a pleasure.

Land of our Fathers.—Two others, L/Sergeant Drudge and Corpl Cousins, were attached to 55th West Lancs. Divl Signals (T.A.) in their camp at Rhyl. I wonder how many broken hearts Bert left behind!

Tail-Piece.—Good-bye to all that. FUTURIST.

E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

August 14th.

General.—The absence of notes last month is regretted, but no excuse is offered.

Now that the Southern Command Tidworth Tattoo is a thing of the past, we can once more settle down to a placid existence (!) The local sheiks were out on the war path during the whole period of the Tattoo, and many a tale of easy conquests do we hear—yea, even two in one venture—but "us fellows can't stop she from running arter us," can us, Shirley?

Half the unit are away on August break, and the toilers left behind will soon have their turn now ; then September exercises ; then Brigadier's inspection ; then Christmas ; then Easyer (drat this typewriter!) ; then Whitsun ; then India—and so on, and so on.

We paid a visit to D Troop on July 25th. Cricket was the idea, but when we arrived there we were all sorry we had left our bathing costumes behind, as water polo would have been ideal. Still, it's only prolonging the agony, Don.

Soldier On.—L/Sergt Good W. to complete his pontoon. He said he wanted to go abroad again, and as he only had six months to do, he thought he mightn't stand a chance—I think that's right.

Sigmn Richardson F. has also been and gone and done it, and he is going to Sarafand to celebrate it.

Agony.—The Army nomenclature wins, but your choice of a paragraph heading is surely wrong. Agony would be more appropriate to steel than to fibre.

To all members and past members of that noble order, "The Key of the Khyber," salaams. VON.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—We have very little to record this month, as matters have quietened down considerably after such exciting events as Command and Army athletic finals, the re-union of old comrades, etc. The August break of ten days has also caused a lull in the storm. The first party proceeded on leave on August 10th, and the second party goes on the 20th.

Until recently, we were under the impression that September was to be a comparatively quiet month, but we now hear persistent rumours of extensive mechanised exercises, demonstrations, and what not. So it seems that we will have our customary hectic September. It is to be hoped that the weather will be kind.

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

We heartily endorse the several opinions on the Aldershot O.C.A. re-union published in the last issue of THE WIRE, and hope that this was but the fore-runner of many and bigger and even more successful "annuals."

Three of the Artillery Signal Sections are still away, and the Infantry Sections have been putting in some work of late. Otherwise, we have been mainly occupied in furnishing detachments for T.A. camps. Our commitments for drafts are steadily increasing, and we hope Records will soon call a halt.

The performance of the Corps despatch riders in the Tidworth Tattoo was once again a great success, and those who functioned are to be congratulated. It was gratifying to hear the glowing accounts of their performance given by civilians and personnel of other arms of the Service.

The Command signal exercise took place on August 6th and 7th, and the Command R.A. exercise on 8th—10th. The unit put in some good and strenuous work, which drew expressions of warm appreciation from the G.O.C. and C.R.A. Much useful experience was gained, and the "new blood" acquitted themselves well.

We heartily congratulate the undermentioned on the results shown:—Army athletic championships: Corpl Broadley, third in three miles. L/Corpl Pells, second in 100 yards. Signalman Buckman tied for first place in the pole jump. Inter-Services: L/Corpl Pells was in the team which broke the record for the 440 yards relay.

Birth.—Congratulations to F/S/Sergt and Mrs. Garnett on the birth of a son (Charles Peter) at Tidworth on July 31st.

Marriage.—Sigmn Wilson to Elsie Wilks, at Bedford, on Oct. 11th, 1930.

Arrivals.—Sigmn Northway from Depot Battalion, July 25th. L/Sergt Newmarch and Corpl Fletcher from a long course with Training Battalion, July 14th. Signalmen Telfer and Walsh from Training Battalion, July 19th, also Signalmen Adamson, Pask and Halliday on the 25th, and Signalmen Cocks and McGarrity on August 12th.

Departures.—Sigmn Milner to E Troop, Tidworth. Sigmn Thompson to 4th Divl Signals, August 12th. Sigmn Carden for attachment to R.A.P.C., July 21st. Corpl Romain, discharged August 4th. To Army Reserve—Sigmn Carter F. G. on July 26th, Driver Cross on July 30th, Sigmn Manton on August 3rd, L/Cpls Gutherie and Pratt on August 5th, Sigmn Greener on August 7th, and Sigmn Cowan on August 12th.

Extensions and Re-Engagements.—L/Corpl Rowe to "eight and four." Sigmn Calleley to complete twenty-one years, July 22nd. Corpl Broadley and Sigmn Longhurst to complete twelve years.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

No. 1 Company.

Swimming.—We heartily congratulate our swimming team on tieing with the Royal Fusiliers for first place in the Garrison swimming championship.

Arrivals.—Capt. W. F. Sugrue, Signalmen Tweedley, Smart, Bell (ex-boy), and Driver Smith S.

Concentration.—All our despatch riders, and five drivers complete with horses, departed for Aldershot on August 9th, for the concentration of 1st Division.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Changes in the Company during the last month have been too numerous to mention. However, we trust that everyone is now settled and enjoying the beautiful weather.

The Company (F Section) at Colchester is now sadly depleted owing to 1st Div. concentration and our "advisers" to the T.A. I hope they will all return to the fold with good chits and smiling faces, ready for twenty-eight days furlough.

Quite a number of the Company have been provisionally warned for overseas, so for a change we will be worrying the stationmaster at Colchester North instead of at St. Botolphs.

Congratulations.—The heartiest of congratulations are proffered to the unit swimming team on their great achievement in tieing with the Royal Fusiliers for the Garrison swimming championship. This was indeed a great performance, in view of our very depleted strength compared with that of the Royal Fusiliers. It is surprising what some of our old hands can really do when called upon.

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Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold Sigmn Blake and Drivers Thornhill and Smith from the S.T.C., but regret their stay will not be a long one, as they have been provisionally warned for overseas.

Discharges.—L/Corpl Wells to civvy street; and may you never want, Bomber. Driver Hayden to A.V.T.C. Hounslow.

Departures.—Lieut H. N. Crawford to Weedon riding establishment. Good luck, sir, and may you never fall. Driver McMurray to 4th Artillery Signal Section, Newcastle. Good luck, Mac, and may you soon settle down in your native clime.

Casualties.—It is regretted that our scribe L/Corporal Scrase was admitted to hospital on July 25th with appendicitis, but we are glad to hear he is doing well after a successful operation, and hope that he will soon be enjoying a spell of convalescence.

No. 2 Company: G Section.

Attached 3rd Field Brigade R.A., Woolwich.

Arrival.—2/Lieut A. B. McVittie took over the command of the Section from 2/Lieut E. J. C. Harrison on July 27th.

Brigade Sports.—The Brigade held their sports on July 29th and 30th. The Section entered for various events, and L/Corpl Baker did quite a good round in the O.R. jumping on "Kruschen," but the latter was not on his best form.

Moves.—All our draught horses, accompanied by Drivers Hall, Heydon, Brooks and Pashley, left for Aldershot on July 9th to assist in 1st Divisional concentration.

The Section starts for Dover by road on September 1st, with the Field Brigade. We are all hoping for three weeks of decent weather.

No. 3 Company: J Section.

General.—The Section, under the command of 2/Lieut R. B. Gray, joined its Brigade at Shorncliffe on July 1st. We spent the first ten days under canvas on Sir John Moore Plain, and strange to say, the weather was wonderfully fine during the whole of that period. We moved into the R.E. barracks on the 11th, and since then the weather has been by no means good.

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It appears as though the weather clerk has a kindly feeling for J Section!

We were quickly off the mark as regards Brigade training, and on July 6th we were engaged in a Brigade signal and intelligence exercise. This was repeated on the 13th, and we took part in an ordinary Brigade scheme on the 17th. These schemes served the purpose of welding the Section together. Seventy-five per cent. of the Section are new-comers and visiting the station for the first time, but everyone dropped into his own little sphere almost immediately, and we have every reason to believe that we have given satisfaction to the higher authorities.

Quite a goodly proportion of the Section returned from foreign climes during the past trooping season, and are now unloading in Folkestone all the wealth they gathered during their tour abroad. I predict many shattered hearts when the Section returns to Colchester, but more shattered pockets.

The commanding officer paid us a visit on July 21st, and was quite pleased to find us so comfortably situated.

The efforts of one member of the Section (named after the celebrated character in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" who "just growed") in performing the duties of feed-major is a source of perpetual delight to his comrades. He was quite perturbed when, having boiled his first lot of linseed, he was unable to find sufficient bandages to complete the poultices. After everyone had recovered, he got on the right path. Peshdist Sigs. will find no difficulty in solving this individual's identity.

Heard in the forage barn: "Don't cut too much chaff; it will only get dry."

Casualty.—No. 7583952 Driver Francis W. H. met with an accident on July 5th and was admitted to the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, dangerously ill. We are pleased to say that he is now on the road to recovery, and we hope he will soon be removed from the seriously ill list.

Marriage.—No. 5998833 Corpl Clarke C. W. was married to Miss Elsie Till at Colchester on July 18th. We wish them both the best of luck.

Cricket.—On July 22nd we played E Section and managed to uphold our sporting reputation. Scores:—"E" Section, 42 (Sigmn Scott 19; Driver Briggs, four for 5; Corpl Worth, four for 11); "J" Section, 68 (Driver Briggs 19; Sigmn Scott, four for 20; Sigmn Topping, five for 29).

No. 3 Company: K Section.

General.—During the past few weeks the Section strength has been at its lowest for some time, and consequently we have not had our usual schemes. However, our wireless activities have continued in the form of tests, and results so far have been very encouraging.

Under our present O.C., 2/Lieut P. M. P. Hobson, we have continued to operate our A sets over a range of 15½ miles. Even so, we mean to carry on, and hope to increase our range by at least a couple of miles.

August leave took toll of our strength for a week from August 1st to 8th, but as the prodigals have returned, conditions in general regarding duties have improved considerably.

Concentration.—At present we are busy getting our pack ponies and draught horses ready for the concentration at Aldershot. For a fortnight or so we will lose the services of Signalmen Dew, Roberts, Fitzpatrick and Walbridge, and Driver Steen. We hope that the pack leaders will not have too much marching to do, but feel assured that they will uphold the well-known efficiency of K Section.

Congratulations.—To Driver Shaw R. on getting his 3rd class certificate of education.

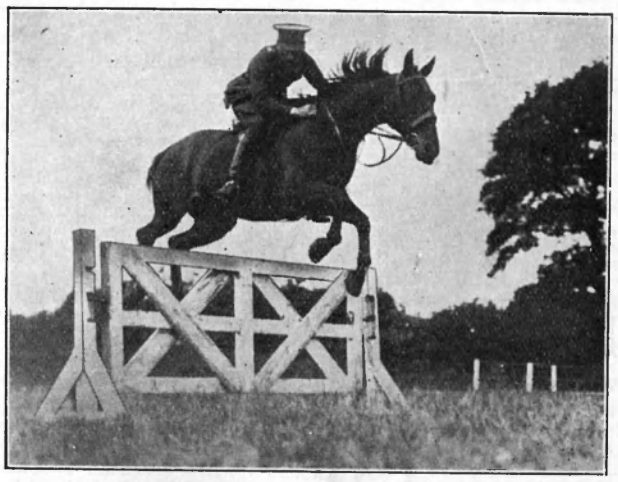
Sport.—Owing to training, leave and the English climate, our cricket fixtures have suffered an eclipse. Corpl Ball and Sigmn Roberts, however, have represented us in unit matches.

With the approach of the soccer season, our sports column will take on a new lease of life, and the Section League will do a great deal towards fostering the esprit-de-corps so essential in a tip-top Section.

Captain L. B. Nicholls on "Selima."

Mounted Sports.—At the cavalry sports held on July 25th at Colchester, Captain L. B. Nicholls won the open handy hunter competition from some thirty entrants on "Selima." After tieing with Captain A. F. Holland, 3rd Carabiniers—both officers having done a clear round—Captain Nicholls won on the extra run.

At the R.A. mounted sports held at Colchester on July 30th, Lieut C. D. Gardiner was second on "Jorrocks," and Captain L. B. Nicholls fourth on "Selima," in the open handy hunter competition.



Lieut. C. D. Gardiner on "Jorrocks."

It is interesting to note that Captain Nicholls named his very fine young jumper "Selima" from the oasis of Selima in the

sand sea, west of Ain Dalla, explored in 1930 by the expedition under Major R. Bagnold and Captain V. C. Holland.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

July 14th.

[These July notes, inadvertently mislaid last month, were received too late for inclusion in the August number.—ED.]

Once again the Band has come and gone, after a very pleasant four days. They arrived at the commencement of our annual sports, held on June 24th and 25th, and commenced their tour by playing a delightful programme during the afternoon; our boxing ring on the sports ground was transformed into a band stand.

In the evening the Corps dance band played at the unit carnival dance, which outbid all others—a fair knock-out: everybody enjoying themselves and "oiling-up" for the mounted sports on the Thursday.

Another delightful programme of music and entertainments was given in the evening on Thursday. An all ranks Band concert was given in the dance hall, where they absolutely surpassed themselves. The dance hall being small, the volume and tone were marvellously kept under, and we all wanted more; and young "Teddy Robo" on the xylophone—oh, boy!

On Friday we were treated to lunch-time music, while in the evening the Band played at the officers' mess.

On Saturday we had more lunch-time music (no need for radio). Then I saw Paddy and Skinner nip off for a dra' of water, sometimes called "chasers" in Scotland.

On Sunday an old comrades church parade was held—our first of this kind, but not the last, as we hope to make it an annual parade. Those who attended were Mr. Wright, Mr. Taylor (ex-wireless officer), Sergt Jimmy Daw (still the same old Jimmy), Corpl Barley (7th Corps H.Q.) and Sapper Harper (5th Cavalry Brigade). The parade, commanded by our O.C., Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., marched to St. Mary's Church, Scarborough, headed by the band. C.Q.M.S. Moore (Pony) swung the hammer—sri', I mean mace—which was specially brought from Catterick.

After church parade, we had our final Band concert on the square. We all thank Mr. R. R. Ricketts and the Band for their pleasant four days of music. Shaky ride to Bulford, eh?

The dances are still proving a success. We had a visit of beach pyjamas. "No need to go to the Riviera," said the nautical one. Our next dance is to be a fancy dress one, so roll on, glad rags.

The first of the season's warnings are:—Sergeant Massey and L/Corpl Mayer for Aden, L/Corpl Baker (Dowey) and Sigmn Dearden for Jamaica, Sigmn Guy G. H. for Malaya, Sigmn Taylor G. for Gibraltar, and Signalmen Ellinson and Cravens for Egypt. So the reliefs are sweating!

A hearty welcome is extended to our new arrivals. Lieutenant Winterbottom to A Section, and Lieut Hill to B Section. From Training Battalion, Signalmen Stowers G., Baines E., Mitchell R., Spencer S., Stewart R., Watts J. E., Wilson J. H., Pescod H. R., Freeman P. and Myatt W. From 3rd Divl Signals, Signalman Edwards W. From Depot Battalion, Driver Shorey A. E. From No. 2 W/T Company, Palestine, Sigmn Lawson (the lost draft).

Farewell was said to Sigmn Forster (posted to Training Battalion), Sigmn Nash (to A.V.T.C., Hounslow), and Sigmn Ruffell R. E., who has obtained employment in Scotland.

J and K Sections are on the road to Catterick for Brigade training, while L Section go on July 27th, followed by a part of No. 1 Company early in August.

Re-engagements and extensions are:—Twenty-one years, L/Sergt Devey H. F., A/U/L/Corpl Boyd W. J., Signalmen Drury S. G., Gill A., Lowings C. H., Potts C. J. and Tebby C. A.; eight years, Driver Hazelgrave B.

Congratulations to L/Sergts Burgess C. A. and Collins D. G. on their appointment.

Agony.—To Knotchi, from Fairi: A quid will do, said he, conveniently. The barber cuts hair no longer.

Obituary.—It is with deepest regret that we have to record the death of Sigmn Curry D. G., in Scarborough Hospital, as the result of an accident whilst on duty. Sigmn Curry will be remembered by many as a good soldier and keen despatch rider, both on the Rhine and at home—a very sad loss to the Corps. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents and relatives. He was buried at Scalby on July 10th, with full military honours.

August 16th.

General.—H.Q. is still at Scarborough, and J, K and A Sections and a D.R. sub-section are at Catterick. L Section is at Bellerby (bint a roorh) for Brigade and Divisional exercises.

Catterick is still the same old damp place, except that buildings are shooting up everywhere. Many old acquaintances have been found and yarns exchanged. Richmond is full of those awaiting quarters—hence the bus service.

The 50th Divisional Signals (T.A.), complete with Paddy Walsh, arrived at the racecourse camp, Scarborough, for their annual camp.

We assisted them on two night "ops" with wireless and Battalion commanders, and the schemes appeared to go off o.k. No doubt, they learned a lot from them. They returned to civvie work on Sunday, August 9th, and Scarborough gave them the pass word "rain"—queen of watering places.

Heartiest congratulations to the following on the occasion of their marriage: C.S.M. Tremain T. W. (Fairy) to Rosa May Sheppherd, at All Saints' Church, Scarborough, on August 11th (Palestine and Egypt, please copy). L/Corpl Boyd W. to Doris Muriel Sheffield Suggit, at Scarborough, also on August 11th (did you keep it a secret, Bill? said many at Catterick).

Congratulations are also extended to R.S.M. McIntosh R. A. on his promotion to that rank.

The dances have "ceased fire" while Brigade training is on. A fine fancy dress affair was held, complete with "Gandhi" (thought he wasn't coming over!) Sigmn Vize, complete with mat, sheet, specs, umbrellagosh and tan, gave us the shock of the evening—"the Emir of Scarb."

"Down with the drink!" said Doughie Baker, on his recovery from Wathgill. He is now on draft leave, seeing the latest revue before proceeding to Jamaica.

More preliminary warnings are through, and about half the Divisional Signals are looking up the big boats and freights, yarns of India and enormous snakes, and our G.P.O. friends back us up.

Farewell has been said to C.Q.M.S. Sheale R., D.C.M. (Yorkie) who has gone on a short vocational course prior to his discharge on pension after twenty-one years service. The Sergeants' Mess held a farewell dinner and smoking concert, in conjunction with entertaining the 50th Divl Signals (T.A.) during their stay here. Au revoir, Yorkie!

Sigmn Porter E. (Tabs) and Driver Perry have been discharged to the Army Reserve, and L/Corpl Hodges has been discharged on medical grounds. Best of luck to all of you!

Sigmn Beavan (twenty-one years) and Sigmn Ford T. P. (eight and four years) have decided that the dole is insufficient. Wise men of the (y)east!

L/Corpl Boyd will have left us for 4th Divisional climes by the time these notes are in print; and in leaving us, he will take with him the best wishes of all, and thanks for his unselfish efforts in building the unit football team who scored successes in local competitions. May he, with the Army cup finalists, appear at Aldershot at the close of the coming soccer season!

Heard over the Radio.—[Sorry, Scarborough! but that joke was "called in and condemned as worn out" years ago.—ED.]

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association?

If not, join now!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in finding civil employment. See how the Association helps its Members in that direction, as shown on page 346. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

July 24th.

Promotions and Appointments.—The local tailor has been very busy, making the necessary alterations to the clothing of the following:—

Corpl Fields R. appointed L/Sergeant 17/4/31 (special roster)
Corpl Southwell, appointed L/Sergt. 5/5/31 (general roster)
L/Corpl Hawkes W. promoted Corporal 15/5/31
Sigmn Howard E. appointed U/L/Corporal 29/6/31

whilst the following become eligible for increased banking accounts:—

L/Sergt Ellis J. promoted Sergeant 30/4/31
L/Sergt Brewer A. promoted Sergeant 5/5/31
L/Sergt Andrews E. promoted Sergeant 15/5/31
L/Sergt Gilmour A. promoted Sergeant 15/5/31
U/L/Corpls Lane, Frost and Sayer to be L/Corpls. 7/4/31
U/L/Corpl Youngs to be L/Corporal 14/4/31

Re-Engagements and Extensions.—Having decided to make soldiering their profession, these B.O.R.s signed the requisite forms and side-slipped the dole for another few years:—

To complete twenty-one years:—Sergt Paskins W., L/Sgts Wigzell W. and Creaton S., Corpls Brunton W. and Litchfield G.
To complete twelve years:—Sigmn Fabian H.
Amendment from "six and six" to "eight and four":—L/Corpl Lane W.

The scribe whose task it is to broadcast the ups and downs of this Centre, having been discharged from hospital, wishes to thank "Barleux" for carrying on in his absence, and tenders apologies to all should these notes fall below the standard of the last two months.

Education.—The lads of the old brigade seem to be making hay while the sun shines, and taking full advantage of the many hours of leisure which are at their disposal. No doubt, many will agree when they glance at the following list of successes in the recent special and 1st class certificate of education exams.:—

SPECIAL—L/Corpl Carter E. A. passed in French and economics ("D") and awarded special certificate.

The undermentioned successfully overcame the difficulties of the various subjects enumerated:—A/U/L/Corpl Evans W., English "C" and maths "B." Sergt Pronger W., English "C." U/L/Corpl Howard E., English "C" and maths "B." L/Corpl Walton G., English "C," maths "B," and physics E. and M. Sergt Marchant E., maths "B."

1ST CLASS—The following need not worry any more:—Sergts Watford R. and Bramwell L., U/L/Corpl Barker E. and Sigmn Blaikie R.

Whilst these are happy to a certain degree:—Sigmn Burgess M., English, maths "A," and map reading. Sigmn McQuire J., maths "A" ("D") and map reading. Signalman Voice, English and map reading.

Inspections.—At the time of writing, we are being inspected by the Signal Officer-in-Chief in India, Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O. Further particulars will be given next month.

Truth.—To those who are at all dubious, it is notified for information that the Indian rope-trick is not a myth but a reality, and can be seen in action every morning between 8 and 9 a.m. in Nos. 8 and 9 Bungalows.

Repatriations.—For the benefit of those anxious weary-eyed individuals whose slogan for the past six months has been "Roll on, Bombay, from the stern of a ship," it is notified that the trooping programme has been received in the orderly room, and the following will probably go home on the *Nevasa* in October: R.Q.M.S. Saunders E., C.Q.M.S. McLean H., Sergts Wish W., Wooldridge A. and Stone G., L/Corpls Carter E., Howard S. and Youngs G.

Sergts Wooldridge and Stone have been selected for a civvy job with the T.F.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

July.

General.—Oriental people and places are noted for their air of peaceful indifference, and a review of the past month indicates that Akor is no exception. Nothing of outstanding interest has occurred to disturb the steady progress of normal routine.

The second operator-signals intensive training class is nearing the end of its course, and a few bold spirits, augmented by others of different trades, are ambitious enough to continue polishing up for the forthcoming Trade Board.

As regards other activities, the following effort of our unit bard will make things far clearer than this essay of mine.

SOLILOQUY.

The British Army won its wars,
As far as I make out,
Upon its powers of forming fours,
Which put its foes to rout.

Thus, each morning, ere the cock
Has scarcely time to crow,
Reveille shows upon the clock,
And on parade we go.

To gentle bumps from Gibbo's drum,
Our martial spirits glow;
And when this stunt is due to stop,
No one seems to know.

The bungalows of our dear Corps
Are viewed each Saturday:
We paint black lines upon the floor,
To pass the time away.

A black line down a bungalow
Oft a hasty step will check,
For if one does not watch oneself,
One breaks one's blessed neck.

It oft has been my firm intention,
When for paint they've used my cup,
To toil upon the grand invention
Of black lines that roll up.

MURRIE STRAIGHT.

Social.—In accordance with age-old tradition, two all ranks dances were organised; but this month they were modified a little, and were finally billed as "troubadour dances." They proved very popular, as the dress relaxation was a successful counter against the heat, although on the second evening rain drove us indoors. This latter, too, afforded us an amusing interlude when we watched the frantic efforts of the band in rescuing their instruments. Another feature was the variety of multi-coloured sashes with which the fellows girdled their waists.

Departures.—L/Sergt J. Fairman and Sigmn A. S. Hawkins have left us for the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore. We wish them the best of luck in their new station.

Promotions and Appointments.—We congratulate L/Corpls H. H. Webb and H. Funnel on being paid, and L/Corpl L. C. Kennedy on joining the clan of the unpaids.

Trade Qualifications.—The undermentioned are congratulated on their respective up-gradings: Sigmn Dangerfield W., inst.-mech. A.ii.; Signalmen Smart J. E., Hiscock J. E., Bunn H. and Baird J., operator-signals B.iii.

Pontoons Only.—The following have plunged once more:—Sergt Nicholson G., L/Sergt Bridge W. and Corpl Young W. W., each to complete twenty-one years.

Monthly Query.—Who is the lineman who suffers from loss of memory whilst on motor-cycle instruction? and has he stopped yet?

Agony.—Will Sigmn Ryan please correspond with Corporal B. Curtis of this unit? AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

July 24th.

I must apologise for the absence of notes from this unit in last month's issue of our Corps Magazine. Unfortunately, there is little or no news for me to impart this month, but the fact that *something* appears in B Corps' column proves that we are still alive and taking nourishment—if only in liquid form.

Since my last meagre efforts appeared, Pindi society has been considerably startled by the appearance of some strange ghostlike figures strolling along to the local talkie house. The introduction of our new white patrol walking-out dress certainly caused quite a stir besides, as is only natural where Signals are concerned, making quite a number of nymphlike maidens' hearts to miss a beat. In addition, we heard a few caustic remarks whispered among the remaining troops in the station, while the rendering of many sea chanties gave us much amusement. However, at the time of writing we have managed to live down our shyness.

During the month of June the King's Birthday parade was held on the Brigade parade ground. As usual, we did our stuff in our own inimitable style. "Marching" down the Mall to the scene of activity in our six-wheeled mechanical transport proved far more enjoyable than foot-slogging and, of course, much less fatiguing. I wonder what some ex-members of our happy little band think of this idea—H.J.G. in particular: he was such a brilliant hiker.

One very important item of interest has slipped my memory for some months, so here goes now. It is with great pleasure that I have to inform the world that the distinction of being the left hand man of the unit (before sizing) has been appropriated by one Sigmn Dyke, who defeated the former champion by a full quarter of an inch amidst loud cheers and bacca spits from the negro onlookers. Nowadays, whenever Bobbie is in the vicinity of our worthy friend Dyke, he almost has to indent for a larger tunic. Stick it, my son, and you'll soon grow up big like Uncle Jimmy.

Arrivals.—We extend the glad mitt to L/Corpl Cook and Signalmen Fish, Ford and Mills from S.T.C., Jubbulpore, and to Sigmn Bramley from Peshawar (for posting to the Wireless Experimental Section). We trust they find everything in the garden to their liking.

Departures.—Nil.

Congratulations.—The usual cheering, hand-clapping, salaaming, etc., are showered upon the following upon their recent achievements:—

To Major (Q.M.) A. Newton on his appointment to be an Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.
To L/Sergeants Beagley, Winteringham and Miles, promoted Sergeant.
To L/Corporals Colwell and Howard, promoted Corporals.
To U/L/Corporals Russell, Ross, Winton and Pawsey on receiving the much-sought "ackers."
To all successful candidates of the Upper Topa courses.
To Bobbie on moving up "one."

In addition, the Pindi Bulfordites extend their hearty congratulations to Lieut H. V. Ewbank on his recent marriage to Miss Elizabeth Mary Catherine Conway, at St. Andrew's Church, Preston, Dorset.

We Want to Know.—How long did it take a certain gentleman to find his way out of the tennis court after inadvertently walking through the opening in the dark? Really, you shouldn't play pokey-dye.

Could the two pigeons that were red-raddled solve the problem of B Corps' rapidly diminishing flock?

Strange, but True.—A certain C.Q.M.S. passed a "lost" statement for a P.M.1 H.F. valve to our unit accountant for pricing. Unfortunately, by mistake it reached the M.T. Depot, Chaklala, who replied: "The price for valves P.M.1 H.F. cannot be quoted in the absence of the B.A. number (i.e. the make of the vehicle)"! [Correspondent's Note.—The rumour that it took a dozen chota pegs before our worthy C.Q.M.S. recovered is entirely false—it was *two* dozen!]

Agony.—Would Sigmn Missen, late of 5th Div., Scarborough, kindly communicate with Sigmn Whitelaw of this unit? All is forgiven. Love. BEKORE.

Sergeants' Mess.

We have something real to write about this month. The petty officers (w.o.s and sergeants) invited the leading seamen (us) to a social evening, to be preceded by a grand hockey match.

The hockey match showed some really good talent, our versatile Shoey giving a remarkably good display as centre-forward. The final score was three all. Of course, we could have won if we had not been so polite. Some brilliant scoring by L/Corporal Reed from C.S.M. Haigh's foot was a notable feature of the game.

In the evening, the rafters re-echoed our guffaws of hearty laughter, etc. We were very great friends by 11 p.m.

We do not believe that a mis-spent youth is a sign of excellence at billiards, but C.S.M. Day certainly proved a li'l better than our "champ" L/Corpl Jarvis.

The clashing of the giants at snooker resulted in the boots of our "hopes" being seen decidedly off.

Darts proved our downfall, to some extent, and the provost sergeant shows a nifty domino.

The Great White Chief was led astray on the shove ha'penny board, and B Corps Signals chief engineer gave a brilliant display at the ancient game of pokie die. Modesty forbids our mentioning the names of those noble heroes who crouched on the mess floor in a desperate gamble, with the Red Peril at stake against the Donkey Engine.

So the evening passed very pleasantly, and we all came away very happy and ——(?) We hope that we can arrange a return "do" in our own spacious quarters, but it will need some "doing" if we are going to equal the show put up by the w.o.s and sergeants.

General.—There is nothing of note to report under this heading. Except one or two lucky ones who have gone to the hills for leave, the usual array of smiling faces has not altered. Some of us are expecting great things from the hitherto unpublished boat list.

Society Gossip.—It is noticed that the most predominant styles in pyjamas are those having full Oxford "troos" and a spacious jacket. A colour scheme of cream, with pale blue cuffs, collar and pockets, can be varied by having royal blue set off with orange cuffs, etc. Quite a number of the best people have followed the lead of our fashion expert, and got in these styles that inevitable "something different."

Our financial expert (Old Moore) predicts a revival of shares in I.D.B.

One of our B.Y.P. (as elucidated in the past) has proceeded to the hills, displaying his recent purchases in that line. *Times*, please stand by for the thrilling announcement. But, joking aside, we wish them both the best of luck. Be good, Geordie boy.

"OSSWARD."

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 1 Company.

July 13th.

General.—As mechanisation is very slow here, the Company are still doing plenty of hiking. After capturing Ckauki twice last week, and the incinerator three times the previous week, we are looking forward to that cushy month.

Training.—The n.c.o.s jockey club is still going strong. They can be seen at sevenish roz, roz, waxing their seats and adjusting the stirrup leathers. Of course, we have another ride consisting of the new arrivals; these men are the cause of the shortage in white Blanco in the canteen.

Departures.—Our C.S.M. and a construction party to Chaman, to erect another massive cob-web on the Frontier. More dreams about the bar to the Frontier gong, which is still m the " next-time tray." Corpl Harries and J. H. W. Plunkett Wilbur to No. 2 Company.

Promotions.—We congratulate Sergt Goble and L/Sergeant McWilliams on their recent promotion.

Arrivals.—From No. 2 Company, Sergt Keegan and Signalman Nugent.

Horse Show.—Our O.C. (Mr. Morrison) being the trainer for this forthcoming event, considerable interest is being taken in the Company. All the blood has been sorted out in the stables and is now undergoing training for various events. The head lad, Sergt Wilmot, is that interested that he puts in sixteen hours a day in the chippy's shop, making jumps ; some of these are that high, one has to wear a parachute before taking off.

Whispers.—Officer: " Are you an operator signals?" Signalman: " No, sir ; a V/T terminal."

Superintendent explaining positions on terminal board to signal master. Officer: " What locals have you on the board ? " Supt.: " C.R.A., G, general and A.G.G." We will soon be giving the Viceroy a local phone!

Sport.—At present, the majority of the Company are preparing for the Command inter-Company meeting, which takes place next month ; consequently, we are not taking part in many games, as we are reserving our energy for that barah piala.

The tabloid sports are in full swing. Up to the present, talent is rather scarce, but we are endeavouring to sort out the likely 'erbs later.

Several of the lads earthed last week when running the 100 yards ; in fact, two of them, Chotah and Joey, tried to burrow.

Birth.—To Sergt and Mrs. A. Peden, a son (Alexander Robert). Young Dixie—another future international. ONECO.

Toots by Timex. No. 6: The Roster.

(Dedicated to all who are or have been " sweating.")

For the sum of twelve annas a book you can buy;
It shows you what chance, in the sweet by-and-by,
You have of attaining your next higher rank—
This book's been the subject of many a prank.

There is one on my table—it's lain there for weeks ;
Its owner, each morning, at page three-four peeks ;
For months he's been " sweating," and now he's quite near
To treating the lads with the Sergeants' Mess beer.

Now, this roster has always been kept up to date—
Each entry accompanied by a debate.
" That brings me one nearer " (you'll hear) " to the top."
Perhaps when he gets there, these entries will stop!

At L Company orders, each time they arrive,
Our friend of the roster will make a wild dive ;
More entries ; more debates ; he's still three away—
" It won't be long, now, for my third," he will say.

It's exactly the same when the post brings THE WIRE;
Amending the roster is his one desire—
He grabs the first Corps " Mag." which catches his eye,
And sees that his third tape is still drawing nigh.

But, in spite of his care in amending this book,
If at unit orders he'd not chanced to look,
He would not have known his promotion was " in "—
And that, you'll agree, would have caused a loud din.

No. 2 Company.

General.—We are now in the middle of the hot season and tennis, cricket and fly-swatting are our chief forms of amusement in our spare time. Really good fly-swatters are in great demand everywhere, for Baluchistan flies have extremely hot feet and have been known to drive people to desperate acts. I know one fellow who has given up swatting flies because they won't scream when he hits them. He says that he gets no satisfaction in killing them when they die silently, but if they would only give a hollow groan as they passed away, he would make their extermination his life's work.

Great preparations are being made for Signals Week, which commences on August 17th. Committees have been formed and are already working out their programmes. It is hoped to make it a great success.

At Random.—A new form of recreation has taken the unit by storm. It is generally known as " Uncling," and apparently all you have to do to start the game is to attend a dance or a picnic and choose your victim (female). Thereafter, if she shows visible signs of agitation on your approach and heaves great sighs at you across an intervening space of ten yards or more, you at once become a member of the Honourable Order of Uncling.

Having become a qualified member of the Order, you find yourself a regular attendant at picnics, dances, theatres and clandestine meetings over the garden wall, fence or gate, as the case may be. If your victim has a car, you are denied the pleasure of paying for the tonga rides ; but not wishing to hurt your feelings, she may allow you to make it up in tins of petrol.

Not being a member of the Order, I do not know the inner workings in their entirety, but I have seen photos of the members en masse, and it is obvious that looks do not count ; they are no deterrent to a person who wishes to qualify—in fact, knock-knees, wall eyes and protruding teeth apparently make one's admittance to the Order an easy matter. Of course, as I say, I am not certain of that. I am only judging by the photographs I have seen. Anyway, there are rumours to the effect that at least one of these uncles is going to be awfully tied up in the comparatively new future.

Now, who would have thought of finding our farrier corporal at the pictures, sober, properly dressed, and eating ice-cream? Well, he was! We wonder, has Harvey Thorley anything to do with this?

A couple of n.c.o.s from "Q" Branch were entertaining one another at the breakfast table the other morning. One told a tale of his uncle who owned a " fleet of picture houses," and the other was so amused that he poured a cup of chah in his burgo and took a swig at the milk.

Appointment.—We congratulate L/Sergt Carnell on attaining that rank.

Agony.—Sigmn Bisby, of Meerut: What about a line before you trickle off home, Johnny?

The Pfaffisky Biscuit.—The biscuit is awarded to Signalman Rogers, our cook orderly, for stating that fresh air alone was keeping the troops alive up here. We guessed it was something of the kind, and we would all like Sigmn Rogers to know that never for a moment was his cooking suspected. PFAFFISKY.

Corporals' Room.

Promotions.—Congratulations to Corpls Carnell and McWilliams on their recent promotion.

Training.—At present our library is *non compos mentis*, but one can nearly always get a screw at " Sig. Training—All Arms " or " Standing Order No. 17." They are very popular in the mess now-a-days, as we are having weekly tests on those books. We are looking forward for the 18th of this month, when the last test takes place.

Entertainments.—We must congratulate the last committee on their stout effort last month ; they certainly livened up the mess.

The first event of note was a tennis at-home with the R.A.F., followed by a dance. We trounced them at tennis, and celebrated our win with a wonderful soak during the dance.

We then had a tennis match with the Medicals, and again came away with the Corps colours on top.

We have played two games of cricket against the Devons' Mess, but we did not get our own way at this sport. The first game we lost by seventeen runs after an exciting finish. The second game proved more successful, as we turned out our Duleeps and Tates and managed to trounce them. Barah salaams to Long Tom, who was deadly with his bowling, finishing with seven wickets for 30 runs ; also to Bud Hammond, who gave a bright display of batting. A tea was provided by the contractor, supervised by Tashy—but, oh, those sandwiches!

Relative Notes.—Uncles and rabbits doing very well.

Stocks and Shares.—To the gang in The Shot: " Bath-room doors closed firm."

Gardening.—The old members of the Mess will be pleased to know that the sun-flowers and creepers still appear regularly. Isn't it wonderful, what they thrive on?

Agonies.—To CC, Tubby, Hipper, Andy and Myah: Any of these persons subject to military law, who commit any of the following offences, that is to say cablegrams, phonograms, telegrams, lettergrams or any other grams, should after this long silence have a session—as no doubt the remainder of the gang holding them back will.

To Kipper: What about those " Sig. Tng.—All Arms " you bugged me for?

To Tubby: Bill needs no modern, paranah or Victorian high stepper, as he is now doomed.

Weekly Tit-Bits.—'Enry, late of Belfast fame, won the Command long jump here in '22, clearing 21 ft. 9 in. We are under the impression that the judges measured the run as well as the jump!

Several n.c.o.s are training as pigeoneers in the Mess nowadays, especially when the Ziarat run comes off. The way things are planning out, another Uncle will be needed in '32. Step up, Kipper, for another five. I can give you all particulars.

ODE TO OUR SMILER.

Phonetic, pathetic Pearsall,
Pasty, patched, part-worn,
Pending pension peachy.

We Would Like to Know.—Who is the midget golf champ?
Where Daisy got the " handing over cert."?
When we are going to have three inches of beer in the Mess?

ii. Beer message ends. GERRY.

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Upper Topa.

July 17th.

[These notes are also in respect of B.O.R.s of other Signal units in the Northern Command who are stationed at Upper Topa.]

Mayfair Moods.—I've a feeling of pique (taken from the French: *piquer*—to prick, irritate; ill-feeling, resentment). Most of you know the sensation when your best friend says " I'll pay for the suppers, old man," and you snarl at him " No! —— you, it's my turn," or words to that effect.

Another way of giving full rein to the mood is to do a guard in place of your worst enemy, or do the wife's weekly washing, or play tennis in full marching order.

Naturally enough, there's generally a reason for these fits of cussedness, and mine is solely concerned with the very benign old johnny who controls the output of water in this part of the world. Last month I committed the indiscretion of going into rhapsodies on the beauties of nature and weather as applied to Topa. I take it all back. Rain has its advantages. I'll go farther and admit of its necessity—sometimes!—but there's a time and place for everything.

In Blighty, now, it generally starts in a half apologetic manner, as much as to say, " Do hurry, honey, I detest having to wet your beautiful curves," but here—gur-r-r-r-r! it doesn't give one a dog's chance. Three times I've set out for Murree to indulge in a little relaxation, and I've been striding along in the beautiful sunlight, carolling blithely to myself, plucking fragrant flowers from the hedgerows and weaving touching verses about their beauty, when all at once the clouds have descended about my ears (so to speak) in the form of sheets of H_2O, with the inevitable result. Three times I have wrung out what's left of my " blues " prior to paying four annas to have them re-pressed, and the verse I've woven about that part of the business is decidedly strong and pointed.

If you don't wish to suffer from pique, just heed the warning; but should you get caught in the rain, just let me know—I'm longing for a good laugh.

General.—All good things in this unhappy world come to an end at some time or other—even courses; though whether a course is a good thing or not depends on individual results. If the quest for the elusive tanner has been successful, it was a pretty fruity course; if not, it was the opposite. That, I believe, is the generally expressed opinion of courses, though in the present case definite ideas are not forthcoming. Opinions are very carefully expressed until Part II. Orders appear, and everyone adopts a very moderate attitude, so that it will suit either result—passed or failed—when the confirmation arrives.

For the last fortnight " Don't get a dither on " has been the order of the day, accompanied by sharpening of pencils, polishing of sun glasses, furtive glances at manuals, mysterious comings and goings between lecture rooms and bungalows, and other manifestations that something was in the wind.

Now that the Trade Boards are over, foreheads have receded, eyes have lost their haunted look, pencils are no longer sharpened, and note books are carefully stowed away for future reference. Kits have been packed up, farewells exchanged, and the majority of hopefuls have departed to their units on the plains, remarking that nothing would persuade them to remain in Topa for the rest of the season—sheer jealousy, of course!

Social.—I'm not particularly brilliant at writing about social functions, but the dances up here have been so successful that some effort on my part is called for.

The only trouble about the dances is that the dining hall is not big enough to hold the vast crowds who attend; but even so, as an evening's entertainment they leave nothing to be desired—particularly the last one.

This took the form of a cabaret dance, and the Electrons performed a few of their hits. Sergt Nobby Hall, a. a harem lady, in his song " I tried for a week to speak to the sheik " nearly brought the house down, especially when he undulated (that's the only word I can find to suit the movement) down the middle of the floor in the approved harem style, assisted by Sergt Dipple. The other turns were " Our Borstal Bags," by Sergts Dipple and Hunt; " Tara's Halls," by Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Perry and Sergts Hall and Murphy; and banjo and mandolin solos by Sigmn Warren.

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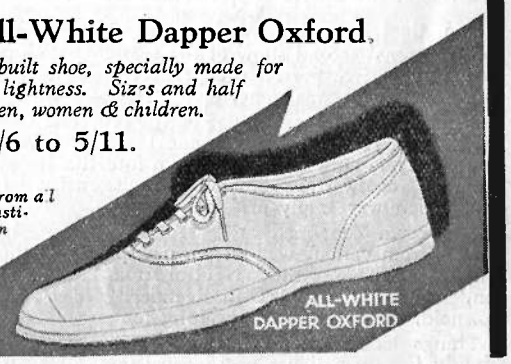

" Bones " and his merry men (some of them were *very* merry, and one at least was almost prostrate with mirth) played frenzied tunes, the sheiks fluttered gaily from lady to lady, and the " wallflowers " sought the seclusion of the lemonade paradise to muster up their courage for an effort, wondering why it was, when they attempted to shake a leg, their feet seemed to grow to the size of boats.

Great credit is due to the committee who organise these shows. I hope we have plenty of them in the near future—they make me think of my long-past youth.

Boxing.—A very successful open air boxing tournament was organised by Capt H. A. Spence, M.C., and held at Upper Topa on July 10th, under the patronage of Brigadier D. J. C. K. Bernard, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Brigadier, General Staff, Northern Command, India).

The tournament was well attended in spite of the unreliable weather, and those present were rewarded with some good bouts. The programme consisted of ten special contests between men of the Royal Signals and well-known boxers from other units in the Murree hills.

At the conclusion of the tournament, the trophies were presented by Brigadier Bernard. A detailed account of the contests is given in the Sports Supplement.

The Electrons: Second Charge.—Before the production of the Electrons' second show of the season, I decided to interview that very elusive person the producer, and try to obtain some hints on how it was done, etc.

Suspecting that I would not be the only one bent on an interview, I arrived at the handsome block of offices a the early hour of 23.59 and, on being shown into the sumptuous waiting-room by a stalwart be-ribboned commissionaire, I found that my supposition was amply justified.

The room contained at least half-a-dozen eager young reporters from various well-known newspapers of the Murree hills. There was Galvo of the " Neutral Atom," Volt of the " Positive Ion," Anode of the " Grid Rectifier," Wire of the " Weekly Solenoid," and others, all waiting for an interview.

Things looked pretty feeble for me, but I didn't hesitate. Hastily I drew a figure of Mercury (not forgetting the " Certa Cito ") on my card, and bribed the office boy with twenty Scissors coupons to take it in. You could have *felt* the envious looks that struck me when I was immediately admitted.

Quietly I entered the door marked " Private." Mr. Salmon was engaged in answering three telephones at once, but even so he courteously waved me to a deep armchair and indicated the whiskey, soda and cigars on a small table near by.

When he had finished turning down offers for protracted tours, he swung around on his form and said, " Sorry, old chap! but I can only spare you 2.318 minutes, so to save time I'll do all the talking.

" You realise, of course, that in producing a show of this magnitude, three things are essential—the ladies must have ' it ' ; the whole company must have talent ; and everyone must work together in harmony. As you have no doubt observed, I am fortunate in having a company possessing all these desirable qualities, and it is really a pleasure to direct them.

" Everything runs perfectly—even the Douglas engine. I am sorry I cannot disclose any details of the forthcoming show, but believe me, kid, it's a ' wow.' Here's a complimentary ticket for the stalls ; you can pay for it at the pay table next Friday. Remember me to the girl friend. Good morning."

I shimmered out, murmuring my thanks. Promptly the next morning I took my place in the stalls. The vast hall was packed with the elite of Topa, and everyone was in a fever of well-bred anticipation.

Our hopes were fully realised—the show was just great, as was testified by the encores and general applause. I would like to praise the artistes individually, but it would take up too much space and would probably embarrass them—and, besides, all I could write of one would equally apply to the others. All gave of their best, and that best passed one of the most enjoyable evenings that I and many others have spent. Let's hope we we hear them again in the near future, and meanwhile good luck to them all.

RED OMAR.

Plains Detachment, Rawalpindi.

General.—Nothing of importance has happened during the past month, and I find it rather hard to find anything to write about.

The two classes undergoing riding instruction passed out successfully on June 4th. About thirty B.O.R.s have departed for Topa, their places being taken by thirty others from there.

Lieut. W. A. K. Stodart has also departed for Topa, and Lieut J. N. Barker has rejoined us from leave.

We Want to Know.—If it is true that the Farrier is going to publish a book on his experiences on a journey from Rawalpindi to Upper Topa?

How the orderly corporal counted twenty-two rifles in a rack made to hold only twenty?

Our Short Story.—An n.c.o. and his wife went for a walk through Topi Park and saw some buttercups in bloom. On returning to their quarters they directed the bearer to the spot, with the instructions " Makkhan piyla lao." [In our blissful ignorance we are passing this for publication, but not without a certain amount of misgiving: it looks very suspicious.—Editor.]

Sports.—See Sports Supplement.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

July 23rd.

Alas! I've been stung. Our usual correspondent has quietly faded away on leave (there will be much rejoicing in Murree, where he is anxiously awaited) and as this unit is almost 100 per cent. WIRE supporting, we must have our little say—so here goes.

General.—This week saw the return of our wandering boys from the hills, complete with nice fresh complexions and those extra " tanners." Well done! We are glad to welcome them back to the fold—so is the S.M.

Mention must be made of certain people in this unit who have a " sweat " on this coming trooper. Conversation nowadays usually ends with those mystic words, " Roll on, Oct." A certain n.c.o. (no name, Ritchie) reputed to be an expert in embarkation details, has organised a drill course. I cannot quite grasp the idea myself, but the words of command appear to be " Pick up your parrots and monkeys " and " Face the boat."

Mere Nonsense.—

Now, the Goz-wuz of the East is a very noble beast,
And as a pet is faithful unto death ;
Though much plagued by boils and bunions,
It will live on pickled onions,
And its bite is not so deadly as its breath.

Arrivals.—C.S.M. Hebberd from Ranikhet. His stay is bound to be a happy one ; we are such nice boys. Sigmn Adamson from Jubbulpore (he is a youth with a great future—five years in a Cavalry Troop).

A son to Sergeant and Mrs. Richardson. Well done! What weight, Richie—paper or catch?

Departure.—L/Corpl Broom to Burma. Our best wishes.

Agonies.—To H.E.H.: The Troop is still trooping, and the postman does his best.

To Heath: Wot abart it?

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

The first individual training party have at last returned to the fold, and one half were promptly despatched to Alexandria to rest their weary grey matter (if any). We hope, for at least one member's benefit, that this latest move does not call for the removal of any facial fungi. Results of the Trade Board are not yet to hand, but rumour speaks well of their efforts.

The second training party proceeded to Abbassia to make the acquaintance of the holy carpet. We wish them the best of luck.

Promotion.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Emsley C. W. on his promotion to that rank. It was a long time coming, Jock, but patience is a virtue.

Swimming.—Aquatic exercise has lately been very popular among our ranks, and we were represented at the recent 12th

Royal Lancers swimming sports. Not having many to choose from, nothing worthy of note was achieved.

Agony.—We are wondering if a certain n.c.o. is waiting for the conclusion of next Christmas festivities before re-fitting with a new set of molars.

Shanghai Signal Section.

July 17th.

General.—Shanghai has experienced very little real summer weather this year up to the present. It has rained almost continuously for the last three weeks, and there is not much indication of a change yet awhile. Still, "it's an ill wind," as the saying goes ; the climate naturally is much cooler during the rainy period, with the result that one feels more energetic during this time.

The general topic in camp is of course troopships, and the advent of the forthcoming season will see a tremendous change in this Section. Perhaps the time is ripe to quote the favourite song of the soldier in Shanghai (the old soldier, I mean). Many old Shanghailanders will no doubt shed a few tears on having their memory jogged (I can almost hear them humming the tune as they read these lines).

I can picture a troopship just leaving Shanghai,
Bound for old Blighty's shore,
With thousands and thousands of time-expired men
Bound for the land they adore.
There are thousands and thousands remaining behind,
Also, have finished their time ;
But they have a buckshee twelve months to do—
That's what I call hard lines.

Chorus

Yangtszepoo, Yangtszepoo,
What will you do when I say "Toodle-oo?"
Who set the fashion in Soochow Creek?
What will become of the Bund and the Broadway?
Yangtszepoo, Yangtszepoo,
What will you do when I say "Toodle-oo?"
I know I can do without Shanghai quite well—
But can Shanghai do without me?

Departure.—Sigmn Mackenzie K. left us on July 15th to take up employment with the Shanghai Fire Brigade. We all wish you the best of luck, Mac, in your new venture, and—not to be conventional—hope that business will *not* prosper.

We Would Like to Know—What Herr Cavill and Herr Dicks think of the Hoover proposal? Do they imagine that if expenditure is cut, hair should follow the lead?

Whether our Bright Ideas King thinks that this proposal also applies to chits of a foreign nature, i.e. Viennese?

Is it true that our worthy Revel is to wait for the last boat, to enable him to hand over? (Note—For further information on the subject, ask Buck.)

Shanghai.—A few notes on Shanghai that may be of some use to those kind fellows who are destined to relieve us.

Life in Shanghai, as in any other place, is what you make it. If you come out here with the idea of having a jolly fine time, Shanghai will provide it ; but you cannot eat your cake and have it too—meaning, you must pay for amusement in Shanghai, and as Shanghai is what it is, once you start on the "high life," it is pretty hard to make a break. However, for a soldier who has very few cares in the world, Shanghai, from a soldier's point of view, takes some whacking.

SPORT.—There is a fine race-course here, run by the Shanghai Race Club, on which every form of sport is indulged in. Cricket, soccer, rugby, hockey, tennis, polo, bowls, athletic meetings, and numerous other forms of sport are accommodated on these excellent playing fields. There is no doubt that Shanghai, without its race-course, would be a very sordid affair indeed.

Then, at this time of the year, there is plenty of swimming and water polo ; and without giving away tips, swimming baths are a boon and a blessing in Shanghai during the hot summer months.

Shanghai even has her dog racing and hai alai—the latter sport being, I believe, very little known to those at home.

RECREATION AND AMUSEMENTS.—There are two main parks in Shanghai, to wit, Jessfield and Hongkew, where one can spend many pleasant hours. The former sports a zoo—not a patch, of course, on the London zoo, but for all that, something to remind one that Shanghai is one of the big cities of the world.

Then, for the evenings, the British Women's Association provides several centres where troops may dance and play billiards, etc., the while they can procure refreshments at very moderate prices.

With regard to cinemas, there are plenty of these in Shanghai ; in fact, one could see a different programme every night for a week, and then some. The films shown are, on the whole, quite up to the highest standard, and many pictures of note are screened in Shanghai before they are circulated in the large Western cities of the world. The apparatus employed in the cinemas is of the best, while seating accommodation and comfort are not behind the times.

The inevitable Union Jack Club, fostered by the Race Club authorities, is a fine institution, providing everything imaginable for the welfare and comfort of the British Services. This Club, situate in a most unpretentious quarter off the Bubbling Well Road, is very largely patronised, and the troops have much to thank the Race Club authorities for in maintaining a club which breaks the monotony of a camp canteen.

We now come to that form of entertainment which makes such a drag on one's pockets: cabarets, cafés, etc.

There are dozens of cabarets in Shanghai, which accounts for the greater part of entertainment being essentially night life. The dancing girls in these places are of divers nationalities, chiefly Russian. The average cost of dancing is one dollar for four dance tickets, and when one realises that each dance is only of roughly two or three minutes duration, one can make a rough estimate of the expense incurred by indulging in several hours of dancing in a cabaret. Still, the world *will* dance, and after a few refreshments, the cost is of small moment until the source of supply runs out. [Hoping the diversion will be excused, I am sure that the owners of these establishments would gaze on me with darkened brows, could they but see this estimation of their gilded dance halls.]

Of cafés there are quite a number, but these are not so popular with the troops, as the consumption of food in places other than canteens and clubs is not encouraged by the military authorities.

CONVEYANCES.—Buses and trams run on regular routes throughout the city, and at times when these modes of transport are not available or desirable, taxis and rickshas are the order of things.

Garages are sufficiently numerous in Shanghai to make them convenient at all times, and charges are fairly moderate, one dollar being the usual fare paid to any quarter of the Settlement which is within bounds to British troops. The cars, which are of many makes and sizes, are kept in very good condition, and are in fact better in every respect than the usual London taxi.

Rickshas are as plentiful as mosquitoes—which is saying a lot—and one cannot walk half a dozen yards in any direction without being addressed something in the manner of "Wanchee ricksha, Johnny?" The "boys" who pull the rickshas can run for hours on end without the least sign of fatigue, and really earn the very small charge for the conveyance, the amount of which, curiously enough, is fixed by the passenger.

CLIMATE.—I cannot do better than quote official notes on the climate of Shanghai.

"From the middle of June to the middle of September, the climate is usually unpleasant, with a very high relative humidity. The thermometer rarely goes beyond 100 degrees, but the wet bulb is only a little lower than the dry, and the relative humidity exceeds 95 per cent. These temperatures, combined with the dirt and noise inseparable from a large town, make living conditions distinctly unpleasant in the summer.

"From October to Christmas the climate is ideal, the bright sunny days being followed by cold crisp nights.

"January and February are very cold and often wet, and snow occasionally falls.

"From March to May the climate is temperate, with a good deal of rain.

"Broadly speaking, the climate of Shanghai is treacherous and variable."

To conclude, Shanghai as a station for troops is not to be grumbled at. If nothing else, it is an eye-opener on the ways and habits of a race of people which dates back to the beginning of time, and the average person serving in Shanghai for a year or two departs with a knowledge which no book, read in comfort by the homely hearth, could impart.

Photographs.—The photographs this month depict several views of the flood which occurred a few days ago. These were all taken outside the entrance to our camp, and are a good indication of the tremendous amount of rain which has fallen during the last few days. Our despatch riders, as usual, chugged nonchalantly through the water with their despatches, and the old Triumphs did not let them down.

Agony.—Any more. DEBROY.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, July 13th.

General.—Owing to the large number of tour and time expired men in the unit, these notes have been compiled in the hope that a few tips on the Station will not be viewed amiss by those coming out this season.

Firstly, we will deal with the unit, which is composed of two Sections, i.e. F.E.C. and W/T.

The F.E.C. Section is the outdoor party, and owing to the rigours of the climate and the wide range of the sphere of activities, they are supplemented by a native Section, who are trained as linemen.

The winter here is very mild, rain being the greatest bugbear (something like England in October). During this period we wear serge, although it rarely becomes cold enough for an overcoat to be worn.

After May the weather starts to get hotter until July, when it reaches tropical intensity, with great humidity. During this period we wear drill and spend most of our time in a bath (of perspiration).

The island of Hong Kong is extremely hilly, and the majority of the population live on the north-west side. Between the island and the mainland (Kowloon) is one of the finest natural harbours in the world ; its average width is about a mile. British integrity has made Hong Kong the main port of call for shipping in this much-disturbed country.

The peninsula—the business and residential quarter of modern Kowloon—is practically level, and is fast becoming a rival to Hong Kong. It is here that the unit is situated, with shops and cinemas within easy reach to satisfy the most exacting demands.

Going north, we strike the hills and enter the New Territories. Access in this direction is rendered easy by virtue of some first-class roads, which will take you into the most beautiful country.

The currency in Hong Kong is based on the dollar, a silver disc about the size of a five-shilling piece, and noted for its wild fluctuations. Its present value is about one shilling, although two years ago it was worth two.

Travelling facilities are excellent, there being trams, buses, taxis and rickshaws. For those wishing to go up the Peak, there is the Peak tramway ; or they can play at being mandarins and be carried up in a sedan chair on the shoulders of two coolies. Fares are very reasonable: 5 cents all the way (in uniform) or 10 cents (in plain clothes) on the trams, and 10 cents on the bus. This means that for something like a halfpenny you can travel a long distance.

To cross to the mainland, a regular ferry service is run, the fares being the same as on the trams. Fares in Kowloon vary according to the journey, but you still get your money's worth.

There are ample facilities for sport and recreation, and many grounds are available. The unit possesses a fine tennis court, a billiard table, and the necessary equipment for ping-pong. A reading room and library are attached to the canteen premises, and the N.A.A.F.I. is fitted with wireless (local station Z.B.W.).

The Colony boasts five talkie houses, and also a dozen or so Chinese cinemas which are best left for the Chinese. There are plenty of cafes which cater for suppers, ice cream and cold drinks.

I'm afraid that the only part of the " romantic and scented Orient " we can offer you is the scent, which is a peculiar brand known as " chow-shop." This is patented in China.

Particular care must be taken of the health, or one will soon become acquainted with various tropical diseases. These can usually be avoided by taking plenty of exercise and following out the instructions given by the medical officers.

The price of cigarettes, tea and cakes, entertainments, etc., will be found much cheaper than at home. For instance, a packet of twenty Gold Flake costs 40 cents, equal to fivepence.

We now hope that, after hearing all these details of Hong Kong, you will all volunteer for this Oriental station and relieve us who are getting tired of it after three years.

F.E.C. Section.—The F.E.C. Section have been having an outing for the past ten days, overhauling the harbour cable. I don't know why, but they are all browned off. Still, a fuller account will be given next month, and maybe a couple of photos.

Local Naval Tragedy.—The sinking of the *Poseidon* cast a gloom along the whole China coast, and sympathy for the relatives of those who went down was shown in a practical way. The Navy League and various other concerns did their best to raise as much as possible for the benefit of the relatives.

On receiving news of the tragedy in Hong Kong, all flags were flown at half-mast for the day, and messages of sympathy sent to the Commodore of the Fleet.

The memorial service held on board H.M.S. *Tamar,* on the Sunday following the disaster, was attended by Lieut H. Gough and C.Q.M.S. Pearce as representatives of the unit. C.C.R.

Malaya Signal Section, Singapore.

July 15th.

Congratulations.—To Corpl Simm on his promotion to that rank w.e.f. April 9th.

To L/Corpl McDowell on taking the plunge. We wish both Mac and Mrs. McDowell all the happiness possible.

We also congratulate Corpl Brewster and Sigmn Whitwell on their success in the 1st class certificate examination—Signalman Whitwell obtaining " D " in mathematics and map-reading.

Missed.—It would seem to be the vogue on the part of gramophone record makers to revive the old songs. Of course, many of you will think they are new ; but no, it's not so, you " eight and four " men. Many years ago everyone was singing a song entitled " The man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo." In our enthusiasm for this revival idea, we have picked on this one, but with a slight alteration to the title, i.e. " The man who broke the bank at Blakan Mati." We should like to remind members of our community that, contrary to belief, this song did not come out in the eighty's but in the hundreds. Isn't that so, Mac?

BY APPOINTMENT BY APPOINTMENT

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Sport.—We spent a very pleasant afternoon and evening with our friends " the Tinworks " in a tennis and billiard tournament. We lost, but we did very well, considering that most of us are beginners. SKEW.

Aden Signal Section.

July 29th.

General.—Nothing of very great importance has taken place during the past two months, as the weather has been at its hottest: we are told by old stagers that it has been the most intensely hot weather in Aden since records were taken. This, however, should not frighten newcomers, as the health of the Station and Section has been extremely good.

The chief excitement at present is, of course, the coming arrival of H.M.T. *Dorsetshire,* which is due on or about the 2nd November. As yet, we do not know whether our reliefs are coming on her first trip or after Christmas ; in the latter case, they will not arrive before March 12th.

The Section will undergo a very great change this winter, as, strange to say, every n.c.o. in the Section is leaving—perhaps for a better land. The following will leave us for the United Kingdom:—C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Walker A., Sergt Beverley E., L/Corpls Butler, Hinchcliffe and Green, Signalmen Jaggard (for transfer to the Army Reserve) and Young. The following to Egypt Signals:—L/Corpl Shaw, Signalmen Joyce, Parry, Pound and Rossiter.

As yet, we have heard no details of those who will take their places, but no doubt by the time these notes appear in print, full particulars will have reached us. A word of warning may still be useful to our reliefs. No thick clothing of any description is necessary, so do not bring it. Khaki shorts, khaki shirts with sleeves to elbow, khaki stockings and black shoes—these are worn summer and winter ; and a white sweater is always useful after playing games.

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

Sports.—Owing to the hot weather and slight injuries, our hockey team has not been up to its usual form. Since the final of the Bhicajee hockey cup, which we lost to No. 8 (B) Squadron R.A.F., at least two of our most useful players have been temporarily unable to play. However, we hope to resume our full team very shortly.

Later.—We shall extend a hearty welcome to C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Sweeney G., of the Northern Command Signal Company, who will relieve C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Walker A. It is a rather curious coincidence that our O.C. and C.Q.M.S. Sweeney should both come from the Northern Command, where they worked in the counties of Durham, Northumberland and Yorkshire before coming abroad.

Malta Signal Section.

Command Signal Office, Valletta.

Ex-Malta Signal Section readers will be interested to learn that Luigi Fenech, the Maltese foreman, was married on August 2nd. To mark the occasion, he was presented with a suitably inscribed plated tea pot, cream jug and sugar basin, subscribed for by the military and civilian personnel. The spontaneity of the gift testified to the general appreciation of his services to the Section. We wish him the best of luck for the future, and all happiness during his married life.

It is rumoured that the Casa Lia Festa this year (August 6th) was an extra special affair in consequence of this important event.

Appointment.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Cabbett W. A. on his appointment to that rank on the Corps roster. This brings the establishment of the Malta Signal Section up to full strength, but as L/Sergt Bevis M. is due to return to the United Kingdom this coming trooping season, presumably a lance-sergeant or a corporal will be posted to Malta in his place.

If any n.c.o. warned for posting to Malta desires any information about the place or work, he is invited to write to L/Corpl Yent A. V., Command Signal Office, Valletta.

Incidentally, we shall be pleased to welcome any members of the Corps who pass this way, either on the outward or homeward journey.

Weather.—Malta seems to be one of those places where exceptional weather is the rule rather than the exception. Last winter, we endured numerous gales which wrought havoc with the overhead line system, but we are assured by the local inhabitants that it was an " exceptional winter."

This summer, the shade temperature in July rose to 106 degrees F. In a dry climate 106 is quite bearable, but where the humidity is high this temperature is rather enervating, and we were all glad when the heat-wave passed and the temperature returned to the normal for summer.

Captain R. Sutton Pratt must have a private source of weather forecasts, for quite early in the year he decided that a holiday in England was necessary this summer and accordingly left the Island towards the end of June. We trust that both he and Mrs. Sutton Pratt are deriving much benefit from their holiday, and that the weather is not quite so bad as the English papers would have us believe.

Q.M.S. Flynn cast round for a cooler spot, also, and finally settled on Cyprus as filling all his requirements. He and Mrs. Flynn left on August 7th to spend a holiday at Troodos, which is 6000 feet up Mount Olympus. He hopes there is no telephone system there!

Long Distance Calls.—To Dover, from O'Neill, Loveday and Lyons. Either one of these three presumably requires a line from the Eastern Command Signal Company.

To D Troop, Aldershot: Has the famous Troop fallen completely out of existence? Your notes are always missing these " months."

Perhaps there are some ex-Troopers who will remember this ditty, written by Sigmn Farrell, who is now in his home country (Scotland) and owns, so we are told, a distillery.

Is it the same old Troop?
Is it the same old lads?
Is it the same old sand " chucked " on the floor?
Does Fanny still wear the same old hat?
Does Harry (Sergt Spencer) keep the same old stroll?
Does Smudger (Corpl Smith, now keeping a pub at Tunbridge Wells) still stand at the mess-room door,
With his mouth wide open for some more?
Does Mick (L/Corpl Butler) (?) and Jock (Sigmn Farrell) still tee-hee old Pop (S.Q.M.S. Walsh)
As they did in the days of yore? —(1924).

To Catterick: Tug Wilson, alias Joe Soap, from Eccles. Three times have I called, and there is still no reply. Please say yes or no.

To V.H.V. Scarborough: Buck has received his, and I hope mine will be answered by the time you read this.—F.

The Last Word.—The other day I read that the last word in professional boxing was " ten." I am afraid that I don't agree, and suggest the word " time." FANNY.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, August 1st.

General.—" Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown " may bring memories of long past schooldays; but we are convinced, after trying to chronicle in interesting form the events of a unit twenty-seven strong and in a station like Gibraltar, that a 1931 rendering should read " Uneasy lies the head that writes the WIRE notes." Not being even remotely related to Hans Andersen, we shall content ourselves with culling a few extracts from the past month's Part II. Orders, provided of course that these are obtainable.

We said farewell during the past month to our O.C., who left us for a short sojourn in the United Kingdom, and we trust his holiday there will be a pleasant one.

Education.—We congratulate Sigmn O'Brien J. on obtaining the 2nd class certificate of education at the July examination, and condole with Driver Uwins (our sole real " jockey ") who crashed at the last jump at the same examination. However, he swears he will clear it at the next effort, with or without spurs.

Extension.—Sigmn Clewlow W. (some time chief curry expert in Poona) re-engaged to complete twenty-one years with the Colours.

Musketry.—We fired our annual musketry course a fortnight ago, on North Front ranges, in deplorable weather—a strong gusty wind blew clouds of sand across the ranges the whole time of firing. As several casuals have still to fire, we cannot congratulate the winner of our rifle cup just yet, but L/Sergt Betts (Will He) appears to be well in the running for that honour.

Cricket.—We have played three matches during July, resulting in two victories and one defeat for us. To judge from our score book, it would appear as if our eleven consisted of three or four cricketers and " several others," as the runs are usually made by the same few individuals. As regards bowling, our mainstays are still Signalmen Waller, Collins and Goodanew A., who share the wickets with regular monotony.

Billiards.—Mr. A. de la Paz, a very well known figure (!) in Gibraltar, having kindly presented the unit with a cup for a billiard competition, a Billiard League has been formed, and budding Lindrums may be seen every evening on the green cloth.

The remainder of the Section appear to spend most of their spare time in studying their relative positions on the league chart and selecting possible victims.

The leading players at the time of going to press are Signalmen Blake and Langham, but there are several dark horses who may get their noses in front before the winning post is reached.

We sympathise with the married competitors who find difficulty in putting in an attendance at the table, and also with those who pay for their opponents' amusement.

- - THE "TERRIERS." - -

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Burlington Street, Manchester.

Should a stranger stroll within our gates just now, there is no doubt that he would be surprised and probably say: "Is not one told that this is the place of great activity? Then, why is it that I see nought but still life?" And he would be quite right, for life is at present very still indeed.

Now, there must be a cause for this, and perhaps it would be interesting to see what it is. It may be the alleged fine weather, or it may be that there is nothing to do, or it may be the fact of many people being away—but I would bet that the adjutant being on leave has more to do with it than anything else. And that just shows you what adjutants are, doesn't it?

We had a much larger number shooting in the miniature range competition this year, and we are very pleased to congratulate C.Q.M.S. Peat on winning it. We are considering making it a sealed handicap next year. So all who made low scores last year will have some consolation in the hope that they will get a good handicap next year.

During the next few months there are to be quite a number of changes. We shall lose two of the P.S. before the end of the year: C.S.M. Watts and Sergt Whittington. At the end of the year the adjutant also leaves us, to go to a warmer climate.

Added to this, we should move into our new drill hall early in the New Year, so that life (probably, by that time, not so still) will seem considerably changed. The new drill hall should be a very fine place for both training and recreation. True, it will be smaller than our present H.Q., but it has been laid out with great care and regard for our requirements, having a good number of lecture rooms, a miniature range, good Company stores and offices, and a large recreation room, as well as a canteen.

Well, that is about all the news for this month, and it is not much, anyway; but if there is not more next month, we shall have to give up writing notes and go in for backing horses, I fear.

JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Exeter.

Limits of space unfortunately prevent me from including all the items of news I have received concerning annual training.

The commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel The Lord Basing) is extremely pleased with the results this year. So much seems to have happened, and all has gone so pleasantly. On every side the opinion is that it has been the most successful camp so far—and for this we owe our thanks to our C.O. and to Captain Odell, our adjutant.

The meeting with Lieut.-Colonel Ozanne, of the 56th (London) Divl Signals, was an extremely pleasant one. We had the pleasure of two visits from him—one with Captain Goddard (adjutant of the 56th and our old friend of 3rd Signals last year) and the other on sports day.

Our C.O., together with Major Western and Capt. Cummings, also paid a visit to the 56th camp at Roedean, Brighton, where they had a most interested look at mechanised Signals.

The account of our n.c.o.s mess concert cannot, I'm sorry to say, be included this time, but they were a happy crowd in their mess and were always full of life and fun. OLD SPARK.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

Annual Training.—This took place from July 26th to August 9th at Christchurch, Hants, and in the same field as last year's camp. Training was much on the same lines, and we again had the pleasure of associating with a detachment (under Capt. Solly, accompanied by Lieut. Ruck) from the 3rd Divl Signals, Bulford.

We have got so used to this plan that camp would seem rather strange without having our 3rd Divl Signals friends with us. All ranks are convinced that the great help and good advice given by such an attachment from the Regular Army is of untold value, and hope it may be continued indefinitely in some form or other. Both Captain Solly and Lieut. Ruck assisted us in every way, and we are grateful to them for what they and the detachment did for us.

The Company's strength in camp was well maintained, but difficulties in getting employers to grant leave nave increased this year.

Good work by the Cable and Wireless Sections was done throughout the fortnight, and, notwithstanding the lack of summer sunshine, the camp has been a most successful and enjoyable one in every respect.

No. 1 Company were particularly interested in the visit of the C.S.O. Southern Command, Colonel F. A. Heymann, O.B.E., who spent two days with us and made a thorough inspection of the unit's work.

It is not generally known that during the early part of 1915, Colonel (then Captain) Heymann actually commanded the Wessex Signals (known as the 27th Divl Signals) in the Ypres salient. Major Varwell, the O.C., had been wounded, and Captain Heymann took over from him until his recovery.

Colonel Heymann has evidently not forgotten this, and he took the first opportunity of greeting and chatting with the little band of five who were with the Wessex Signals in 1915 when he was in command, and *who are still "soldiering on."* There was no mistaking the pleasure on both sides of the re-union after so many years.

By the time these notes appear, the mantle of command of this Company will have fallen on the shoulders of Captain R. C. A. Cummings, O.B.E., at present commanding No. 3 Company. The change takes effect on and from August 23rd.

Major Western, the present commander, has reached the age limit and, after thirty-four years continuous Volunteer and Territorial service (including five and a quarter years mobilised) is to "fade" away—a fate which all old soldiers are warned must overtake them. He sends through THE WIRE greetings to all old friends in Signals and a cheery farewell, with sincerest wishes that the Wessex Signals will *never* fade!

His friend "Old Spark," who has been so closely associated with him for a number of years, also feels that *his* time to "fade" has arrived, and he also "hands in his kit"—an empty ink-pot and a few layers of H.Q. ruled foolscap. The penholder and "issue" pen he will be allowed to retain on payment!

"Old Spark" has seen THE WIRE grow from a tiny babe to sturdy manhood, and he wishes it the greatest prosperity in future. Long may it continue the good work it is doing for the Corps! To you, Mr. Editor, a thousand thanks for your lenience—yes, and *patience*.

To my readers I express gratitude for their forbearance and for so kindly refraining from throwing half-bricks through my windows. Cheerio! May the Royal Corps of Signals keep true to its motto!

An account of the sports appear in the Sports News at the end of the issue. OLD SPARK.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

Annual training with the unit is now over, and we must report that we had a very happy time. We were very short in numbers, owing to most of our Company having to attend with Artillery Brigades at Okehampton at different periods, and our achievements in the sport line were in consequence practically nil. We feel, however, that our day will come!

We were very unfortunate in losing the Roberts cup for visual signalling by the narrow margin of one point, but we heartily congratulate the winners—No. 3 Company—on their victory.

We also congratulate most heartily No. 1 Company on retaining the football shield for a further year. The winners will agree that we went down fighting, and we shall certainly live to fight another day.

The unit sports were very good, and their success was due in a very great measure to the efforts of Major Western—that ever-willing old "war horse," who is unfortunately leaving the unit shortly. We don't think we shall lose him really. He will often be with us, I am sure. Anyhow, we wish him "all the best"

in his well-earned retirement, and hope to see him with us at annual training each year, if only for a brief period. Here's cheers, sir!

The " chief sanitary wallah " is just getting over his hard work at camp, and says he is eagerly looking forward to the same job next year. He certainly looks very well on it. He is most appreciative of the good feeling shown him throughout the camp, and the assistance he received from all quarters helped to make his work extremely pleasant. PIP.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

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

General.—Annual training, just concluded, was voted by everybody to have been the most successful in the history of the unit. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Companies concluded a very strenuous fortnight by a combined two-day scheme. A large amount of traffic was dealt with, and the G.O.C. and the C.S.O. were pleased with all they saw. The weather was not quite all it should have been, but Old Park, Canterbury, being situated on high ground, we did not have the mud usually associated with annual camp.

Sports were held on August Monday, a big crowd of families and friends witnessing some very interesting events. No. 3 Company retained the Company trophy, beating No. 1 by one point.

A team was entered in the relay by the permanent staff, who were supplemented by three instructors from the 4th Divisional Signals. They ran a respectable second, thanks mainly to a very fast quarter-mile by Sergt Terrill.

Results.—100 yards, Sigmn Taylor. Long jump, L/Corporal Walker. Boys' race, Boy Jordan F. High jump, L/Corporal Walker. 220 yards, Sigmn Taylor. One mile, Sigmn Stringer. Veterans' race, Sergt Atkins. Officers' race, Captain Darby. Relay, No. 3 Company. Tug-of-war, No. 2 Company. Drill squad, No. 2 Company. D.R.s race, Sigmn Cumming. Best turn-out: Single rider, Sergt Munt; driver and pair, Driver Hayward.

Special mention must be made of Sergt Sealey, who, when leading by a " street " in the mile, very sportingly ran out just before the tape.

After the sports, about 150 people sat down to a tea in the sergeants' mess, and the messing committee were hard put to it to maintain the good things which were said of them daily. During the evening a very successful smoker was given in the mess, at which the officers (including the D.C.S.O., Lieut.-Col. A. S. Angwin, D.S.O., M.C.) attended.

Other Sporting Events.—Neither of the London Companies could cope with the men from Sussex at cricket—we dare not publish the scores; but at football, No. 1 Company won a keen game by 2—0 goals.

The Dell cup was fired for at Teynham, and this also went to No. 2 Company, so Brighton ought to be well satisfied with the annual training of 1931.

In conclusion, we hope the Regulars who were attached from the 4th Divl Signals had a good time. We commend them for the way they got down to it with us both at work and play. The writer of these notes had the honour of being Colchester's oldest inhabitant, and was more than pleased to see how they fitted in.

Finally, congratulations to our C.O. on his recent promotion. This being his last camp with us, we were pleased to be able to prove that W/T sets do *actually* handle traffic.

W. H. THOMAS, A/C.S.M.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals

and Supplementary Reserve Units.

General.—The Glasgow units entrained on the morning of July 17th, and proceeded to annual training in camp at Troon, where, together with No. 3 Company from Edinburgh, they were assembled under the command of Lieut.-Colonel F. L. Robertson, M.C.

The first week was devoted mainly to Section training and inspections by the C.O. On Friday, July 24th, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir Thomas Kelly, accompanied by the chairman of the City of Glasgow Territorial Association, inspected the camp and was favourably impressed with what he saw.

The unit sports were held the following day, and the very successful programme arranged by Lieut. R. W. Forsyth attracted a very large number of spectators from Glasgow, Troon and the surrounding district. Special mention must be made of Lieut. Paterson, who captured the trophy for the open jumping at our sports for the second year in succession, and rode over to the Royal Engineers sports a day or two later, to return with the first prize for their open jumping event. Hearty congratulations on two plucky displays, sir! Some of the sports results will be found in the Sports Section.

On the first Sunday, after the church parade, the commanding officer presented the following decorations:—C.S.M. Curtis F., L.S. and G.C. medal; Pipe-Major Mackenzie J., first clasp to the T.E. medal; Sergt Russell J. C. and L/Sergt Adams W., T.E. medal. We heartily congratulate the recipients.

The various technical competitions were held on Monday, July 27th. Lieut.-Colonel C. W. M. Firth, M.C., and Colonel J. S. Muirhead, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. (the C.S.O. and D.C.S.O., Scottish Command) were the judges, and the high standard causing the judging to be very keen, they spent a busy day in " spotting the winners."

The next three days were occupied with a signal scheme, during which much experience was gained in the methods of maintaining communication during moving warfare and the mechanising of the various sections. On the last day of the scheme, the Divisional Commander inspected the unit at work. After a detailed inspection of the various signal centres, etc., Major-General Maxwell-Scott, C.B., D.S.O., expressed his entire satisfaction. The D.C.S.O. also made a tour of the scheme and was pleased with the progress which has been made during the year.

The unit returned to Glasgow on July 31st, everyone looking very fit after a strenuous and often wet fortnight in camp. We were fortunate in having Captain Schneider from our affiliated Regular unit (5th Divl Signals) with us during the camp period. His assistance and criticisms were much appreciated, and his presence did much to cement the friendship between 5th Divl Signals and ourselves.

We were also honoured by a visit, all too short, from Lieut.-Colonel E. de W. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., and his adjutant, Captain Dimoline, M.C. They were greatly interested in all they saw, and some very useful discussions with senior officers were held regarding the present and future policy of training, etc.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.—The annual smoking concert was held in camp on the evening of July 24th. It was attended by Colonels Bradley and Robertson and the officers of the unit, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large company present. Sergeants Johnston and Clark were on top form, and we understand that some of the senior officers present are still laughing as memories of the " worthy Baillie " recur to them.

LOWSIGS.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff.

General.—Although there is quite a lot to relate of happenings since last month, time is very precious—the aftermath of camp having set in.

Our camp at Porthcawl was a great success as far as training was concerned. Daily schemes were held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the first week, and a three-day scheme on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the second—the unit carrying out an advance, Barry being the objective. Llantwit Major was reached before a set-back caused a retirement during Wednesday night, and we reached camp in time for breakfast on Thursday morning.

During the period of annual training we were ably assisted by Captain W. U. Tyrrell (of the Staff College), Lieutenants D. W. E. Brock and P. R. Wainman (3rd Divl Signals, Bulford), and Sergts Rhodes and Brundell (also of 3rd Div.). Captain Tyrrell acted as G.O.C. during the long scheme, and it was gratifying to hear him say, at the Divisional conference held during the scheme, that whenever he wanted to he was always able to speak to anyone, wherever they were, during the whole of the scheme. We know we left a good impression on the other Regulars who were with us, by the remarks they made.

On the last Friday we had another day out, this time with the 160th Infantry Brigade, so, although this was termed a " holiday " camp, we did not let pleasure interfere with our work.

The unit obtained good chits from all the inspecting officers, including the Under-Secretary of State for War, accompanied by the D.G.T.A., G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, Divisional Commander, C.S.O. and D.C.S.O. Western Command, and D.M.T.

A Brigade church parade was held on Locks Common on Sunday, August 2nd, followed by a march past, the Brigadier of the 160th Infantry Brigade taking the salute.

The unit sports were held on the first Friday in camp, this being our only available day. The prizes, well worth winning, were evenly distributed round the unit ; and it appears that in twenty years time each officer will be the proud possessor of a tankard—this being the prize for the officers' race, won this year by 2/Lieut. Cawthorn.

The unit competitions were held on Friday, August 7th, the total points counting toward the unit trophy (a replica of "Jimmy" in bronze). No 2 Company, commanded by Captain V. W. Hawkins, must be congratulated on their splendid victory with 17½ points. Results:—

Shooting shield—1st, No. 2 Company ; 2nd, No. 3
Company turn-out—1st, No. 3 ; 2nd, No. 2
Company drill—1st, No. 1 ; no second
Trained men's guard—1st, No. 2 (commander, Sgt Llewellyn) ; 2nd, No. 3
Recruits' guard—1st, No. 2 (commander, L/Sergt Milton) ; 2nd, No. 3
Recruits' drill—1st, No. 1 (instructor, L/Sergt Milton) ; 2nd, No. 3
Telephone testing—1st, No. 2 ; 2nd, No. 3
Linemen's test—1st, No. 2 ; 2nd, No. 3
Section trophy—"F" Section, No. 2 Company (Sergt Pugsley)

Entertainments.—An excellent concert was held in the n.c.o.s mess on Thursday, August 6th, at which Colonel Allen (C.S.O.), Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Llewellyn (D.C.S.O. Western Command), Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Seel (commanding officer) and the officers of the unit were present. The entertainments committee must be congratulated: it was the goods—especially the comedian whose opening remark, "She was only a glassblower's daughter, but she was no blinking bottle to me," nearly lost us a P.S.I. prematurely.

Agonies.—To Peshawar Signals, re August notes: We have not missed once, for over a year, in sending WIRE notes. You ask for cheery ones. Well, our correspondent is well known as a pessimist, so if you can see the slightest hint of humour in his notes, laugh like ——. Anyway, our best wishes to you all, and a cheerful welcome when you return home.

Howlers.—Sergeant (detailing men to their stations): "Sigmn W——, you report to Beer Battery." Sigmn W——: "Can I go to Ack Battery, sir? I can't say B-b-b-b-beer B-b-b-b-Battery."

Sergeant (dictating message): "Gr 35." Answer by signalman: "Gr 35." "Originator's number, K oblique stroke 2." Answer: "K *a big* stroke, 2." THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

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

No. 1 Company.

Annual Training and General.—The unit proceeded to Shorncliffe for annual training on Sunday, July 26th. The unit moved down in lorries, except for twenty n.c.o.s and men who went by train.

The weather was not what one would crave for, but, still, this did not damp the feelings of the men, who went about their work in the proper spirit.

Early morning parades were given up to squad drill, with a quarter of an hour saluting drill ; this certainly gave everyone the "soldierly bearing" which even the inspecting officers praised.

The first two days in camp were allotted to checking and testing equipment, and describing faults which might possibly turn up on a scheme. Schemes were carried out every day and a great amount of work was done, a large amount of experience being gained by every section.

During these schemes the G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, General Sir Webb Gillman, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Major-Genl. F. J. Marshall, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Divisional Commander), Col. P. R. Bald, D.S.O. (Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command) and Colonel A. S. Angwin, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. (Deputy Chief Signal Officer) made their visits, and we understand that they were all impressed by the soldierly bearing and work of all individuals of the unit.

A Section displayed a great deal of the knowledge which they gained on the week-end schemes which had been held every Sunday since May. The W/T communication throughout all the camp was maintained, and a great deal more traffic could have been handled. The work they did was most praiseworthy, and therefore we must hand out our congratulations to both Section officers, and hope they will pass it on to the individuals of the Sections. B Section also did fine work in cable laying. One detachment was mechanised, but this did not enable them to outshine the horsed detachment.

Competitions.—The W/T competition was held on Friday morning, and the work was so close that Major W. E. Rayner, the second-in-command, had a difficult task in adjudging No. 1 Company the winners and No. 3 second. Next year we may see a different result if No. 3 Company continue their wireless classes during the winter.

The V/T competition was won by No. 3 Company, and No. 1 Company were second. It would have been very pleasant if we could have just snatched the cup, for we are sure that our O.C., Captain J. P. Tweedie-Smith, would like to see the Weber cup in front of him at the Company's annual dinner.

Sports.—The Company did extremely well in the sports. There seemed to be more team work amongst our members ; this, indeed, was excellent, and enabled us to carry off the sports shield.

The events won by the Company were as follows:—Mounted tug-of-war, dismounted tug-of-war, wrestling on horseback, inter-Company relay race, boat race, four-legged race, and other ranks tent pegging (Sergt Simons). We were also second in the 440 yards (Sigmn Gunby), other ranks jumping (Sergt Simons), and other ranks tent pegging (L/Sergt Parker).

The presentation of prizes was made by our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel J. P. Bowling, and he praised the unit for the excellent work which had been carried out.

It is hoped that individual members will not think that they are now efficient and need no more instruction, for the lecture room is never closed and the old saying is true, "Practice makes perfect." So don't be content with being efficient: be perfect.

No. 2 Company.

Annual Training and General.—The Company proceeded by road on July 26th to Dibgate Camp, Shorncliffe. We were greeted on arrival by a "delightfully" wet day. Nevertheless, the troops made themselves as comfortable as possible and prayed for fine weather.

Training started with a vengeance on the 27th. Stores were overhauled, wagons cleaned, and everything made ready for immediate use.

Stationary schemes were the order of the day. Sections left camp at 08.15 hours, went to their respective stations, erected, and carried out signal office routine and traffic schemes.

We participated with the rest of the unit in a night scheme on 5th/6th August. Very good work was done, and the scheme was a great success ; at least, the station at Lyminge thought so —I cannot vouch for the stations at Douglas Farm and Monks Horton.

The training area was excellent, as was the camp site, until the Channel got angry!

Inspections.—The G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, the Divisional Commander 54th Division, Colonel Bald (C.S.O. Eastern Command), Colonel Angwin (D.C.S.O.) and Major Vulliamy, R.Signals (D.M.T. Branch, War Office) visited us whilst we were at work, and we have every reason to believe that they were well satisfied with what they saw.

Our Teachers.—We had most valuable assistance and many useful tips given us by Captain V. C. Holland, R.Signals, and Sergeants Gourlay and Bishop, 4th Divisional Signals. Thanks very much, gentlemen! We hope you enjoyed your stay with us, and we shall be pleased to see you again, both for your valuable assistance and comradeship.

Sports.—Sports were held on Bank Holiday. The attendance was only fair, due to the very cold winds which seem to make a habit of coming over Dibgate whenever the unit has anything special on. Congratulations to Lieuts. Gentry and Palmer on being first and second in the officers' jumping (we are glad you kept it in the Company); also to Major F. A. Manley on winning the officers' tent-pegging.

Pleasure.—The Company availed itself of the numerous facilities for sight seeing after duty. Should one venture to Margate, Folkestone, Sandgate, Hythe, Dymchurch, or Dover, one could see the boys enjoying themselves. In spite of the inclement weather, I can safely say that all ranks enjoyed this camp.

Laurels.—Thanks very much for the good muster at camp, and also for the smart turn-outs which were the envy of the Brigade. Hope to see you all at camp next year!

Overheard at Camp.—Sergeant: "Line through to Brigade exchange, sir." Voice on distant end: "What sort of line is it—earth return or Britannic?"

Sports.—No. 2 Company results:—Inter-Company relay, 2nd; boat race, 2nd; officers' jumping, 1st and 2nd; O.R.s jumping, 1st; mounted potato race, 1st and 2nd; mounted musical chairs, 1st; officers' tent pegging, 1st. Well done, gentlemen! Better luck for the shield next year.

No. 3 (Southend) Company.

Promotions.—We heartily congratulate the following on their recent promotion (may they soon climb to another rung on the ladder!):—L/Sergt Reeve, Corporals Littlechild and Dennison, L/Corpl Carty.

Entertainment.—We were guests at the Hippodrome on Monday, July 13th, on the occasion of the Mayor of Southend paying an official visit there to see the old time artists, Jerry and Nobbler, Harry Champion, Fred Barnes, Vesta Victoria, etc. We had a very enjoyable evening's entertainment, thirty members of the unit being able to turn up in uniform.

Annual Camp.—Our annual camp has now concluded. We had quite a good time. The weather was not as we should have liked it, but as Folkestone was quite close, it made up for the weather. Every member of the unit was able to get down to the front by getting on a lorry placed at our disposal by our commanding officer.

The visits of inspecting officers proved very successful. We received a pat on the back from them all.

The Company turned out a greater percentage of fifteen-day men than last year, and we are looking forward to a 100 per cent. parade in 1932.

We congratulate No. 1 Company on their great achievement at our annual sports. Was the six-wheeler chartered to carry home the prizes? We are sorry, but we *had* to bring the visual trophy home, as No. 2 Company did not look after it (please read our former notes). Now, No. 1 Company, the wireless trophy is on its way to Southend, so look to your laurels! Surely, next year, you will let us know what the competition consists of; then we also will be prepared.

Sergeants' Mess.—This *must* be entered. Has anyone seen this done before? Four members of the Mess were playing pokey die. The round was set with five aces; the second and third players threw five aces, and the fourth and last player threw four aces and a king. He had rather bad luck, as the Mess Jonah came in and looked over his shoulder. Yes, C.S.M. Dowie did set the go.

We Want to Know.—Where is the blue print? How many Regular soldiers are there in Nos. 1 and 2 Companies? (can Sergt Warren enlighten us on that subject?) Who was it who silenced the sounder on the all-night scheme because he could not sleep? Where did they dig up the Sergeants' Mess cook? —and is it true that his brother was Rip Van Winkle?

Bedford Detachment.

General.—Recruiting has been stimulated to such an extent that the Detachment was represented at annual camp by two Sections. By next year we hope to have three Sections up to full strength.

Camp.—At camp the Bedford Detachment and No. 232 Signal Section (from Ipswich) were amalgamated to form No. 4 Company. Although the clerk of the weather was against us, much useful knowledge and experience were gained. The G.O.C. 54th Division visited the unit and expressed his appreciation of the efficient manner in which all ranks performed their various duties. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed this camp, and on all sides one hears "Roll on, next camp."

Sports.—No. 1 Company managed to take nearly all the prizes. Although we congratulate them on their achievement, we also warn them to look to their laurels next year.

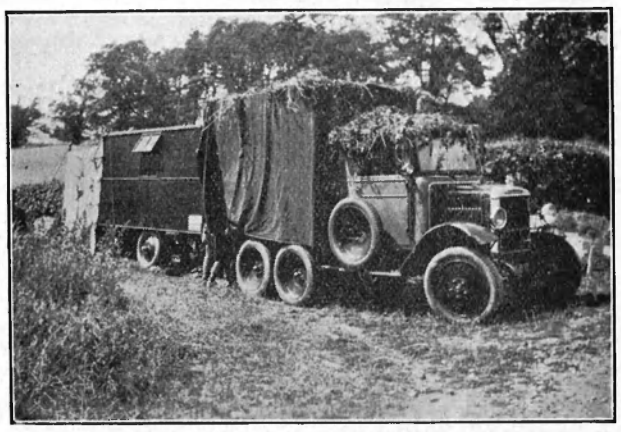
Unfortunately, we only managed to bag two prizes. Captain Atkinson won second prize in the officers' tent-pegging, and Sigmn Franklin the first prize in the other ranks' obstacle race.

After the presentation of the prizes, the commanding officer congratulated all concerned on the work done and the smartness displayed by the unit. Y.E.D.

55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

38 Mason Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool.

After a somewhat prolonged silence, we hasten to assure our fellow "Sigs." that we are still very much alive and kicking.



Having just returned from a most successful camp at Kinmel Park, near (?) Rhyl, everybody feels very martial—though, let it be whispered, work did not go down very well this week.

The weather was distinctly kind to us this year, for apart from two very wet days, the whole period was fine, and consequently everybody was happy.

During the first week of training we carried out a two-day scheme, which included most of the hairpin bends and single

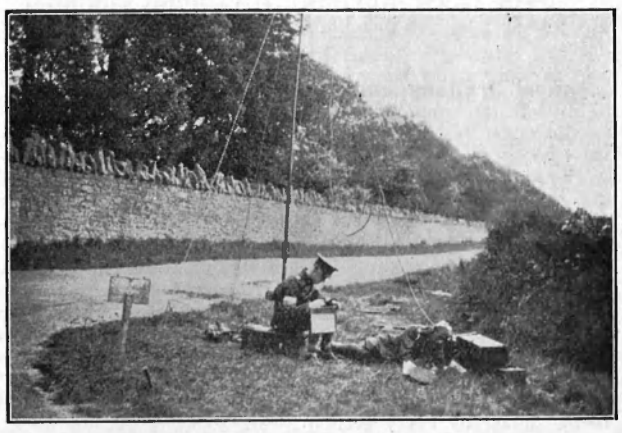


figure gradients in North Wales (or so it seemed). Incidentally, any " thrill-seekers " should try sitting in a car half-way up a lane, 12 ft. wide, with a gradient of one in eight or nine, and watching a Morris six-wheeler plus cable wagon trying to stop before it hits them. Guaranteed to kill or cure! However, all's well that ends well. No. 2 Detachment B Section passed safely by, and the lines were well and truly laid for the signal office folk to work their will on.

H, J and K Sections all seemed quite happy, the changing of reliefs at Div. H.Q. being worthy of St. James's.

Monday, August 3rd, being a bank holiday, the afternoon was free, and a most exciting football match between Nos. 1 and 3 Companies (Liverpool) and No. 2 (Prescot) came to an untimely conclusion when the ball burst just before half-time.

During the second week, the outstanding feature was a three-day scheme, which was made rather too realistic by a torrential downpour for the whole of the second day; but as everyone found a dry place to sleep in that night, and the next day was gloriously fine, the rain was soon forgotten. We enclose a few snaps, including one of our mobile office, which may perhaps be of interest.

As our scribe has now been to the post office with his fountain pen, we hope to send accounts of our doings rather more regularly than of late. We apologise to any of our friends who have been looking in vain for news from us.

We Want to Know.—Are shower baths more enjoyable when fully dressed than they are when stripped?

Why a certain sergeant is so fond of pine-apple?

If a certain P.S. sergeant has yet received his 5/- per day for classification duties?

Who is the ping-pong champion of this unit?

FIVE-FIVE.

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals.

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1.

Obituary.—It is with very deep regret that I open my notes this month with one of extreme sadness. I have to record the death in Royal Herbert Hospital, on August 7th, of C.S.M. Lee A. G., late member of the P.S. of this unit, after a very short illness.

" Jigger," as he was familiarly known to all his friends in the Corps, had been a member of the P.S. since October, 1928, and was most popular and respected by all with whom he came in contact.

He had been ailing for some time, but the thought of going into hospital was repugnant to him and he carried on until he could barely manage to walk. Although we had been warned that he was dangerously ill, the news of his death, which did not reach us until our return from camp on Sunday afternoon, came as a great shock.

He was laid to rest at Plumstead on August 12th, with full military honours, all arrangements being ably carried out by the R.A. Depot, Woolwich. The unit was represented by the adjutant, R.S.M. and seven members of the Sergeants' Mess, whilst the 2nd Divl Signals sent R.S.M. Edwards and five sergeants.

Our deepest sympathy—and I am sure, with ours, I can include that of all members of the Corps to whom " Jigger " was known—is extended to Mrs. Lee and family in their sad bereavement.

Training, Annual, Seaside Pattern.—Well, it is over for another year, but I really believe that all who spent those happy fifteen days at Roedean, from July 26th to August 9th, are sorry that it could not have gone on for at least another fifteen days.

The thing that has surprised me about annual training is the number of " cousins " who manage to be spending holidays somewhere adjacent to wherever the camp may be situated. " She's a cousin of mine " was a most popular song at Brighton and Rottingdean. Curiously enough, my own grandmother happened to be camping out at Ovingdean!

As the Supplementary Reserve units are, this year, training separately at Longmoor (I saw a letter from one who was with them, and he described it as Dartmoor) our numbers were very small, and for once we had to rely on our own talent for all the tasks allotted.

No. 1 Company established and maintained camp communications, including a certain amount of airline, operated a C set link to Falmer, and during the second week a 120-watt set link to the S.R. units at Longmoor, besides co-operating with No. 3 Company in various schemes.

No. 2 Company formed two rather weak Artillery Brigade Sections and co-operated in schemes with the various Artillery Brigades, receiving a good chit from the C.R.A.

No. 3 Company formed an Infantry Brigade Section and took part in two schemes with their Brigade, in addition to their own various Company and Section schemes. They also received a pat on the back.

The D.C.S.O.'s inspection scheme occupied two days this year, and I understand that the D.C.S.O. was very pleased with all he saw. Our friends and counsellors, 2nd Divl Signals, once more turned up trumps and loaned us Capt. G. St. J. Martin, Sergeants Deamon, Carey and Aitken, and Corpl Frey, and (for the first week) one mobile C set. All the above proved of great value to us in our training, and our thanks are once more due to 2nd Divl Signals for their willing help and co-operation.

On the middle Saturday, in spite of restricted space, we managed to get in some unit sports, mostly competitions of a technical nature. Time and space will not permit of my giving full details, but No. 2 Company walked off with most of the prizes.

Nos. 1 and 2 Companies held their annual Company dinner at Rottingdean during camp, and as I had the pleasure of attending both of them, I can vouch that they were jolly good shows and well attended.

On Friday, August 7th, the sergeants entertained—or should I say, were entertained by—the officers in the sergeants' mess. This seemed to me a fitting wind-up to a most successful and enjoyable camp.

Saturday was devoted to dismantling lines and camp, and when we marched out on Sunday morning, there was very little canvas left standing. As our rear party was practically non-existent (three n.c.o.s and two men) it was as well that we were able to do this.

No self-respecting camp would end without something going wrong, and it was our poor reduced rear party who had to suffer. The R.A.S.C. kindly forgot that Signals existed and left them stranded in camp, with all their stores and kit, nearly four miles from the station and without means of getting there—and instead of arriving in London at 1.5 p.m., they did not arrive until 7.30. Still, they *did* arrive, and have now forgiven the R.A.S.C. for their forgetfulness.

We Want to Know.—How are we to dispose of letters addressed " W. D'arcy, Esq."?

If there is some other attraction at York besides the Artillery Transport Company?

What is this talk of a dark male hovering in the background?

GEE HEN.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

On July 22nd we played our fourth cricket match, against D Company, on Baghdad ground.

The latter batted first. Our bowling was knocked about a bit, and D put up a very creditable total of 141, the chief scorers being L/Corpl Penny (35), L/Corpl Bridges (23) and Signalman Price (21). Corpl Phillp P. took five wickets for 51 runs, and Captain Walford four for 45. It was one of our off-days in the field—with about two exceptions, everybody dropped a catch or two.

Our innings was opened with Captains Rosenberg and Walford, who commenced hitting 4's and 6's with every other ball. Capt Rosenberg fell to a catch after making a very useful 37, and Sigmn Reeves then went in to keep Captain Walford company. When Captain Walford had scored 74, he was bowled with a fast ball from L/Corpl Bridges, and we still required eighteen to win. Corporal Phillp P. went in and knocked up 21 (not out) with boundaries, and we thus won comfortably after a most exciting time.

So far, we have won three games and lost one. The last match is to be played against the School of Signals on August 10th.

Swimming.—We congratulate the Battalion swimming team on winning the Command challenge cup, for the first time, on 7th August. We were placed first with 38 points, and the East Yorks were second with 28.

A great deal of credit is due to L/Sergt Baker L. as team captain, and to C.S.M. Payne, who assisted him to get the teams together and keep them in trim. The teams worked hard and displayed true team spirit, several members electing to forego their chances in the individual events to give of their best for the Battalion. A really fine feeling, which was rewarded. Signalmen Haughton and Lowe, particularly, worked hard to earn points.

The team comprised the following:—Captain Kendall, Sergt Brett, L/Sergts Baker and Taplin, Corpl Carnegie, L/Corporal Hothersall, Signalmen Comery, Haughton and Ridley, and Driver Lowe.

Appreciable assistance was given us by the Training Battalion, who were placed second in several team events, thus holding off our opponents and giving us a clear lead.

L/Sergt Baker was placed second in the individual plunging.

E Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Cricket.—The result of the Inter-Company Cricket League is now to hand. E Company finished the season in quite a satisfactory position in the league table, tieing for second place with School of Signals—only one point behind the leaders. Well done, Eddy! it is one step better than last season.

A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Sports.—To all old Onecoy-ites. It may interest all to know that, for the second year, we have reached the semi-final of the Rawson shield, and we have great hopes of seeing it rest by the side of its brother (the cross-country shield). No. 3 Coy. please note. There is many a slip 'twixt cup and lip, and you can rest assured that we shall give you a good game if we are given the great fortune to meet you,

In the second round we played No. 2 Company 1st Divl Signals, and ran out easy winners by 103 runs. The scores were:—

No. 1 Company, 135 (Trapmore 60, Smith 21, Cartwright 18) and 154 (Swinson 48, White 39, Woodhams 38)

No. 2 Company, 1st Div. 96 (Smith, six for 23; Green three for 14) and 90 (Swinson, three for 16; Smith, two for 23)

We play No. 1 Company 1st Divl Signals in the semi-final. The date is not fixed yet; but, Tommy, keep a look-out for it—we are hoping to avenge last year's inglorious knock-out.

Officers v. W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

Cricket.—Amongst the many attractions during Corps Week was the officers v. w.o.s and sergeants (R.Signals) cricket match. The officers were certainly too much of a "handful" for us, but it is hoped that, during the next season, opportunity will favour the w.o.s and sergeants with a return match.

The weather was fine, and with excellent selections from the Corps Band, under Mr. Ricketts, the rendezvous was a replica of Lord's. Colonel and Mrs. Hawtrey, together with the wives of the officers, honoured the match with their presence.

The w.o.s and sergeants won the toss and decided to take first knock. C.S.M. Trapmore and Sergt Ratcliffe opened the innings, but the latter, being deceived by a ball from Lieut Mellor, retired to the pavilion for a well-earned "duck." The score then read 1—1—0.

C.Q.M.S. Tolley followed and put up a useful score of seven before being caught: 2—18—7.

C.Q.M.S. McGregor next partnered the C.S.M., and after putting together the unlucky score of 13, he was dismissed in the same manner as his predecessor: 3—40—13.

Sergt Smith was next in, but did not live up to his reputation, being caught before scoring: 4—42—0.

C.S.M. Kingman added nine before being caught, and the score board then read 5—51—9; C.S.M. Trapmore's total was then 22.

C.Q.M.S. McDonald, usually a useful worker, quickly returned to the pavilion, after having made the all-too-frequent "duck": 6—57—0.

Sergt Withers, the useful all-rounder and hero of many gallant last-wicket stands, joined the C.S.M. and, in demonstrating the "brighter cricket movement," added twelve in as many minutes before trying to knock the ball to Fleet, when he was clean bowled: 7—75—12.

Sergt Matthews added six before being dismissed through the outstanding fielding of the officers: 8—87—6. The C.S.M. was still resolutely defying the destructive quick-change bowling of the officers.

Sergeant Grose obliged with another catch after knocking up two, making the score 9—102—2.

The "hope of the side," Sergt Drudge, then joined the C.S.M., but, without adding to the score, he managed to get in the way of a straight one from Captain Lewis-Barclay, and the innings closed for 110, C.S.M. Trapmore "carrying his bat" for a well earned 54—truly, one of his best innings this season. Tea was then taken.

Colonel Rawson and Lieut Whiteway-Wilkinson opened the batting for the officers, the former being unfortunately run out, when he appeared to be well set for one of his characteristic innings, for 31: 1—41—31.

Mr. Wilkinson was then joined by Captain Lewis-Barclay, and between them they managed to pass the score of the w.o.s and sergeants without any more loss, running out worthy winners by nine wickets. And thus ended a very pleasant afternoon,

W.O.s AND SERGEANTS.

C.S.M. Trapmore not out	54
Sergt Ratcliffe b Mellor	0
C.Q.M.S. Tolley c Rawson b Barclay	7
C.Q.M.S. McGregor c Barclay b Pellew	13
Sergt Smith c Rawson b Wilkinson	0
C.S.M. Kingman c Morgan b Pellew	9
C.Q.M.S. McDonald c and b Barclay	0
Sergt Withers b Pellew	12
Sergt Matthews c Rawson b Pellew	6
Sergt Grose c Rawson b Pellew	2
Sergt Drudge l.b.w. b Barclay	0
Extras	7
Total	110

Bowling.—Lieut. Mellor, one for 12 ; Captain Barclay, three for 28 ; Lieut Pellew, five for 46 ; Lieut Wilkinson, one for 18.

OFFICERS.

Colonel Rawson run out	31
Lieut. Whiteway-Wilkinson not out	34
Captain Lewis-Barclay not out	54
Extras	5
Total (for 1 wicket)	124

Colonel Meredith, Major Thorne, Captains Willoughby and Morgan, and Lieuts Pellew, Stuart, Mellor and Barker did not bat.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Colchester Garrison Swimming Team Championships.—*4th Divisional Signals tie with Royal Fusiliers.* The team championships took place on July 23rd, and after a most exciting contest, 4th Divl Signals finished equal first with the 2nd Battn Royal Fusiliers.

Relay and back stroke—1st, Royal Fusiliers ; 2nd, R.Signals. Team: Corpl Ball, Driver Cross, 2/Lieut Hobson, Sergt New

Relay, seven lengths—1st, R.Signals ; 2nd, R.Fusiliers. Team: Corpl Freemantle, Driver Cross, Corpl Ball, Driver Hill

Plunging—1st, Black Watch ; 2nd, Middlesex Regiment ; 3rd, R.Signals ; 4th, R.Fusiliers. Team: C.S.M. Herbert, 2/Lieut Hobson, Corpl Freemantle

Diving—1st, R.Fusiliers ; 2nd, R.Signals. Team: Corporal Ball, L/Corpl Langham, Sigmn Wilkins

Two lengths free style—1st, R.Fusiliers ; 2nd, R.Signals. Team: Corpl Freemantle, Driver Hill, Corpl Hart, Driver Cross

Two lengths breast stroke—1st, Royal Signals ; 2nd, R.Fusiliers. Team: Corpl Purcell, Sigmn Pike, Sergt Terrell, Corpl Ball.

Final positions—1st, 4th Divl Signals and 2nd Battn. Royal Fusiliers, tie, 25 ; 3rd, 1st Battn The Middlesex Regiment, 16 ; 4th, 2nd Battn The Black Watch, 14 ; 5th, 2nd Battn The Northamptonshire Regiment, 7 ; 6th, Royal Artillery, R.A.S.C. and 3rd Carabiniers, 0.

Before the last event (two lengths breast stroke) the Royal Fusiliers led by one point, but some splendid swimming by Sergt Terrell, who went third, enabled Corpl Ball to start with a lead of seven or eight yards, and although swimming against the best man in the Royal Fusiliers team, he held his own and won by about that distance. Special mention should be made of Driver Cross, who swam magnificently in the seven lengths free style and so enabled us to win an event of which we were rather doubtful.

It was decided that each unit should hold the handsome bronze figure for six months. Its present home is in Royal Signals officers' mess.

Garrison Individual Championships.—The individual championships took place on July 22nd. There were numerous entries, and heats were necessary. The final results were:—

Three lengths free style—Driver Hill 3rd, Corpl Freemantle 4th
Two lengths breast stroke—Corpl Ball 2nd, Sergt Terrell 3rd
Two lengths back stroke—Sergt New 1st, Driver Cross 2nd
Seven lengths free style—Driver Cross 2nd
Diving—Corpl Ball 5th

Cricket.—The following are the results of the last dozen matches played;—

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June 13th v. Earl's Colne Grammar School. Drawn. Signals 154 (Lieut Gardiner 31, Sergt Dempsey 28, Corpl Worth 26). School [?—Ed.] Mr. Lucas 77 not out, Mr. Lister 16 ; L/Corpl Spencer, eight for 44.

June 18th v. West Bergholt. Lost. Signals 71 and 36 for five (declared.) West Bergholt 33 and 77 for one (Mr. Thackery 55 not out ; Major Cobb, six for 15 ; Sergt Dempsey, four for 14). West Bergholt had 45 minutes in which to get 76 runs, and won on time.

June 20th v. 1st Battn Middlesex Regiment. Lost. Signals 71 (Sigmn Walton 18). Middlesex Regiment, 157. We had several players away, and the Middlesex won easily.

June 27th v. Colchester Gas Company. Won. Signals 153 for five (Marshall 51, Briggs 38, Rose 29). Colchester Gas Company 51.

July 2nd v. R.E. Colchester. Lost. Signals 108. R.E. Colchester 117 (Lieut Kellet 58 ; Sigmn Backhouse, five for 32).

July 9th v. Earl's Colne Grammar School. Won. Signals 198 (Lieut Gardiner 43, Sigmn Pettit 37, Corpl Edge 24). Grammar School 168.

July 13th—Officers and Sergeants v. The Rest. Drawn. The Rest, 175 for six declared (Sigmn Marshall 100 not out, L/Corpl Spencer 22). Officers and Sergeants, two for 0.

July 15th v. Witham. Won. Signals 189 for three, declared (Sigmn Marshall 100 not out, Lieut Gardiner 39). Witham 66 and 126 for two (Mr. Wright 94 not out ; Sigmn Backhouse, seven for 35).

July 14th—The Band v. Junior N.C.O.s. Junior N.C.O.s 92 (L/Corpl Spencer 20, Cpl Ball 17). The Band 83 (Richardson 14).

July 22nd v. Earl's Colne Grammar School. Lost. Signals 124 (Sigmn Marshall 60, Sigmn Pettit 25). Grammar School 177 (Mr. Lucas 123 not out).

July 30th v. R.A.S.C. Colchester. Won. Signals 149 for four declared (Fitzpatrick 55 not out, Sigmn Walton 31, Sigmn Pettit 29). R.A.S.C. 46 and 43.

August 6th v. R.A.M.C. Won. Signals 91 (Sigmn Pope 16). R.A.M.C. 72 (Corpl Millington 24 ; Sigmn Walton, four for 9).

Athletics.—The unit athletic meeting was held on May 28th and 29th. Since two or three Sections were away, the meeting was run on an individual basis, and no points counted towards the inter-Section championship. Owing to the large number of entries, we had to run off heats on the first day. In the field events a standard was laid down, and only those who could equal this performed on the final day. Below is given a list of winners and best times and throws.

100 yards—1st, 2/Lieut R. B. Gray ; 2nd, Sigmn Hurrell ; 3rd, L/Corpl Langham. Time, 10 4/5 sec.
220 yards—1st, Sigmn Hurrell ; 2nd, 2/Lieut Gray ; 3rd, Sergt Terrell. Time, 24 sec.
440 yards—1st, Sigmn Hurrell ; 2nd, Sergt Terrell ; 3rd, Sigmn Weekes. Time, 57 sec.
880 yards—1st, Sigmn Davies ; 2nd, Sigmn Stanger ; 3rd, L/Corpl Spencer. Time, 2 min. 14 4/5 sec.
One mile—1st, Sigmn Davies ; 2nd, Sigmn Stanger ; 3rd, Sigmn Smith. Time, 4 min. 56 1/5 sec.
Three miles—1st, Sigmn Davies ; 2nd, Sigmn Stanger ; 3rd, Driver Fostekew. Time, 16 min. 50 2/5 sec.
120 yards hurdles—1st, Sigmn Pettit ; 2nd, L/Corpl Hooren ; 3rd, Sigmn Shepherd. Time 19 4/5 sec.
High jump—1st, Sigmn Taylor J. W., 5 ft. 2 in. ; 2nd, Sigmn Pettit, 5 ft. 1 in. ; 3rd, L/Corpl Hooren, 5 ft.
Long jump—1st, Sigmn Pettit, 18 ft. 7 in. ; 2nd, Sigmn Weekes 18 ft. ; 3rd, L/Corpl Langham, 17 ft. 11¼ in.
Pole jump—1st, Sigmn Matthews ; 2nd, Sigmn Shepherd. Height, 8 ft. 6 in.
Hammer—1st, C.S.M. Herbert, 87 ft. 3 in. ; 2nd, Sigmn Manson ; 3rd, Sigmn Snowball.
Shot—1st, Sigmn Manson, 30 ft. 0½ in. ; 2nd, C.S.M. Hailes ; 3rd, Sigmn Snowball.
Javelin—1st, Sigmn Manson, 123 ft. 9 in. ; 2nd, Sigmn Etheridge, 117 ft. ¼ in. ; 3rd, Sigmn Pettit, 115 ft.
Discus—1st, Lieut. C. D. Gardiner, 89 ft. 8 in. ; 2nd, Sigmn Smith ; 3rd, Sigmn Snowball.
Old soldiers' race—1st, Sergt Warr ; 2nd, C.S.M. Hailes.

Colchester Garrison Team Championships.—This unit has not been particularly good at athletics, but each year we contrive to improve on our performance of the year before in the Garrison team championships. Last year we were fifth. This year we were fourth, and besides defeating the Cavalry and Gunners, we also beat an Infantry battalion. Our improvement was due to our sprinters, who have always done well, and more particularly to the great all-round improvement in field events. I remember two years ago, when there was nobody in the unit who could exceed, or even reach, 30 ft. with the shot, and when on the day of the Garrison meeting our hammer and javelin throwers had had so little practice that the best they could do was three "no-throws."

The great improvement during the last two years is not entirely due to fresh blood, but to training and attention to technique. If our middle distance runners would only improve like our field event men, there is no doubt that we could produce quite a useful athletic team. The following officers, n.c.o.s and men represented the unit:—

100 yards—2/Lieut R. B. Gray, Sergt Terrell, L/Corpl Langham, Sigmn Hurrell
220 yards—2/Lieut R. B. Gray, L/Corpl Milne, Signalmen Steel and Hurrell
440 yards—2/Lieut R. B. Gray, Signalmen Hurrell, Taylor and Blackburn
880 yards—L/Corpl Spencer, Signalmen Davies, Taylor and Hurrell
One mile—Signalmen Davies, Smith, Gartland, Baker, Roden
Three miles—Signalmen Davies, Pitcher and Smith, and Driver Briggs
120 yards hurdles—L/Corpl Hooren, Signalmen Pettit, Shepherd and Etheridge
High jump—Signalmen Taylor and Pettit
Long jump—Signalmen Pettit and Brightmore
Pole jump—Signalmen Matthews and Shepherd
Hammer—C.S.M. Herbert and Sigmn Manson
Shot—Signalmen Manson and Snowball
Discus—Lieut C. D. Gardiner and Sigmn Manson
Javelin—Signalmen Manson and Etheridge

Sigmn Davies has improved wonderfully as a track runner since last year, and ran a good race when he finished second in the three miles. Both Davies and Hurrell, our sprinters, have done well in other events and won several prizes this year.

Army Team and Individual Championships.—In the Army team championships, we were pleased to entertain the 3rd Divl Signals athletic team. They did not win, though they showed us that they will be a force to reckon with during the next year or so—but, like England, they want more field event men.

In the Army individual championships, we must congratulate 2/Lieut Stoneley on his fine win in the 440 yards and Sigmn Buckman on tieing for first place in the pole vault.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

July (received too late for last issue).

Cricket.—Our record is keeping quite good, and the results for the past month are:—Played 8, won 5, lost 2, drawn 1. The full results to date are:—Played 16, won 10, lost 5, drawn 1.

v. Cloughton C.C. Won by one wicket and 86 runs. 5th Divl Signals 119, Cloughton 33. Sergt Minns 37, L/Corpl Ferrier 21, Sigmn Guy E. W. 18. L/Corporal Ferrier, seven for 19 ; Sigmn Forster, two for 5 ; Sigmn Davies E., one for 11
v. G.P.O. Won by four wickets. G.P.O. 159 (Mr. Lilley 120), 5th Divl Signals 178 for six wickets. Sergt Minns 78, Sergt Fegan 36, Sigmn Longworth 30. Sergt Minns, five for 59
v. Footballers C.C. Won by an innings and 7 runs. 5th Divl Signals 68, Footballers 14 and 45. Sergt Minns, six for 3 ; Sigmn Guy, three for 9 (in the first innings)
v. Cayton C.C. Lost by 15 runs. 5th Divl Signals 105, Cayton 120. Sergt Minns 58 not out, Sigmn Drury 30. Sergt Minns, four for 19 ; Drury, two for 19
v. Co-operative C.C. Won by five wickets. 5th Divl Signals 81 for five, Co-operative 78. L/Corpl Ferrier 26, Sigmn Guy 17 not out. Sergt Minns, five for 20
v. Hunmanby C.C. Won by 15 runs. 5th Divl Signals 72, Hunmanby 57. L/Corpl Ferrier 20, Sigmn Guy 20, Sigmn Drury 19.
v. St. Thomas's C.C. Lost by 36 runs. 5th Divl Signals 75, St. Thomas's 111. Sergt Minns 29, L/Corpl Ferrier 17. Sigmn Drury, four for 27 ; Sergt Minns, four for 52.
v. Dennis C.C. Drawn. 5th Divl Signals 51 and 83 for five (declared), Dennis C.C. 65 and 67 for five. Sigmn Drury, seven for 12 and four for 24

The best of the unit team averages at the mid-season period are appended:—

BATTING.

	Innings	Not out	Runs	Aver.
Sergt Minns	18	2	454	28.37
Sigmn Ross	5	1	85	21.25
Sigmn Drury	17	—	291	17.11
L/Corpl Ferrier	17	—	258	15.17
Sigmn Longworth	9	2	78	11.14
Sergt Fegan	7	1	62	10.23

BOWLING.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Aver.
L/Corpl Ferrier	58.2	9	128	30	4.26
Sigmn Davies E.	38.1	6	128	30	4.26
Sergt Minns	141.3	25	393	58	6.77
Sigmn Drury	59	6	204	25	8.16

CATCHES.—Corpl Badham 8, L/Corpl Ferrier (wicket-keeper) 8, L/Corpl Wright 7, Sigmn Foster 6, Sigmn Longworth 6, L/Corpl Manning 5.

STUMPING.—L/Corpl Ferrier 5.

August.

Cricket.—We still sail merrily along and manage to field an eleven, assisted by the G.P.O. staff (owing to eligibles being at Catterick). The results of the latest matches are appended.

v. Nesfield's Brewery. Won by 102 runs. 5th Divl Signals 130, Nesfield's Brewery 28. L/Corpl Ferrier 47, L/Corpl Spargo 23, Sergt Penfold 29.
v. Y.M.C.A. Match abandoned. Y.M.C.A. 17. Sigmn Davies, six for 4 ; Sergt Minns, four for 10
v. Wesley Guild. Lost by 15 runs
v. Dennis C.C. Won by 8 runs (two innings). 5th Divl Signals 22 and 72 for five (declared), Dennis C.C. 52 and 34 for eight (declared). L/Corpl Ferrier 32, Sergt Minns 14. Signalman Davies, five for 6 and seven for 19. [This result seems rather curious, with two declarations, but details are printed as supplied.—ED.],

v. St. Thomas's C.C. Won by four wickets. [? scores—Ed.] L/Corpl Ferrier 24, Sergt Minns 17. L/Corpl Ferrier, five for 24 ; L/Corpl Wright, one for 0 ; L/Corpl McLean, two for 0

G.P.O. and Signals v. Scarborough College. Abandoned owing to bad light. G.P.O. and Signals 114 for nine (declared), College 101 for six. Mr. Taylor 41, Mr. Lilley 41

G.P.O. and Signals v. Scarborough Possibles. Abandoned owing to rain. Possibles 124 for five.

G.P.O. and Signals v. Mr. P. Bradley's XI. Lost. Mr. Bradley's XI. 136, G.P.O. and Signals 58 and 72 for four. We should like to congratulate Mr. Bradley's team on their excellent and sporting cricket.

G.P.O. and Signals v. Commercial Travellers. Lost by 12 runs. Commercial Travellers 90, G.P.O. and Signals 78. L/Corporal Ferrier 29, Mr. Taylor 17, Mr. Lilley 14. Sergt Minns, five for 30 ; Mr. Taylor, five for 40

We are hoping to play the G.P.O. in a final game on our return from camp.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

There has been very little doing in the sports line in Jubbulpore during the past month. Normally, this is a very wet period of the year, and the only out-door sport possible is rugby ; but this year, the monsoon having failed, we are still able to indulge in a little soccer and hockey.

The main interest in this Centre lies in the question: Who is " Cock o' the Walk " in the soccer realm? The Sergeants' Mess rather fancy their chances, and the Attached Section walk about with their noses in the air, while the A Company lads treat them all with disdain and continue with their Tottenham Hotspur tactics, which never seem to break the back of the net.

The strength of the sergeants seems to lie not so much in their ability to play football as in preventing their opponents from doing so. Opponents of the sergeants find themselves up against a very keen, robust and go-ahead combination. Every inch of ground is fought with plenty of vim and vigour.

Nos. 8 and 9 Bungalow teams are at present supplying the Indian Companies with plenty of practice, in view of the forthcoming contest for the Indian Brigade football shield, which, in view of the absence of the Dogras in Burma, can safely be said to be destined to remain in the S.T.C. (India) for another year.

Although we have had scarcely sufficient rain to make the ground soft enough, rugby has commenced and several practice games have been indulged in. The team, in a very short period, has got together admirably under the tuition of Lieut. Knox and Sergt Stone. Against a much heavier and more clever combination in the 60th Field Battery, the team performed very creditably in only losing by 6—11 points.

In the first round of the Harwood-Little cup we have been drawn against D (M.G.) Company P.W. Volunteers, and on our showing of late, we are feeling pretty confident that the team will rise to the occasion.

The inter-Mess tournament between the officers and sergeants, which has been held for a number of years, always proves a source of great pleasure and interest to everybody. This year the sergeants have taken the corporals under their fatherly wing, and a tournament has been arranged on the same lines for a trophy put up by the well-known " wet " firm of Younger and Co. Fittingly, the trophy will be known as the Younger cup. Probably we shall all be feeling " Younger " (trickling down our throats) after each match. The tournament will consist of contests in football, hockey, cricket, tennis and shooting.

Before closing these notes, I should like to add that the favourite pastime of bungalow sports has held sway for quite a considerable period of late.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Cricket.—This month Akor has experienced a series of losses—which, however, is not surprising in view of the fact that the play of our opponents is in many cases of county standard. Twelve games have been played, with the following results:—

v. Hindu Gymkhana, lost. Hindu Gymkhana, 127 for eight wickets (Sigmn Thomas, five wickets for 20) ; A Corps Signals, 123 (L/Sergt Bosworth, 22).

v. Young Khaja Ismailias, lost by 20 runs. Young Khaja Ismailians, 112 (Bosworth, three for 11) ; A Corps Signals, 92 (L/Corpl Gordon, 22 not out).

v. A.R.S., R.A.F., lost. A.R.S., R.A.F., 108 for seven ; A Corps Signals, 63 (Sigmn Jordan, 23 not out).

v. R.A.F. Depot " A," lost by 2 runs. R.A.F. Depot " A," 123 ; A Corps Signals, 121 (Gordon, 32).

v. G.P.A., lost. G.P.A., 177 for four ; A Corps Signals, 127 (Sigmn Wills 62, Sigmn Fearnley 32).

v. Karachi Port Trust, lost. Karachi Port Trust, 55 for two ; A Corps Signals, 51.

v. H.Q. Wing, Royal Sussex Regiment, lost by 14 runs. H.Q. Wing, Royal Sussex Regiment, 58 (Thomas, three for 16) ; A Corps Signals, 44.

v. N.W. Railway, won. N.W.R. 83 (Sigmn Welchman, six for 11) ; A Corps Signals, 111 for six (Sigmn Chitty 51 retired, Thomas 37 not out).

v. Royal Sussex Regiment, lost. Royal Sussex Regiment, 255 for six ; A Corps Signals, 117 (Thomas 30, Corpl Curtis 27).

v. Sind Police, lost by 20 runs. Sind Police 106 (L/Corpl Gibbons, four for 27) ; A Corps Signals, 86 (Gibbons 23 not out).

v. B Company Royal Sussex Regiment, lost. B Company, 177 (L/Sergt Andrews, five for 23) ; A Corps Signals, 41 (Thomas 22 not out).

v. Forbes, Forbes and Campbell, lost. Forbes, Forbes and Campbell, 145 for nine (Gordon, three for 30) ; A Corps Signals, 115 (Gordon 35 not out).

Inter-Section Sports.—This year the rules were modified. Instead of forming the Sections by trades, the Line and Wireless Companies were each divided into two Sections, these being drawn by lot and numbered:—Nos. 1 and 2 Sections (Line Company), Nos. 3 and 4 Sections (Wireless Company).

Inter-Section Football.—This competition was run on the American League system, and the following is the final table.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals		Pts
No. 2 Section	3	3	0	0	9—2	...	6
No. 1 Section	3	1	1	1	2—2	...	3
No. 3 Section	3	1	0	2	4—6	...	2
No. 4 Section	3	0	1	2	2—7	...	1

Tennis.—This sport is ever increasing in popularity, and it is becoming so difficult to get on our only court that the erection of a second one is seriously contemplated. The following friendly matches of three single-set doubles have been played with results as shown:—

Versus the Hindu Gymkhana, we won both the home and away matches by the odd set in each case.

Versus the Telegraphs, we lost the away match by the odd set, but won the home match—again by the odd set.

In the Birch Civil and Military Club's open handicap tournament for men's and mixed doubles, Lieutenant W. R. Smijth-Windham and Sigmn Fearnley C. won their first match easily (off— 15½), and now meet Sergt Shardlow M. and partner (off — 50) in the next round.

Our only representative in the mixed doubles is Sergt Shardlow, who is partnered by Mrs. H. Brooks, a local star. Their handicap of —60 is a true measure of their ability.

In the unit singles handicap tourney, our unit representative, Sergt Shardlow, having discovered a firm with a racquet to spare, devised a first-rate scheme for disposing of it. The request for entries at a nominal fee of R.1 received immediate response. The record number of fifty-two entered, including Lieut.-Col. R. P. A. Helps (our C.O.), all officers, most of the sergeants' mess, and more than thirty junior n.c.o.s and men. The latter must be congratulated on their progress during the last twelve months.

The whole competition, with the exception of the final, was run off in eight days. The latter is to be decided between Sergt Shardlow and Sigmn Fearnley, with handicaps of — 60 and — 40 respectively, but has been postponed until August 7th. They accounted for Lieut. Smijth-Windham (— 30½) and Lieut. Lewis (— 15½) respectively in the semi-finals.

The dark horses of the tourney were Lieut. Lewis, who has a nice fat handicap for the next ; Sergt Wicketts (— ½) who confounded many of his fellow mess members ; and Sigmn Smith, who, with good practice, should be a next year's team man.

The prizes, a French racquet to the winner and an English one to the runner-up, are to be presented after the final, which will be reported in my next month's notes.

Hockey.—The unit hockey team photograph for the season 1930-31 makes a somewhat belated appearance this month, but we were forced to tarry until some of our star turns could afford to dispense with their knee bandages. The group is arranged (left to right) *Standing*—Signalmen Thomas L. and Dyball W., Corpl Jerram F., Sigmn Fearnley C., L/Corpl Bridgeman A. and Sergt Lydamore. *Sitting*—L/Corpl Gibbons E., Sergt Taylor A., Major P. A. Hitchcock, O.B.E., M.C., Lieut. C. C. Worrall, L/Cpl Gordon N. and L/Corpl Webb H. *In front*—L/Corpl Brunton-Douglas J. and L/Corpl Green J. J.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Sport.—Owing to the absence of many of our sportsmen at Upper Topa and on detachment at Abbottabad, Dalhousie and other seaside resorts, very little sport has taken place. However, we have managed to keep ourselves occupied with scratch games at football and hockey, the results of which are not to hand.

The Sergeants' Mess have played hockey against the Corporals and Signalmen, which resulted as follows:—v. Corporals' Mess, draw of 3—3 ; v. Signalmen, abandoned through sandstorm seven minutes from time, with the seniors leading by 3—1. A return game with each of the above is indicated in the near future.

With regard to cricket, next month will see us once again playing in the Jagan-Nath hot weather tournament shield, of which we are the present holders. An attempt to run a trial game proved a wash-out through rain. Great hopes are entertained of one or two of our newcomers—Sigmn Law in particular, who has the makings of a forcing opening batsman. Still, time will show.

Tennis.—I greatly regret to inform you that the professionals of the unit have scattered. Their present units are lucky to possess such good players and sportsmen. Many learners are now in the Club. They are keen, and should prove their worth in a year or two if they will learn that to put the ball in the sergeants' mess court counts nothing—at least, for them.

Corporals Smith and Tennant and L/Corpl Brand were our representatives in a recent Rawalpindi open tournament. L/Cpl Brand, partnered by Corpl Smith, played exceptionally well, considering it was his first taste of tournament play. Unfortunately, they ran up against two better players in the first round of the doubles and were beaten by 6—4, 4—6, 2—6, in a most enjoyable game.

In the singles Corpl Smith reached the third round, when he was beaten by the eventual runner-up by 2—6, 6—4, 6—0. This was a very unenterprising match.

Corpl Tennant had the bad luck to come up against two good players in both the open and handicap singles. It is hoped that all will do better in the October tournament.

It was match point to receiver in a very keenly contested game between two of our colts. The server put his first ball out, but the second was a beauty. His opponent argued that it was a "double." Asked to explain, the receiver said that "he had foot-faulted" the server on his second ball. Anyway, that is a new method of winning games.

Ist Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Upper Topa.

Boxing.—At a tournament held at Upper Topa on July 10th, L/Corpl Morgan (Welch Regiment) knocked out Sigmn Johnson in the second round. Johnson took a lot of punishment before being counted out.

Sigmn Collins beat L.A.C. Howe (Royal Air Force) on points in a spirited bout. Exchanges were keen throughout, and Collins, who had an advantage in reach, had his man in difficulties in the final round, but could not administer the k.o. The referee congratulated the loser on a plucky display.

Corpl Kingshott (K.S.L.I.) beat L/Corpl Stirk (R.Signals) on points. Stirk put up an excellent fight against a more experienced opponent, and only lost by a narrow margin in the final round. Kingshott is the holder of the Murree Hills feather weight title.

Private Salter (K.S.L.I.) beat Corpl Yalden (R.Signals) in the second round. Yalden was practically out in the opening round, and did not last long in the second.

Private Scrivens (Welch Regiment) beat Signalman Wilson on points. Wilson was always trying for a knock-out and was inclined to leave himself open, with the result that Scrivens went ahead on points.

Sigmn Delaney beat Private Coleman (K.S.L.I.) on points in what was undoubtedly the best contest of the evening. There were several spells when the men stood toe to toe and exchanged blow for blow in the centre of the ring. Delaney used a straight left with advantage and managed to gain the verdict. He is the holder of the Northern Command and Murree Hills light heavy weight titles, while Coleman holds the middle weight titles.

Sigmn Newbury knocked out Private Jenkins (Welch Regiment) in the third round. Jenkins was slightly ahead in the opening round, but Newbury took the lead in the second and dropped his man in the third with a right to the solar plexus.

L/Corpl Williams (Welch Regiment) knocked out Sergt Tanner (R.Signals) in the second round. Tanner had his opponent groggy in the early stages, but failed to follow up his advantage. He ran into a left and was down for a count at the end of the first round. Williams gained a knock-out in round two after some heavy exchanges. Tanner is the holder of the Murree Hills heavy weight title.

Sigmn Airey beat L.A.C. East (Royal Air Force) on points. The early rounds were spoilt by too much holding. Airey went ahead in the third round, and East was lucky to last the full distance.

Pvte Trotter (K.S.L.I.) beat L.A.C. Andrews (Royal Air Force) on points. Trotter had a big advantage in weight, height and reach, and he made full use of them. Andrews took a lot of punishment in every round. Trotter holds the Northern Command and Murree Hills bantam weight titles.

A comic boxing interlude at the interval considerably enlivened the proceedings and was much enjoyed by the spectators.

Plains Detachment, Rawalpindi.

This month has not been a very busy one with us, as the monsoon has somewhat abated our enthusiasm.

Leagues are now finished, and the winners of the hockey and football leagues were the Feroze Extras. We are now playing the knock-out medal competition at hockey. All teams have played, Gough Road Strollers beating the Hunt Club by 2—1, whilst the Murree Brewery drew with Feroze Extras after being somewhat lucky.

We entered a team in the Downs hockey tournament, but lost to the Downs Club in the first round by 4—0 goals. Our opponents were far too good for us.

Friendly football matches were played against B Corps Signals and the Border Regiment, the results being:—We beat B Corps Signals by 2—1, and lost to Border Regiment by 0—2. At hockey, we beat B Corps Signals by 3—0, and R.A.M.C. by 3—2.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Cricket and tennis have occupied most of our time the past month. Reference was made in our last issue to the tennis and cricket tournaments, in which we are doing quite well.

Cricket.—Versus A Company Norfolks, won by 212 for eight —56; v. B Company Norfolks, lost by 83—115; v. N Battery R.H.A., won by 142—90; v. A Sqdrn. Lancers, won by 93—59.

Tennis.—Versus Sergeants' Mess, won; v. Norfolks, won; v. B.M.H., lost.

Hockey.—Versus Commercial Club, drew at 1—1; v. Cantonment Club, won by 2—1; v. Field Troop, won by 1—0; v. M.T. Company, lost by 2—4; v. Commercial Club, lost by 0—4.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Tennis.—The following are results of games in the Garrison League:—

May 8th v, H.K.S. Brigade R.A., home, won by 6—3
May 11th v. 20th Battery R.A., home, won by 4—3 (remainder of games given by opponents)
June 5th v. 31st Battery R.A., away, won by 5—4
June 10th v C Company A. & S. Highlanders, away, won by 7—2
June 22nd v. B Company A. & S. Highlanders, away, won by 9—0
June 30th v. D Company A. & S. Highlanders, away, won by 9—0
July 7th v. H.Q. Wing A. & S. Highlanders, away, won by 9—0
July 9th v. A Company A. & S. Highlanders, home, won by 6—3

This completes our fixtures in the Kowloon Section, and as we have run out winners, we are looking forward to meeting the winners of Hong Kong Section.

We have the following people to thank for the good play that has been witnessed at home and away matches:—Lieut. Gough and Sigmn Morris, L/Corpl Higgins and Sigmn Patience, and Signalmen Gillott and Williams.

Shanghai Signal Section.

Cricket.—Owing to the inclement weather, we have only played one match so far this month, the result of which we hope to publish, with several others, in our next notes.

Water Polo.—Our water polo team is in the best of form this season, and their efforts have been very successful.

The following are results to date:—v. R.A.S.C., won by 2—1 and 4—1; v. R.S.F. "A," won by 9—0; v. R.S.F. "A," "B", and "C," won by 5—0; v. R.S.F. Battalion team, won by 5—1.

A water polo league has now been formed, and under the able leadership of Sigmn Morrell (our human fish) we should run well for first place.

Malaya Signal Section, Singapore.

Sport.—As the Section is so small and unable to turn out a team, we have joined forces with the Royal Engineers, and have several representatives in what is known as the Pulau Brani team for all games.

Last month Sigmn Thomson was selected to play soccer for the United Services v. the Singapore Volunteer Corps. He played an excellent game at back, and the Services ran out winners by 6—0. Thomson received a very nice cup, suitably engraved. He also represented the United Services v. the Singapore Amateur Football Association in July, playing another excellent game. We are all proud of his efforts.

Last week-end Sergt Carpenter was selected to play cricket for the Europeans against the Rest, in the annual Clarke cup match. The Europeans batted first, and put up a very satisfactory score of 230, Sergt Carpenter compiling a very useful 17. After this, the feature of the match started: it was Carpenter's bowling. This is best explained by quoting (by their kind permission) from three Malayan papers.

The Malaya Tribune, Monday, July 6th:—" The game was not without its exciting moments, and two performances require special mention. Sergt Carpenter (Royal Corps of Signals) making his debut in Singapore, created something of a sensation when he was given the ball. Taking two wickets in his first over for a single run, he went on to bowl seven consecutive maiden overs, the fifth being wicket maiden. In the next two overs he gave three runs for another wicket, followed by two maidens; then two overs in which three runs were scored, and another two maidens, in the first of which he got his fifth wicket. His figures at this stage were:—16 overs, 11 maidens, 7 runs, 5 wickets. His final figures were six for 35."

The Singapore Free Press, Monday, July 6th:—" The Rest's Dramatic Collapse. After the first two overs, the European skipper took himself off in favour of the new arrival in the Colony, Sergt Carpenter (Royal Corps of Signals). A left-hander, with a short run to the wicket, Carpenter found his length almost at once. Kheng Hock was his first victim, caught at the wicket; Evan Wong the second. Carpenter went on for maiden after maiden. D. Cotta, not knowing what to do with him, eventually batted him simply into the hands of Bryan (Lieut. G. J. Bryan, Royal Engineers, a Kent county player). Hill (Worcester County Cricket Club) who had taken the ball from Bryan, soon lost his length; at any rate, it was Carpenter upon whom everybody's eyes were centred. Cassiechetty, feeling his way, broke up Carpenter's long spell of maiden overs with a two, but paid the penalty in the same over—four wickets down for 25. Bryan came on again and took two wickets. It had been a most surprising collapse: six wickets down for 36 runs, of which Carpenter took four for four runs in twelve overs, nine of which were maidens.

" Play was resumed next day in an atmosphere of great excitement, which, as it turned out, increased throughout the day until it culminated in a tense climax. Bryan and Carpenter both began the bowling again at 11 a.m., and each claimed a wicket within a short time, the score then being 47 for eight wickets. The end

of the innings came just after noon. As a result of a commendable effort by Bartels, Carpenter's average had suffered, but it was still unusually good. His analysis read:—23 overs, 12 maidens, 35 runs, 6 wickets.

" In the second innings, Carpenter's analysis (on a much drier wicket) was not quite as good as the first:—14 overs, 6 maidens, 34 runs, 2 wickets."

The Straits Times, Mor.day, July 6th:—" The outstanding personality in the match was the new left-handed bowler, Carpenter, who on Saturday proved almost unplayable and was mainly responsible for the Rest's collapse. When play concluded on Saturday evening, his analysis read:—12 overs, 9 maidens, 4 runs, 4 wickets.

" He was not so successful on a much drier wicket on Sunday, but r.evertheless he has undoubtedly earned himself a name in his first important game, and must certainly be considered a very likely candidate for Colony honours in August."

We all offer our hearty congratulations to Sergt Carpenter, and sincerely hope he will be selected to play for the Colony in August. We have been given to understand that he is the first representative of the non-commissioned ranks to play for the Europeans in Singapore. This is certainly another sporting achievement to add to the many already held by the Corps.

Cricket in Singapore is of a very high standard, as will be gathered from the following details of some of the players selected for this match:—

Captain D. V. Hill, Royal Artillery; captained Worcestershire for two years, and an Army cap.

Lieut. G. J. Bryan, Royal Engineers; played for Kent C.C. on several occasions, and Army cap.

Lieut. N. C. Phillips, Royal Artillery; Army cap and Royal Military Academy.

Flight-Lieut. Groome, Royal Air Force; Royal Air Force cap.

P. H. Stewart-Brown, Esq.; Oxford Blue.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Sports.—Annual camp concluded with the sports, which were carried out most successfully, the arrangements being made by Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., who has been responsible for this work for the past ten years.

The weather on sports day, except for a shower half-way through, was good, and there was a large crowd of spectators, which included Colonel R. G. Earle (hon. colonel), Lieut.-Colonel Ozanne (commanding 56th Divl Signals, London), and Sir Roger and Lady Twisden.

There was a good entry for the various events, mounted and foot, which in several cases had to be run in heats.

The sports cup was won by No. 3 Company (Plymouth and Topsham) who beat No. 1 (Exeter), last year's winners, by six points. Sigmn May, of Topsham, was No. 3 Company's star turn, and he scored points in the mounted as well as the foot events, which is a rather unique occurrence. His Company benefited considerably by his prowess in the way of points.

No. 1 Company had a tremendous tussle in the tug-of-war competition against a team representing the 3rd Divisional Signals (Regular Army). The Exeter men lost the first pull, after a good effort, and the second they won. After a pause to allow the teams to recover, the third pull came and resulted in a grim struggle, which the Exeter men won amidst a scene of great enthusiasm. It was the most exciting event of the day.

The Exeter team also beat the 3rd Divl Signals' team in horseback wrestling and so reversed last year's result.

Boat race—Sergt J. Field's team
100 yards, boys—1, Boy Gilbert; 2, Boy Taylor; 3, Boy Smith
100 yards—1, Sigmn May; 2, Sigmn Williams; 3, Signalman Chambers
Sack race—1, Sigmn Norris; 2, Sigmn Harvey; 3, Sigmn May
Tilting the bucket—1, Signalmen Darch and Devenport; 2, Signalmen Norris and Bellamy; 3, Signalmen Shepherd and Tucker
440 yards—1, Sigmn Chambers; 2, Sigmn Colwell; 3, Sigmn May
Obstacle race—1, L/Corpl J. Field; 2, Sigmn Osborn; 3, Sigmn Norris
Relay—1, No. 3 Company team; 2, No. 1 Company team
Tug of war—No. 1 Company team
One mile (open)—1, Corpl Broadley; 2, Sergt J. Cotterell; 3, Sigmn Robertson—all of 3rd Divl Signals
Three-legged race—1, Sergt Marks and Corpl Drew; 2, Signalmen Norris and May
All ranks relay—1, Capt. Ford's team; 2, Capt. Harris's team
Mounted water carrying race—1, Sigmn May; 2, Sigmn Williams; 3, F/Sergt Allen
V.C. race—1, L/Corpl Colwell; 2, Sigmn May; 3, Corpl Wright
Horseback wrestling—1, No. 1 Company; 2, 3rd Divl Signals
Consolation race—1, Corpl Moorhouse; 2, Corpl Mitson; 3, Signalman Ball
Officers' donkey race—1, Lieut. Martin; 2, Lieut. Lee-Wright; 3, Lieut. Knill

Sigmn May (No. 3 Company) won a silver cigarette box given by Captain R. C. A. Cummings, O.B.E., for the highest individual scorer.

Lady Basing, wife of the commanding officer, presented the prizes. Major Western, in proposing a vote of thanks to her ladyship for the interest she had taken in the unit and for her presence that afternoon, handed her a lovely bouquet of flowers on behalf of the sports committee. Lady Basing, in a happy speech, graciously acknowledged the vote of thanks and the bouquet.

52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals.

Sports at Troon.—The principal events at the above sports were won by the individuals shown below. There were many other events, but it is thought they would not be of general interest for publication purposes.

Officers' race—Col. J. S. Muirhead
Open jumping (open to any T.A. or Yeomanry unit in Scotland)—1st, Lieut. Paterson; 2nd, C.S.M. S. T. Cozens
Open relay race (open as above)—Lowland Signal units
Tent pegging—1st, C.S.M. Bain; 2nd, Sergt McNeil
Unit jumping (junior n.c.o.s and men)—1st, Boy Gosling; 2nd, Driver D. Robertson
Sergeants' race—Sergt Parker

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THE WIRE

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VOL. XII.—No. 140 OCTOBER, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

Notice.—The wife of an n.c.o. serving in India (married off the strength) offers her services as nurse or general help to an officer's family in return for passage out. Fully trained nurse and schoolmistress. Apply direct to Mrs. E. Ward, 100 Bourne Road, Colchester, Essex.

❀ ❀ ❀

W. Mycroft, of Berezniki Khimstroi, Ousolje, Vernhe Kamsky, Oural, U.S.S.R., would like to hear from any of his old "F" Company (Maresfield) friends of 1920, especially Fields, Tango Reed, Digger Daynes, Lanagan and the Rosenburgs.

❀ ❀ ❀

Numerous applications are being made to this office for copies of such pictures as "Through," "The Menin Gate," "Buried Cable," "The Cable Wagon," etc. It is notified for general information that these pictures are difficult to obtain, and that beyond publishing a "Wanted" notice in the Corps Journal, we have no facilities for securing them.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are also the recipients of many letters from readers who write to ask if we can explain the lamentable absence of unit notes from Egypt Signals, Cairo.

We have it on good authority that Nos. 1 and 3 Companies of that distinguished unit are still in operation, and can only express the pious hope that they are not busily compiling a contribution which will necessitate a Supplement to our next issue.

What about it, Cairo? Kabareh?

❀ ❀ ❀

We are indebted to a Karachi reader for the following example of English "as she is spoke" in India (and for a translation of which no prizes are offered):—

Sir—I am too sorry that I having been Bombay to get the Bearer job, which you was already please me a necessary letter for a gentalman named —— which was arraived in Bombay. Sir then I could not succeed there owing to be unfortunatly of my life.

Since your depertur time of England I am in a many trouble in India, therefore I was informing you by letter as I am sanding this, as proper particullers.

I can not say you why you not sending me a palatly (? politely) reply. or you are with my bad luck.

By, God you will try to get me a service chance through a high recommend by your HAND.

Any officers which will sailing to India by my following address and accept my BC (? best compliments).

Your faithfully servant
ABDUL HAKIM, Banglow No. 104.
Rey Road, Karachi Cantt.

[Perhaps some "gentalman" would like to take him on?]

❀ ❀ ❀

Bound Volumes of "The Wire" for 1931.—All readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1931 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. *No Royal Signals Mess Library is complete without it!* Price 8/- per copy, post free (at home or abroad).

THE EDITOR.

Signals Association Notes

NOTICES.

It is notified for general information that the next Annual General Meeting of the Signals Association will take place at Headquarter Offices, 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, on Wednesday, October 7th, 1931, at 3 p.m.

All who contemplate being in attendance are asked to notify the General Secretary in writing not later than Monday, October 5th.

Will any P.T. Instructor who is contemplating taking his discharge in the near future, and who wishes to obtain similar employment as a civilian, please communicate with this Office immediately?

❀ ❀ ❀

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-W.O.	Examiner
2	Ex-Signalman	Porter
3	Ex-N.C.O.	Postman—Porter
4	Ex-N.C.O.	Postman—Porter
5	Ex-N.C.O.	Postman—Porter
6	Ex-Signalman	Postman—Porter
7	Ex-Signalman	Postman—Porter
8	Ex-Signalman	W/T Mechanic
9	Ex-N.C.O.	W/T Electrician
10	Ex-Signalman	Valet

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

BANKER'S ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Lieuts G. Thompson, V. N. Drake, J. M. S. Tulloch, H. Prince, E. J. E. Mozley, G. C. Nelson, G. E. G. Brown, G. B. Stevenson, J. P. North.

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
Malaya Signal Section, Singapore.
Waziristan District Signals.
1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.
Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Aldershot.
A Corps Signals, Karachi.
Sergeants' Mess, B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

GIFT OF CLOTHING from:—
Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O.

APPEALS dealt with:—
1—Ex-Signalman, Dublin. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
2—Ex-Signalman, Southampton. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
3—Signalman, Aldershot. Domestic difficulties. £3 allocated as a grant from Association funds.
4—Ex-Signalman, Hounslow. Temporary difficulties. £1 allocated as a grant from Association funds.

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

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

To be C.Q.M.S.

*6906373 Gould J. 9/4/31

To be C.Q.M.S. (F-of-Signals)

2746102 Emsley C. 10/5/31

To be Sergeant

*2311290 Godbold A. 14/1/31
2306774 Goble F. 1/4/31
2313067 Winteringham R. 1/4/31
2306752 Dodds W. 8/4/31
*1045592 Beagley F. 9/4/31
* 534340 Fairman J. 9/4/31
2312884 Winter W. 25/4/31
2306948 McWilliams H. 5/5/31
1858688 Brewer A. 5/5/31
2309322 Andrews E. 15/5/31
2309594 Gilmour A. 15/5/31
6905950 Walsh W. 15/5/31
2309008 Miles H. 23/5/31
2311126 Wigzell W. 24/5/31
2309746 Devey H. 2/7/31

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

2306948 McWilliams H. 1/4/31
2312479 Blower J. 1/4/31
2309798 Little V. 8/4/31
*2967541 Wilson H. 8/4/31
*1860365 Grant A. 9/4/31
2315391 Carnell O. 13/4/31
2311654 Short F. 19/4/31
1856964 Watt N. 29/4/31
2313021 Chappell R. 1/5/31
2311325 Southwell F. 5/5/31
2306014 Duncan R. 15/5/31
2314824 Dunn A. 24/5/31
2311596 Barraclough A. 2/7/31

To be Corporal

2312471 Stedman W. 1/4/31
2315724 Yalden W. 9/4/31
2309482 Colwell H. 15/4/31
2310791 Young W. 22/4/31
2316931 Howard W. 5/5/31
2316242 Webb A. 7/5/31
2317007 Catt C. 15/5/31
2317009 Smith A. 15/5/31
2314155 Hawkes W. 15/5/31
2308505 Rowe C. 20/6/31
2316758 Jones H. 1/7/31
7581477 Snook S. 2/7/31
2922514 Scott A. 2/7/31
2312826 Conroy P. 2/7/31
2317412 Newman A. 15/7/31
2317185 Crow L. 26/7/31
2316394 Ede W. 29/7/31

To be Corporal (Farrier)

1850345 Newman R. 23/7/31

Appointed Lance-Corporal

2319428 Trudgett E. 1/4/31
2316297 Mulholland F. 2/4/31
2316723 Andrews H. 7/4/31
2314307 Russell M. 7/4/31
2316785 Johnson J. 7/4/31
6338999 Turner T. 7/4/31
2317455 Webb H. 7/4/31
2315506 Waplington W. 7/4/31
2316198 Garner P. 7/4/31
2316825 Watson D. 7/4/31
2317408 Booth W. 7/4/31
5328879 Dockerell H. 7/4/31
745775 White E. 7/4/31
2316678 Dore J. 7/4/31
2316697 Evans T. 7/4/31
2316914 Fisher E. 7/4/31
2317099 Bailey A. 7/4/31
748423 Dodd C. 7/4/31
2318684 Hamilton W. 7/4/31
2317226 Lane W. 7/4/31
2317909 Frost A. 7/4/31
2318412 Sayer C. 7/4/31
2316864 Webster G. 7/4/31
2318050 Crawford F. 7/4/31
2815537 Ross W. 7/4/31
2316863 Powell F. 7/4/31

* *Special Roster, India*

313889 Johns J. 7/4/31
2316851 Warburton H. 7/4/31
2316172 Funnell H. 10/4/31
6538759 De Courcy T. 10/4/31
2316283 Matthews C. 10/4/31
2316635 Cargill W. 10/4/31
2317203 Youngs G. 14/4/31
2316988 Richardson F. 16/4/31
2315978 Wilbraham H. 17/4/31
2318580 Mann J. 23/4/31
2315516 Hills A. 6/5/31
2317744 Gray M. 9/5/31
2318453 Magwire W. 10/5/31
2317755 Reardon D. 15/5/31
2317762 Denbow E. 15/5/31
6285 Buckley H. 15/5/31
2318167 Freeman F. 15/5/31
2312268 Clarke F. 15/5/31
2309609 Baker A. 15/5/31
2316977 Hall C. 16/5/31
2316822 Goat A. 16/5/31
2318213 Barker E. 16/5/31
1026075 Fensome H. 16/5/31
2317190 Cowe J. 16/5/31
2318200 Driscoll J. 16/5/31

Discharges.

2306222 Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Weeks G. 20/8/31
2306200 C.Q.M.S. Halls W. 18/8/31
1857017 Sergt Judge A. 25/8/31
2308401 L/Sergt Langley H. 11/8/31
6133136 Corpl Romain E. 4/8/31
392757 Corpl Clark A. 20/8/31
2313032 L/Corpl Hodges A. 5/8/31
2317536 L/Corpl Hopper J. 18/8/31
6164 L/Corpl Poole F. 26/8/31
1045247 F/Cpl Lancashire W. 7/8/31

To Army Reserve.

2313504 Sergt Burns J. 10/8/31

Deceased

2306985 Sergt Lee A. 7/8/31

Corps News—Officers

MOVES—

Major F. W. S. Jourdain from London to Catterick (S.T.C.)

Capt W. S. Wasey from Blackdown to A.D.B. Signals, T.A. (London)

Capt D. A. Campbell from Aldershot to Blackdown (A.D.B. Signals)

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 25/8/31

REGULAR ARMY—MEMORANDA

Capt B. Hussey, M.C., h.p. list, late R.Signals, retires on account of ill health, 26/8/31, and is granted the rank of Major

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

2nd Cavalry (Middlesex Yeomanry) Divl Signals—The date of appointment of Lieut E. O. Bleackley, R. of O., is 21/7/31 and not as stated in *The Gazette* of 31/7/31.

53rd (W.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut R. C. Poole resigns his commission, 14/7/31

Air Defence Brigade Signals—2/Lieut J. F. Thoburn, M.C., to be Lieut. 21/7/31, with seniority 7/2/31.

2/Lieut. J. D. Grover to be Lieut 21/7/31, with seniority 8/2/31

50th (N.) Divl Signals—The date of appointment of 2/Lieut. S. Robinson is 24/7/31 and not as stated in *The Gazette* of 4/8/31

War Office, 28/8/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets, from the Royal Military Academy, to be 2/Lieuts. 27/8/31:—E. I. E. Mozley, V. N. Drake, G. C. Nelson, H. Prince, G. Thomson, G. B. Stevenson, J. P. North, J. M. S. Tulloch, G. E. G. Brown

War Office, 1/9/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned 2/Lieuts to be Lieuts. 30/8/31:—A. T. Sladen, J. H. L. Crichton, J. D. L. Morris, E. P. Blake, W. G. Daubeny, F. J. G. Lyle, J. R. G. Walker, P. G. Docker, J. T. Addenbrooke, J. R. Beeton

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

2/Lieut. A. Greenhill to be Lieut. 18/8/31

War Office, 4/9/31

REGULAR ARMY—ESTABLISHMENTS

Lieut. J. D. Haigh, R.Signals, relinquishes the appointment of Instructor (Cl. GG) School of Signals, 20/8/31

Lieut. K. E. Holmes, R.Signals, is appointed Instructor (Cl. GG) School of Signals, 20/8/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned to be 2/Lieuts. 5/9/31:—

Officer Cadet H. Moyse-Bartlett, from Oxford University Contingent (Senior Div.) O.T.C.

N. A. Waters (late Cadet, Solihull School Contingent (Junior Div., O.T.C.)

War Office, 8/9/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut. K. E. Holmes is seconded whilst Instructor, School of Signals, 20/8/31, vice Lieut. J. D. Haigh, restored to establishment

War Office, 11/9/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieut. T. W. Boileau is seconded for service on the Staff in India, 15/6/31

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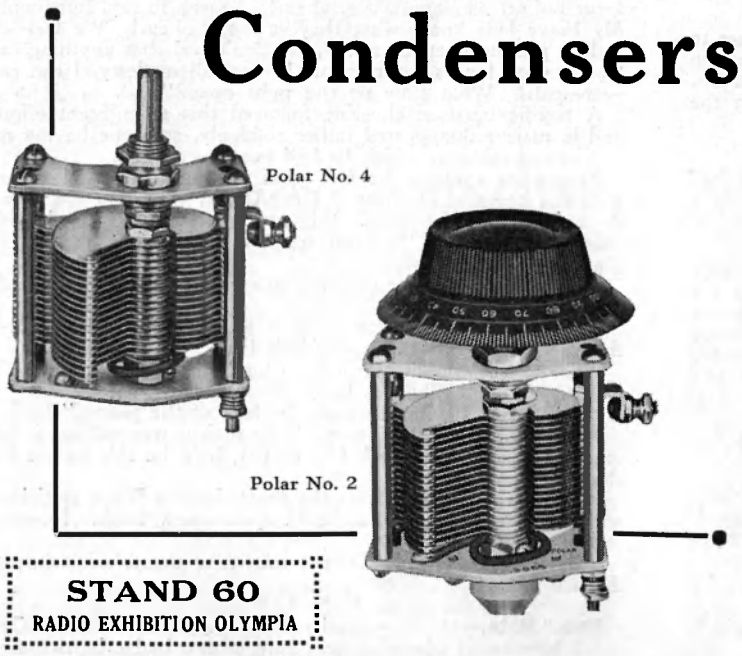

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- Plain Tales -

A Line from "Down Under."—I was giving the old desk a dig out the other day, and had made a goodly pile of crumpled letters in the fireplace (the wife being out) when I came across one which, curiously enough, did not begin with that ominous word "unless." Further investigations revealed that the concluding paragraph was innocent of the usual "failing which." It was, in fact, a cheery letter from a WIRE reader, Mr. Gilchrist, of Perth, Australia.

Once upon a time (as the old soldiers say) Citizen Gilchrist was a signalman in that 100 per cent he-man family, D Company, S.T.C., Maresfield. He sends his salaams to all old members. Fortunately he is in good employment, but advises all those who are thinking of settling in Australia to give the matter one more "think." The man who stands the best chance is the man with capital. Lots of it, and then some more. So there's a tip from the man on the spot.

I invite all old D Company members, and men of other Companies whom he may have punched on the nose during boxing contests, to join me in wishing friend Gilchrist good luck.

* * * *

Our Versatile Tradesmen.—One of the tests for an instrument mechanic is: "Turn up, true and parallel ½ inch rod to ⅝ in."

Calipers and treadle lathe are allowed, and although it is not permitted officially, the hopeful I.M. usually has sundry other tools secreted about his overalls. It is thought that in addition to extra tools, a different piece of rod would materially assist the candidate to make a success of the work.

* * * *

Social.—Among the distinguished visitors who have honoured Jubbulpore with their presence during August, we must include Uncle Alfred, who is sufficiently well known to WIRE readers to need no further introduction.

We learn from him, with some amazement, that there is quite a respectable war going on in the north of India. Far be it from us to suggest that this is a reason for Uncle Alfred's visit here. We are now so well informed regarding Razmak, Manzai and similar obscure places, that we have had no alternative but to depose the former King of Manzai. Trimulgherry and Burma papers, please copy.

If all we hear is true, the coming trooping season promises to provide some sensational surprises. It is too early to mention names here, but we have heard one or two already. Cheer up, Bert! and you, too, John. This is better than Bulford (for the first four years, anyway).

* * * *

Looking Back.—Seventeen years ago to-day (Indian standard time) Britain flung herself into the European conflict with a couple of mocking laughs and a handful of contemptuous grins. There were also some soldiers and sailors.

At the same time, a shower of R.E. boys rushed in to Aldershot from various K Company stations. I forget which caused the authorities the greater anxiety. I can still sympathise with the long line of n.c.o.s who were, at various times, placed in charge of those boys. I had a photograph (which I lost whilst talking to some R.A.M.C. chaps) of most of those boys. It was taken outside "H" Block, Stanhope Lines, about 24th August, 1914. Most of them are now w.o.s and n.c.o.s of dignified bearing, which is merely the inevitable result of Anno Dominoes (whoever he may be).

This probably doesn't interest you young lads who tear about Catterick and fondly imagine that you are the real honest-to-goodness boys like the lads in my lost photograph. Alas! Tempus undoubtedly fugits.

In order that any doubt as to my linguistic abilities may be dispelled, permit me to add "Ora pro nobis," which will soon be really necessary, and "Scots wha hae," the meaning of which has always eluded me.

* * * *

Superstitions.—Another staggering essay from the pen of the author of "Practical Jokes" (40th million; Wallop and Cloughtem, 7/6 net). Stow away from boilers, etc., etc.

Some people say one thing and some say another, but I do not believe it. Now, this apparently pointless sentence requires some explanation which, as you may have guessed, I have no intention of supplying. The rising generation are often inclined to flout the old superstitions and beliefs of their fathers and grandfathers, and even their grandmothers. In certain cases, this is quite a good thing. On the other hand, it is definitely not a good thing at all, and vice versa, if you can see what I'm driving at. I can't.

The number of people who will deliberately walk under a ladder is extraordinarily small. It is not superstition alone that causes the majority to avoid the ladder. They do not trust the man at the top. Now, this is really quite unfair on the workman, who is almost certain to be a jolly decent chap. A friend of mine once walked under a ladder, and just as he was directly beneath it, he heard a shout. He looked up in time to receive a pot of red paint upside down on his face. Had the workman not had the decency to shout to him, my friend would have had his hat utterly ruined.

Many men in the Army to-day, as in other days, have an almost irresistible impulse to tell the sergeant-major his fortune. If a man gives way to this impulse, and happens to be at all superstitious, the best thing he can do is to throw all his equipment over his left shoulder, step off with both feet, and double to the detention room. On arrival there, he must turn about and lock himself in. This saves a tremendous lot of bother. He might try crossing his fingers, but I am not sure that this will do much good.

There are many other superstitions, but I propose now to deal only with those popular in the married quarters.

I don't think I will, after all. I'm too young to die.

* * * *

Pour la Patrie.—On the evening of the fourth day of their wonderful march, the 2nd Chaussettes arrived at Bidi Smell Shabbis, where they were met by le maire and corporation complete with town band. News of their thrilling adventures had gone before them. (I am not quite sure how this happened.)

Le maire made a pretty speech, and would probably have made it a lengthy one but for the arrival of a quantity of decayed fruit, the passage of which he arrested with his ear.

Le majeur Maggotte then rose to reply. "Monsieur le maire, ladies and gentlemen," he commenced, his horse voice—I mean, his vorse hoice—darn it! his voice hoarse with emotion. "Er, I—or rather, we—appreciate, ahem! I mean to say, hurrumph. My brave lads know what they've done, ahem! We feel—or rather, putting it another way, we don't feel that anything can be too good for us, hurrumph. In—er—all modesty, I can say—er—pah! What time do the pubs open?"

A terrific burst of cheering followed this magnificent effort, and le majeur disappeared rather suddenly, someone having removed the table on which he had been perched.

That same evening the O.C. was playing crown and anchor with the beautiful Duchess of Deux-Oeufs, when our old friend Pierre burst into the room. "Excuse me, Duch," he said, with old-world courtesy. "I must speak to le majeur. S'matter of life and death. Perhaps both."

Le majeur pushed the Duchess into a wardrobe. "Go ahead, Pierre," he said.

The faithful bat-homme flung a glass of cognac down his throat. "Le capitaine Pourboire is here," he gasped.

"Carramba!" cried Maggotte, who had travelled extensively in his youth. "Where is he?"

"Talking to Pauline through the bars of the prison."

"Sapristi and er hoots, mon!" Le majeur was nothing if not cosmopolitan. "I'll knock him so flat, he'll be able to use his shadow for a tent."

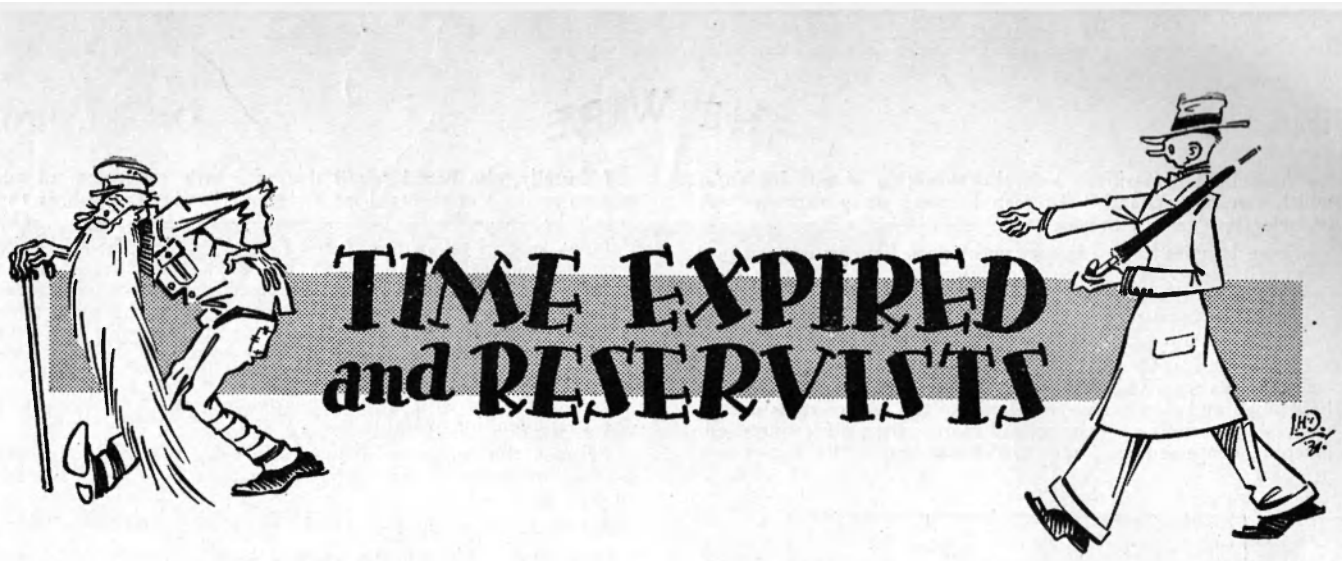
With that, he rushed from the room, leaving Pierre to debate within himself whether he should open a new bottle of cognac or the wardrobe.

What would *you* do? Do not miss next month's instalment, if there is one.

* * * *

Motor Note.—Much sympathy is felt for the well-known Catterick hairdresser whose car was flung over a hedge by two mischievous little boys.

BARLEUX.



[***Contributions to this Section of the Corps Journal are invited from all ex-members of Royal Signals***]

Aldershot,
September 14th, 1931.

To the Secretary of the Signals Association.

Dear Sir—

Sez Me!—The editorial comment in the September number of THE WIRE anent the Section devoted to erstwhile members of the Royal Corps of Signals and its parent, the Signal Service, Royal Engineers, seemed to bear all the earmarks of a nasty personal dig. I deserved it!

Since my concluding at Catterick (my only foreign service) an active association with the Corps in December, 1928, I have had the privilege of contributing, from time to time, matter for which the Editor has very generously found space in a publication which, even in the past three years, has provided tangible evidence of a sturdy growth calculated to afford ex-members of the Corps as great a pride as serving members in the finest of all Service Journals.

I will qualify the assertion in due season.

With the advent, however, of that Section placed at the disposal of " Time Expired and Reservists "—a considerate gesture as well as a masterly journalistic " feature "—I can find no loophole of escape, and so the monthly discourse which once upon a time made a remarkably regular appearance over the initials " L.H.D." will be resumed. Oh, yeah?

In the First Place.—Not the least remarkable trick of Fate, or whatever you will it is that rules our individual movements, was that which decreed my return to Aldershot, where I had spent rather more than half of the entire period of my engagement and, incidentally, some of the happiest days of all.

To return as a civilian to a military centre where a comparatively short while previously one had augmented the military element of the community is a strange and, momentarily, upsetting experience. The rapid transplantation from Camp to Town is one which must be undergone to be appreciated. One of the hardest tasks I have ever performed was that of perambulating the length of the Camp, carrying a rolled umbrella!

That one may, with a refreshing impunity, flaunt impedimenta of this nature under the very noses of the Chapeaux Rouge—and get away with it—is one of the minor " things that matter " to an individual inculcated with the military ethics.

Eventually, however, I was successful in the reconstruction of my perspective of things.

Passed to You, Please.—The primary object of this Section is that of supplying matter " of general information and guidance to serving readers, with the writer's impressions of civil life (to-day) as compared with that in the Army, general conditions of employment, and other information which may be of interest and value to those anticipating discharge in the near future." This, then, is the sum and substance of the Association's requirements of those ex-Signals " who are now in lucrative (sic!) and comfortable employment."

Since I fall under the latter category, with certain reservations, I propose, with the indulgence of all concerned, to definitely continue the series next month and indefinitely thereafter. For the nonce, cut out this first article, retain it for a decent period, and then, if possible, give it away. L.H.D.

" Palmgate," Cowan's Tank, Victoria,
May 7th, 1931.

The Secretary, Signals Association.

Dear Sir—Various reasons have inspired the writing of this letter. Foremost, my subscription is overdue; last, but not least, " our Drake's " heading in the April number of THE WIRE. Really, I think news under the heading is eagerly sought for.

I'm hardly able to forward the 7/- at the present, as, with the majority of those in civvy street, I'm feeling the pinch. Would it be possible for you to allow the subscription to stand over until such time as the exchange rate is more favourable for remitting the necessary cash? Don't laugh: I'm quite serious!

Thanks for your kind wishes which I received, with various cards, at Christmas time.

Now for a little more news of my doings since I had sown a hundred acres of wheat in 1927.

Unfortunately, that crop was a total failure. For miles around in the new settlement, as well as in parts of the old, not a bag of wheat was harvested.

The next year (1928) saw me with two hundred acres ready to sow. I again had the work done by contract. We had a little more rain than in the previous year, although the weather was still inclined to be droughty, and only three hundred bags of wheat were harvested.

I scraped together enough money to go across to Western Australia, and was married at Fremantle in February, 1929.

March saw me back again on my block, and clearing proceeding. By cropping time (May) I had three hundred acres ready for sowing. Fifty acres were sown with oats, and the rest with wheat, by contract. It proved another disastrous year, however, for all concerned—a total failure throughout practically the whole of this district: the Mallee. The situation was very serious!

Under the scheme for settlement, advances were made up to £1000 for various improvements on the blocks. Several people had drawn up to the limit, and in exceptional cases beyond it.

A scheme for sustenance came into being, scaled from £14 down to £8 per month—bachelors receiving the latter sum. This has been revised several times, and at present no cash is paid, but coupons issued instead.

A married man with one child gets three for £1, two for 10/-, and four for 5/- each. These coupons can only be exchanged

for household necessities, with the exception of one for 10/-, which can be exchanged for cash to meet petty expenses. A bachelor receives £3 in coupons.

Where families have a house, with cows, hens, water, and an unlimited supply of firewood, conditions are far better than in towns during these hard times, for one need not be too particular as to appearance with regard to clothes. My word! if you were a little nearer, I would be worrying you for some of your " cast-offs."

Conditions were very trying for settlers with families. Household linen and clothing were coming to the end of their usefulness, with nothing in sight to buy more. Belts were tightened, patching continued, and more land was prepared for cropping in 1930.

We Two.

[See other "Snaps" on opposite page]

Let me hasten to add that the Government, through the Closer Settlement Board, had kept settlers supplied with horses, machinery, manures, duplicates, twine, oils and other farming necessities, as further advances.

I still thought it the best policy to let horses alone for the time and have my cropping done by contract, the cost being advanced, as usual, by the Board.

In 1930, three hundred and fifty acres were sown with wheat and fifty with oats. The cropping time was ideal, but a very dry June gave us an anxious time. The spirit barometer rose again with the splendid rains in July, and by October a bountiful harvest was assured.

I applied for, and was granted, a six-horse team, complete with harness, for £175, and a complete harvester machine for £200—the horses, etc., as an advance ; the machines to be paid for in three yearly instalments, the first to be from the sale of the growing crop.

I got a neighbour to come along and cut the oats with reaper and binder. This yielded about sixty tons, and it was stacked as feed for stock. The wheat yielded 1200 bags, or 3600 bushels. I kept a hundred bags for seed, and the balance I sent to the wheat pool. At this time the bottom fell out of the market, and instead of realising about £800, to date the first advance has only been £234.

Naturally, the Board seized this as a little repayment of advances made, and remitted me a " tenner " for replenishing the wardrobe.

Now, when I take stock, I find I'm indebted to the Board for over £1000. My assets, which include a £400 house and a £150 water dam, horses, machinery, fencing, stocks, etc., are somewhere about the same figure. But I have the satisfaction of seeing four hundred acres ready for cultivation, carved out of the virgin scrub, which must in time have an enhanced value over the purchase price.

Cropping time this year has started exceptionally well—it is the best seen for years.

Perhaps the foregoing may explain why I haven't strongly advised members of the Corps to try their hand at a venture of this kind.

Satisfied! Well, how *could* one be, with seasons so unkind?

Despairing! Not all the while I have a comfortable home and the Government enable us to carry on until the situation brightens.

Wishing to be remembered to all old friends, whose names are gradually disappearing from the pages of THE WIRE,

I am, yours sincerely,
F. V. MARCH.

Ex-Service Club, 25 de Mayo 577,
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

To the Editor of THE WIRE.

Sir—In 1928 I was discharged from Rawalpindi and granted a free passage to Australia ; and a sketchy account of my doings after leaving the " old mob " may be of interest to readers. Here goes!

At Bombay the doctor felt my pulse and signed my documents, and I was bustled into the tender. I really had intended to be fully conscious of my last step on Indian soil, but now I realise that I was not and so missed that promised thrill. Gradually the distance increased between myself and the shore, and I was off on a new lap.

I was going farther away from Blighty, which I had left in 1922: to an unknown land, of which I knew nothing. Well, I thought real hard during that short journey on the tender, but the die was cast. We bumped against the side of the *Mooltan*, and I scampered up the gangway, having the distinction of being the last passenger to go aboard.

I was directed to my cabin and given my table number, and by the time I had got on deck again we were well out among the islands in Bombay bay—if I may style it as such.

The voyage was pleasant, and it was really good to be amongst civilians again, although I felt rather awkward at first. However, we reached Colombo in due course. Here I " did " the scenes ashore, and after a few hours, off we went again.

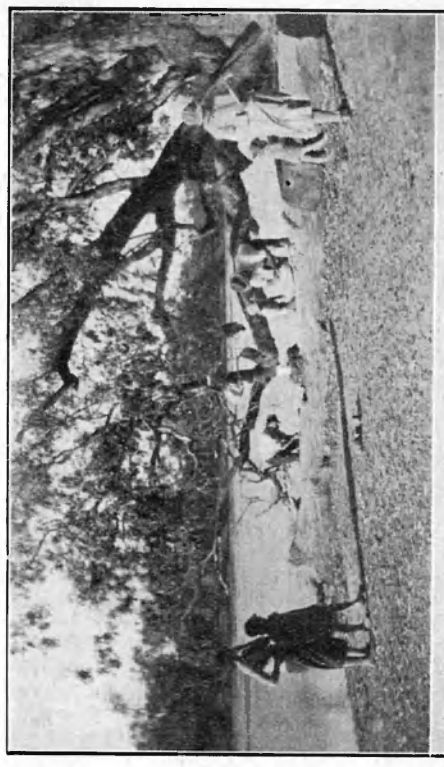
The days passed pleasantly with deck tennis and dancing on the deck at night ; and with the exception of the disturbing thought that I would soon be cast ashore by myself and shorn of the crowd of pals that one has in the Army, the time went agreeably.

I was bound for Sydney, but the night the boat docked in Fremantle, Western Australia, I went ashore and heard such glowing accounts of the western as compared with the eastern States that I decided to break my journey. So, that same night, I sat in a bus, with my luggage left behind in the Customs, bound for Perth, the capital, eleven miles inland.

Here the good old Y.M.C.A. (I might say it has never let me down wherever I have wanted " digs ") claimed me, and I looked around for a job—hunted up advertisers and inserted advertisements myself—but to no purpose. Then fortune smiled, and I found a job three hundred miles away in the bush in South-west Australia.

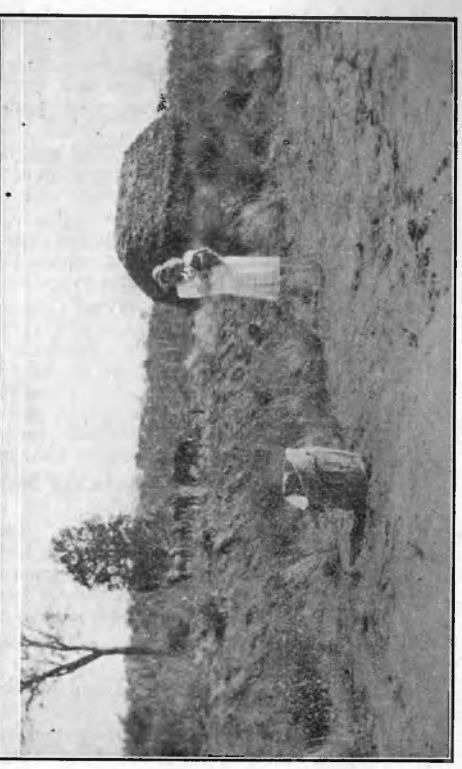
Here I had the charge of a garage and lighting plant at £6 a week. There was nowhere to board in the town (all wooden buildings, barring the " boozer "). So I got out my bed-bag, swept out an empty hen-house, and slept there for a week.

Rural Life in the Land of the "Aussies."

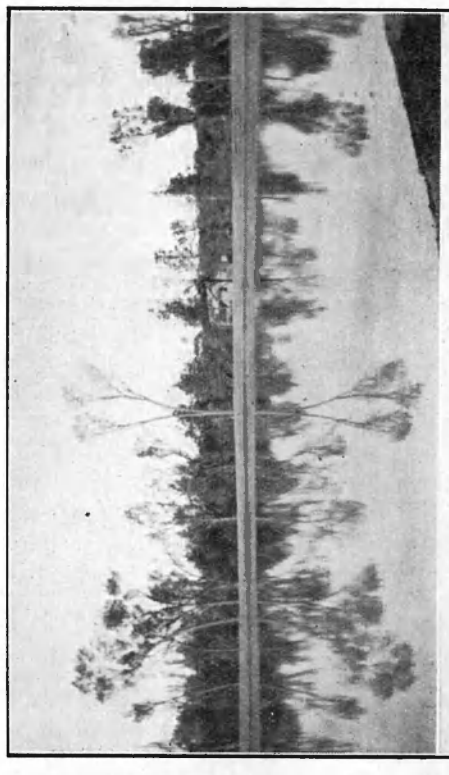


The river Murray, north of "Palmgate."

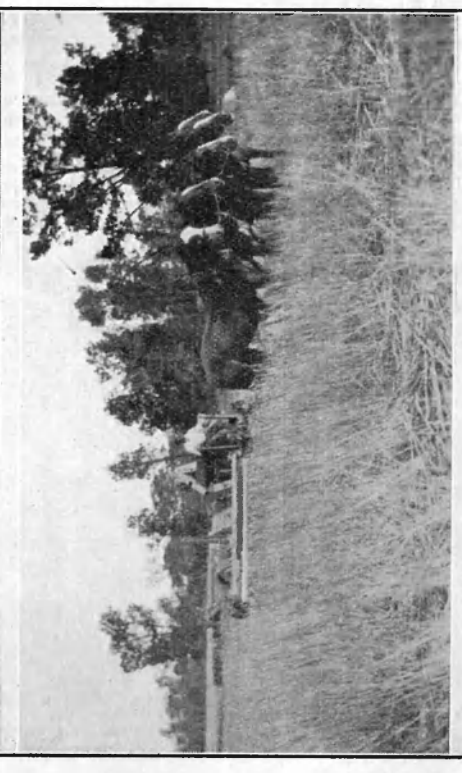
Our Conveyance.



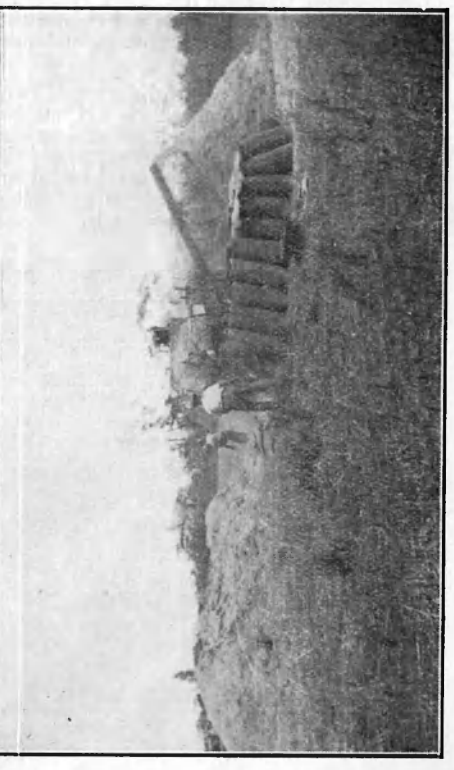
Mrs. March with son and heir.



Dam and House, "Palmgate."



Harvesting the 1930 Crop.



Winnowing after stripping, 1928.

Eventually I went to board with the two parsons and the teacher, and thus made my debut into high social and intellectual circles.

Bluff and good luck held my job for me ; and, here, I think a few words about the country would not be amiss.

Denmark is on the coast near Albany, and is in the big timber country. Here the Government are settling immigrants in groups. Each group has its own school and a foreman to guide the settlers in their work.

The time I speak of was winter, and everywhere was mud and bogs. The railway construction party were camped eight miles away, pushing a line through to Pemberton. Now, these navvies were the life of the place. Each fortnight, when they were paid, another fellow and I took out our 30-cwt. trucks to serve as taxis and bring them in to the drinking saloon. As the railway progressed, of course, they got farther away, and the roads became mere alleys between the bush growth.

We had good times at dances at the various Group Schools, where we danced the Highland Schottische to the strains of piano and a mouth organ, and perhaps an accordion. Any excuse sufficed for a " get together." If someone fell ill in the Group, off everybody would go on Saturday night and have a benefit dance. Auctions would be held. Each car-load took their own " oil," and things would be fine at 1 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Well, here I went log chopping in the bush, with taxi-driving and mechanical work thrown in.

The parsons and I got on fine together. The teacher and I also became good pals (we still write) and went kangaroo shooting and fishing at the week-ends. Fishing was great sport. The salmon would " shoal " around the coast, and we have pulled out 60 lb. of them with hand line from the rocks in two hours.

This was the life—free and easy—open air and sporting. Hard work at first made my back ache: loading gravel for building and felling logs was something I had not been used to, but I soon shook down to it.

Many pleasant memories of my five months stay here recur to me, but space does not permit of my writing of them.

I saved £85 in those five months, and then I fell out with the boss, packed my bags, and went with some more fellows by road to Perth. We traversed the Mount Barker fruit district and then the wheat belt, shooting odds and ends of small game on the way up, such as cockatoos and wallabies, and indulging in a few stray shots at distant kangaroos.

I found good " digs " on the coast at Perth, and the weather was fine, it being summer. Here I surf-bathed to my heart's delight. How I enjoyed it! After breakfast I would don my costume, and snatching up a towel would dash across the sandhills and down into the warm breakers. Here I would spend the whole day, and at night go down to the big beach, which was lit up, and join the other thousands.

A night on an Australian beach in summer has to be experienced to be appreciated. Thousands come straight from the town after tea, driving up in their costumes, and sprawl on the cool sands, occasionally dashing into the surf to get soothingly wet.

Soon after coming to this delightful spot, I went over to the plant of General Motors Corporation and asked for a job. I had had a vocational course with their Indian branch, and my reference started me next morning.

My job was duco painting. Paint spraying is a skilled job, and I hadn't done any, but I had watched others doing it—and the wages being attractive, I " plomped " for that and said I was a duco painter.

" Imagine my embarrassment " (said the duchess) as I started that morning. The foreman showed me some wheel rims and asked me what sort of " gun " I was accustomed to. I named the sort they had where I had watched the work being done (God bless American manufacturers, who stick their names in bold letters on everything). He promptly said, " Well, that's what we use here ; you'll find some in the tray "—and buzzed off and left me.

A sympathetic chap connected me up to the air pressure and paint drum, and there I was, left to do damage with 100 lbs. pressure of a mixture of paint and alcoholic-smelling stuff.

The thing you use is like a pistol with a trigger, and when you pull the trigger the paint gushes forth like one of those oil wells you read of. After I had sprayed the walls and a stack of wheel rims, I thought that anybody who could put the paint where he wanted to was a better man on the draw than any of Zane Grey's heroes.

However, practice made me perfect by the end of the day, and I returned to my landlady—with more black duco paint on myself than I had put on the wheel rims (and it took some getting off, too!) Here I earned, with overtime, up to £14 a week.

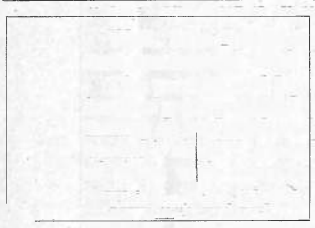
Working as much as fifteen hours a day, I stuck it for eight weeks and then quitted with a bank account of £75 (saved there alone).

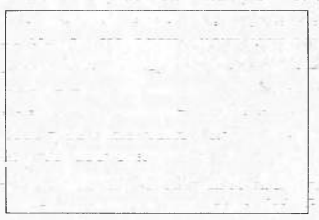
I took a month's holiday and then, after chasing a job in the goldfields, I decided to go over east.

I am now in Buenos Aires, and finding this unfinished epistle, I thought maybe you could use it. I have ground in to a mighty fine job here, and when I am settled, I will write up more of this " stuff."

Yours truly, HENRY LANE.

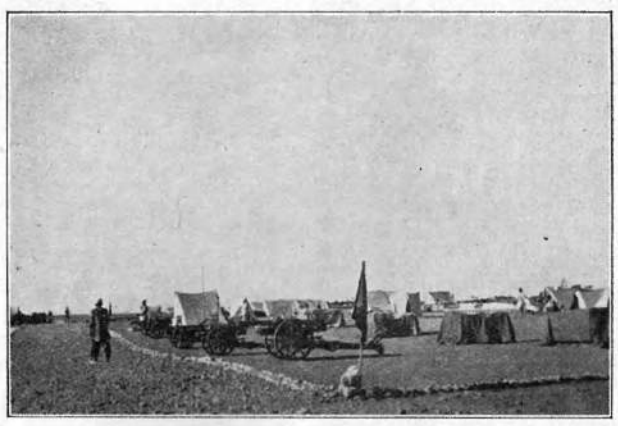
P.S.—I would like to know where I could get a pull-over with the R.Signals colours.

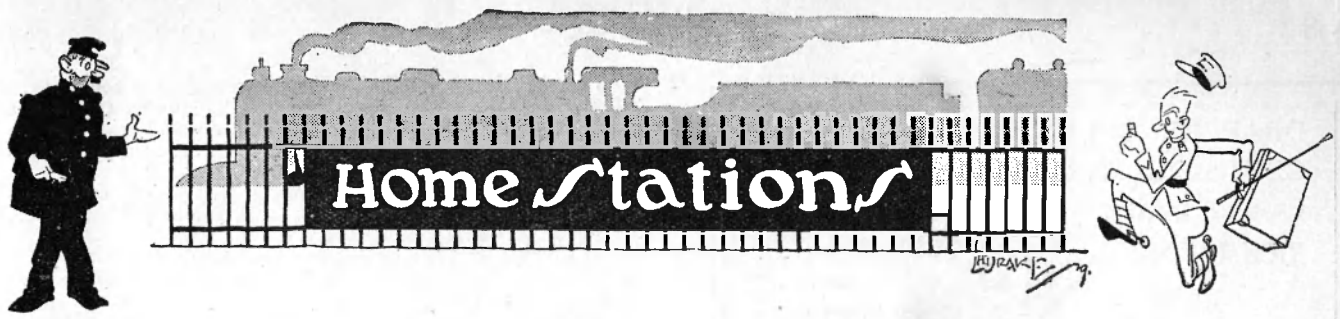




Operations on the North-West Frontier, India, in 1930

Nowshera Brigade Signal Section and Mountain Battery at Narai Khwar in November.





SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

The last month has been comparatively uneventful, no doubt through the furlough season. We are waiting for the Officer i/c Records to let us know who are the lucky ones to take the trip across the pani. Up to the present, C.S.M. Markham and Corpl Walsh have received provisional warning orders for Egypt and India respectively during the forthcoming trooping season.

We are maintaining a steady flow of recruits. Our average is four per day, and they are all getting down to training.

We have now removed our offices. They are at present situated in the single officers' quarters, "A" Block, Kemmel Lines, and they are much more to our liking.

Corporals' Mess.

On the evening of September 7th we were kindly invited to an " at home " by the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, and we played the seniors at putting, snooker, phat, darts, etc. We will not give you the results, but the honours were very evenly distributed.

We had community singing, led by R.S.M. Fegan, and we did our level best to lift the roof until 11 p.m., when we all joined in the singing of the National Anthem and retired after spending a very enjoyable evening.

There is no doubt that the corporals have been getting their eye down to it, especially in the billiards line, taking full advantage of private practice on their new table.

On Friday, 11th September, we held a grand carnival dance in the Newbigging Hall. We were pleased to welcome our commanding officer (Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C.) and Mrs. Walsh, Lieut.-Colonel E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C., of the Training Battalion, Mrs. Hitchins, and the officers of the Depot Battalion. The attendance was good, in spite of other dances held in the camp on the same evening. The dance terminated at 2 a.m., and was enjoyed, we are sure, by everyone.

We welcome No. 2314236 Corpl Hart R. from 4th Divl Signals.

Training Battalion.

We have very little to report this month other than that Catterick, with the rest of England, has enjoyed (?) a regular monsoon, with, however, a few bright intervals.

None of these intervals happened to coincide with the date of the S.T.C. gymkhana, which had to be cancelled, to everyone's regret.

A successful horticultural show was held by the Catterick Garrison, and we must congratulate R.S.M. (F-of-S) Shave and Sergt Swatton on their successes.

Our trick riding team, the Red Devils, have left for Port Sunlight to fulfil an engagement, and the report of their display will appear in due course.

We congratulate C.Q.M.S. Deptford on attaining that rank.

Complimentary—In quoting the following, the whole Battalion wishes to associate itself with the remarks of the G.O.C.-in-C.: —" Northern Command Order No. 1089. The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief desires to place on record his appreciation of the gallant conduct displayed by No. 2557746 Corporal S. Gratwicke, Training Battalion, Royal Corps of Signals. On the afternoon of August 15th, 1931, at Tregantle, Cornwall, two civilians—Messrs. Morgan and Bowden, of Plymouth—who were bathing, got into difficulties. A very heavy sea was running and the wind was high. Corpl Gratwicke went into the sea at very considerable risk and succeeded in rescuing one of the civilians. For this act of gallantry, the G.O.C.-in-C. directs that an entry be made on Corpl Gratwicke's documents in accordance with para. 1625 (a) King's Regulations, and action taken in accordance with Command Standing Order No. 88."

The corporals of the Battalion have started the season with two very successful dances, and there is every prospect of their continuing.

D Company, Training Battalion.

All we are worrying about in these days is " Where do we stand in this new Budget affair?" Is it true that a group " C " corporal is going to lose a bob a day, and a sergeant only ninepence? (cries of " Shame!" and " Hear! hear!") Oh, well! we shall all know by the 1st October, and we shall all have to grin and bear it, whatever happens.

Our C.S.M. is back in harness again, and is brushing up his Hindustani.

Inspection.—The Colonel-Commandant of the Corps (Lieut.-General Sir J. S. Fowler, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.) honoured us with an informal visit on Thursday, September 10th. We were all pleased to see him looking so hale and hearty, despite his retirement.

Extensions of Service.—Despite the threatened reductions in pay, we still have some who prefer the Army to the very doubtful outlook in civvy street. R.S.M. (F-of-S) Shave has re-engaged to complete another year beyond his twenty-one, as also has Sigmn Bill (or Badgy) Brame, who must be one of the oldest soldiers in the Corps. Sergt Packman and Corpl Blight have re-engaged to complete twenty-one years.

Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Freeman on his elevation to the Corps roster, and to U/L/Corpl Brunning on starting the ascent up the ladder.

Horticultural Show—Congratulations to R.S.M. (F-of-S) Shave on " pinching " most of the prizes at the recent flower and vegetable show.

Questions We Could Answer.—Who broke the sports pavilion windows, and why?

Who is the absent-minded sergeant in E Company who called the roll in drill order less cap plus bowler?

Who is the lance-corporal who had the chevrons on his tunic a month before his appointment was promulgated?

Who is the sergeant who took his foot off the brake and hit a United bus?

Who is the n.c.o. whose horse fell down in deep slumber?

Amendment.—Corpl Smalley says that he was quite willing to buy the drinks, but he didn't meet anybody who wanted one.

Agony.—Gene Heeney, Rawalpindi: Tommy Tunney hasn't forgotten you. JOSOPE.

E Company, Training Battalion.

General.—The Corps Band, after a very successful and, I hope, a very happy tour, have once again returned to the sunny climes of Catterick. Judging from remarks I have heard made by various members, the Isle of Wight seems to be a rather pleasant place. Fancy our famous Band broadcasting from Bath and our not knowing anything about it. Anyhow, they are now practising a rather different tune at present: " Five rounds rapid fire." I hope they *don't* broadcast that, as too many groans from the trombones may be heard. Isn't that so?

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I have not seen so many daily papers bought in one day as was the case recently, when the emergency Budget was announced. On all sides I heard rapid calculations being made, and the pay warrant was perused time and again. Hasty resolutions were made as though it were the beginning of the New Year, and now everyone is anxiously awaiting the publication of Army Orders.

The Company is increasing in strength weekly, and we have now been forced to take over additional accommodation. We have our hands full at present, but we shall come out of the ordeal with flying colours, as usual.

Arrivals.—We welcome 2/Lieuts G. B. Stevenson and J. P. North from the R.M.C. Woolwich, and trust that their stay with us will be long and pleasant.

Departures.—Corpl Robertson has left us to join A Corps Signals. Au revoir and the best of luck! Mind those long-eared friends, Jock.

Sigmn Matthews, of the Corps Band, has departed to civil life, and his violin solos will be sadly missed.

Marriages.—Sergt Lockyer has joined the happy band of pilgrims, and taken unto himself, for better or worse, Miss Eveline Louise Stevenson, at Egham, Surrey. May all your troubles be only check parades.

A very well known and *close* friend of ours is contemplating the plunge shortly. He has recently been nosing round the married pads for tips, and I think that by now his bottom drawer must be full of them. I hope to publish the glad news next month. Guess who it is? Prizes will *not* be awarded.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Cpl Philpott on attaining that rank on the Corps roster.

Tail-piece.—The Company office is *not* Covent Garden, sez

THE WATCHER.

F Company, Training Battalion.

Here we are once again—holidays over, and glad to be back at training. I wonder!

As for general news items, we have little to say. The weather has been up to its usual standard—generally mixed: rain with variations.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to our new recruit boys, and hope they will soon settle down and be happy among us.

Congratulations.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. Newman on the birth of a daughter. Best wishes to all.

We heartily congratulate Corpl Gratwicke S. on his gallant action in going to the rescue of a civilian who was in danger of drowning, at Tregantle, on August 15th.

Old friends of Sergt Carpenter, late of F Company, offer their heartiest congratulations to him on his splendid performance in the cricket match at Singapore, Europeans v. the Rest, of which a report appeared in the September issue of THE WIRE.

School of Signals.

In Passing.—The water diviner seen in Catterick a short time ago is now in a suitable institution.

As I write, the air is full of "Ten per cent.," "A bob a day," "I'm on the tack," "Good old Snowden," and other expressions of joy and mirth. But why worry? We can still rejoice in the fact that we shall not lose our cooks or that deliciously-flavoured rissole we always crave for.

Of course, what we don't get, we can always deny ourselves; and if out of the seven days C.B. expected, you only receive three, don't grumble—everyone must economise.

Our Bert (Sergt Weaving)—familiarly known to the troops as Uncle Bertie—deciding on a little leave, went to hospital to have his throat cut. The operation was un—sorry! I mean successful, and has not interfered in any way with his capacity for the morning coffee. Sergt Weaving is shortly leaving, on expiration, for the metropolis, and we wish him success in the business venture he is undertaking with his brother.

Rumours should, I think, be given a distinct paragraph—just in case of errors. Here are one or two.

There is still a possibility that Gandhi, as a dress compromise, will wear kilts.

Wives, Town Councillors, Post Office officials, mothers-in-law and other old women are to follow Gandhi's example and not speak on Mondays.

This year the S.T.C. gymkhana was cancelled, the weather conditions being more suitable for a regatta and the use of sea-horses.

The flower show, however, was favoured with a fine day, though the previous bad weather considerably affected intended exhibits.

In this respect I think there is, after all, some truth in what Major-General (now Lieut.-General) St. G. Kirke suggested at the previous show, when he said that the inability to grow or show anything in Catterick was probably due to the efforts of the spirits of some departed Scottish residents, who objected to our uprooting their national emblem, the ever-present thistle.

In the garden, the popular pastime of worm-baiting still occupies our leisure hours.

Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Younie, and best wishes for their future—which, I believe, is to lead them to India.

Departures and Arrivals.—C.Q.M.S. Prior F. to civil life after a pontoon in the Service, and Sigmn Revill to the Army Reserve. The best of luck!

Sergts Jock Walker (Camerons) and Bill Sadler (Loyals) having completed their tour at the School, have rejoined their units, whilst Sergts Curtis (8th Hussars) and Butterworth (P.W. Vols.) have arrived to replace them.

Billiards.—In the Garrison senior competition, the Sergeants' Mess, after tieing for top place with the East Yorks, were defeated in the play-off and received runners-up medals. Better luck next time!

Promotions.—R.S.M. Britton to be warrant officer class i. Congratulations! Just in time to balance the family budget before the "drop."

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

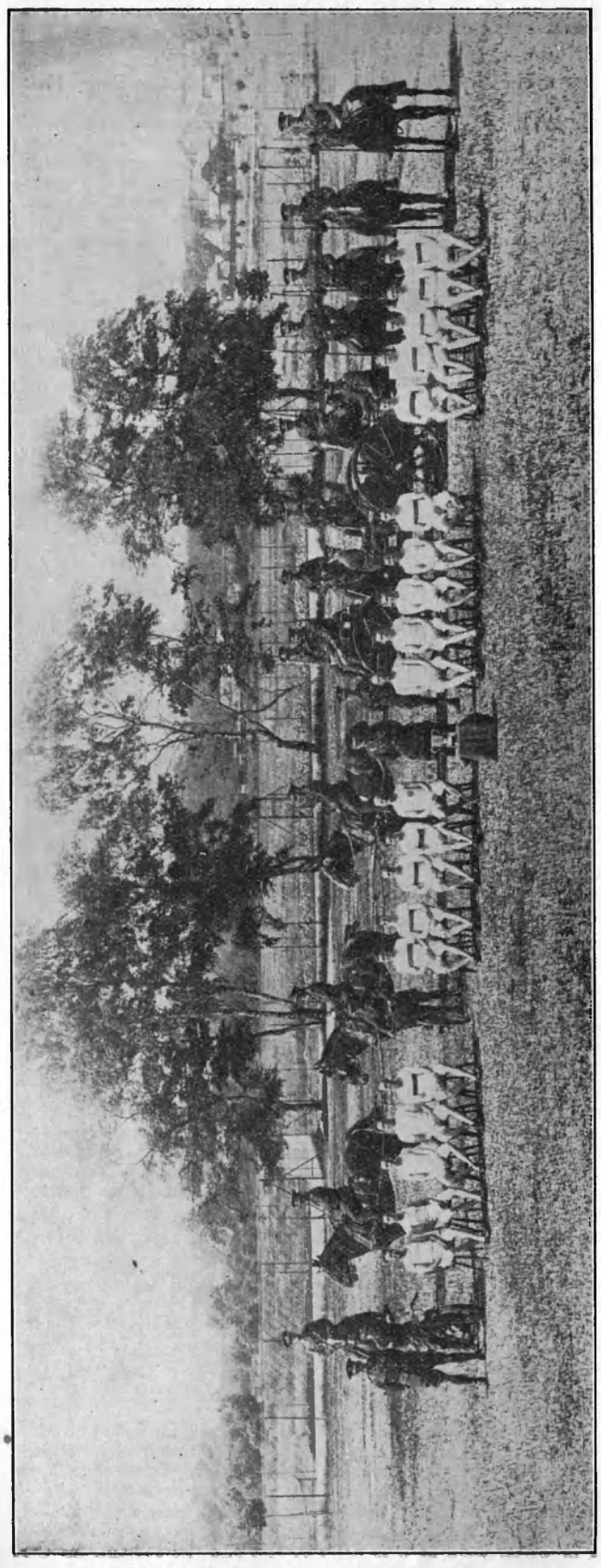
Dangler and his contemporaries have been very busy of late, and so we crave pardon for the omission of our usual notes. We hope to be allowed by our generous Editor to include these in our contribution for the November publication.

No. 1 Company: A Cable Section.

In and out of the Stable.—"No, John! the heading does not refer to your performance when the Section officer took you for a hack."

"All right, Molly! I suppose one is permitted to ask an ordinary question. By the way, how are you going to get your monthly tripe done now that Dora is in hospital?"

"John, my son, you show signs of sense for a remount; you certainly are a promising beast. Without the inspiration of the noble Dora, I'm afraid the notes won't be up to much, but we must do something."



A Corps Signals, winners of the Prickett Challenge Cup for 1931.

" Well, Molly, there are quite a lot of things that have happened. The Section officer is looking a bit round-shouldered through carrying extra metal on his shoulder-strap."

" Oh, yes, John, we mustn't forget that, for I suppose he considers it the most important thing of the month. Then, of course, Joe has been remustered into a rider, but Joe hasn't noticed any difference so far ; in fact, I think the alteration leaves him stone cold. Talking of colds brings us to Thursley, or to be more correct, brought us back from Thursley."

" Now, Molly, as a young remount I particularly ask you to refrain from mentioning that camp to me. I've heard quite enough about it. I'm not made of sugar ; I won't melt. And I'll tell the world that ' orders is orders,' and that the weather prophets do not know their job. In any case, Molly, all that was needed to keep us warm was to move the picket line nearer the canteen and get the lads singing ; some of those songs would have warmed up a dead frog."

" John, tell me : need we mention anything about the 1st Div. concentration?"

" Well, no ; let them speak for themselves. As far as I can see, the thing needs few words : Miles, missed rations, no sleep, rain, cancel. The ration that was most missed was the rum, and that missed us by miles."

" Well, John, I feel that Dora will be a bit upset over these notes, because she mentioned several things during the month that were for publication—and do you know, I've forgotten all about them. Oh, no! I've remembered one. Dora is arranging, or is going to arrange, with the O. i/c Stables to take a photograph of some of us stable celebrities, and if it's not too bad, she is going to send it up for publication. You never know, perhaps some poor soul on the N.W.F. may recognise us and leave us something in his will."

" Well, well, Molly! that's where you old soldiers win : you have plenty of hard neck." FEED AWAY.

No. 4 Wireless Company : No. 1 Section.

It is with deep regret that I announce the resignation of our late WIRE scribe, due to ill health caused by loss of sleep and over-exertion. He is now attempting to resuscitate with the aid of a Macdonald bed. We wish him a speedy recovery, and sincerely hope that in future he will never again yield to over-taxing his massive frame.

His retirement brings forth another of Edgar Wallace's understudies, so with a worried frown I accept the invitation to take over the querulous duties of WIRE correspondent. Amen!

Items of interest happen to be very scarce ; therefore, readers must excuse the brevity of these notes.

Winds from the Arctic and rain in driving showers made last week-end the most unpleasant of the year, and yet the following statement, published by meteorological experts, brings warmth to our hearts : " The weather shows signs of improvement, and a late summer can be expected." Says you!

Nevertheless, to-day the sun did shine, and its effect upon Gordon was amazing. He was seen dashing around the barrack room with a bright yellow duster in his hand, carefully flicking the dust away. How domesticated he did look! Now, Gordon, old fellow, when and where did you learn the art of domestic duties? Ah! I think I know—but under pain of assassination, I dare not divulge the secret.

Things have changed but little since the publication of our last notes, and schemes are still very much to the fore.

We congratulate No. 1 Company 1st Div. on winning the Rawson cricket shield. The final was played between them and No. 3 Company of this unit.

As we co-operated with No. 3 Company in this competition and supplied three of the team (Corpl Roberts and L/Corpls Brennan and Waters) we were extremely disappointed in having to admit defeat.

Appointments.—U/L/Corpl Waters W. C. to be L/Corpl. w.e.f. 9/6/31. Sigmn Cooper to be Farnham's burgomaster. Sigmn Holt to be Clara's " little " cutie.

Answers to Correspondents.—Olga (late of Jaffa) : No, my dear, they don't hang persons with wooden legs in England ; they hang them with a rope.

Gandhi : You are wrong. Billy Brennan is a very quiet and respected citizen, but his tales will require a pinch of your salt.

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John Bull (Long Acre): The absence of targets, etc., is very noticeable in this office.

Arrival.—L/Corpl Harris from week-end pass.

Sunshine Sketches of our Community: No. 8.—Tusky Holt (by Never out of Bed). A well-built colt, possessing shoulders of huge proportions. Inclined to be lazy, brightens up occasionally, but soon vacillates back to normal. Has done nothing to improve his form, so backers should go very warily. Short odds are being offered about him on the Bed Stakes, and as this is his favourite distance, the result is a foregone conclusion. Is very entertaining company. Took a few of the lads out one night, and all he spent was the evening. Has only one bad habit: will persist in grinding his teeth.

Sergeant Webster H. M. sends his salaams to Fairy Tremain, and congratulates him on taking the plunge. No. 2 W/T Company, please note. Ah, well! this is the end, so adieu.

W.G. "B."

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

Apology.—First and foremost, we must apologise for the absence of notes from this Company last month. It was not our fault, as we have only just taken on the job of telling little white lies. It was rumoured once that notes *had* been sent, but the weather we have had probably washed them away.

General.—Congratulations are due to all ranks who took part in the 1st Division concentration scheme, and we are pleased with the fact that no mobile accidents were reported. This reflects great credit on our M.T. personnel.

Arrivals.—We extend the glad mit to all new arrivals from Catterick. Our Company office has been adorned with another member as the result.

Postings: Inter-Company.—F/Sergeant Marshall, Signalmen Robinson A. and Baddeley J. to No. 2 Company. Bear up, Joe.

Foreign Reliefs.—Records have thinned us out and decided that about a dozen of our lads should sail the wintry seas. The fact that their time must be getting short has been shown by swollen arms due to the second dose of inoculation.

Congratulatory.—The following must be congratulated on rising to their respective ranks:—Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Goodridge R., Sergt Mackie A., Corpls Pratchett L., Knight H. and Martin W., L/Corpl Morrison H. (that is your Tuesday night entrance fee, Steeney). Last, but not least, U/L/Corpl Dobson S. And now, with all that, a certain married U/L/Corpl is cleaning his motor-cycle in the hope of the extra ackers coming alone to run it with.

Marriage.—Sigmn West G. to Miss D. Mouser, of Lynstead, Suffolk, 2/9/31. (There! we thought you were married before, Bronk.)

Truth.—(i.) No, Mac; that was the exhaust lever—not the footbrake. (ii.) Aldershot to Portsmouth *was* done in fifty-five minutes. (iii.) Gandhi is not an Old Comrade. (iv.) Joe is not married, but soon should be. (v.) Buck *is* down for India. (vi.) Grum did not get his week-end.

BLAKBRY.

No. 3 Company.

At the time of writing last month's notes, the Division and No. 3 Company were in the turmoil of the concentration which ended so abruptly owing to the abnormal weather. One can almost say normal! it certainly hasn't improved much since.

As was explained last month, two Sections were amalgamated to form one. Our mechanised portion included seven Austins, six of which were used to carry A sets and the seventh for the O.C. Section. The remainder consisted of two limbers and two

pack ponies, carrying four miles of D.iii. cable, crook stick, and D.iii. telephone. The limbers constituted two complete offices with attendant personnel. The total strength was forty-seven other ranks and two officers.

We moved out from our Brigade H.Q. on the morning of 17th August and marched to our first camp, situated near Thursley Common. Not long after getting our bivvies up, the beautiful crystal drops which fall from heaven greeted us. However, it didn't last long, and the remainder of the evening was quite pleasant.

Some difficulty was experienced in getting through to Div. by line. After consultation, it was decided that there must be a fault. No fewer than ten Generals were out looking for it. Eventually we were through, and blood pressure returned to normal.

Early next morning we moved out on the next phase of our hike towards Guildford. The hearts were willing, but the feet were another matter.

All depressions having petered out, the sun greeted us—and well we knew it later in the day—but the legionaries had their marching chocolate and they marched on. Our next camp, on the outskirts of Guildford, was reached at 4 p.m. The Section were in remarkably good trim. The signal office and bivouacs were soon erected, and feet were inspected for punctures.

The complete Brigade camped in one field, and the spectacle proved an interesting one to the local inhabitants, who were in evidence on all sides.

Hardly had we got to sleep—so it seemed—than the camp was astir. Reveille sounded like a fanfare of trumpets, the different units doing their utmost to " drown " one another. Ten minutes after reveille, down came the rain. It was quite dark, the time being 3.10 a.m., and the weather didn't help to improve matters.

Some amusing incidents happened at this stage. One member of the Section attempted to discover the depth of a small tributary of the river Wey, complete with breakfast. He staggered forth later, reciting some beautiful sonnets. If the Divisional commander had heard them, he would have sounded the " Cease Fire " immediately. A few minutes later a seven-foot Guardsman measured his length over one of our tent ropes, also complete with breakfast. So well disciplined was he that not a word did he utter, although what he was thinking may not have been proper.

These incidents were a welcome diversion at the expense of the victims. However, we staggered through the various loadings and managed to get to our places in the column with no time to spare. March on, the legionaries!—and the legionaries marched on. By this time we were getting well soaked. After proceeding about four miles, Brigade H.Q. halted in a small copse, some three arrow flights distant from Pirbright. An office was established, communications being by D.R. and C set, and later by line.

At this period, everybody was well soaked and " spleens " were enlarging. The signal office personnel worked well, although the conditions were of the vilest. Rumours began to trickle in that " Cease Fire " had been sounded. Later, this was confirmed, and a sigh was heard from the distant hills. And so another war goes down to posterity. Even so, much knowledge was gained. And so endeth the story of the Dawn Patrol.

Education.—Once again brows have become wrinkled and college caps have been indented for. Some faces are familiar, but we notice that our old friend and professor (of I.C. Engines and Carburetters Ltd.) is not present this season. He says he is browned off.

Courses.—L/Corpl Williams to Catterick for his cross-flags. He was heard to say that the courses should be held in Guildford: it is such an ideal spot for visual.

L/Corpl Cox to Feltham on M.T. maintenance and driving. He has already entered his name for the Grand Prix.

Other courses are in the offing. Nuff said.

Promotions.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Scott on obtaining his second tape. The fungi had long ago appeared on his first. Everything comes to him who waits.

Departures.—Sigmn Barker, the air-line wizard, has decided that Catterick cannot do without him. He leaves the residue of his kit on the floor of No. 9 West.

Drafts.—A large proportion of the Company will be leaving us for various places abroad. Already romances are being shattered, but the mystic East will have its way. Ask the old-timers.

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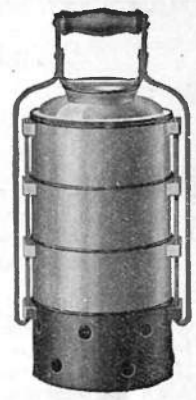

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The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readors please support them in return?

Obituary.—Old members of No. 1 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Rawalpindi, offer their condolences and deepest sympathy to the relatives of the late Farrier-Staff-Sergt Prince.

Agony.—Corpl Cooley would like to hear from Corpl Champion, of 3rd Indian Divl. Signals, at his earliest convenience.

The full page of notes from No. 1 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop was much appreciated.—General. SNIKLE.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Things have been happening to the dear old lady at last, and I have to report that she is bearing up under the strain and maintaining a cheerful outlook on the world at large. The old lady I refer to is, of course, this weird and wonderful Company—the Oneco of history, the despair of sergeant-majors, the fatigue man's paradise, and England's last hope.

The Company Gazette.—Sergt Curtis W. has been warned for service in India.

A welcome hand is extended to all those who rejoined us from No. 6 Artillery Signal Section: Signalmen Prime, Cole, Brown, Hinton and Francis.

Promotions: Sigmn Francis to be Company storeman, Sigmn Brown the unit runner, and Sigmn Cairns the big chief weed killer.

A Section.—The Section moved out to camp at Farringdon, Berks, on August 27th, and were attached to the 4th Guards Brigade. Wireless communication was maintained with a set in barracks practically the whole of the time. Judging by a photograph of our Syd and two local young ladies listening in, it was a very nice war that was in progress. The photograph, by the way, appeared in one of the evening papers, and I hear that someone is now wondering whether all the other flames saw it or not.

B Section.—Not to be outdone by their better half, B Section will move out for a few days at Bulford on September 16th. This time, all their long-faced pals are being left in the gentle care of a few drivers and the inimitable operators. The Section will consist of two mechanised cable detachments. Yes, Slim will be there with the tractor. Diving Demon, that inveterate cow-puncher, is in a new element now, and spends most of his time looking for room, but "There ain't no room" anywhere.

The Big Weed.—What a wonderful subject! It has even inspired our poet to chronicle the event, and here is his outpouring. 'Twill go down in history for the benefit of posterity.

MY SACRIFICE.

When you're all dolled up in scarlet, and you're spick and span and glowing,
It's nice to be a soldier then, by heck!
But it's quite a different matter when half a gale is blowing,
And the rain is dripping down your bloomin' neck
While, clasped firmly in your manly grasp, you hold a blinkin' hoe,
And you scratch and scratch and scratch with skill and speed;
But, though it seems you've done three-quarters of the square, you know
You've still another seven miles to weed.

I'm quite aware some people do this sort of thing for fun
(It takes all kinds of folk to make a world)
But my opinion is, the job's a bloomin' awful one—
Your arms ache, and your backbone gets all curled.
The time, it seems unending—every hour seems a year—
And you feel a dose of poison's what you need;
But there's nothing else for you to do but grin, I greatly fear,
And carry on, and weed and weed and weed.

Though why they have the darned thing done, there really is no knowing:
The blessed stuff just starts to grow once more—
And all you've really got to show for all your blinkin' hoeing
Is a creaking aching back and hands so sore.
Still, in these days of crisis, we are asked to rally round
And give up something in our country's need:
Well, Ramsay can depend on me—I'm with him to the ground—
I'll willingly give up my right to weed. —BLACK.

Lectures, Winter, 1931.—A series of lectures is to be given by the well-known authorities of this Company on many and varied subjects. Of course, the knowledge that these savants possess has been acquired in all corners of the world, and has cost thousands of pounds to edit and present to an appreciative audience. The lectures are strictly private, but admission is certain if you bring your P.P., as in many cases the speakers expect to keep everyone enthralled till dawn. At present, I can only disclose the names of the speakers and the subject that each intends to spout about. Here they are:—

Picquets, and how to do them. By Driver Elvin.
Road sweeping, and its influence on present-day politics. By Sigmn McDougall.
The two-ton tractor, and how to load it. By Sergt Deamon (don't miss this).
Saluting drill. By Joe Taylor. No hats are needed at this one.
Weeds: their family life, and how they vegetate. By Sigmn Cairns.
The construction, maintenance and repair of pedal bicycles. By Messrs. Buckley and Ball, Ltd.

Tail-piece.—Shades of the Exchequer in the background: 'Ow much a day did you say we were going to lose?

FUTURIST.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

The dear laddies have returned to the ranch from far-off camps. Sleeping bags have been rolled, stake pegs religiously uprooted, and farewells taken of the Totem girls. Through rocky defiles and over verdant pastures the great trek home took place, and now, around the pinewood fires, bronze-faced and lean-jawed men foregather, and tales of the great open places pass around faster than a collection plate at a "Come-and-be-saved" movement.

With practically the whole of the unit together again, and everybody looking so wonderfully fit and strong—all prepared, doubtless, for a spot of the good old tissue restorer—it was just the natural order of things that the Air Defence Brigade exercise was decided on. This came to pass on August 31st and ended on September 2nd, and this was the way of it.

We gracefully sallied forth in the grey of the dawn, replete with as fine a convoy as one could ever wish. Sandwiched in the middle, one could see several W/T vans (these were borrowed—one of our strong points, you know) and what with the gleam from shining radiators, we must have presented a truly remarkable sight.

Eventually Midhurst was reached, and here one of our Crossley six-wheelers nattily removed several chunks of a quite respectable boarding-house and then settled down to await a little help from Ordnance (I forgot to mention that the vehicle in question was one of our strong points: that is to say, it was, I confess it without shame, borrowed). After this, our convoy was one Crossley short of half-a-mile in length, but we didn't mind this, as we had been led to believe that we were en route for Bognor (I got as far as Tangmere).

If there happens to be any person who really desires to know just how to dry and shine cutlery with wet cloths during an exultant moment of a particularly vicious rainstorm, I shall be only too pleased to pass on my experience.

Departures.—Captain W. S. Wasey, our Section officer, has gone to join the A.D.B. Signals (T.A.) at Regency Street, London. Our good wishes go with him. This departing to the Terriers is becoming quite a habit of our Section officers.

Arrivals.—We welcome Captain D. A. Campbell from 2nd Divisional Signals. He has been with us for a little time now, and we note with joy how great an interest he takes in sport generally. May your stay be a long one, sir!

National Economy.—Dear old Monty Chadd has begun to settle down with us again, after being returned from hospitals and specialists. His arm has not exactly mended yet, but we do hope it will not be long before this is better again. Anyway, it is good to have him back with us after this long period of absence. Unfortunately, his arrival back here coincided with our exit from the cricket cup. What agonies he must have gone through to witness such a thing! Did your bowling arm ache to be back on the field again, to repeat your glorious feat of a year ago? We sadly missed you, Monty boy.

Rifle Meetings.—Congratulations to our entrants on their good showing in the recent A.C.S.A.M. Credit is due to our C.O. and 2/Lieut G. E. Aldridge for coaching them so well.

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Signals, Tidworth.

General.—We humbly apologise for the non-appearance of notes from this unit in the September issue of the Corps Journal. We have no excuse to offer ; if we had, you might not believe it.

Marriages.—Rather belated, but nevertheless hearty, congratulations are extended to Sergt and Mrs. Hoy on the occasion of their marriage at Farnborough on July 18th ; to L/Sergt and Mrs. C. E. Jones, who were married at Tidworth on August 1st ; and to L/Corpl and Mrs. H. R. Steele, who entered into the bonds of matrimony in London on August 7th.

The pay sergeant takes this opportunity of informing all concerned that he has only a six months supply of Army Forms O. 1734, and if we continue at this rate, he is afraid they will not last out till the next indent is due at the end of the year.

We all wondered why a course from the A.V.T.C. Chisledon were down here busily engaged in building new quarters. Now perhaps we know, eh?

Southern Command Tattoo.—The Tattoo was held between August 4th and 8th, and was once again a huge success. The trick riding by n.c.o.s and men of the Queen's Bays, and trick riding by n.c.o.s and men of Signals, Southern Command, were the outstanding features in what was an excellent programme.

Our team this year performed their tricks, with the exception of the jumping, on Panther machines. The jumping machines were very kindly lent by Douglas Motors. Photographs of some of the items are enclosed. We should like to place on record our appreciation of a great show. Mr. Dobson and his D.R.s must have put in some very hard work to bring the performance up to such a high standard.

Very nice letters of appreciation were received from Lieut.-General Sir Cecil F. Romer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command, Colonel R. H. Willan, and Colonel F. A. Heymann, O.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command.

Birth.—Our congratulations are extended to C.S.M. and Mrs. C. E. Hopkins on the birth of a daughter on September 13th. (Egypt and Palestine, please note.)

Sections.—By the time these notes appear in print, our Sections will once again have rejoined the fold. We should like to say how pleased we are to see that at least one of them has responded to our appeal for notes. Well done, No. 4! The " fairy-fingered clerks " wish to thank you for that remark. I should say that elephantine would have been a more suitable adjective, though.

Whilst on this subject, we should like to see something from F Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, in the pages of THE WIRE. We regularly see notes from the other three Troops of the Cavalry Divisional Signals, but nary a word from F. Surely, F, some of your " fairy-fingered clerks " (No. 4 Section's phrase ; don't blame me) could find time to let the Corps know of your doings with the 11th Hussars (P.A.O.)! We eagerly await your debut. [F Troop appear to have anticipated the appearance of this paragraph: see their notes a little farther on.—ED.]

Footnote.—If you have not turned over long before this—that's that. H.Q.

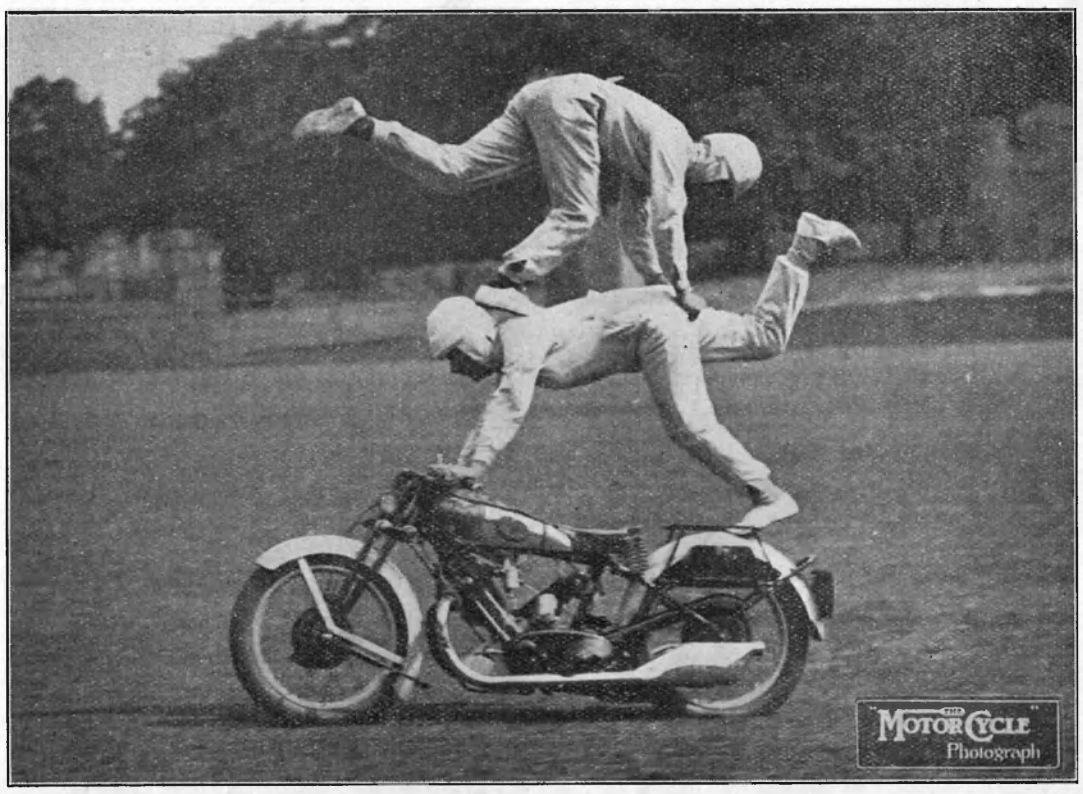
Corporals' Room.

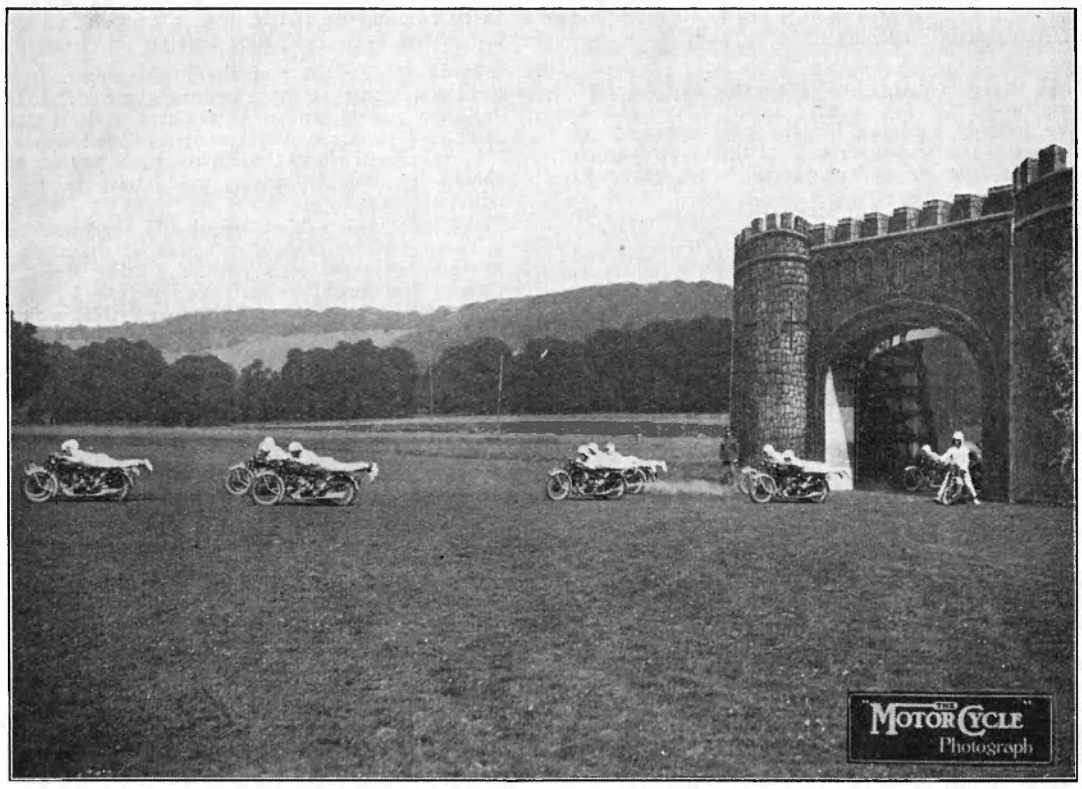
Although we have been flourishing since the beginning of the year, I am afraid we have kept rather silent on the fact. Having at long last overcome our natural shyness (oh, yes, we are shy) we are about to take to the limelight for a while, providing H.Q. does not put these lines in the w.p.b. or his never-catch-'em tray.

Including the junior n.c.o.s of E Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, we can muster a total membership of twenty-nine, but of these only fourteen are actually present ; although by the time these notes appear, we shall all be together again—or at least, we hope to be.

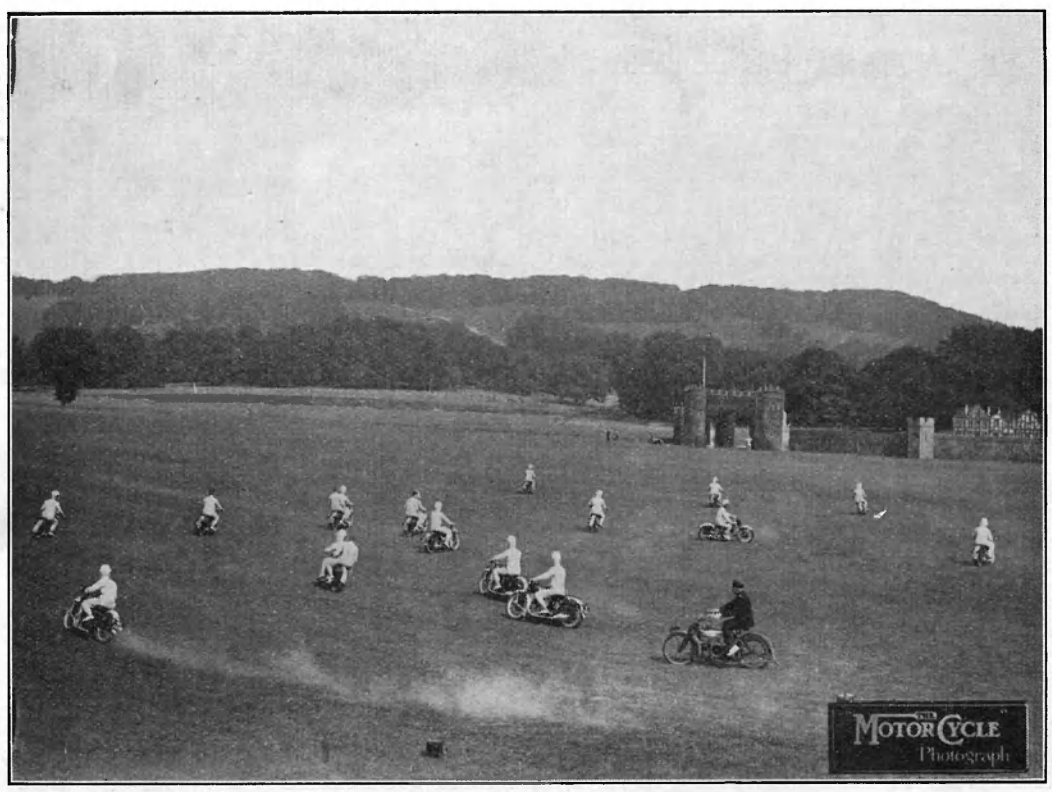
We have been fairly active in the social world, having run several successful dances and whist drives. Of these H.Q. has already written, so we will not bore you with a repetition.

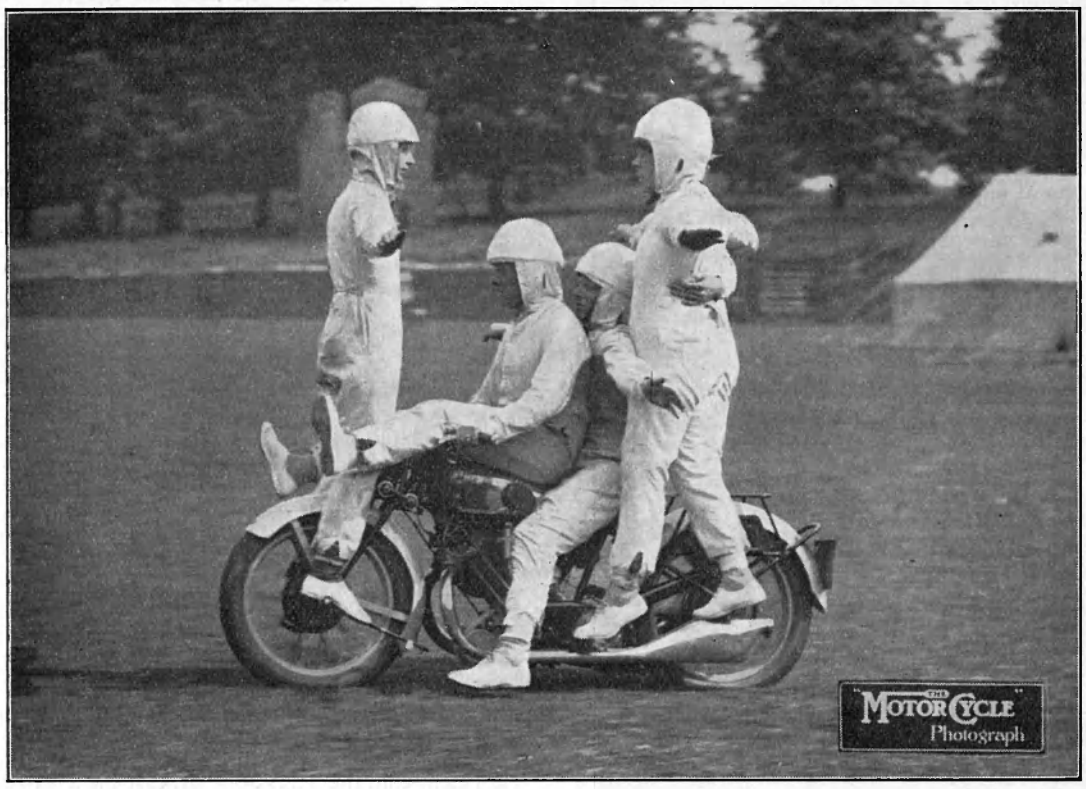
Two dart championships have just been concluded. The first, cricket, was very easily won by the C.S.M., who also proved to be runner-up to himself. This was made possible by all mem-



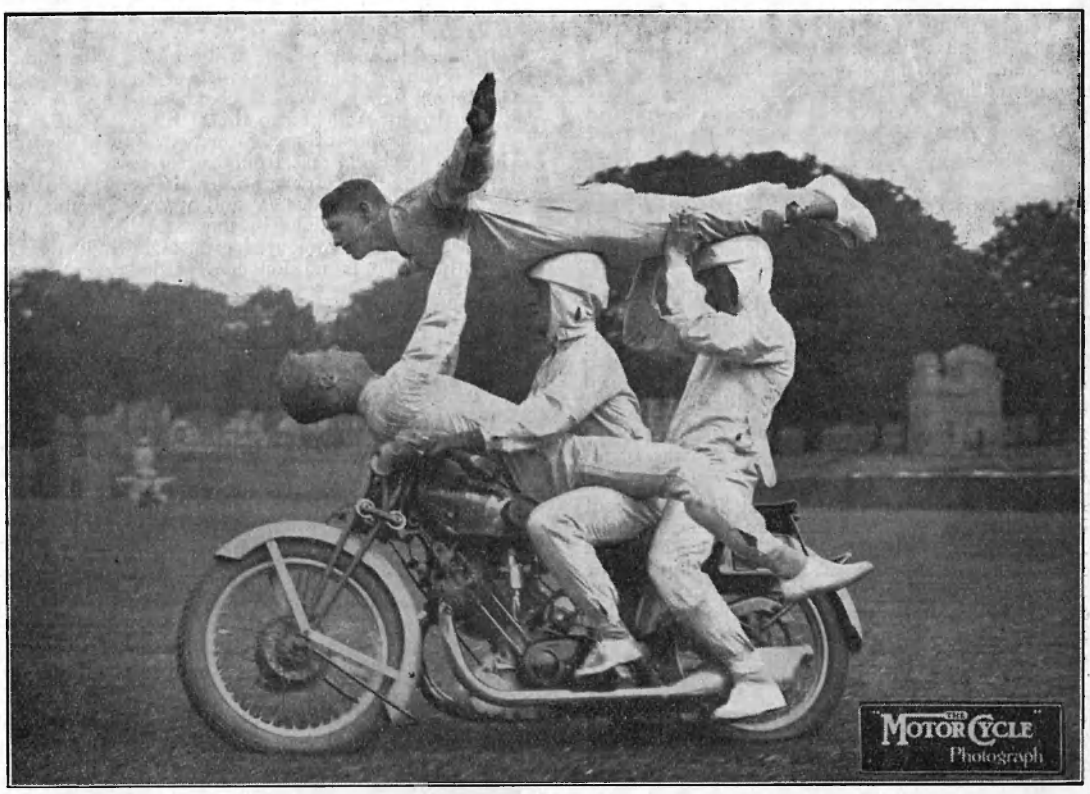


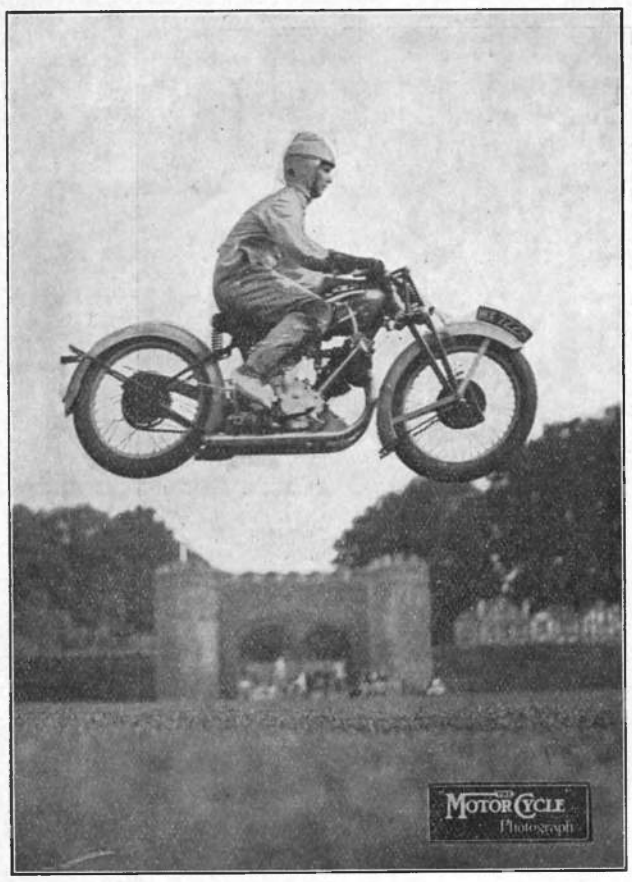
A.F.V. Signals Trick Riders at the Southern Command Tattoo





A.F.V Signals Trick Riders at the Southern Command Tattoo





bers playing an equal number of games, and the winner and runner-up being decided on the aggregate runs. A " 301-up " was the second eliminating tournament. Some very surprising incidents were witnessed in this. Some of the leading lights were seen to fall by the way, whilst some of the so-called " lumps of cake " proved themselves to be bigger slices than they were thought to be, and some others proved to be even bigger lumps of cake.

By the time these notes appear in print, Corpl T. E. D. Butler will have been discharged, and we take this opportunity of wishing him the very best of luck in civvy street. You know our address, Tom.

When that much-talked-of big boat does actually sail, we shall lose quite a number of old faces. Corpls Tompkins (Darkie of MNZ fame), Harbottle F., Scott H. and Walby L., and L/Corpls Feltham and Saunders are off to India ; Corpl Starling has decided to grace Egypt with his presence for a few years ; and L/Corpl Storey has decided that Sarafand may improve his health.

On September 12th we ran an outing down to Southsea to see the Schneider trophy race. A very enjoyable day was spent, although it was rather wet.

We left the unit lines at 9.30 a.m., arriving at Southsea about eleven o'clock. Lunch was arranged for two o'clock at the Sussex Hotel. After this, we all proceeded to amuse ourselves in our own peculiar fashion. Some went to see the ships in the harbour, others to see the various talkies (but why pay to go to sleep?) and some to visit the many landmarks. We noticed that the fun park at Clarence Pier was well patronised in the evening. Several members were noticed having their fortunes told, but the most popular turn seemed to be the dodge-'em cars: much amusing bumping was going on.

We left Southsea about eleven o'clock and arrived in Tidworth at one a.m., having spent a very nice day at the seaside. We are now switching off. SAHIBJEE.

No. 4 Tank Signal Section.

Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

General—Since our last notes, the Section have been to Redesdale for the annual gunnery practice of the 4th Battalion Royal Tank Corps. We enjoyed a three weeks stay on the Cheviot hills in certainly ideal surroundings—for gunnery, if nothing else.

The nearest place of interest was a pub known as the " First and Last "—the first coming into England from Scotland, and the last going the other way. It certainly added a spice of novelty to the humble pint to drink it in such a notable place.

Communications.—We went out on all firing days and maintained steady R/T communication between the Company commanders of the Tanks and our six-wheeler at the rear.

Weather (not from the B.B.C.)—Living conditions were rendered exciting by residing in a non-waterproof tent—but nobody was actually drowned.

Knocks.—We noticed in the August issue of THE WIRE that No. 4 was the only Section to respond to the call for notes. Come on, you Tank Sections in the *cushy* stations—what about it?

The Old Old Story.—We note that several members of the Section are warned for India, including L/Sergts Jones and Davis. I did hear something about " When I was there before! "

Enquiries.—Ginger wants to know what made Charlie flank him a.a.a. He says he still has an old topee, if required.

4 T.S.S.

F Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

General.—It is with some trepidation that I open these notes, for making one's bow in the Corps Journal requires some consideration.

We are not, as might be imagined, a new unit or strangers in a strange land. Nay! this is our third year of attachment to the Cherry Pickers.

I gather from rumours which are floating in this direction from our parent unit, the A.F.V. Signals, that there is to be an enquiry into the reason why these notes have been so long delayed. The answer is obvious. We are not all in that happy position of being able to devote our working hours to performing on the typewriter in aid of THE WIRE. " Work kills horses." I foresee one worthy scribe attaining the grand old age of 101 not out plus being still "ale and hearty." No comments, H.Q.

No doubt, many people will wonder who and what we are. The Troop was formed in 1929 as the first Cavalry Armoured Car Signal Troop. We are commanded by Lieut. C. G. Moore, R.Signals, and attached to the 11th Hussars (P.A.O.).

Since the date of our formation, we have progressed from Guys to Leylands and from Kegresses to Lanchester armoured cars, but the nature of our work has remained the same, namely that of providing the R/T and W/T communication within the regiment. This is done by means of M.A. sets in six-wheelers and M.B. sets in armoured cars. Our Indian friends will note that the helio is no longer regarded as satisfactory for this purpose.

As the result of experimental trials carried out by the Troop in the " Flagship," in 1929, the Signals Experimental Establishment were able to equip our young brother, G Troop (now with the 12th Royal Lancers in Egypt) with M.A./M.B. sets, which we understand are giving every satisfaction.

Weapon Training.—The annual training has commenced for the great shoot. Two medals are being presented by the O.C.: one for the best individual score, open to n.c.o.s and men who have previously fired on an open range, and the other open to those who have only fired on the thirty yards range. In addition to the aforementioned, we hope to have a general pool. " Two pints one quart." Roll on, that great day.

Friends Abroad by Wheel.—This being a mobile unit, we must have pleasure, therefore several of the kinsmen have taken unto themselves cycles of the push variety. At the time of going to press, many records have been smashed, including a non-stop run to Ludgershall. No longer can it be referred to as that nightly crawl. Bravo!

Correspondence.—Ada: Am now two up—Monty.

Heywood G. (India) and Sergt Onyett (G Troop, Egypt): Corpl Williams of this unit awaits news from both.

Fairclough (Scarborough): Sigmn Oliver (Jack) sends an S.O.S. What about it?

Congratulations.—To Q.M.S. Tremain (our first Troop sergeant) on his marriage. What a good job you haven't got Felstead to give you a black eye to take home with you.

In Closing.—We regret that Khasadar Garrett, of Karachi fame, was unable to give his wonderful rope display owing to a sprained wrist sustained in the shove-halfpenny championship at Stow-in-the-Wold. Remember your wrist strap!

TROOPER F.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

No. 1 Company.

We are still very short-handed, but are struggling gamely to keep all our horses up to scratch.

Congratulations.—To Corpl Conroy on his promotion. He has just been warned for India.

Corpl Palmer has taken the plunge. We wish him and Mrs. Palmer every happiness. Judging by the way he heads the soccer ball, Mrs. Palmer will find a rolling pin quite inadequate if she wishes to administer any chastisement.

To Army Reserve.—Sigmn Ledger has left us to join the Army Reserve, and our good wishes accompany him.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Holland, Weatherhall and Webb have joined us from Catterick. Sigmn Holland has already flitted away to Shorncliffe, and Sigmn Weatherhall is just off to Dover.

Births.—To Sergt and Mrs. J. Gilmour, a daughter (Florence Evol) on July 24th. Corpl and Mrs. G. Anderson have been presented with a son (Leslie Peter). Arriving on June 16th, he has been duly registered as a real live 'un. Good shooting, Andy!

No. 2 Company.

General.—Hard work has been the Company's playnote during the last month.

On the 21st and 22nd August, the drivers and the D.R.s returned to their respective Sections after a hectic and muddy time on the 1st Division concentration. Night schemes with the Gunner Brigades have been plentiful, E and G Sections going great guns at Shorncliffe and Dover respectively, and F Section with the 17th Field Brigade R.A. at Colchester. However, all good (or bad) times come to an end, and we will soon have a complete Company on parade at Colchester. Good chits from each Brigade Commander and from the C.R.A. provide a little consolation for all the hard work done.

G Section have yet to face a three-day trek from Dover to Woolwich before they finally entrain for Colchester. I hope the weather clerk will produce a few fine hours during their hiking period.

Preparations are being made for the unit horse show on the 28th and 29th of September.

Our office somewhere in Kent.

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Sports.—Congratulations are proffered to F Section on their good win over B Cable Section at cricket. Soccer and rugger training is now a pastime among the unit stalwarts.

Weather Forecast.—There is a heavy depression in the region of the married quarters. Local storms generally, with occasional cloudbursts and much thunder. Snow(den) will again be expected in the New Year. Further outlook: Bleak, dismal, with anti-cyclones expected to break at any moment in every barrack-room.

Many of our old soldiers are seriously contemplating a short cut to civvy street before the next fall of Snow(den).

To Fairy, Scarborough.—Surprised at you. You mustn't do that. Congratulations!

E Signal Section.

General.—This leaves us in the midst of Brigade schemes. During the last week we have had some rather hard fights, in one of which the Section put a troop of enemy cavalry to flight. We congratulate the 10th Infantry Brigade Signal Section on capturing two prisoners on the same scheme.

Arrivals.—We welcome L/Sergt Golder L., Driver Thornhill J. and Sigmn Watt W. G. May they have a pleasant stay with us at the sea-side.

Departure.—Sergt Oliver W. J. to Colchester.

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. Boobier, a son.

Drafts.—We shall shortly be losing L/Sergt Golder L., Corpl Crowe F., and Signalmen Topping G. and Ward E. C. to India. Corpl Crowe is hoping to return to his old unit, 3rd Indian Divl Signals. Please note.

Sports.—Since our last appearance in notes, we have taken part in the 8th Field Brigade R.A. mounted sports. In the pair jumping, Driver Redman E. went round with only two faults. Otherwise, nothing of note was accomplished.

We are now practising for the unit mounted sports, which take place at the end of the month.

No. 3 Company: K Section.

General.—With September here, the Section is busily engaged in winding up a good year's training with a series of Brigade schemes. So far, we have completed two, and as everything has gone exceptionally well, we are looking forward to an excellent report from the Brigade staff.

With two more exercises to do, we have only to carry on as we started to uphold our record of efficiency for another year.

On the night of 7th/8th September we experienced severe cold, but notwithstanding the discomfort of a night operation under such conditions, the Section cheerfully carried on. It is noticed that our newest arrivals are quickly getting into the spirit of the thing, and the Section, as a whole, is being blended into an A.1 working unit.

Annual Horse Show.—In view of this event taking place at the end of the month, we have been putting our jumping team through their paces. The saddlery, stores and harness have also been spruced up, and although Brigade training has greatly

interfered, we fully expect to carry off a number of rosettes at the show.

Sports.—Unit soccer and rugby practice matches have been played, but until training is over, our Section games will not be possible. J.M.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Well! here we are again, back in Scarborough after the usual soaking, hiking and " tea-ing " at Catterick's rusty water resort. Very few exercises were held, owing to the weather, but we got to know the staff of 5th Division.

The same war was fought: " the war of Barden Fell." This was slightly prolonged owing to an enemy D.R. being captured with operation orders. " Where's the 4th Hussars, mate?" The umpires knew.

Poor old Pike Section had a watery time at Bellerby. Fishing Section, that! Yes, puts paint in engines—hence the hook in the pond and no fish. Sends messages for 4000 blankets and umpteen jars of rum. Goes aero-planing and rough riding, and then entrains for Scarborough.

The Star in the East settled down near St. Oswald's C.E. Institute with 7×3's, plus fours and heavy baggage. I saw them, one day, doing good work as a wireless observation group, but alas! the enemy used cipher and Radio Toulouse transmitted French. And is it true that the Hamps returned to barracks?

Extract from *The Times* of August 13th:—" Although the method adopted in the first phase of the attack was rather unorthodox, this did not seem to affect communications, which ran quite smoothly throughout."

" Just " a moment were within a stone's throw of Star, and they were seen in the inter-Brigade exercises at Waithwith Plantation amid bustle and shovel, for a spade was borrowed with an I.C. driver looking for a B.108 book.

How " Dare " you mention " Dash "? Still, what with dashing about here and daring to go on scheme, much to the hikers' amusement, we settled down at 5th Division headquarters, with W/T communication to Bellerby Camp and a floating W/T set for the two Brigades at Catterick. A month's good S.O. work was done, and definite methods adopted, and we are sure the young signalmen learnt a lot in S.O. duties. Uncle Eff ran the D.R.L.S. side in co-operation with us. A word of praise is due to all D.R.s for their splendid efforts—a bit damp at times, too.

It was surprising, the number of visitors we got at 10.30 a.m. each morning—lovely cup of tea—saxpence, please! Not forgetting the Gunner Sections whom we saw doing useful work on the " bank."

F Section is returning to Scarborough for the winter months, while G, depleted, remains at Catterick.

The workshop and maintenance side did good work—not a " dis " when we were ready for the big push.

The weekly all ranks dances have commenced, and the first went off in a cloud of smoke on Friday, 11th September. Lucky prize winners were Sergt Fegan (arrangements with the young maiden who drew No. 7—ha! ha! ha!) and L/Corpl Ferrier (ex-rat and chippy).

The P.R.I. and staff have been very busy again in spring cleaning and re-decorating. Things looked splendid after their efforts. Jimmy has been lighted up, and keeps his eye on the bar—P. and L. account, eh?

A welcome is extended to all new arrivals, and au revoir to those who have left us on discharge or reposting.

L/Corpl Baker and Sigmn Dearden have left us for Jamaica Signal Section, and Sigmn Taylor for Gibraltar—our first drafts.

Congratulations to L/Corpl Baker and Miss Elsie Habbott, who were married at Islington, London, on August 22nd. Also to Sergt Devey, L/Corpls Barton, Sanderson and Henshaw, and U/L/Corporals Ross and Jenkins, on their respective promotion or appointment.

Here's luck to S/Sergt Adams, R.E. (attached), Sergt Brandon and Sigmn Lowings, who are representing us in the Northern Command tennis tournament at York this month.

C.S.M. and Mrs. T. Tremain after their wedding in August.

G Signal Section.

Catterick Camp.

General.—All's well that ends well. We all thoroughly enjoyed the past training season, which ended with excellent reports, and we are all now looking forward to a spot of leave.

An interesting period was spent during the last fortnight of the training season, early reveille, haversack rations and late stables being the daily order. During this time everybody pulled together, and I am sure we all derived " signal " benefit.

Musketry.—After getting over our three weeks pokey drill, we had a couple of days on Bellerby range. Our rivals in sport and work, F Signal Section, joined us, and between the combined Sections keen rivalry was witnessed. L/Sergeant Sibley (F) and Sigmn Allen (G) tied with a score of 86 out of a possible 95. Then followed L/Corpl Mattock and Sigmn Miller with 75 and 74 respectively. This shows an improvement on last year's shooting, and on our average (a good first) we just " pipped " F Section.

Drafts.—Mr. Records certainly did shake the Section this year, and the following have received preliminary warnings:—Corpl Williams, L/Corpls Simpson and Mattock, and Signalmen Fairclough, Gibbons and Peacock for India. Sergt Massey for Aden. Driver Allison for Egypt. Sigmn Jones for China.

Have You Heard—That Driver Johnson won the Battery mile?
That agony in code is not appreciated?
That " Cinders " seems a queer name for our C.O.'s dog?
That Sergt Massey captained the Brigade swimming team?
That debates on pay are the present rage?
That our garden gained a prize in the Brigade show?
That we are in communication with Scarborough with a C set?
And that the C set earths caused endless digging?

Agony.—I mean it this time, Mac. Do save me a corner bed.

YORKYSIGS.

UNITS ABROAD

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

August, 1931.

General.—Normal routine still exacts its toll of our energies, but the siesta is the salvation of many from the ignominy of a breakdown.

The individual training season has almost ended, and several hopefuls recently crossed swords with the Trade Board. However, many came but few conquered. The problems sets must have been very searching, for few were armoured to withstand them. The instructors worked very energetically throughout, and their endeavours merited a higher percentage of passes ; but the students have not quite realised that the major portion of the work preparatory to upgrading falls on their own shoulders.

Gas still continues as a subject of interest, and a small band daily delves into the mysteries of chemical warfare.

Social.—Only one all ranks whist drive was held this month, and it proved the usual successful affair. Great credit is due to the unit dance committee, who continue to give us such excellent entertainment. The unit dance band, too, is unsparing in its efforts to please ; whilst the catering is undoubtedly quite satisfactory, to judge by the quantity of refreshments disposed of on these occasions.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.—This month we have entertained visitors from H.M.S. *Penzance* and, later, the R.A.F. Depot W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. Both celebrations took the form of an afternoon's cricket (see Sports Notes), followed by a smoker and impromptu dance in the evening. Music was provided through the medium of a gramophone pick-up. The two evenings passed off very successfully, and others are eagerly awaited.

Corporals' Room.—On the 19th inst. the junior n.c.o.s entertained the corporals of the R.A.F. Depot to a smoker, preceded by an afternoon's cricket and an evening's tennis (see Sports Notes). At cricket and tennis the honours were shared, but in the grub stakes Signals quickly established a lengthy lead. The Air Force, however, soon equalised with a display of theatrical talent of a very high order. In this they were ably assisted by the Signals band. On the whole, a pleasant evening was spent. Many thanks are due to those members who did their bit in the preparations, and also to those would-be vaudeville stars who courageously risked comparison with their Air Force comrades.

Departure.—We bid adieu to Sigmn H. G. Moore, posted to 1st Indian Divl Signals, Rawalpindi.

Promotions and Appointments—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Robertson J. E. and L/Sergt Fisher N. on promotion to their present rank.

Education.—The following obtained their 2nd class certificates at a recent examination:—Signalmen Amos A., Hudson H. and Payne S.

Extensions and Re-Engagements.—U/L/Corporal Holsey J. and Sigmn Cole S. W. now complete eight and four.

Sergts Lambke E. and Godbold A. R. have definitely announced that they believe in pontoons only.

Birth.—To Sergt and Mrs. A. A. Taylor, a daughter, at the British Families Hospital, Karachi, on August 25th.

Things We Want to Know.—Who bought himself a gas rattle as a birthday present? Who tested his galvo through six inches of air and declared it was " dis "? Who commenced to remove a strand from his aerial wire when advised by the distant station to change his wave-length by altering his aerial?

AKORPZ.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Sergeants' Mess.

June, 1931.

The notes for this month having been mislaid by the office staff, it is regretted that all the unavoidable incidents which incidented have not been recorded.

The one great event of the month was the inauguration of our new mess dress, which consists of white ducks with an open collar, and black tie with a white Polar collar. It looks exceptionally smart, and outside people have been heard to remark " I did not know the Navy came so far inland!" However, as the mess compass is attracted by a brass bowl, we cannot find true north.

Should anyone not be able to understand this issue of notes, the cypher may be obtained from Somerset House.

July, 1931.

Even more to be said about our mess kit. We have had our likenesses reproduced by camera, and the result accompanies these notes [see next page.—ED.]

The weather has been rather humid during this last month, as the monsoons did not come up to scratch, so we have had the mess bearer up on the roof with a watering can.

There have been so many promotions and appointments lately that the Editor would be unable to give us space to put them in, but you can take it for granted that they are all genuine.

We have been having the weekly inter-mess functions, but I think the weather has been too bad to allow the overflow of energy which is essential to make a success of any show.

I am sure that the standard of these notes is far below the average, but even I feel too hot to write ; and after twenty-one years in the country, one wonders " C'est ne pas possible."

August,1931.

This month has been even more sticky than the previous ones, so the notes (if any) will be worse than ever—if that is possible.

Of course, if Gandhi had been posted to us, we should want a complete copy of THE WIRE for our notes, as well as the front page of *The C. and M. Gazette, The Statesman,* and several other daily papers. He seems to be featuring on more front pages and headlines than ever Al Capone did. We should not be surprised to hear that he was taking over the duties of C.-in-C., and should be most delighted to turn out an armed guard to him and wear a black arm band on our trousers for him.

However, this does not interest. We are all looking forward to October, when we shall start our real shows, and then we shall have bags of notes. Just now, trade is slack.

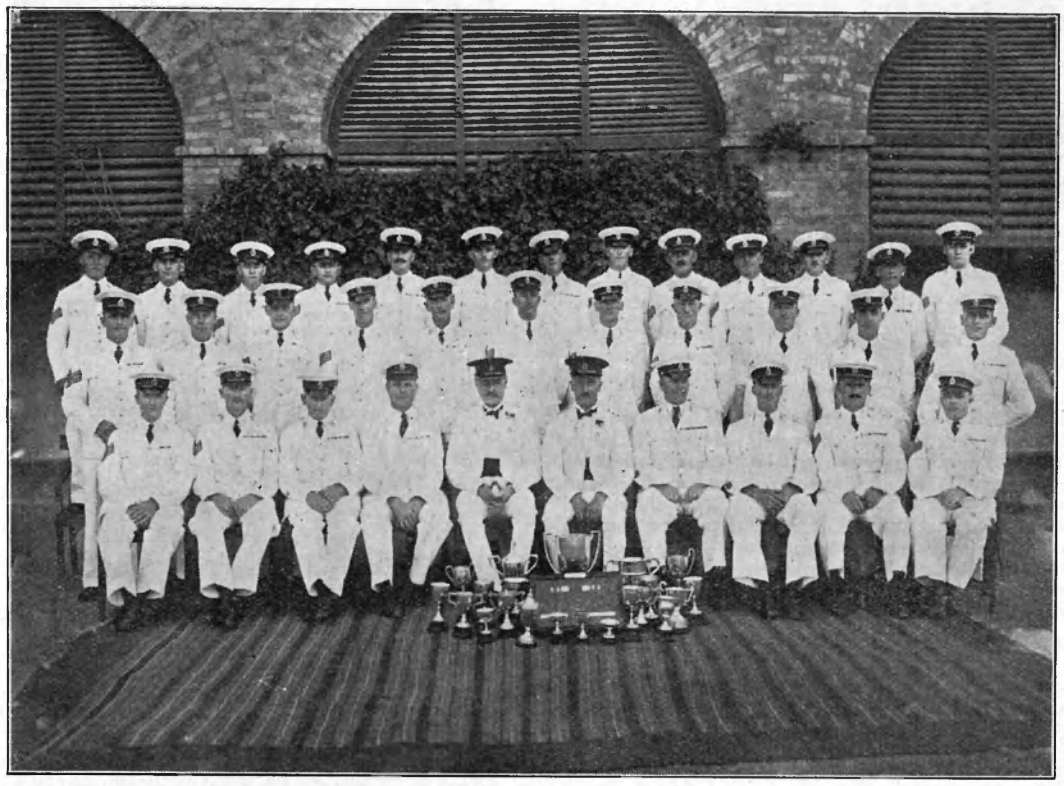
BUCK.

P.S.—Reference photograph on page 307 of August WIRE. G.K. would like to know from the first-mentioned alto and soprano sax. if the " chip " notes are flying to him as easily as the " quid " notes did in the days of Bulford. Ask G.W.

Peshawar District Signals.

Apology.—The lack of notes from this unit last month is regretted, and it is hoped that they will appear regularly in future.

Arrivals and Departures.—Since March, many changes have taken place within the unit. Some have gone, some have come, and a few of the old stalwarts appear to go on for ever. However, to those who have joined us, we extend our usual welcome ; and to those who have gone, " ram ram."



W.O.s, Staff Sergeants and Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals, Cambridge Barracks, Rawalpindi.

Back row (left to right)—Sergts Cutler, Lawman and Mason, L/Sergt Watt, Sergt Hatherley, M.M., L/Sergt Topp, Sergt Law, L/Sergts Broadhead and Halls, Sergt Collyer, M.M., L/Sergts Parsons and Wilson, Sergt Taylor

Centre—Sergt Rand, L/Sergt Varley, Sergts Renecle, Madeley, Stone and Parker, L/Sergts Pattenden and Blower, Sergts Watmore, Boon and Wheeler

Front—F/S/Sergt Vanstone, C.Q.M.S. Birch, C.S.M. Tank, R.S.M. Kneebone, Lieut-Colonel J. S. Yule, O.B.E., Captain G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., C.S.M. Haigh, C.S.M. Day, C.Q.M.S.s Gibbens and Wainscott

Entertainments.—The close of the winter season was marked by an O.C.A. dance in honour of those members who were leaving us for U.K. The evening was voted a complete success, and our thanks are due to the hard-working members of the committee who made this possible.

We shall soon be thinking of next season's dances. Unfortunately, we have lost most of the members of our much appreciated band, and we trust that anyone who has the slightest inkling of music will come forward and co-operate with our band president. There is a stock of instruments lying idle and just shrieking to be taken into use.

It should be borne in mind that this is quite a good financial proposition! Ask our saxophonist—he managed a payment leave after last season's performances. The roof is available at all times for intending musicians.

We should be very grateful if the S.T.C. (India) could let us have a pianist. We are willing to exchange three ukelele players for one.

Khajuri.—Up to the time of writing, our friend and neighbour the Afridi has proved a great disappointment and he refuses to show himself. We were all looking forward to a really decent show this summer, but apparently he is too busy with his crops to play with us. If he does turn up, he'll probably get more than he bargained for. We have still three well-fortified posts on the plain—Fort Milward, Jhansi Post and Fort Salop—with Bara Fort in reserve.

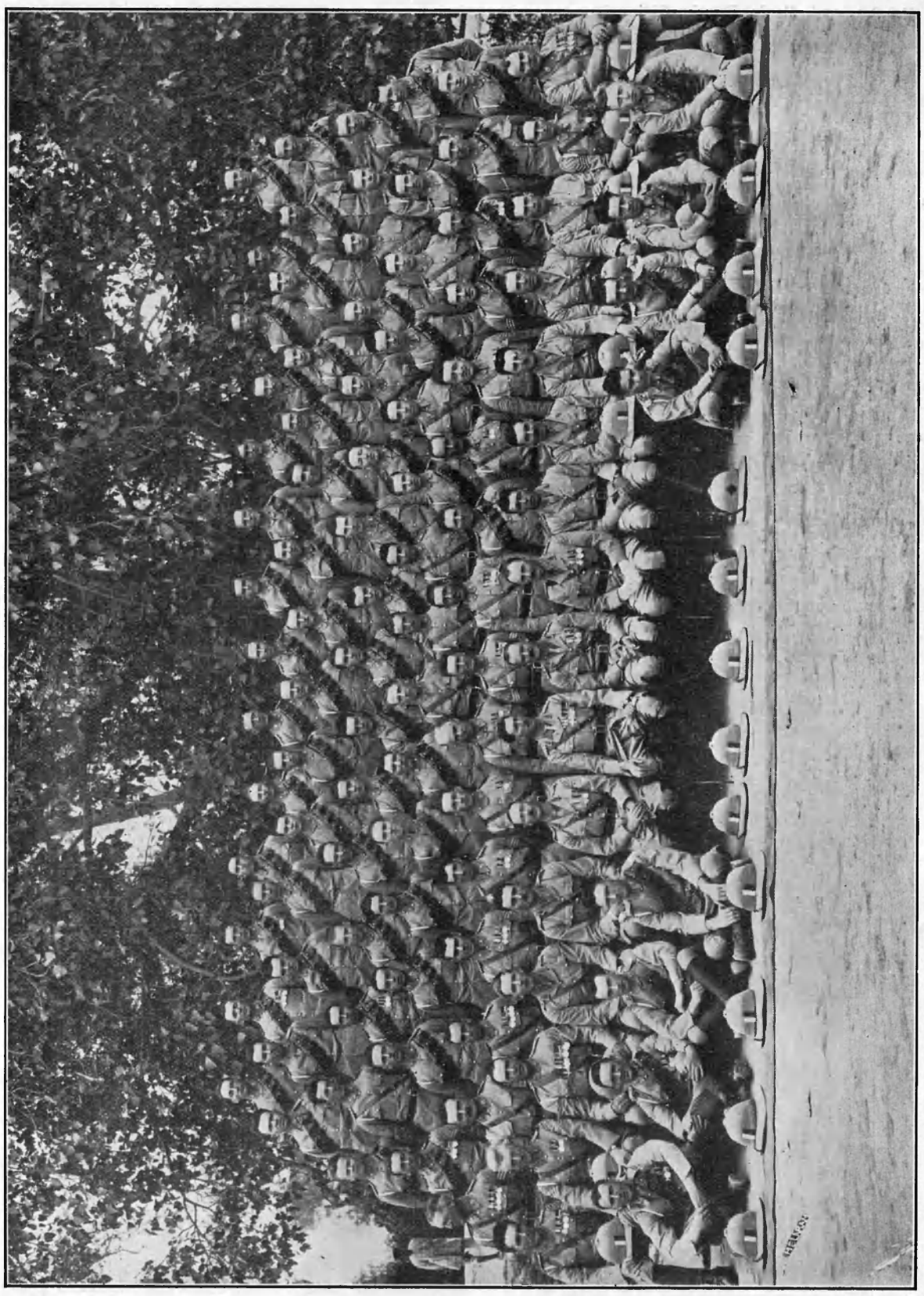
Operations are few and far between, and except for odd casualties here and there, all is quiet. The occupants of these posts have made themselves very comfortable, and are to be congratulated on the smart appearance of their respective lines. The tents have been covered with grass matting, giving them quite an African appearance. Lawns of the pocket-handkerchief variety have been laid, and as L/Corpl Warman knows to his sorrow, this is no mean task in this part of the world. Keep it going, ops area. Scissors, trimming, are obtainable from C.Q.M.S. Sunshine.

Upper Topa.—Quite a number of the unit are undergoing training in their respective trades at Upper Topa, in spite of the strong rumour that there would be no courses this year. It is suggested that a suitably inscribed chatti should be presented to the Afridi for very considerately ceasing hostilities and so making Topa possible. To all up there, we wish the very best of luck on the Trade Board. Remember, it's up to you, laddies, to keep up the high standard of the unit. This season, two courses are being held, the first having just ended. The second party have commenced their sojourn in the hills—lucky devils!

Landi-Kotal.—The Brigade Section in the Khyber continues to hold 'em back in a quiet unobtrusive manner. There is a distinct improvement in the lines, a garden having been made in front of the bungalow and very neatly fenced off. A poultry farm has been started under the able management of L/Corpl Davey. Go it, Swede!

Brighter Lines.—A movement is afoot to brighten up the lines. A number of trees are to be planted around the hockey ground and tennis courts, and along the hedge immediately in front of the bungalow. A piece of waste ground near the hockey ground has been levelled off, and a number of badminton courts are to be made. Many are looking forward to seeing a brave show when we come out the second time. Several people have already signed on in order to see the results. If things go on like this, nobody will want to go home.

For the benefit of strangers and visitors, every room and building has been neatly labelled. Our acting draughtsman has had a good time lately—haven't you, Nick? The risk of losing oneself has been reduced to a minimum ; and if you want the sergeant-major, you always know where he is—or at least, where he should be.



Peshawar District Signals British Officers and Other Ranks.

Junior N.C.O.s and Men's Tennis Club.—Despite many difficulties, the club is still a flourishing concern, but could do with a few more members. For the absurdly small subscription of Rs.2 per month, one can become a fully-fledged member of this select community and entitled to all the privileges and immediate benefits of the club.

As an added incentive to prospective members, we have, at an enormous expense, laid a lawn of magnificent proportions to enable members to recuperate after each set. It can also be used for sun-bathing—but not just yet.

This is our second attempt to make a lawn. We first tried with seeds, but we have got tired of waiting for them to push through three feet of soil, and so we've tried again with turf. There is a mass of vegetation around the dhobi ghats, Nick, and it's got " P.D.S." stamped on every blade! However, the lawn is now beginning to deserve its name, and except that parts of it have fallen in on several occasions as a result of bad irrigation, all is well (we hope).

The president and members of the committee are willing to give information and advice, or answer any questions, on the subject of lawn making in India.

General.—We are now in the midst of summer and its attendant extra duties. To the hill parrots we would say " We can do it."

Although it seems but a few weeks since we said good-bye to the last draft, one hears such things as "Roll on, the boat," "Roll on, October, November, December," etc., and " Only another fifteen mutton dinners " ; also the annual " What are we going to do for a hockey team after next trooper?" This latter is heard year after year, and last year was no exception—but have a look at the Sports Notes and see what we *have* done.

Leave is the order of the day, and married n.c.o.s appear to be taking full advantage of it.

A couple of men are on vocational courses prior to their departure to civvy street. The best of luck to them! may they learn much.

One laddie had visions of going to Calcutta, but found himself in a miserable Frontier station called Mir Ali. Hard luck, Rocky! Still, you always were lucky, weren't you?

Malaria is taking its toll, and quinine courses are quite the fashion. Prophylactic quinine courses will soon be in force again. Perhaps Lieut. F. C. Seely, now of Kohat District Signals, remembers being caught for a dose last season? I ought to mention that these courses have nothing at all to do with tooth brushes, as one brilliant youth has been fondly imagining.

Promotions.—These are rather too numerous to mention in detail. Amongst them, however, was our worthy " Bank of England," now a lance-sergeant. To all who have been appointed or promoted, we offer our heartiest congratulations.

Corporals' Room.—The members were at home to the corporals of the Royal Air Force last month, and except for a slight difference of opinion over onions, a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

" T " Company, Indian Signal Corps.—Although one hears very little of this efficient branch of the Signals, they are still plodding along. There is a rumour of a big promotion list coming out very shortly, and it is understood that Sigmn Bill Moyce is sweating. Boxer Hollands is still at Jamrud—one cannot imagine the place without him.

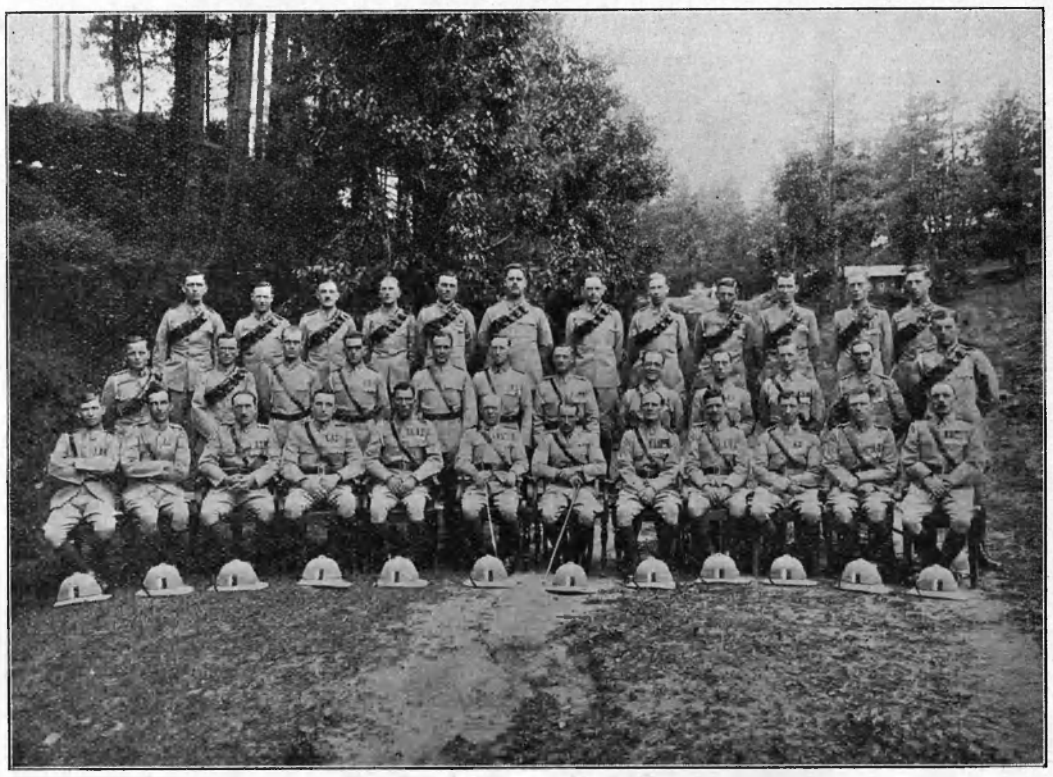
PESHDISTSIGS.

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

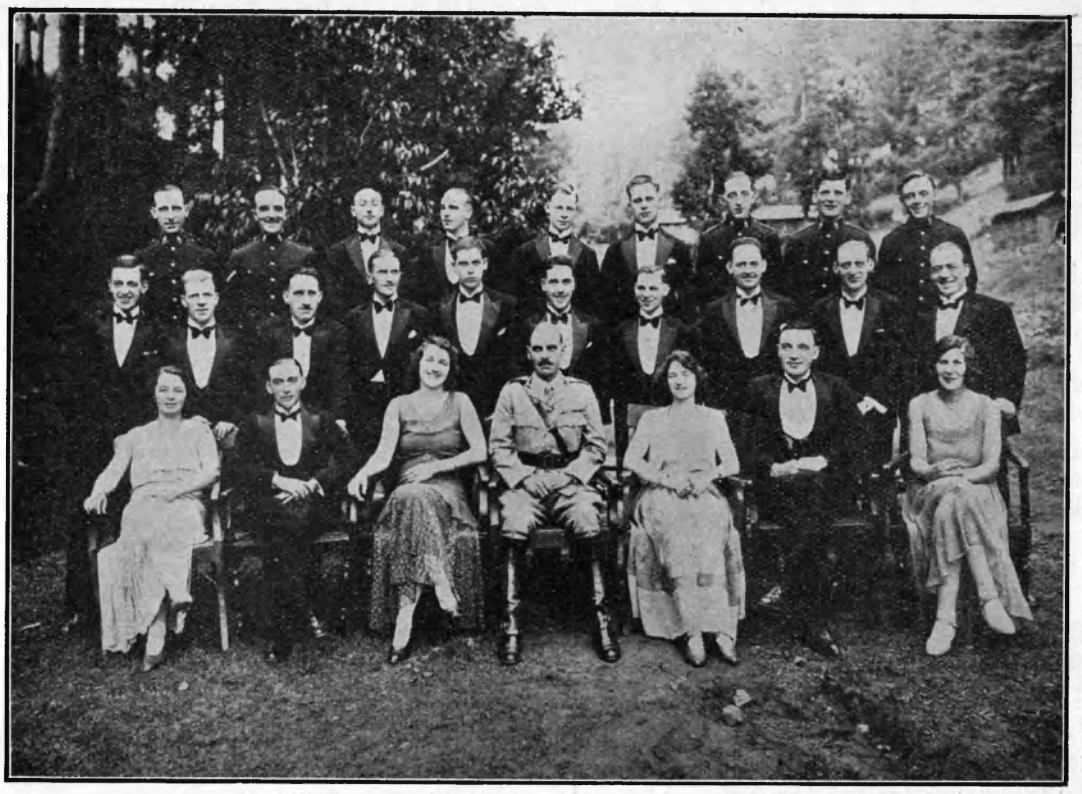
Headquarters, Upper Topa.

General.—According to many books which I have read at various odd moments, when one of those queer animals known as authors wakes in the middle of the night with a brainstorm or the germ of an idea for a " best seller," he immediately girds up his loins, sticks a huge pipe into his mouth, puts a toothbrush in his pocket, and wanders forth to find suitable atmosphere—a place secure from the petty interruptions of this material world—where the great idea can be transferred into a flow of wordy eloquence.

There must be something in it, because just at present I feel positively murderous, and atmosphere is the only thing to account for it. When properly played, a guitar has the power of infusing beautiful things into my brain, such as mental visions of languorous South Sea maidens indulging in snaky dances, Christmas



W.O.s and Sergeants, Upper Topa.



The " Electrons " Concert Party, Orchestra, Stage Assistants, etc.

Back row (left to right)—Sigmn Strudwick, L/Cpl Dickenson, Signalmen Southey (band), Patrick, Clarke, Perks (band), Semple, McCarry and Duckett
Centre—Sigmn Macey (band), Sergts Murphy (comedian), Smith (stage manager) and Hunt (light comedian), Signalmen Saunders (pianist), Warren (instrumentalist) and Simner (band), Sergt Dipple (light comedian), L/Sergt Perry, Sergt Hall (comedian)
Front—Mrs. McCormick (comedienne), Sergt Salmon (producer), Mrs. Spencer (light comedienne). Major D. A. Brown, M.C., Mrs. Smith (light comedienne), Sergt Monk (business manager), Mrs. Perry (soprano)

dinner at home, and so on ; but when a man is learning to play a guitar and constantly persists in making a noise like a pack of jackals running amuck, the resultant atmosphere is, to say the least of it, hardly conducive to literary activity. However, " the Editor expects every man this day to do his duty," and in the words of Shakespeare, " I must let go."

Our period of comparative rest is over, and once more Topa is thronged with earnest young men anxiously in pursuit of knowledge. Some likely-looking lads amongst them, too—the majority just commencing their tour in India. I've already spotted several friends of my undergraduate days—acquaintances of 'Arrow and Heaton, blues, pinks, etc., and other such-like people.

Notebooks and inks of various hues have been purchased, flags are being " bashed," once again the atom is being massacred, and all other miracles of electrical science are being unceasingly attacked, disembowelled, discussed and disintegrated, to attain the necessary knowledge for the acquiring of the elusive B.ii. with its accompanying tanner. Instructors labour incessantly to answer such learned queries as " Who put the bat in battery?" " How does electricity flow through a conductor if there is no hole in it?" " How many volts are required to work a helio?" " Where is the primary circuit of a flag?" or " Why does a D.iii.?" Let's leave 'em to it till next month. This atmosphere is really too much for my delicate mental machinery. By the way, Mr. Editor, who invented the guitar?

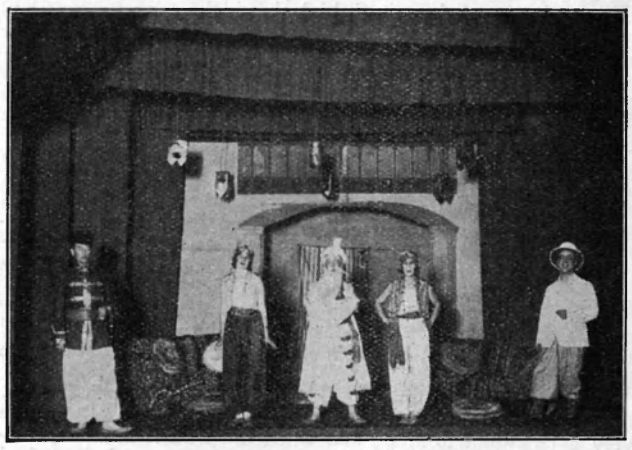
More Moods.—Despair, v.i. from the Latin *desperare ;* to be without hope ; to lose heart ; to despond.

He stood, his whole body tensed, eyes glaring stupidly at the typewritten sheet, seeing all yet conscious of nothing outside the focus of his stare, striving vainly to calm the mad turmoil of his mind. This thing was absurd—impossible—it could not be: but then, they never made errors like this!

Wild thoughts surged unchecked through his brain. He had been so confident, so cocksure, and now. . . . ! For weeks he had worked, strained every nerve, brought full powers of body and brain into play, given of his utmost to achieve this thing, and this was the result of his wholehearted endeavour.

His mother had written " Good luck, son ; I know you'll do it." The girl—she also had helped him ; fired him with a great desire to accomplish this thing. What should he say to her now? What *could* he say? Admit failure to her? Good heavens, it wasn't fair! Surely he of all people had earned his reward.

Why did these words taunt him so? Wasted effort! Ambition in the dust! He shuddered involuntarily and glanced around.



The " Electrons ": Cast of the Sketch " The Sultan."

Left to right—Abadra (Sergt Dipple), Badrabour (Mrs. Spencer), the Sultan (Sergt Murphy), Zuleika (Mrs. Perry), the Tourist (Sergt Hall)

BY APPOINTMENT BY APPOINTMENT

STYLE

The breeches made by Bernard Weatherill have style. There is plenty of stride ; the knees are well formed ; the lines and run of seams are perfectly executed.

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These men about him—he knew them all ; had worked with them, had played with them, and if in his power had given them advice, and in turn was popular amongst them. Why, then, did they look at him like this?—some pityingly, some with half-veiled sneers. Fools! They could not realise what this meant to him. Sneers and pity! Heavens, was that what their friendship stood for? "The brute instinct," he pondered bitterly. "Kick a man when he's down."

He must get away, anywhere where coherent thought was possible. A great hard sob, scarcely suppressed, shook him as, turning, he strode blindly away from the Order board. He had failed to qualify for his B.ii. rating!

Sport.—The gentleman next door having ceased to torture the air with violent noises from the jolly old guitar, I suppose I must stop writing in a light vein (I think that is the correct expression) and get down to concentrating on the more serious side of life—sport.

The boxers have been putting in some hard training just lately, and it is very unfortunate that at the eleventh hour their trip to Mussoorie, to participate in team and individual events, had to be cancelled.

A boxing tournament was held at Gharial by the 1st Battn The King's Shropshire Light Infantry on August 14th. Fourteen contests were staged. These were between well-known boxers of the Murree hills, and the six men from Upper Topa who participated are to be congratulated on their excellent performance in winning five out of six contests. A short account of these contests is given in the Sports Supplement.

Now that the Mussoorie trip is off, everyone is concentrating on the Lintott hockey shield. The shield is a much-coveted trophy and attracts entries from all over the Punjab and northern India.

On August 19th we met the Government High School, Murree, in the first round of the tournament. In the first half we were very unlucky not to score, and when the whistle blew for half-time the School were leading by 1—0. In the second half we had all the play, and the School were never really dangerous. The game resulted in an easy win for us by 4—1. The scorers were Sigmn Edginton (3) and Sergt Stevens,

Next month, I shall write a little more on the subject of hockey —and tell you all how we won the shield. RED OMAR.

Plains Detachment, Rawalpindi.

General.—Hello! hello! hello! Plains Detachment calling on a prickly heat-wave set from Pindi. It's a wonderful set, too—ask the members of the Sergeants' Mess. It has one (?) disadvantage: it only works in hot weather, and those who are unlucky enough to be up in the hills at Topa or Murree reap none of its benefits and know nothing of its charm, except from casual week-end gossip.

Speaking of the weather reminds me that those responsible for the watering arrangements appear to have adopted some sort of rationing system. The clouds have not opened, neither has the rain swamped us. Except for one or two splashes, we have had our moisture regularly and in small doses. However, it has served to wash the dust off the trees.

Boats and dates (not the stony variety) are causing a distinct fluttering and difference of opinions. Yes, the repatriation lists are out, and a number of old hands are going. We wish them all good luck, but fain would have them stay with us a little longer. Why? Well, there might be room for me then.

Command.—Captain J. H. Cameron-Webb, from 2nd Indian Divl Signals, Quetta, has arrived by way of Upper Topa to assume command of this detachment vice Captain G. P. Pavey, M.B.E., who was relieved on July 15th. All ranks wish our new C.O. a pleasant stay with us.

Inspections.—Major D. A. Brown, M.C., officiating C.O., paid us a visit from Topa last month and stayed with us a few days.

The veterinary officer carried out his usual inspection of the unit's animals, and some encouraging remarks were passed regarding their fitness and general condition. Keep it up, Plains Detachment.

The C.O. was present and was very pleased with the V.O.'s remarks. He had occasion to say a few words in the same strain himself.

Mid-Summer Reliefs.—July has been a month of changes for us. Many of the old hands have joined us from Topa after a well-earned rest. They are now filling the vacancies in various employments here—stables and such like—caused by the departure of those for whom the heat of the day has proved too much of a burden. These latter are now basking—or is it bathing?—in the monsoon rains at Topa. Many of them are swotting—no, not flies, but text-books—with an eye on the approaching Trade Board. We wish them luck, and lots of it.

First Class Certificate of Education.—Our congratulations are extended to C.Q.M.S. Weston and Sergt Spracklin on obtaining their certificates. L/Corpl Patrick was a little unlucky and dropped in one subject (geography). Never mind! better luck next time.

Hockey League.—The Gough Road Strollers are to be congratulated on winning the hockey league in the Detachment tournament. The Feroze Extras, although beaten, played a good game and perhaps deserved to win. However, someone must lose, and it's all sport.

Agony.—Priority message to B.J.B.: "What about a line to J.F.Y. and L/Corpl Cowell?" RED OMAR.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

August 11th.

General.—Our C.O., Colonel R. E. Vyvyan, having left us for a few months, Captain J. E. F. Paton has taken over, and things are still moving some. Lieut. D. N. Van der Goot is also leaving us for an equitation course at Saugor. He will be missed.

No. 1 Company—or the bulk of them—are at Ranikhet, enjoying the bracing air which is so necessary for higher trade rates, while here in Meerut we plod along with our knitting and bridge parties and try to discover a cure for prickly heat. If all the prickly heat spots were placed in rows one inch apart, there would be sufficient to cover all the paper in the unit—and they must use the paper for something.

There will soon be heaps of high life in the unit when our entertainment committee commence operations. Some are raking out faded blues and going on the tack. Anyhow, for some reason the glass has remained fairly steady of late,

Arrivals.—We welcome Corpl Heasman and Sigmn Green from Jubbulpore. Signalman Edwards has returned to the fold from Rawalpindi.

Departures.—L/Corpl Wilken to Belgaum on an educational course. If he scans these notes, will he please send another name for a bicycle (two words). Sigmn Saynor has left us for Rawalpindi, and our best wishes go with him (sniff sniff).

Congratulations.—To L/Sergt Duncan and Corpl Catt on receiving another tape. To L/Corpls Dockerell (U.K.), White, Evans, Dore, Fisher, Bailey, Dodd, Hamilton, Powell, Cargell and Andrews on their appointments. Well done, L/Sergt Field! first class pass at A.S.P.T. Kasauli (we knew he could do it); also Sigmn West G.—first class certificate of education. And, of course, to all the lads who have gained higher trade ratings.

Agony.—Will Sigmn Bird 556 please communicate with Sigmn Legge, Clegge and Co., as they are getting anxious.

S.O.S.—Will the Russian professors who can overcome atmospherics please wend their way to this unit, as we have regular occurrences of atmospherics daily and they must stop.

Extra.—Sigmn Faulkner B. has thought it over and is having another innings. Good health! PETER.

Ranikhet Detachment.

July 31st.

General.—Having settled down in this hilly resort, individual training is now in full swing. Cherished ambitions of B, C and D.ii.'s are inclined to oscillate as the various courses progress. However, time alone can tell the fortunate individuals who will wrest the extra tanner a day from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Old Divites might be interested to know that this go-ahead burg now boasts of two talkie theatres. One of these is situated in the old gymnasium and is guaranteed only twelve breakdowns in the course of a show.

The N.T.M.T. Company have been superseded by the I.A.S.C. who now maintain the conveyance of all troops to and from Kathgodam. Of course, when we marched up——?

The old well-worn topic of boats seems to be the chief item of conversation amongst the old hands, and remarks as to when and where the boat goes may be heard even up to "Lights out."

Another item which should cause many moans and groans is that while the hockey pitch on the rifle range is now available for matches, after *all* our labours it is much too sandy for a decent game to be played.

Stocks and Shares.—From our City correspondent at Dhobi Ghat. Wall Street remains steady and has not moved far from the site on which it was originally erected. A few bears still shock the weaker sex, but the bulls counterbalance this shocking effect. For the benefit of our readers, we publish details of a few selected gilt-edged investments.

WESTERN ELECTRIC.—These shares offer a sound investment, as large dividends are expected this trooper. Since the introduction of credit tickets, their representative (Mr. Barnes) says there has been a great rush to buy up all available tickets. Our recommendations are the chips or the eight anna shares. We do not anticipate any great demand for the larger priced stock. *Note*: The agent for these shares is not available between the hours of 13.30 and the Mess closing.

TELEGRAPHS.—Since the arrival of the Signals detachments in Ranikhet, a hectic rush of Morse monstrosities has upset the telegraph market. In the latter part of June it settled down for a short while, and several stocks rose from B.iii. to B.ii. Since the beginning of July, however, the market has become unsettled, and at the moment of writing, doubt exists as to whether the value of B.iii's will rise or fall.

TROOPSHIPS.—If any of our readers are able to obtain a small holding of any of these, we recommend the following procedure. Hold your stake for at least three weeks and then sell out. Do not attempt to disclaim at the half-way stage, as the Mediterranean offers small scope for hiking.

MORE EXCHANGE NOTES.—You're through, sir!

Agony.—We ain't got none in Stores.

Barney, late of the Signal Park, Quetta, is reporting to Hounslow this trooper. Information for Sammy Mears, late of Quetta —"Get me one in, Sammy!"

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WITH
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MADE IN CANADA

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A stoutly built shoe, specially made for speed and lightness. Sizes and half sizes for men, women & children.

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Obtainable from all N.A.A.F Institutes or from any local dealer.

Sigmn Wellard A. J. (our dusky one) would like to hear from Sigmn Topping T., believed to be at Bulford.

Signalmen Page W. and Sowerby of this unit would welcome a line from any members of No. 116 Squad (Catterick, 1927).

Sigmn Hall W. would like to hear from Sigmn Mansfield of 1st Divsigs, Aldershot.

Things We Want to Know.—Who is the stamp fiend who knocks off the stamps from our Bush mail?

Who is the D.R. who thought that "dhobi ghat" was Urdu for Dulikhet?

Who is the corporal who thought that "chota hazri" was the name of an insect? DETSIGS.

Kohat District Signals.

August, 1931.

Phew! what a corker it has been! After being dazzled by the Fahren—height and almost overcome by the high grade of the centigrade, the scribe emerges as a mere shadow of his former self to pen the news re the grillings, the drillings and the finer frillings of Kohat District Signals.

Our new C.O., Major C. A. Murray, returned from England just in time to get all things ship-shape for the inspection of the C.S.O. (Colonel E. F. W. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O.) on August 28th. With the usual depletions that the hot weather makes in our ranks, this was no light task; yet according to reports, a very imposing, clean and smart parade was arranged to the C.S.O.'s entire satisfaction.

Hospital has demanded its quota from us during the recent hot spells of weather, there being sometimes six or seven men in at once. It might interest his friends to know that Sigmn Clarke met with a motor-cycle accident and badly fractured his leg. He is progressing very favourably, though whether his leg will be normal when it is healed is not yet known.

2/Lieut H. Worrall is among us again after his convalescence in Murree and Kashmir.

It is only natural that one of our signalmen who is by now so used to gum should be employed in an office. Nevertheless, it is decidedly intriguing to the rest of the unit that *three* of the Quartermaster's staff should have to be treated for almost complete sets of teeth. What have they eaten? A split Pinn! a cotter Pinn! or (probably) an earth Pinn! With no teeth at all, however, it would seem to be impossible to bite 'un, let alone eat 'un. As the i/c rations is also affected, can some kind reader please quote the regulations governing the issue of Allenbury's No. 1 and cream crackers in lieu of cakes, rock, Quartermaster's, to pegless soldiers?

About Bars.—With the rise in temperature comes a call for more bars. L/Corporals Smith A. T. and Ives H. have just added one more each to their " lonely Joe." Congratulations, Corporals!

Sigmn King J. S. has almost reached his Field-Marshalship: bar one now decorates all his tunics. Oh, those giddy heights! We offer our condolences.

L/Sergt Walsh has dropped his lance and been issued with a revolver. The dress rehearsal was furtively carried out at 06.00 hours one morning, behind closed doors.

Brickbats and Bouquets (continued).—Whilst paying our respects to the above, we might also mention L/Corpl Gay, who has obtained a " distinguished " report at the Signal School, Poona; also Corpl Thomas and L/Corpl Stringfellow, who topped the roll in a weapon training course with the Welch Regiment.

2/Lieut W. B. Rowett and L/Cpl Bunce are learning " heddy-cashun " at Belgaum. It is hoped that their apperception masses will continue to assimilate, in the correct sequence, all the major and minor premises, so that true syllogisms may evolve a la sausage machine.

Corpl Tant has recently passed the above course. (Did you take your " corpus vile " straight, or as a shandy, Ginger?) The ultimate result of all this is that weird processions of be-masked n.c.o.s, tied up neatly in the right hand department with the length of whipcord and slung over the right shoulder of the instructor, with their buttons next to the facepiece, can be seen in all sorts of odd corners, with their harness folded away inside the face, which is carefully rolled back and disinfected with eyewash! We cannot blame the instructor. T'ain't all his fault.

We are grateful to our latest A.I. for his gay nocturnal W/T concerts—that is, when the orderly sergeant on his rounds has not tripped over the earth. Then, *his* voluntary item is far from gay!

A man is said to be educated when he is capable of dealing in the best possible manner with situations as they arise. We are wondering what educational principles our schoolmaster brought to bear on the court of enquiry which had to decide how he lost his greatcoat—in midsummer—with a temperature at 114 degrees. (This must either be solved as an aquatic equasion, or by the " by-no-means " theorem.)

The unit has this year, for the first time, won the Scissors musketry cup. Our men swagger about with a crack-shot look and a Bisley air.

Bahut, Bahut Thik.—For the sake of those who *never* come to India, this is pronounced " Boat, boat teak " and means—er—and means, the boat is a good boat and it is very nearly here. So say Messrs. Smithies, Nesbit and Richards and Corpl Tant, who all leave us next October—the first three to civvy street, and the last to the S.T.C. Catterick, for instructional purposes.

I publish below, by special request, the farewell choruses which the two old soldiers will sing at their final smoker.

No. 1 (please sing tenderly to the tune of " Sweet and low ")

Sign and go, sign and go,
Flour and rice and tea.
Sign here and then below,
I'll issue no more to thee.
Give me the fashions of old Headingley;
No more the rations and forage for me—
I'm playing pontoons only.
Cut the 'Tenshun—give my pension
To me———e———e.

No. 2 (to be sung sobbingly, yet powerfully, with a slight gurgle in the larynx)

Old soldiers never die,
Never die—it's all my eye!
My limit's not pontoon, but sky—
Ever so high.

Young soldiers ain't no good;
They said they would—but never could.
I've seen some armies, posh and dud—
This ain't no good.

We're made of better stuff—
Beer—and beer—and that's enough!
Police, sick, and canteen's " duff "
We'll *never* die!

By the Way.—We are grateful to the Sergeants' Mess at Pindi for their continued entertainment of one of our number—often found clinging round old ruins, even if it be the ruin of a Stuart Turner engine—who, with a buff envelope in his hand and a railway warrant in his pocket, persists in finding excuse for a " talkie leave " in Rawalpindi. The night after his return from the *last* one, he dreamed of a cordite magazine. Perhaps Pindi is getting too hot for him?

It is with pleasant surprise that this unit offers congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. W. D. Peerless, of Trimulgherry, on the advent of that bundle of joy into such a matchless—ahem! I mean, peerless family. No one was aware that our pay sergeant was leaving the unit so well in credit!

Sports.—Despite the extreme heat, we are all keeping as fit as possible by cramming the evenings with as much sport as we can. The tennis courts are well patronised. The chief stars of note are Tank, our "mota cyclist," and Pop the muscular marvel. Friendly hockey and football matches are taking place almost every evening; and for those who like not these, there is the gymnasium, basket-ball, or a gentle game of phat! WOG.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

August 26th.

Education.—The following problem may be of some interest to students of mathematics. If X is equivalent to the weight of a cricket ball and Y is equivalent to its speed, then Z will be the distance travelled by our educational instructor when he was running after the ball. What weight did he lose in the process?

Birth.—Congratulations to Sergt and Mrs. Peerless on the birth of a daughter at Trimulgherry.

This Racial Problem.—Extract from a local tradesman's circular:—" Everything khaki for khaki peoples." (Am not wanting, thank you, Mr.)

Seen and Heard.—What was the attraction that caused Joe —— to hold up a train at Rangoon? I bet it was not food alone.

A D.R. walked into the office the other day and asked for a copy of the Dress Reform Amendments. Of course, this is just the sort of thing that a D.R. *would* do; but considering the alterations made in our walking-out dress, I cannot really blame him for trying to make a joke out of it. We always joke when we are hit the hardest.

The C.S.M. would like to know if the two senior n.c.o.s who went out riding in gas masks knew that he was waiting at the top of the jumping lane. He would also like to point out that reins are not generally used to tie oneself to a horse.

Well done, Harry! We were all pleased to hear of *it*. You might write and tell us about *it*.

A Wireless Section, Rangoon.

General.—About three months ago a certain Section of the 4th Indian Divl Signals gave birth to a little ditty which went something like this:—" Fighting J will lead the way." Naturally, this tended to put all hearers on the alert—and eventually the birds fluttered, and it became known to all and sundry that the aforementioned Section was " picking 'em " to Burma.

There are some words most people cannot stick—words like I, my, mine, we, ours and us. I mean to say, we knew what was going to happen—and well we knew it, too. However, by some weird and wonderful means, it transpired that A Section was also " picking 'em," and—much to the astonishment of J—

we arrived at Rangoon ten hours ahead of them, under the leadership of Lieut. Harrison (late of Karachi).

It is rumoured that the ditty above-mentioned is no longer sung. However, that's by the way ; but I believe that we can claim the honour of being the first complete Signal Section in Burma (it's all right ; the doors and windows are wide open, and I am sitting down). On arrival at Rangoon we were quartered with the Oxford and Bucks Regiment at a wonderful place known as Sale Barracks (they should be, too).

Just a word about these palatial edifices. They date back to blob blob, and are wonderful bungalows built on wooden piles. Lights and fans are conspicuous by their absence—as the local contractor found out when he could not cope with the demand for candles.

Nearly everyone has heard of the ant, which works wonderfully hard, if you remember. We agree. The little blighters here fancy a piece of humanity, so if you can keep out of it, do.

After a few quiet days (?) and nights (?) in Rangoon, we received orders from Captain Schofield (acting C.S.O. Burma Signals) to carry out a series of tests with our C sets, and as an outcome of this, the Section was formed into detachments which went to Bassein, Henzada and Prome, one detachment remaining at Rangoon. Some very good and valuable work was carried out.

The only snag was rations. It was when the stations came in that we heard some " wonderful " tales of woe. I understand the Bassein detachment had some very rough luck whilst they were there. During their sojourn, a civilian invited them to dinner and said " Do you fellows mind roast chicken, or do you get too much of it in the Army?" (Well, if " eshspud " cutlets count as chicken, we do.) However, they didn't faint, but blushed slightly and proceeded to attack the dinner in true military style, the only complaint being that the jelly would not keep still.

After a few days, the Bassein and Prome detachments were recalled and sent to Mandalay—one proceeding by rail, and the other by road, led by Lieut. Harrison in our trusty " Lizzy "—and further tests then took place.

The journey by road was not so pleasant as it might have been, owing to the absence of what is known in the East as R.A.P. (or in the West as £ s. d.). Coins of the realm were at a premium, but when Mandalay was reached Corpl Cooper (on whose head may there be a thousand blessings) performed with a " book " and so came to the rescue. We thank J Section for the really good reception they gave us ; they have earned our everlasting gratitude.

Eventually we all returned to Rangoon, to touch up the sets and await the decision of the heads as what we were to do next.

It was while we were there that four of the Section—Sergeant Bachelor, Corpl Pip Page, L/Corpl Sunshine Ray, and Sigmn Fairy Frith—received orders to prepare themselves for the boat back to Trim. ready for the *big boat*. It is quite correct that " Great Day " was sung with much gusto. Sergt Fairman (late of Karachi), Corpl Gerrish (late of the Cement and Lime Works, Peshawar), L/Corpl Broom (Sialkot) and Sigmn Francis (Jubbulpore) arrived to relieve them.

During all this great excitement, we received news that we would soon be leaving for Mingaladon, the pukka military cantonment about twelve miles away. We did—and here we are, enjoying excellent accommodation supplied by the Buffs in model barracks. I think I can safely say that we are on a par with Mons Barracks. Not only are we well accommodated, but we are supplied with plenty of amusements in the form of socials, dances and concerts.

The corporals played the Buffs corporals at billiards. We lost, but we had a jolly fine evening. A combined Section team managed to avenge this defeat by defeating a Battalion team by the odd game.

At present we are awaiting orders to move to Thayetmyo.

Congratulations.—To Corpls Hamilton and Booth on their appointment with pay. A tighter grasp on the elusive baton at last, eh?

To the newly appointed n.c.o.s at Trimulgherry.

To Sigmn Barney on obtaining his A.ii. e/fitter.

Bits and Pieces.—Albions will not run on water. Q.E.D. (Barney, please note.)

All enquiries regarding " air mail " should be addressed to the Fitters Association, A Section.

The bungalows here are on a firm foundation (for the benefit of all who knew the Gentle Clutton).

" Happy " days are here again.

Fever boxes are at a premium.

Did you ever find that mosquito in your net, Peep, Peep?

Bobby is still willing to help you. GENERAL.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

Once again our monthly notes are due. The months pass so very quickly that there seems to be nothing to report each time the pen should fly o'er the parchment. Yet I fear that, one of these days, I shall be recording my own departure to U.K. without being aware of the fact. Yimkin!

General.—In connection with the Outing Club, two visits to the old fortress town of Acre were arranged, and I feel it is my duty to express the gratitude of the members who availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing this ancient town, to the P.R.I., who was responsible for the admirable organisation of the outings. The trippers spent a most enjoyable day on each occasion, arriving home tired but satisfied.

On account of the heat and depressing atmosphere of this station (Baghdad-ites, please note) free bathing trips to Jaffa have been arranged and are appreciated by all.

The purchase of a Panotr—— (can't spell it—but you know the sort of thing I mean ; consists of wires and valves, and an arm on the end of which is a queer box which the specially selected operator rests on a gramophone record, supposed to revolve in a clock-wise direction and produce an incessant flow of loud music from six to ten o'clock each night, the whole of which is constantly being blamed for ordering " tops " which we don't really want) has added to our stock of apparatus for keeping body and soul together while out here under the burning sun.

A unit dance was held during the month, but I am sorry to say the attendance of ladies was very small. It is hoped that, during October and November, the fair sex will make an effort to attend our " hops." I cannot understand the reluctance of people to interest themselves in dancing. However, the problem is being investigated by our dancing instructors, L/Corpl Tant and Sigmn Walters.

The trooping season is here again, or nearly here, and a few of the old sweats can be seen burning old letters and putting their house in order generally, much to the disgust of the new hands. We hope they will not " click " a worse station on arriving at home. Oh, yes, there are worse places. In fact, one lad was heard to say that he did not like the idea of going home because he is still number one on the mangle.

Members of the late E Troop Cavalry Divl Signals will no doubt be interested to hear that Corpl Mansfield (Dick) has taken up tennis, and can daily be seen recovering the balls from the field nearby. Keep at it, Dick ; your drives are bound to develop.

All members of this unit are grateful to those concerned for the fine production of the plate inset in connection with the Old Comrades meet at Aldershot, but would be even more so if a name key to same could be published in the near future.

There, now, Tusky ; I knew you'd be back again. Is it because you wish to go over the Jaffa battlefield once again, or to reduce your time for the Jaffa—Sarafand walk? The unit violin is covered with cobwebs, and the bow is as slack as the one used by Busty Baker to demonstrate the bagpipes.

Congratulations.—To Sergt Harris T. J. on attaining that rank, and to C.O.M.S. (F-of-S) Paterson and wife on the birth of a daughter (Eileen Phyllis) on July 18th.

Extensions of Service.—Sigmn Walters to complete twenty-one years with the Colours ; L/Corpl Cooper W. to complete twelve years, and L/Corpl Wright to complete eight years. Yes, I think they do like it!

Things We Want to Know.—Does Taffy still have his eggs browned round the edges?

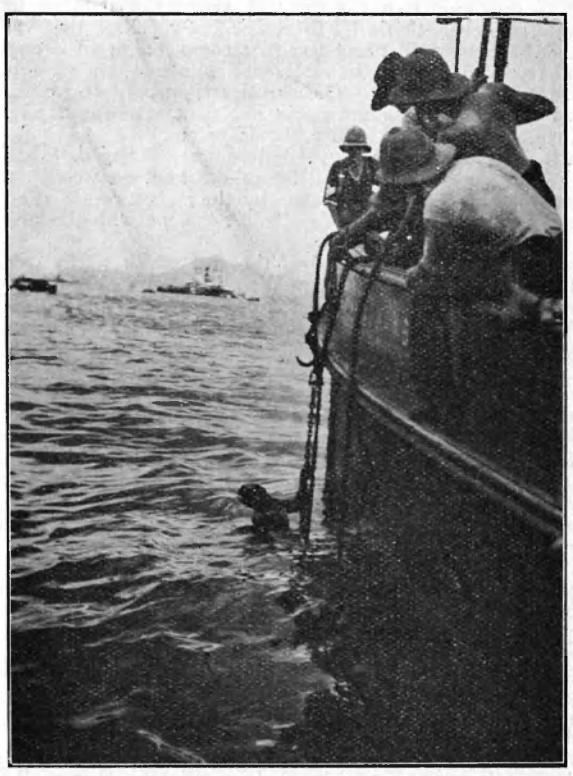
Who lives at 16 Padua Road, Penge?

Where, and for what price, a second-hand pair of leg straighteners, in reasonable condition, can be purchased, to fit a pair of elliptical-shaped legs?

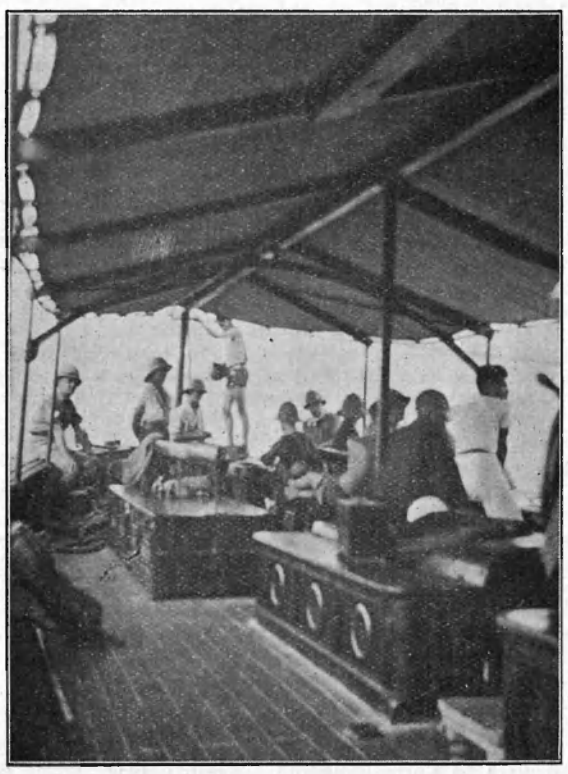
Answers to Correspondents.—Jaggard: No, Corbett never stops talking.

Royal Signals repairing the cable in Hong Kong Harbour.

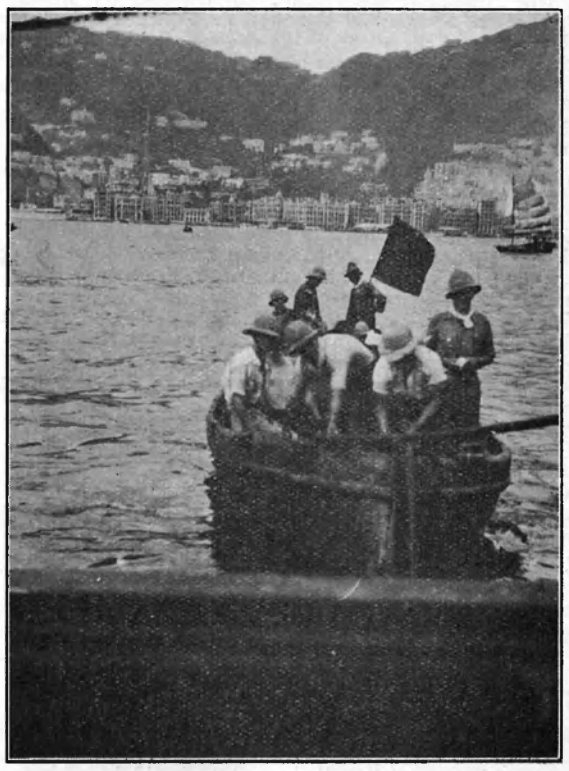
The first joint up.



The diver goes down.



Aboard the "Tommy Atkins."



Coming in for chow.

Ball: The late "Yorkshire Bar," while still under the same management, lately changed its name to "The Saint Jimes Restaurant," and yet later still to "The Dew Drop Inn."

For Sale.—All theatrical props of the one and only Barnstormers, including the cello used by the famous Herr Kruschen, and the original weights used by the Scandinavian strong man, Young Apollon, on the occasion of his *final* appearance in Palestine.

At Random.—It is notified, for the information of all late Sarafeans, that Helen of the Sarafand Bazaar passed away during the month, at a ripe old age. Rumour has it that Old Bill proposed, and the shock proved too much for her. "This is so sudden, William."

Agony.—When is the Frog going to let us know where he is?
Webby: Come, come! what about it?—Ben.
To Losty, from Long Tom: Writing paper is pretty cheap; let's be hearing.
Corpl Atkinson would appreciate a line from L/Corpl Hopper, thought to be at the School.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

Was Omar referring to this delectable country, I wonder, when he wrote his famous "Wilderness" couplet? If so, and if he would substitute McEwan's for the jug of wine and Fortuna for the somewhat indefinite "thou," then I am inclined to agree with him. Fortuna, I may add, is the daughter of Lilian the Tiger. Her beauty surpasses that of her famous mother, even in the heyday of her career. Georgie may, however, keep her safe from all troops.

General.—I am proud to relate that we enjoyed a certain measure of success at the Lancers' annual rifle meeting. Entering a team in what is, for obvious reasons, called "the odds and sods"—a knock-out competition, in which steel plates have to be knocked down at 300 yards—we managed to reach the final. After drawing twice, we gained a most decisive victory at the third attempt to the tune of 7—2. Ike's head is still aching!

The forthcoming training season promises to be a very interesting one, as trips to Palestine, Transjordania and the Nile valley may be possible. On the 24th October, most of us are going to the Siwa oasis, as Signals to a force which is going to attack it.

All the Troop have now had leave at Alexandria, and returned to the fold with wonderful tales of the night life of that city.

Trade Tests.—Congratulations to Signalmen Bailey, Carver, Fielding, Gibson, Howard and Vallis on passing B.ii. operator signals, and to Sigmn Nicoll on his A.ii. instrument mechanic.

Agony.—2560345 would appreciate a line from 2560346. Latest known address: Kohat District Signals.
J.O.J. Dunstan: Still waiting for a line?—W.A.W. Tyne.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, August 7th.

General.—Perspiration is the order of the day at present, and the manipulation of the shower-bath taps is our chief occupation. The sun continues to let its light shine upon us with overbearing constancy. Oh, for the cool shade of an English oak!

Among the events of this month, not the least is the annual re-shuffle of staff duties. The relieving of Browne in the cookhouse by Gillott calls to mind a little piece of libel that was perpetrated some time ago. It will do for Gillott just as well; in fact, *more so*.

Now through the hall a breathless murmur goes,
And, unforewarned, the diners helpless stand,
Left hardly strong enough to wield—Lord knows!—
The ladling spoon with weak and palsied hand
(Save some who know, some who are in the band)
Trout from the purling brook is good enough,
Flavoured with spices from Ind's foreign strand.
But for a sweetmeat, whence comes all this stuff,
That Cæsare Borgia Browne wheels in for duff?

The rendition of Wei-Hai-Wei has not put summer holidays out of the question, according to four enterprising spirits of the Section. These lads conceived the idea of obtaining a month's leave of absence and renting a bungalow at Chung Chau Island, about eleven miles from here. I understand that they are doing the thing in style—lying in bed till ten, etc.; and at that rate, what better could a would-be convalescent hope for?

Speaking of convalescents, we seem to be keeping healthier this year than last (touch wood) when so many were in hospital that the powers were hard pressed to find enough men to do the work. Well, here's hoping we keep away from Bowen Road this year.

Nearly all the hitherto non-swimmers managed to do the 100 yards last month—some in good style, and others, somehow. Among the latter was one successful aspirant who took about three-quarters of an hour to do it on his back. Modesty forbids my naming him.

Rate of Dollar.—Further drops prophesied in the dollar bring some people out in spots, and others in verse (or worse).

When dollars stood at one and seven,
We drew twelve "bucks" (paid out eleven).
And then the times grew worse—oh, hell!—
The dollar let us down, and fell;
So now we always do our best
To pay out twelve and owe the rest.

Personal.—Sigmn Pitman would like to inform all interested that he will shortly be returning to his old stamping-grounds around the Tally Ho. All letters should be addressed to c/o S.M.P. Shanghai.

And what about some notes, Egypt Signals?

Repairs to the Harbour Cable.—The menders of bad lines and the pounders of keys are noted here for their mutual regard, which may be described pretty accurately as a reciprocity of blistering hate—professionally, that is. Therefore, many difficulties were encountered before I could arrange to spend a day with the linemen on the harbour cable route. It was creating a precedent—a thing which anybody military hates; but this point was at last waived on the ground that for the day, at least, they were nearly naval.

I obtained as much information as I could about this particular branch of work, on the question and answer principle—expensive

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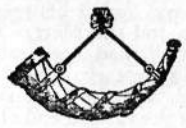
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questioning, too. By dint of skilful cross-examination and lubrication, I learned that the cables used by the Service were laid across the harbour in three places—in the east, from Lyemun to Devil's Peak ; centrally, from Victoria on the island to the Kowloon peninsula ; and from Stonecutter's Island to Tai Kok Tsui on the mainland, on the west. The cable was 26-core impregnated paper.

Prior to my advent, the cable had already been cut, cussed and corrected in many places, and information on this was elicited on the above principles—mostly lubrication.

" Firstly, on cutting and testing at the centre joint, the cable was found to be faulty at both ends," said my mentor ; and he continued, " One fault was found between the west-end corner of the Hong Kong Club and the Murray Pier, where the cable, lying close to the sea wall, had been sat on at slack tide and crushed in several places by cargo junks. About fifty yards of bad cable were removed, and the cable diverted in an approximately straight line from the eastern end of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company building to the centre of the harbour."

It seemed to me that they had coaxed the cable away from the gay club to a more appropriate atmosphere. This was probably to the good. I nodded encouragingly. " There was another fault," he muttered, gazing absently into the depths of his empty glass. Hastily I corrected the omission, and after a while he continued: " One of the faults that browned us off occurred at about the centre of the harbour. The military cable had become fixed under a kink in the P.W.D. cable, and we had been pulling at Lord knows how many tons before the diver found out what was wrong, and then we had to recover 800 yards of cable to clear the obstruction."

He gulped and sighed, but I knew enough ; so, replacing him in the Mah Jong School, I dashed out to get some films. Early next morning I proceeded to the rendezvous to await the party.

One point that struck me regarding the men was the venerable appearance of their clothing. By " venerable," I would imply great age and not dignity. They resembled those who are now known in England as hikers, but who in less enlightened days (prior to my sailing for China) we called tramps.

Boarding the *Tommy Atkins*, with the cable boat in tow, they stripped for action—no, not on the decks—and I had a good look round.

There were seven of our men, and an equal number culled from our native portion, augmented by a few civilian Chinese. Two experts from the P.W.D. proved to be rather interesting characters: Yip the jointer, and Ah Fuk the diver—especially Ah Fuk.

His diving suit extended from his waist to just below his knees, but the time he could stay under the water was truly remarkable ; and work!—he practically controlled operations and managed to do the work of ten average Chinese or three strong Englishmen.

Yip, on the other hand, was a jointer "bus": a very loquacious jointer, but he did his job well. Since my knowledge of joints was limited to those used in D.8, I was rather interested in Yip's handiwork. A description of this would probably bore you—well, be bored!

First, they stripped off about 10 feet of armouring from the cable, slipped a lead sleeve along it, then joined the thirteen pairs of lines and sealed the sleeve over them, leaving two holes in it, into one of which they pumped resin oil while the air was forced out of the other. After all the air had been removed, the first hole was sealed and 10 lbs. pressure of oil exerted to the second hole, which was then sealed and the whole wiped with plumber's solder. The armouring was then re-wound and tarred.

During the jointings, the lads had plenty of spare time which was spent in the time honoured manner—swapping tall stories. Such yarns, too! " The man who disposed of a train load of oats," " The soldier who ' flogged ' a convoy of W.D. lorries," and a particularly juicy specimen about Von Bulow dealing at an Army canteen which might bring a blush of shame to the cheek of Munchausen himself.

During the day, faults were found at two other joints—Nos. 6 and 8—which being rectified, the cable tested 40 megohms insulation resistance between the shore ends and was taken into service.

With the advent of night, they decided to call it a day, and we all trooped back to a gargantuan dinner—I, contented with a dozen snaps ; and they, thankful that the job was finished. But stay! One of the joints went " dis " again overnight, and they had to turn out once more next day. "Call, yourselves, linemen? Huh!"

C.C.R.B.

Malaya Signal Section.

August 13th.

General.—We must congratulate Sergeant Carpenter on being picked to represent the Colony v. the Rest at Singapore. This in itself is a great personal achievement which must reflect on the Corps ; but we think that a further measure of congratulation must be paid to the worthy sergeant for his very fine performance with the ball, resulting in the magnificent average of five wickets for 28 runs.

There must be, somewhere in your cold and clammy climate of England, some few of you who are looking forward to coming to this hot and horrible hole—for such it is. Therefore, I may be of assistance in the matter of what and what not to bring with you. My experience so far is that everybody coming here seems to have left at home just the things they want ; and as I've no idea at all of what you have, you had better bring it *all*, friends—bring it all, except the mother-in-law (if any).

However, flannels are useful, and so are white shirts—not forgetting the bank book which is to be worn next the skin.

We understand that the troops are to be met at Southampton this season by a female choir, and not by the regimental band as hitherto. We further understand that the star item in the programme will be a little song entitled " You went away too far and stayed away too long." The troops will reply with " She turned out to be a new friend of an old friend of mine."

Whilst we are pleased to congratulate our Mephistophelian D.R.s, of Olympia fame, we must at the same time express surprise at their neglect in one direction, i.e. number plates, which should at least show place of origin, whatever the number—for example, L.1 to L.6 would have been most appropriate.

We understand from *The Sunday News* that they did unbelievable things. We can quite imagine that they *said* them on meeting the tan at Olympia after practising on the grass.

However, to our six Red Devils, we would say " Bravo, chaps! We are proud of you, but keep on keeping on."

Agony.—Sigmn Baldwin J. would like to hear from Sigmn W. Fowler, late of 15th Infantry Brigade Signal Section, S.D.F., Kowloon.

Congratulations.—Tom, has it got its father's fingers?

A.T.C.

WEKSA.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, September 1st.

During the past month we have engaged the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in friendly warfare. They were our opponents in a cricket match at North Front, and after scoring 108 runs, we were all " on needles " until we managed to get them all out for seven runs less. Needless to say, we counted this victory a great feather in our cap, as the R.A.O.C. are famed as keen exponents of King Willow. Just ask ex-Rockites. But for their special knowledge, we gladly give them the information that several of their past stalwarts were in the pavilion.

Just to cap the cricket match, the local lads from South Bastion were the guests at Jumper's Bastion for a games night. Our representatives are a little bit hazy regarding details of the games, though it appears that we were beaten on the miniature rifle range, but carried off all the other events fairly easily except that of " salud "—which probably accounts for the lack of details.

Matches in our Billiard League are being played off at great speed, but unless something very much unexpected happens, the ultimate winner will be our genial Foreman-of-Signals. In any case, we are now preparing our speech of congratulation.

We are now preparing for the football season, but unless a kindly O. i/c Records sends us an Alex James or two, we shall not change our last year's position in the league table very much. Perhaps we are too pessimistic. It *has* been whispered that our would-be players have been indulging in secret practice already!

During August bank holiday we were treated to a tattoo given by the 2nd Battn North Staffs Regiment in aid of their O.C.A., and although it was on a small scale, it was a very creditable performance. All these little amusements help to cheer one on the Rock, and we are looking forward to another such display.

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

Duke of York's H.Q., London, S.W.3.

General.—We must first apologise for our long silence and absence of notes on this page, but a new scribe has arisen, and he sincerely hopes that his supply of fountain ink will not run out for many a moon.

By the time these notes appear in print, H.Q. will have re-opened after annual training, but I hope it isn't too late for a few words about our usual " fifteen days swim."

Annual Training.—We arrived at Willingdon, near Eastbourne, on Sunday, August 26th, and as usual the rain turned up to greet us. This, however, did not damp our spirits, as an impromptu sing-song in the canteen soon showed.

The first week of our training was devoted to Troop wireless training and riding drill—recruits and trained men alternately.

On the Bank Holiday Monday we held our regimental mounted sports, the results of which appear in the Sports Notes. I must add that the visitors in the open jumping gave the spectators a great entertainment. Fortunately the weather was kind to us, and I think we managed to give our fair visitors from Eastbourne and London a good afternoon's enjoyment.

Great keenness was shown this year, owing to the fact that last year A Squadron won the inter-Squadron sports shield for the first time for five years, and fully intended to keep it, while B Squadron were doing their utmost to regain it.

After a ding-dong struggle the whole afternoon, at the last event A were leading by two points. However, in this event (motor cyclists obstacle race) B succeeded in gaining first and second places, and thus won the shield by twenty-eight points to twenty-six. Well done, B Squadron! hard luck, A!

The remainder of the last week was chiefly devoted to miniature wireless schemes until Thursday, when we had the C.O.'s scheme, and on Friday the 47th Divisional scheme. In both of these our lads worked hard, and I think we could challenge many Regular units of the same strength to put into the field as many working sections (and this, too, with the C mk. ii. set)

And so to Saturday, when we started to strike camp—once again in the rain. Even the wind decided to help us and kindly blew down the canteen. But alas! Pard stopped work, and our thirsts went unquenched until the following morning (Sunday) when various fatigue parties found their way into the Sergeants' Mess, and then on to Chelsea, when once more we found ourselves back in civvy street.

Things We Should Like to Know.—What a certain B Squadron sheik said when (after drinks had been paid for) another sheik from A Squadron walked off with his fair companion?

What it felt like, walking home from Beachy Head at 05.00 hrs. on Sunday morning?

Did L/Corpl C. enjoy his first " bite "?

What was F Troop's favourite topic of conversation at camp?

Wireless Competition.—And then, last but not least, may we congratulate Corpl Mitchell on winning the wireless cup (hard luck, F Troop!)

YEOMAN.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

I have never seen a ship without a rudder, so I can only imagine that it looks rather like many of our members during this close season. They just drift from place to place, with no particular object in view. Well, this will all be changed when October arrives, and the training season starts with all its little troubles,

The only side showing any life at all lately has been musketry, which has included the match between the officers and sergeants, and the Divisional meeting at Altcar.

The officers and sergeants match was very good and interesting, as the result was in doubt until the last detail had fired. The officers started with a fair lead at the end of the first practice and, feeling slightly elated, proceeded to the second, where they increased their lead by quite a nice margin. It was at this point that the R.S.M. told the sergeants in no uncertain manner to " pull up their socks." The effect of socks upon one's shooting must be really remarkable, because (with theirs pulled right up to their thighs) the sergeants went on to win, finishing up eleven points ahead. Jolly good luck to them! but they will lose next year, as all the officers will wear suspenders.

The scores were as follows:—Officers: Captain T. Halsall 61, Lieut. J. Cobbing 60, Captain C. Sketch 59, 2/Lieut. T. Lea 52, Major H. Lazenby 51, Major G. Hamilton 48, Lieut F. Walter 48, 2/Lieut. E. Hobson 31—Total 410. Sergeants: Sergeant Constable C. 68, Sergt Burke T. 61, C.Q.M.S. Norton J. 59, Sgt Brennon W. 57, Sergt Daniels N. 48, Sergt Ryder J. 46, C.S.M. Dalby G. 45, Sergt Redfern A. 37—Total 421.

Brevet-Colonel R. S. Newton and some of the Officers' Team at Holcombe Brook Range.

Then came Altcar. This is always an interesting meeting, and though the unit team made a higher score than last year, they were several places lower down. C.Q.M.S. Norton made top score for this unit, while Major R. Lazenby made the highest officer's score.

Of the many things which happened, there are some which we cannot quite understand. What did one competitor say when he had to shoot again after making a good score? Did another score a pool-bull for someone else, and if so, why? What were the " bedtime " stories which caused so much amusement to the people waiting to shoot, and who told them? And why did the adjutant so thoroughly enjoy the whole meeting? But still, there are many things which I suppose we never shall know!

Our Company team (from No. 1 Company) was Major R. Lazenby, Sergeants Burke and Daniels, Corporals Mathews and Connors, L/Corporals Barlow and McLoughlin, and Signalman

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association?

If not, join now!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in obtaining civil employment. See the Association Notes on page 390, showing how the Association helps its Members in that direction. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

Stroud—who made a total of 347, which was not quite so good as last year.

The other individuals shooting were Lieuts. Walter, Cobbing, Lea and Baldwin, C.S.M. Dalby, C.Q.M.S. Norton, Sergts Redfern, Ryder and Brennon, Signalmen Robinson and Spencer.

The unit team were tenth, but we shall be higher up the scale than that next year. JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

Presentation to Major J. W. Western, O.B.E.

Members of the 43rd Wessex Signals demonstrated their affection for Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., when they gathered on Saturday night, September 5th, to make farewell presentations to him on his retirement as O.C. No. 1 Company on attaining the age limit, after thirty-four years' service. The gathering was held in the Signals drill hall, Exeter. The hall was decorated in dark blue, green and pale blue by Sergt Standley.

The presentations took the form of a silver salver (on which were facsimiles of the signatures of all the officers), tea-pot, coffee pot, cream dish and sugar basin, all of silver, from members of the unit, and a silver wristlet watch from his own No. 1 Company.

The salver was inscribed: "Presented to Maior J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., on the occasion of his retirement, August 22nd, 1931, after thirty-four years' service," and it was subscribed for by all ranks and friends of the unit—subscriptions even coming from Canada and India. The wrist watch was similarly inscribed. Accompanying the gifts was an illuminated roll containing the names of all members of the present No. 1 Company.

Captain Cummings, O.B.E., presided, and was supported by Colonel the Lord Basing (commanding the unit), Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., T.D. (Deputy Chief Signal Officer), Captain Odell, O.B.E. (adjutant), Captain P. A. Harris, Captain M. N. Ford, Captain Cornelius, Capt. Jackson, R.A.M.C., Lieut Martin, Lieut. Lee-Wright, Lieut. Edwards, and 2/Lieuts. Scorer, Hinks, Tomlinson, Evans, Govier, Crocker and Shaw. Among the guests were Messrs. Cummings, Lascelles, E. C. Timewell (1st R.V. Old Comrades) and Hannaford.

Making the presentations, Lord Basing outlined Maj. Western's army career. It commenced in 1897 when he joined the 1st R.V., with whom he served 10 years 85 days as a private and lance-corporal. In 1908 he joined the Wessex Divisional Telegraph Company R.E. as a sapper, and remained with them until 1916, by which time he had been promoted in stages to Company-Quartermaster-Sergeant. The next year he spent at the Signal Training Centre, obtaining his commission in 1917, after which he served in various Signal units in France and Egypt during the war. In 1919 he returned to his old unit, the 43rd Wessex Signals, since when he had served with them continuously. Before going to No. 1 Company, Major Western at one time commanded No. 3.

Since the war he had never missed an annual training, which in itself was a magnificent record, particularly as in 1926 he had had a very serious illness and attended camp against his doctor's orders. Starting with a camp at Otterton in 1921, the Major had discharged the duties of sports secretary in camp, and thanks entirely to his efforts the sports had proved more and more successful each year, this year's eclipsing the lot. That did not end his many activities. In addition, he had for some years been the unit's correspondent to THE WIRE. Major Western had done an enormous amount of good, especially in regard to recruiting. His own No. 1 Company had grown considerably in late years, and reached full strength last year—the bulk of the credit again being his.

Lord Basing was very sorry they were losing Major Western, but a time came when they all had to go. He hoped that the Major would continue to be with them as often as possible. As commanding officer he should order him to spend a few days in camp with them, and hoped he would use the Sergeants' Mess as hitherto—(laughter and applause).

Ringing cheers and musical honours for the Major then came spontaneously from the Company.

Colonel Michelmore associated himself with Lord Basing's remarks, and said he fully appreciated the feelings of Major Western that evening, as it was not long since he himself had been called upon to relinquish command of the unit. He recalled the days before the war when he was a "very frightened second lieutenant" and Major Western was a forbidding looking sergeant. "I appeal to you to maintain your efficiency and give his successor the same loyalty as you have shown him. In that way you will be proving to Major Western that his work has been well done and worth while." If they fizzled and started to disappear they would be doing a bad turn to the Company commander, whom he firmly believed they respected and loved—(applause).

Tribute on behalf of old sweats of the original Signal Company was added by Mr. Jack Panell, who was also associated with Major Western in the 1st R.V.

In reply, Major Western said he was completely overwhelmed with gratitude for the splendid gifts and words of praise. He reminded the company, however, that no one man could be responsible for the success of the unit. Each one, doing even the humblest job, was vital to the whole, and he echoed the appeal of Colonel Michelmore that the members should remain, back up his successor, and maintain the traditions of the unit.

The evening was enlivened by a well-varied programme of songs, monologues, etc. Finally "Auld Lang Syne" was sung, and the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.—*The Express and Echo*, 7/9/31.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

The great event of the month was the presentation to Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., on the occasion of his retirement, on Saturday, September 5th. [A newspaper report of this function appears above.—ED.]

The occasion cannot be looked upon as a parting, as we all hope that Major Western will frequently visit the Company and look in at the Priory Mess and "have one"!

Our thanks are due to all who worked so hard to make the evening a success, and particularly to Sergts Preston and Lovell and Sigmn Woodley for their canteen arrangements, and to Sergt Standley and his willing helpers for all their spade work in getting the tent ready and so nicely decorated. ONECOY.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

We were very glad to be present at the farewell smoker in honour of the retirement of Major J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D., and to join in the cheers that were so heartily given. We had a real good time ; in fact, I am afraid that it took our people quite a week to get over it. Anyway, we shall see Major Western at future trainings, we feel sure. " Old soldiers never die."

The last Section has returned from annual training, and we can now settle down to winter training ; and as we have been doing very well just lately from the recruiting point of view, we have plenty of good material to work on.

We wish Captain Cummings, O.B.E., the best of luck in his new Company, and hope that No. 1 will still, under his able guidance, carry on as before.

After the excitement of the Schneider trophy race, Southampton appears to be very quiet. Anyhow, news seems to be scarce, and in any case my typewriter refuses to go at 400 m.p.h.—and my neck still aches from watching planes moving so fast. Nuff said. PIP.

No. 3 (Plymouth and Topsham) Company.

We feel very guilty at having missed our notes for last month's WIRE. The date was around so quickly after returning from camp that our Company scribe was caught napping.

All ranks voted this year's camp as one of the best held since the war. The weather was not too kind, nor were some of the tents in our lines ; but we managed to smile all through and enjoy ourselves.

A good deal of useful training was done, and we are grateful to Captain Solly and Mr. Ruck and a detachment from the 3rd Divl Signals for their help and ready assistance.

The Company's crowning effort was the winning back of the sports cup after an absence of two years. It was duly filled up, and the enthusiasm shown on this occasion did one's heart good. A real royal welcome was given our commanding officer, whose presence on this occasion was much appreciated.

On the last Saturday in camp, Captain Cummings, who has now taken over command of No. 1 Company, inspected the Company and wished all ranks success and good luck. Good old No. 3! may their shadow never grow less.

A word of welcome to 2/Lieuts. P. W. Shaw and A. S. Crocker, who have reported for duty at Plymouth.

On Saturday evening, September 5th, a party of thirty from Plymouth and twenty from Topsham attended the smoking concert at the Exeter H.Q., when a presentation was made to Major J. W. Western. The officers entertained him to dinner previous to the concert. All ranks of this Company take this opportunity of wishing him good health, long life, and happiness in a retirement which follows a record of which he may well be proud. We shall be pleased to welcome him in Topsham or Plymouth whenever he is our way. THREECOY.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—Life is full of sorrow! I am sorry that I took on this job. No sooner have you finished one lot of notes than you hear the same old cry: " What about the WIRE notes?"—but I suppose I must just grin and bear it. Let's make a start.

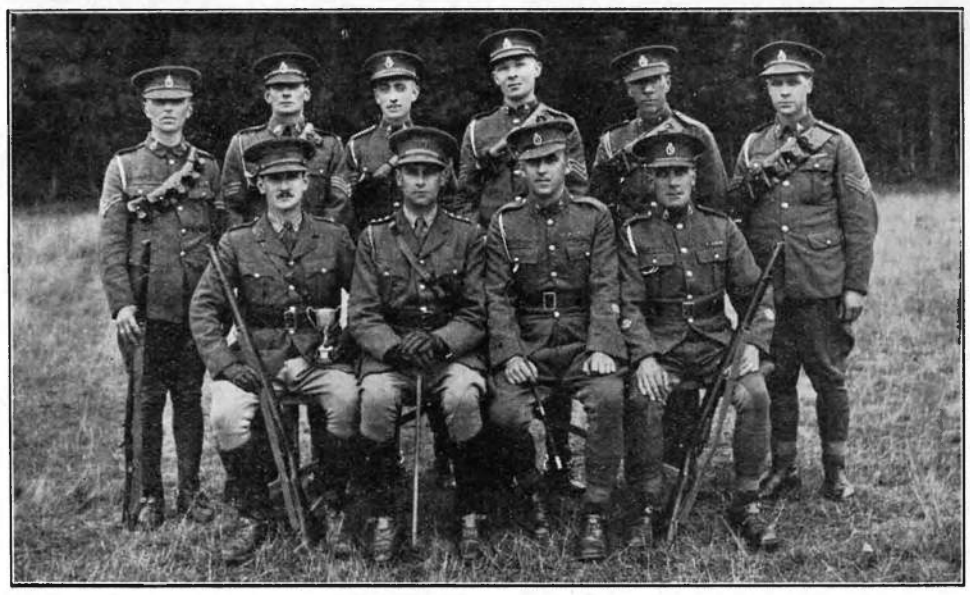
The first thing I suppose I must do is to apologise for the absence of notes under the heading of No. 2 Company for last month. But it was not all my fault: we were led to understand that No. 2 would be included in the unit notes from H.Q. We were badly let down, and we are grateful for the kind enquiries made as to our absence.

Now let me say something about the Company. We have settled down to our winter training after camp, and the boys are hard at it, trying to increase their trade ratings and so qualify for higher rates of pay. I don't know if Mr. Snowdon will be agreeable to all this concentrated training when he has to dip into the exchequer for those extra shillings. We are hoping to hold the trade test on the 22nd September.

The winter programme has been drawn up. It promises to be one of great importance, and we hope to see the progress chart full up at the conclusion of the work. Special attention is being paid to the learners, so that by next camp time they will be fit to join their Brigade Sections.

Musketry.—We congratulate the Company on winning the Dell cup—a really good performance. We also wish Sergt James

No. 2 Company, 44th (H.C.) Signals, at Canterbury, 1931.



No. 2 Company (44th H.C. Signals) Musketry Team.
Winners of the Dell Cup, 1931

the best of luck in the Sussex county shoot, to be held this month. Owing to the time at which the shoot is to be held, we are unable to enter the Company team, so Sergt James is going to endeavour to uphold our good name as an individual competitor.

At this time of the year we are busy getting our musketry records into shape. On Sunday, September 13th, we went to Mile Oak once more, for the last shoot of the year. It was the finest day we have had this season. Sigmn Gosden helped to pile up the recruits' average with a very good performance. We think we have the making of a good shot in him. A good programme has been arranged for the winter months on the miniature range.

Marriage.—Sigmn Matthews has plunged into the sea of matrimony. The best wishes of the Company are extended to him and his wife.

Arrivals.—New recruits are gradually coming in, and at the present time we are only one short of our establishment. We are gradually nearing the stage when we shall have a waiting list.

Promotion.—Our congratulations to Corpl Tidey on his recent step up the ladder of fame.

Agony.—Tommy: A promise is a promise. Get me? Perhaps the " 2 " is rubbed out on your typewriter.

Sympathy.—The Company offer their deepest sympathy to the relatives of L/Sergt Kinnard F., late of No. 3 Company.

NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Phœnix Street, Derby.

The omission of notes last month is regretted. They must have been lost in the mud at Hindlow!

Camp, 1931, proved the wettest and most muddy yet experienced, especially for the rear party. Despite every endeavour made to keep the site clear of mud, the ground was reminiscent of the old days in France and Flanders, duckboards having to be laid down at the places most constantly used. It was out of the question to get even a car on the ground without getting stuck; consequently, all motor vehicles had to be parked on the roadside.

There was a small amount of consolation in the fact that there were some units even worse off than we were. Three infantry battalions had to leave a day prior to the time allotted, owing to the weather. Others who came a week later than we did were issued with tent boards—a very unusual thing at a Territorial camp—so it can be realised what the conditions were.

Although the weather, to a great extent, spoiled a good deal of the enjoyment and training of camp life, we were far from being downhearted; but we certainly hope that, next year, the weather clerk will be kinder to us, and that the powers-that-be will pick us out a better spot than Buxton. Although Buxton may be a lovely place when the weather is good, it is the entire reverse when it rains, for once the taps are turned on up above, there seems no way of turning them off.

As usual, much useful training was done and many things were learned. We had our usual two-day scheme with night bivouac. This was selected amidst lovely surroundings at Hartington. The weather on the day of starting was of the type when one was glad to be alive, the ground having dried after the previous rains.

Space does not permit of full details of the scheme, which on the first day was worked as a well-planned scheme should be. The full Sections were out, including the mobile Wireless Section and the mobile signal offices, which can in a few minutes be packed and off to their next station. The sounders (although the relays only arrived the day previous) were worked to their fullest capacity, the operators getting into their working right away, and although constantly worked, not a hitch occurred.

On arriving in bivouac, the troops, after a look round the village, settled down for the night (with the sky for their roof). Then, about 3.30 a.m., the rain came and in a few minutes it was a downpour. Before anything could be done, everyone and everything got soaked, including blankets and ground sheets. The rain showing no signs of abating, we had reluctantly to move back to camp.

On arriving in camp, a good hot meal was served (not forgetting the rum and coffee). The blankets were sent to be dried, and at night everyone had warm and dry articles; although six hundred had to be dried, they were ready for re-issue by 7 p.m.

Thanks to Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E., we had the assistance for a week of Captain Raynor, Lieut. Masters and Corporals Elkins, Couperthwaite and Whitehead (of the 1st Divl Signals) in our training, and their kindly help and assistance was greatly appreciated by everyone, further cementing the comradeship already existing between us and our parent unit.

The officers had their usual guest night, and as is always the case, this was a great success.

The Sergeants' Mess concert was held on the last Thursday night in camp. The weather was kind, and the ground had dried up to a great extent. This, together with a splendid programme, helped to make this annual event a great success. The

enlarged accommodation was filled to overflowing, but the usual excellent order was maintained throughout.

We are now settling down to our usual winter programme of training and social events, of which more anon.

MEREBIMUR.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

No. 3 (Darlington) Company.

General.—We apologise for the absence of notes during the past, but owing to change of staff, it has not been possible to forward any.

Now that camp life is over and holidays by the seaside are finished, we are once more back to civilisation, and concentration on musketry is taking place. The lads are being keyed up to that pitch whereby hair triggers are in great demand, and in the near future we go to Neasham to shoot up the surrounding countryside and then retire to draw the appropriate fee for our recklessness.

We welcome into the Company Lieut. E. Glover and 2/Lieut. B. Minor, both of Darlington and very useful additions; let's hope their stay will be a long and happy one. Also Corpl M. E. Podger, late of the Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, who has since been re-established as a T.A. corporal; not quite so high and mighty, Podge, but do your stuff.

Congratulations to A/Corpl J. B. Robinson on his recent promotion. Stick it, Jack! we may want another notice board next year.

Our best wishes go with those of the Company who have had to leave us owing to their work being so far away.

Congratulations to Sigmn Lake on his new adventure. What make of car do you favour, Lakey?

We are now getting down to dance tunes and Broadway melodies. Ours will be "the show" during the coming year, and if anyone cares to visit the drill hall at Darlington, I'm sure he will not be disappointed.

We Want to Know.—Whether Fairy has eaten all the wedding cake yet?

Why was it that No. 1 Company's convoy, on returning from camp, did not catch us up the second time? Something rummy about that!

Why a sergeant-major's bed collapsed in camp?

If the two Regulars on a certain Battalion end during a scheme at camp know how to connect up a D.iii. yet?

Heard in the Recruiting Office.—P.S.I. to Recruit (said quickly): "Who's your next of kin?" Recruit: "The Prince of Wales." A.Q.U.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

Owing to a busy training season and annual camp, we have lost touch with our Company correspondents for a while, but hope now that annual camp is a thing of the past, WIRE notes will be coming through as regularly as before.

Our annual camp, this year, was again held at that nice little spot St. Andrew's, from July 17th to August 1st. This is the third camp in succession we have spent at the home of the royal and ancient game, so it is rumoured that next year we may return to a spot very well known to the old soldiers of the unit—Montrose, a delightful seaside resort about forty miles south of Aberdeen.

Our attendance at annual camp was as high as 94 per cent. of all ranks. This was only excelled by two other units in the Highland Division.

The weather was not as good to us as we had hoped, but we stuck it all cheerfully. Our schemes were nearly all conducted in fine weather, and we had an excellent day for our unit sports.

The G.O.C.-in-Chief, Scottish Command (Lieut.-General Sir Percy P. de B. Radcliffe, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.) accompanied by the C.S.O. (Lieut.-Colonel C. W. M. Firth, M.C.) and the D/C.S.O. (Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Muirhead, D.S.O., M.C., T.D.) paid us a visit on the first Monday we were in camp, and although we had hardly got settled in, we managed to put up a good performance for their benefit in the shape of a traffic scheme around the camp area, in which all Sections took part. During his visit to us, the G.O.C.-in-Chief kindly consented to present a parchment awarded by the Royal Humane Society to L/Sergeant Paterson, of No. 1 Company, for his gallant act in saving a woman from drowning at the Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, on May 23rd last.

The G.O.C. 51st Highland Division (Major-General Sir James L. G. Burnett of Leys, Bt., C.M.G., D.S.O.) came along on July 30th, and after inspecting the camp, he visited all Sections of the unit at work on training.

No camp would have been complete without a visit from our hon. colonel, Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E. He was with us for a couple of days during our second week in camp, and he helped materially in acting as chief judge at our annual camp sports.

Our training this year in camp was composed mostly of signal schemes, and I am sure we have now a good working knowledge of all the best little sites for signal offices, etc. (?) around St. Andrew's. Anyway, we had some excellent schemes, when lessons learnt on individual and Section training were fully used. Sergt Robertson, from A Corps Signals, was attached to us for the period of camp, and was allotted the arduous task of initiating the recruits into the mysteries of flag bashing, key thumping and the electron theory. We hope he enjoyed his stay with us. According to reports, he had a good send off.

Our sports meeting was held on the second Tuesday in camp, and we had a glorious day for it. Everything went with a swing, and our sports officer (2/Lieut. J. Cochran) and his band of helpers are to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements made. The adjutant (Captain J. H. Brown, M.M.) gave us an excellent exhibition of putting the shot and throwing the discus during the afternoon. A large number of relatives and friends of all ranks rolled up for the day and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Sports Day was brought to a successful conclusion by an excellent variety entertainment held in the canteen marquee, given by members of the pierrot troupe from the beach pavilion of St. Andrew's. Everyone attended in force and enjoyed a jolly good entertainment. A full report of the sports meeting and the successful contenders for prizes and trophies is contained in the Sports Notes.

We Want to Know.—What is the attraction at the "19th hole" at St. Andrew's? YEA.

53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff.

General.—News is very scarce this month, and the only items of interest that have taken place are the 53rd (W.) Divl Signals Officers' Golfing Societies annual competition and the w.o.s and n.c.o.s annual outing.

The golf championship was won this year by Captain G. W. Trice, O.C. No. 3 Company, with a score of 73.

The n.c.o.s annual outing took place on Saturday, August 29th. Sixty members availed themselves of this particularly enjoyable function. The party entrained at Cardiff for Goring-on-Thames, lunch being served on the train. They transferred at Goring to a boat for a trip up the river to Shillingford, where an excellent tea was enjoyed at The Beau Regard Hotel. Two enjoyable hours were spent in the spacious grounds before returning by boat to Wallingford, to entrain for home. A well satisfied and tired party reached Cardiff at midnight, and everyone of them voted the outing the best so far. Corpl Hawkins, our tame comedian, caused much amusement for the party with his antics en route.

We Would Like to Know.—Has the Lines Officer found out who sampled his flagon and whiskey on the scheme at camp, and has he reported the matter to the O——s and S——s Society?

THE LEEK.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Stratford, E.15, September 10th.

No. 1 Company.

General.—The Company is now settling down to the ordinary routine after camp. Stores have still to be checked before we know definitely how much we are in debt.

The unit took part in the carnival at Southend, which no doubt will be ably described by No. 3 Company in their notes. Mr. A. E. Kenyon deserves a great deal of credit for all the time and labour he put in, getting posters, etc., ready, and giving the final

touches to our exhibit of a lorry loaded with articles of technical equipment and towing a cable wagon. A large party from Stratford joined No. 3 Company for the drum-head service held at Southend on Sunday, August 30th.

Annual Dance.—The annual regimental dance and trophy distribution will be held at the Town Hall, Stratford, on the 15th October. We hope to have a good muster present, as there are several trophies to be presented to the Company and these will need carrying home.

Lectures.—Arrangements have been made for a series of lectures on electricity, which will start in October. The lectures should be well attended, as the lecturer will be C.S.M. Simpson, who knows how Henri Watt needs Ohm.

Boxing.—Boxing commences once more in October, and those who desire to become champions should start training at once and get fit to prove their claim. This year, we hope to have more entries for the Divisional championship and also to win a few more titles. This may be possible with hard and regular training, and every assistance will be given to anyone who is seriously thinking of gaining one of these championships.

Wireless.—Members of the Wireless Section may have much more interesting wireless week-end schemes in the future. It is possible that another station at Brighton may be included in the present group of W/T stations. This, however, will leave the present teams weak unless the Section can bring some friends along to swell its strength. Newcomers will be more welcomed now than in December, for by that time they should be good operators.

L/Corpl Langworthy at present holds the position of enrolling the most recruits for this Section since camp, but we are sure that L/Corpl Messenger can beat this record. ONECO Y.E.D.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Annual training now being over, the Company has settled down to a cushy time. Stores have been checked and no deficiencies found. Remarkably lucky!

Quite a number of this Company attended the drum-head service held at Southend-on-Sea on Sunday, August 30th, and judging from reports, the turn-out was excellent.

Recruiting.—Since our return from camp, quite a number of recruits have presented themselves. Well done, Sigmn Seville! You are certainly bringing them along. What about some of you others bringing one or two along?

Departures.—We learn with regret that our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Bowling, is leaving us to take up a position abroad. A farewell concert is being held in his honour on Saturday, September 19th. All ranks of No. 2 Company wish you the very best of luck, sir, and hope to see you again. Bon voyage!

Annual Dance.—Our annual dance and prize giving takes place on October 15th at Stratford Town Hall. A good show is promised, so roll up, chaps.

Training.—Training is still on. We have every reason, from reports, to know that we are efficient. Still, efficiency is not perfection. We would like to see you all at the drill hall on drill nights—n.c.o.s especially. What about it?

Enquiries.—Does Razmak Brigade Signal Section still function? If so, what about a few WIRE notes? Haven't heard from Wazirdist for over four months. Burra salaams to all members of the w.o.s and n.c.o.s messes, D.I.K. and Razmak.—Josie.

TWOCOY.

No. 3 (Southend) Company.

General.—The Company is gradually getting back to normal after annual training. Operating classes are in full swing, and we are noticing a marked improvement in our latest recruits.

A few men of the Company have yet to fire their course for the year, and we hope to have this completed before next month's notes appear.

Billiards.—Another handicap is taking place in the club room, and we are pleased to see more members of the Company participating.

Badminton.—The Company hope to start a badminton club this season, and all are cordially invited to join. Lessons will be given, and prizes will be put up monthly for beginners.

Boxing.—Our team are now in training for the season. Our first engagement is at Hockley, versus D Company 6th Battalion The Essex Regiment, on September 23rd. Contests are being arranged for Sergt McMenamin and Signalmen Langley and Dent. We have one or two new boxers in training, and we hope to put up a good show in the unit and young soldiers championships later on in the season.

Southend Carnival.—The unit turned out in the carnival procession on Wednesday, August 26th, with a fine display of wireless, line and visual instruments on a lorry towing a cable wagon. It was the only military exhibit, and both the turn-out and the n.c.o.s and men who took part were creditable to the unit they represented. As a spectator, I heard many complimentary remarks on "the Army of to-day." A photo was taken and published in *The Southend Standard*.

Drumhead Service.—A drumhead service which terminated the Southend carnival was held in Chalkwell Park on Sunday, August 30th. Local Territorials with their old comrades, the British Legion, Fire Brigade, nurses from the hospital, nurses from St. John Ambulance, and all the Boy Scout Troops took part. The service was conducted by Canon E. N. Gowing, vicar of St. Mary's, Prittlewell, and was relayed to all parts of the park by amplifiers.

The turn-out (from our unit point of view) was splendid. Cleanliness and smartness predominated, and the lads were very pleased to "stand easy" after the two mile march. The carriage of the body brought out the good points learned on the adjutant's parades at camp.

We are very grateful for, and wish to express our appreciation of, the splendid attendance of forty other ranks from our headquarters, Stratford, who helped to swell our numbers on this parade.

We marched from the drill hall with our own band, and were met and accompanied by the drums of the 6th Battn The Essex Regiment. The bands took turns and played continuously during the march to and from Chalkwell Park.

The bands of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue) and the Black Watch played during the service.

After the ceremony our C.O., Colonel P. J. Bowling, stood on the dais and took the salute from all units on the parade.

The n.c.o.s and men from Stratford had a very enjoyable time on the Saturday evening, watching the torchlight procession and the fun around the bandstand (?)

We are sorry our O.C., Captain J. L. Lilley, could not accompany us on our way to the service owing to his recent illness, but we are glad to say he is now fit and well once more.

We Want to Know.—Who were the senior n.c.o.s who lost their way home on Saturday night (sorry, Sunday morning)—and did they?????

Who was the n.c.o. who forgot himself when the hymn "All people that on earth do dwell" was being sung and started to sing "We thank you for those few kind words"? S'END.

Bedford Detachment.

Ashburnham Road, September 10th.

General.—The Detachment is once again settled down, after spending its first annual camp at Shorncliffe; and no doubt we shall have the unit up to full strength next year, for all members are praising the time they spent under canvas and are likely to bring their friends along to enrol and enjoy themselves then.

Schemes.—Sunday schemes are being held regularly, and besides working with the telephone wagons, we now have A sets. The work has been good on the A sets, and it is anticipated that with a few more schemes we shall be up to the standard of the Wireless Section, and visions of the wireless trophy coming to Bedford may materialise next year.

Schemes are held indoors during drill evenings, and if our members attend regularly we shall have many passing the next Trade Board, and so be able to compete for the Efficiency and the Weber cups. We know it is only by attending regularly and by practice that we may get these trophies.

Annual Dance.—The regimental dance to be held at Stratford may be well supported by the Detachment, as the cheap fares which apply to Southend also apply to Bedford.

Annual Dinner.—The date for the annual Detachment dinner has not yet been definitely fixed, but probably it will be held before Christmas. Captain Atkinson will no doubt be settling this matter in the near future. BEDS Y.E.D.

Signal Training Centre, Catterick.

This year, the Signal Training Centre entered a team for the North Yorkshire and South Durham Harriers League athletic championship, which was held at Middlesbrough. The team, though not quite at full strength, won comfortably from Middlesbrough Harriers, who have held the championship the last three years. The S.T.C. team scored points in every event—a very creditable performance, when it is remembered that the track was five laps to the mile. With luck, higher points still might have been gained, as in the 880 yards relay our first runner fell, but the team afterwards caught up to third place. The points scored were four for 1st place, two for 2nd, and one for 3rd.

440 yards relay (four×110 yards)—1, Middlesbrough ; 2, Royal Signals ; 3, Synthonia. Time 47½ sec.

Mile team relay—1, R.Signals ; 2, Darlington ; 3, Middlesbrough. Time 4 min. 40 sec.

Youths' medley relay—1, R.Signals ; 2, Middlesbrough ; 3, West Hartlepool. Time 4 min. 12 3/5 sec.

Mile relay (four×440 yards)—1, R.Signals ; 2, Darlington ; 3, Middlesbrough. Time 3 min. 31 3/5 sec.

High jump—1, R.Signals ; 2, Synthonia ; 3, Middlesbrough. Height 14 ft. 9 in.

Youths' mile team race—1, Darlington ; 2, Royal Signals and Middlesbrough, tie. Time 5 min. 15 1/5 sec.

Two mile relay (four×880 yards)—1, R.Signals ; 2, Middlesbrough ; 3, West Hartlepool. Time 8 min. 26 sec.

Putting the shot—1, R.Signals ; 2, Darlington and Middlesbrough tie. Distance 91 ft. 7½ in.

880 yards relay (four×220 yards)—1, Middlesbrough ; 2, Darlington ; 3, R.Signals. Time 1 min. 36 sec.

Long jump—1, R.Signals ; 2, Darlington ; 3, Synthonia. Distance 56 ft. 5 in.

Mile team walk—1, Darlington and Middlesbrough, tie ; 3, Royal Signals. Time 7 min. 15 1/5 sec.

Two mile team race—1, Darlington ; 2, R.Signals ; 3, Middlesbrough. Time 10 min. 24 sec.

Medley relay—1, R.Signals ; 2, Darlington ; 3, Middlesbrough. Time 3 min. 50 1/5 sec.

Final results:—1st, R.Signals, 39½ points ; 2nd, Middlesbrough, 24 ; 3rd, Darlington, 22½ ; 4th, Synthonia, 3 ; 5th, West Hartlepool, 2.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Sports.—The athletic season has been fairly satisfactory. We gained second place in the inter-Company Athletic League. We comfortably won the Pinsent cup for the Company with most points in the S.T.C. individual championships, and were somewhat unlucky to be beaten into second place by F Company in the Cobb cup.

For the coming season, our hockey team has lost a lot of its former strength through postings, etc., but we are getting down to building a new side from the little fresh material we have received.

At rugger we have the makings of a fair side. The forwards should make a good pack if they can be welded together, but outside the scrum we have our difficulties.

At soccer the outlook is not so bright, but we shall go hard ; and our boxing team is favourably progressing under the leadership of C.S.M. Payne.

We congratulate the Battalion cricket team on reaching the final of the Catterick Camp Garrison cricket cup, and wish them all the luck in the final match with the D.L.I.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Sport.—We terminated the cricket season by running the Mounted Wing to a tie in the S.T.C. League. We will, of course, help them to keep the trophy clean!

Our boys' team were unfortunate in the Garrison enlisted boys' competition, being defeated by the Prince of Wales boys in the semi-final. Well, never mind! we hope for better results next season.

1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Cricket.—To all old Onecoy-ites, I am sure it will be of more than passing interest to know that we have at last won both of the cricket trophies in one season: the inter-Company cricket shield 1st Divl Signals and the Rawson trophy.

Last year, though we had a fairly strong team and fancied our chance, we lost all hopes of winning the same trophies in a final and a semi-final match—with a dozen or so runs to get, and with four wickets in hand to get them in each case. This, no doubt, was through over-confidence, or the proverbial "slip."

This season we have a different tale to tell, and are very

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proud to be the winners of these two trophies. The Rawson trophy is presented to the best Company cricket team in the Aldershot Command.

Although our cricket team was sadly depleted at the end of last season through the loss of our old captain, Corpl Welloch, and L/Corpl Watts, Signalmen Haggerty, Hurley and Pritchard, we were very fortunately strengthened at the beginning of the season by the timely arrival of C.S.M. G. Kingman from the T.A. staff, and Corporal Pratchett, Signalmen Turner, Bennett, Wood, Hawkins and Steele—all from overseas. These comprised this year's team, with C.Q.M.S. McDonald (captain), and Signalmen Whitaker, Hughes, Lewis and Chapman.

Of our last season's players, we have noticed with pleasure that Signalmen Pritchard and Hurley (Sarafand Signal Section) are mentioned in our Corps Journal this season for their cricket prowess ; and Sigmn Waller—at Gib—seems to be showing his Section that he is no mean player, either.

We should, however, like to know what has become of Corpls Welloch and Watts, and whether they are hiding their light under a bushel, as we are certain they have not given up playmg cricket. Wot abaht it, you two?

We opened a very successful season with a try-out against No. 3 Company A Corps Signals, who also were our last opponents at the end of the season in the final of the Rawson trophy. The result of this friendly was: No. 1 Company, 131 ; No. 3 Company A Corps, 61. Sigmn Whitaker scored 37 and C.Q.M.S. McDonald 24, while Corpl Pratchett took five wickets for 23 runs.

Inter-Company Cricket Shield, 1st Divl Signals.—In the inter-Company competition we were drawn against No. 2 Company, whom we managed to defeat after a very keen and sporting game, in which Sigmn Whitaker was on the top of his bowling form. No. 1 Company, 106 and 60 ; No. 2 Company, 46 and 86. Corpl Pratchett hit up 30 and Sigmn Turner 24. Sigmn Whitaker took twelve wickets for 35 runs in the course of two innings.

FINAL.—In the final against No. 3 Company, we thought we were doing well when we dismissed them for 45 runs in their first innings, but we got the shock of our lives when they dismissed us for 37. This set-back put our team properly on their toes, and Corpl Pratchett got "cracking" and dismissed six Three Company players for five runs, and Sigmn Bennett two for twelve, their whole side being eventually dismissed for 59. This left us with 68 to get to win, which our first five wickets managed to secure, thus leaving us the winners by five wickets.

Rawson Trophy.—In this competition, we got a bye in the first round and met the Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown, in the second. After a very exciting game, in which the fielding of both teams was extremely good, we managed to win by 31 runs. No. 1 Company, 104 and 48 ; A.D. Brigade Signals, 73 and 31. C.S.M. Kingman scored 31 and Sigmn Wood 28. C.S.M. Kingman, in both innings, took nine wickets for 34 runs, and Corpl Pratchett four for 19.

SEMI-FINAL.—We met No. 1 Company A Corps Signals in this round. They fancied their chance very much, especially after being in the running last season. Our players, having once got their teeth well in, did not mean to relinquish their hold, as the following result will prove. No. 1 Company, 97 and 68 ; No. 1 Company A Corps, 94 and 40. Sigmn Turner made 36, and C.S.M. Kingman took six wickets for 32 and Sigmn Whitaker five for 17.

FINAL.—No. 1 Company 1st Divl Signals v. No. 3 Company A Corps Signals. The final was a keenly contested game, the result always being in doubt until the last wicket fell. Sigmn Roderick, who is a very good batsman and the chief cause of our uneasiness, was eventually dismissed for 32 runs. He was caught and bowled by C.S.M. Kingman, who was very much in the limelight by taking nine wickets for 19 runs. The result was as follows: —No. 1 Company 1st Divl Signals, 74 and 73 ; No. 3 Company A Corps Signals, 53 and 67. Sigmn Bennett scored 30, and Sigmn Chapman 13. C.S.M. Kingman, in both innings, took thirteen wickets for 31 runs, and Sigmn Whitaker (also in both innings) seven for 56.

Thus ended a very successful cricket season for No. 1 Company 1st Divisional Signals. Well done, Onecoy! this adds a few more points towards the Cobb trophy.

1st Air Defence Brigade Signals, Blackdown.

Cricket.—The cricket eleven again bade a fond farewell to the Air Defence Brigade cricket cup. It is really surprising how regularly we fail to go further than the first round of this competition. Actually, however, that statement is an injustice: we were once the winners of the trophy—but that, of course, was "way back." This year, it was the 2nd A.A. Battery R.A. who administered the blow that shattered our hopes, and we have to congratulate them as worthy victors. The reason for our sorry debacle is strictly entre nous!

Soccer.—Everyone is now on his toes, awaiting the soccer season. Several good matches have been arranged with various teams.

The actual team has not yet been declared, but we feel assured that the committee will not fail us in this respect. Of course, there is bound to be no end of disappointments, but perhaps we can also manage a second eleven?

If this be possible—and I know it would not be for want of keenness if it should not be—it holds out many advantages, especially in view of the fact that, early in the New Year, many of the regular players will be leaving us. Look to it, then, fellows ; there is plenty of talent among you, and practice will bring it out.

Whatever the composition of the chosen eleven, we wish it a very successful season. It is high time the soccer cup came to us, and we look to you to bring it home.

Hockey.—Last year, the hockey eleven won the hockey cup. We all feel confident that this feat will be repeated, and we all realise that it will mean hard work and plenty of practice. Competition, this season, is stronger than ever.

Cross-Country.—This is something that everyone can do, and if we do not win this cup for the third year in succession, there will be ructions! Listen for the familiar cry "Signals!" —and if that fails to stir your feelings and make your heart glow with pride, you'll never make a cross-country man.

We want to see the old pack out again, with fresh blood fighting for their places. That is what makes a team: every man knowing that with one bad performance, he is in danger of being left out.

What finer thing is there than to stride along through the crisp air of those winter afternoons ; to see the field strung out in front of you—white-clad figures fighting for a place ; to measure in your mind's eye exactly whom you are going to overtake. A fight, not only of physical endeavour, but also of mind and of brain. And afterwards? The wonderfully exhilarating feeling of warmth and a sense of well-being in knowing that your run was not wasted, that every step you took was a step nearer victory for your side--for the Corps in fact. Is it not worth while?

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Soccer.—The season commenced with a very meritorious draw at Lowestoft v. Lowestoft Town.

On September 26th, Colchester Town were met in the F.A. cup and the Town were victors by 3—1. Even allowing for the fact that we were without two regular half-backs, we should not have lost this match, for the easiest of scoring chances went begging.

Following this reverse, the 3rd Carabiniers were beaten by 4—0 in the Garrison League, and the team put up a fine performance at Cambridge in drawing at 3—3 with the A.F.A. cup holders and champions of the Southern Amateur League.

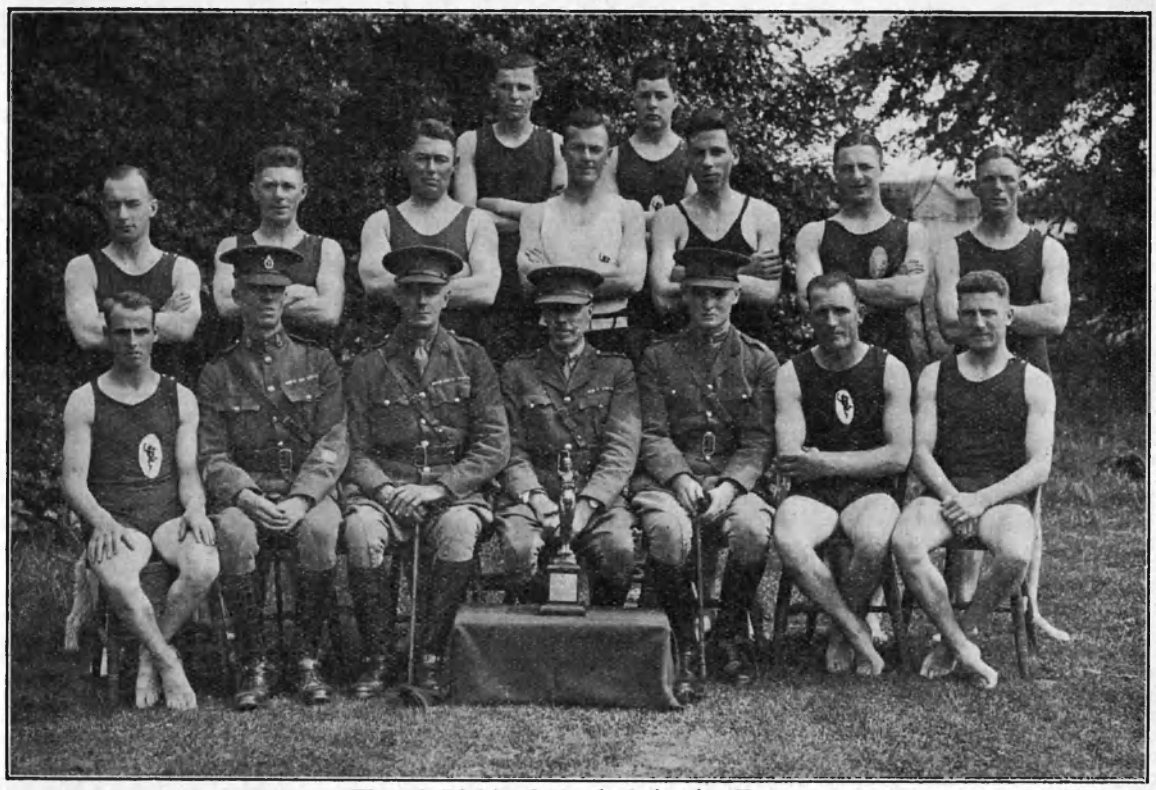
The prospects for the season are bright, if only the team can settle down. Several players have not yet regained their last season's form, and the old habit of trying to walk the ball into the net is again apparent.

It is to be hoped that the team will find their form in time for the match v. Royal Artillery, Shoeburyness, in the Amateur cup on the 26th September, as the winners of this game are to be rewarded by a visit to Grays in the next round.

Cricket.—The season is now over, and it has been a most successful and enjoyable one. We played 20 matches, won 12, drew 4 and lost 4.

August 8th—Signals, 61 ; Chappels and Wakes Colne, 35. Sigmn Pope 21 ; Major Cobb, seven for 17

August 15th—Signals, 44 ; Severalls, 136. Sigmn Marshall, six for 36



The 4th Divisional Signals Swimming Team.

Joint Winners (with 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers) of the Garrison Team Championship, 1931

Back row (left to right)—Driver Cross A., Sigmn Wilkins R.,

Centre—Corpl Purcell S., Sergt Terrell W., C.S.M. Herbert A., Corpl Freemantle G., Sigmn Pike F., Sergt New F., L/Corpl Langham G.

Front—Driver Hill A., R.S.M. Beattie A. H., Major F. R. Cobb, M.C. (officer i/c team), Lieut-Colonel G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., 2/Lieut P. M. P. Hobson, Corporals Ball T. and Hart R.

August 22nd—Signals, 121 for nine (declared); Chappels and Wakes Colne, 76. Sigmn Marshall, 70; Major Cobb, seven for 39

August 29th—Signals, 32; Colchester Coal and Gas Company, 17. Sigmn Backhouse, seven for 8.

On September 1st there was an all-day match. Major Cobb's XI. scored 144, and Isle of Wight 181.

Sigmn Marshall headed the batting averages with 40.77. The remaining averages were under 20.

The following are the bowling averages:—

	Overs	Runs	Wickets	Average
Major Cobb	82	204	34 ...	8.64
Sigmn Backhouse	94.5	286	28 ...	10.2
L/Corpl Spencer	49	103	10 ...	10.3
Sigmn Walton	85	207	20 ...	10.35
Sergt Dempsey	105	256	22 ...	11.6

The fielding and catching of the team were excellent, Signalmen Lockhart, Pettitt and Pope being especially good.

Swimming.—Congratulations are again proffered to all competitors in the Signals team. They put up a fine show, in addition to keeping up the good name of the Corps.

Although there are quite a number of our team warned for abroad this trooping season, we hope to hold our own next season and, with a little more training and good judgment, to wipe the board clean.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Cricket.—Five matches only were played this month, of which we won but one. Enthusiasm for this sport is decidedly on the wane, and its adherents are gradually diminishing in number. The results of the games played were as follows:—

A Corps, 95; Borah Gymkhana, 96. L/Sergt Bosworth, five for 27; Sigmn Jordan, three for 4

A Corps, 168 for seven wickets v. A Company Royal Sussex Regiment. L/Corpl Gordon, 61; L/Sergt Bosworth, 48 not out

A Corps, 86; R.A.F. Depot "A" team, 271 for seven wickets. Sigmn Thomas, 43; L/Sergt Bosworth, six for 69

A Corps, 53; Sind Police, 80. L/Corpl Gordon, six for 36

A Corps, 68; D Company Royal Sussex Regiment, 99. Sigmn Chitty, 28; Sigmn Thomas, four for 22

Corporals' Mess, 42; R.A.F. Depot Corporals, 54. L/Corporal Feltham, 10; L/Corpls Kavanagh and Robertson, 8; L/Cpl Knight, two for 1; Corpl Curtis, three for 8; L/Corporal Gibbons, two for 18

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, 66; H.M.S. *Penzance*, 72. L/Sergt Bosworth, 28 not out; L/Sergt Andrews, three for 16

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, 67; R.A.F. Depot Sergeants' Mess, 72. L/Sergt Bridge, 15; Sergt Williams, four for 29

Inter-Section Cricket Shield, 1931.—The following are the results of the six matches played, together with the final placings:—

No. 1 Section, 84; No. 2 Section, 88. No. 1—Corpl Fisher, 23; L/Sergt Bosworth, four for 37. No. 2—Sigmn Thomas, 33 not out; L/Corpl Dalton, 28; Corpl Ashford, four for 11; Sigmn Conolly, three for 5

No. 1 Section, 92; No. 3 Section, 100 for four wickets. No. 1—L/Sergt Andrews, 27. No. 3—Sigmn Wills, 33 not out; Sigmn Chitty, 24; L/Corpl Gordon, three for 30.

No. 1 Section, 62; No. 4 Section, 33. No. 1—L/Corpl Aldridge, 22; Sigmn Bell, two for 0; Corpl Fisher, two for 11; Sigmn Jordan, three for 6. No. 4—Sigmn Bunn, four for 18

No. 2 Section, 155; No. 4 Section, 56. No. 2—L/Corpl Gibbons, 41 (retired); Corpl Ashford, 31 (retired); L/Corpl Webb, 30 (retired); Sigmn Lilley, four for 7; Corpl Curtis, three for 13. No. 4—L/Sergt Bridge, five for 41.

No. 2 Section, 104 ; No. 3 Section, 74. No. 2—Corpl Ashford, 45. No. 3—Sigmn Wills, five for 32

No. 3 Section, 95 ; No. 4 Section, 51. No. 3—Sigmn Chitty, 38 and five for 16 ; Sigmn Matthews, three for 18. No. 4—Sigmn Brackenberry, 20 ; Sigmn Nabarro, four for 14

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Points
No. 2 Section	3	3	—	—	... 6
No. 3 Section	3	2	—	1	... 4
No. 1 Section	3	1	—	2	... 2
No. 4 Section	3	—	—	3	... 0

Tennis.—Last month I reported on the early stages of a unit handicap tourney, which could not be completed before going to press as the final tie was postponed until this month. Sergt Shardlow and Sigmn Fearnley, the finalists, gave an excellent exhibition, the former winning by 6—2 and 6—2, before a large number of spectators. The rallies were long and vigorous. Full use of court-craft was made by both players, and each fully deserved the frequent applause of the onlookers when a particularly well-placed or well-timed ace was effected. Shardlow, if anything, seemed more at home on a slippery court—it often serves as a dance floor—which was no doubt due to his patent skid-chains, specially improvised for the occasion.

Mrs. Helps, wife of our C.O., kindly presented the prizes, and afterwards partnered Sergt Shardlow in a mixed doubles match against two local stars. Unfortunately, Mrs. Helps early sustained an injury, necessitating her retirement. The game, however, was resumed, as Mrs. Shardlow sportingly deputised in a match that was pleasant to watch.

Corporals' Room v. R.A.F. Depot Corporals.—Our opponents turned out three pairs to our four, and each of our pairs played each of theirs—thus affording twelve games, of which we only lost one. Final scores—A Corps Signals Corporals, 11 sets ; R.A.F. Depot Corporals, 1 set.

Unit Doubles Handicap Tourney, 1931.—Consequent on the support given to the unit singles tourney, it was decided to hold a doubles competition. The entries provided twenty-eight pairs, and partners were drawn by lot. The ladies refused to be left uncatered for, and the tourney was modified into a combination of mixed and men's doubles. The mixed pairs received a plus handicap accordingly. Keen interest was shown throughout and many fine games were witnessed.

In the semi-finals Signalmen Steer G. and Gooding beat Corpl Fisher and Sigmn Shone by 6—3, 3—6, 6—3, and Sergt Bishop and Sigmn Thomas beat L/Corpl Ryalls and Sigmn Welchman by 6—4, 6—2.

In the final Sergt Bishop and Sigmn Thomas won by 4—6, 6—3, 6—2. The game on the whole was very tame. At first Steer and Gooding were dominant, but the latter failed to maintain the pace. Bishop and Thomas, though starting quietly, eventually settled down and exhibited a fine understanding of each other's play. Bishop's agility at the net had a splendid counterpart in his partner's calm driving from the base line. Thomas, in the latter stages of the game, was rarely found wanting, and it was his placings that brought the openings for Bishop's winning smashes. Steer made a fine fight, but even he could not carry a passenger against the form of the winning pair.

Sind Lawn Tennis Championships, 1931.—This year A Corps Signals provided several entrants, and their doings are well worthy of mention.

In the ladies' doubles, Mrs. Helps and her partner are proving a very strong pair. According to the local paper, they are doing something in which ladies are generally very weak: playing really well from the centre of the court. Mrs. Shardlow also figured in the ladies' doubles, and she and her partner were not disgraced in losing to the first-mentioned pair.

Ladies' Singles.—In the second round, Mrs. Shardlow lost a great game after sustaining injuries to her playing arm.

Men's Singles.—Sigmn Fearnley was unfortunate in meeting last year's winner in his first match. Nevertheless, he showed splendid form against so masterly a player, and should, if he continues his present progress, become a future holder. Sergt Shardlow lost in the third round after a thrilling match. For once he was slightly off form, while his conqueror, though brilliant at nothing, was weak at nothing. Shardlow fought to the last, but his opponent was playing at the top of his form and ran out the winner by 6—3, 3—6, 6—3.

Men's Doubles.—Lieut. Smijth-Windham and Sigmn Fearnley were very narrowly beaten in the first round by a pair who are well in the running for the final honours. Sergt Shardlow and partner are smashing their way through, and should certainly be in at the finish.

Swimming.—*O'Brien Cup.* This competition was a 50 yard relay for teams of eight, open to all European teams from units and clubs in the Station. This unit lost their heat to R.A.F. Depot, Drigh Road, Karachi, by almost a lap. Even so, our exhibition was not so bad as it appeared. The facilities for competitive swimming are very poor here, and we were unable to select our team until the morning before the race took place. This meant that they laboured under the double handicap of lack of training and inexperience of working as a team. This we hope to remedy in the future.

Open 220 yards, R.A.F. Depot Swimming Sports.—In this event A Corps Signals did extremely well. Sigmn T. Edwards was first and L/Sergt Bridge third, the latter narrowly missing second place. Seven members of this unit entered in a field of twelve, and all finished in the first eight.

Unit Novices 25 yards Free Style.—This race was held immediately after the selection of the team for the O'Brien cup, and the fifteen starters made a very fine show. Prizes of cigarettes were awarded as follows:—1st, Sigmn Baird, fifty ; 2nd, Sigmn Ratcliffe, thirty ; 3rd, Sigmn Dannatt, twenty.

Water Polo.—Four games have been played this month: three first team and one reserve. We lost all three first team matches against R.A.F. Depot by 1—4, 1—8, and 0—1 ; but the reserves drew with No. 13 (H) Battery R.A., Manora, at 1—1.

Snooker.—A very successful handicap, which has just been concluded, attracted an entry of forty-three. The games consisted of two frames, aggregate score to count.

The early rounds were very interesting, and the close finishes—most games were decided on the "black"—speak well for the handicapper.

The last eight were:—Sigmn Steer S. v. Sigmn Myers, Steer winning. L/Corpl Dalton v. L/Corpl Green, the latter winning a very close game. Corpl Ashford v. Sigmn Chilvers ; another close game, in which the latter won. L/Sergt Andrews v. Sigmn Bunn, the former winning fairly comfortably.

In the semi-finals, Sigmn Steer beat L/Corpl Green, and Sigmn Chilvers beat L/Sergt Andrews.

The final consisted of three frames, and was decided between Steer and Chilvers before a large number of spectators. The game was very interesting from start to finish, both players effecting some masterly strokes ; and as an exhibition of cuemanship, it was the best seen in the unit for some time. [We hope our correspondent will, in his next notes, satisfy the curiosity of readers as to which player won this final.—ED.]

The losing semi-finalists played off for third and fourth prizes. This was a good game between L/Sergt Andrews and L/Corpl Green, the latter winning on the "blue."

Peshawar District Signals.

Our old friends will see that we are still keeping the colours flying and maintaining the good name of Peshdist.

Cricket.—In this line we have not done too well, owing to so many of our players being away from the unit. We entered a team in the Station Hot Weather League, but we only managed to win one match out of five, so we must hope for better luck next year.

Hockey.—This is our game, as everyone knows. We have more than held our own in this line, and have once again carried off the Gai challenge cup, which is the trophy for the winners of the Peshawar Hot Weather League. Here are the results up to date.

May 11th—Signals 3 ; District Headquarters 1
May 21st—Signals 1 ; 31st Battery R.A. 3
May 25th—Signals 2 ; 1st A.C. Company R.T.C. 0
June 1st—Signals 4 ; 15th Medium Battery R.A. 0
June 11th—Signals 1 ; K.O.Y.L.I. 0
July 2nd—Signals 2 ; 31st Battery R.A. 1
July 9th—Signals 5 ; 1st A.C. Company R.T.C. 0
July 27th—Signals 3 ; K.O.Y.L.I. 0
August 3rd—Signals 5 ; District Headquarters 0

This leaves us with one more match to play, against the 15th Medium Battery R.A., but as our rivals the 31st Battery R.A,

have dropped three points and played all their games, we are now assured of the championship.

Football.—As all the lads who have been to Peshdist know, it is not too pleasant for football at this time of the year. We manage about two games a week, and can hold our own with most teams ; so roll on, the cold season, and we will see what can be done.

Chocolate King.—Please note: We have found another (26 against 5).

Agony—Von: Have you any tender memories of Hot Weather Leagues?

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Upper Topa.

Boxing: 1st Battn The King's Shropshire Light infantry Tournament.—The above tournament was held at Gharial on August 14th and fourteen contests were staged between well-known boxers of the Murree hills. There were six from Royal Signals (Upper Topa) participating, and the results of their contests are given below.

FEATHER WEIGHT—L/Corpl Stirk (1st Indian Divl Signals) beat L/Corpl Bryan (K.S.L.I.) on points. After an even first round, Stirk floored his opponent in the second round. Bryan fought well, but never quite recovered, and Stirk was awarded the fight on points.

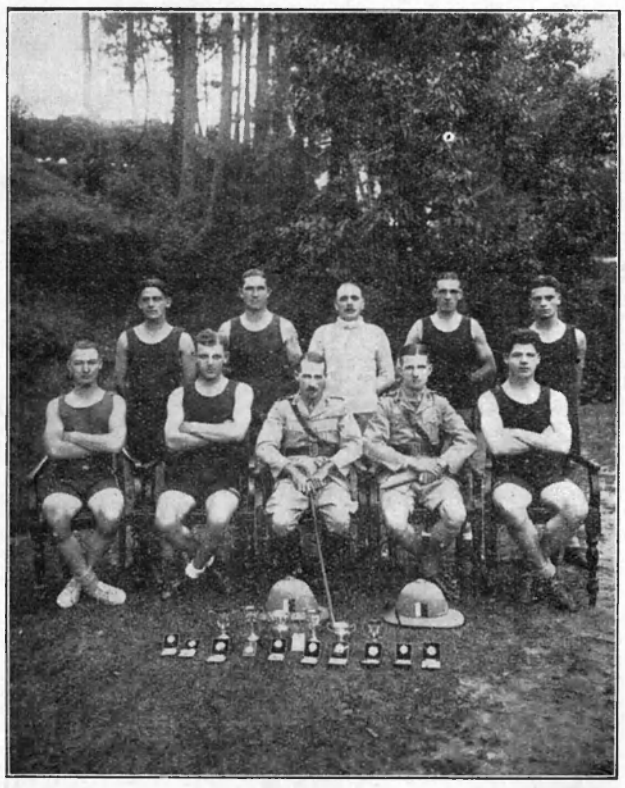
Signalman Newbury (B Corps Signals) beat Corporal Kingscott (K.S.L.I.) on points. The first round easily went to Newbury, as did the second. In the third round Kingscott gained the lead, but the fight was awarded to Newbury on account of the big lead gained in the first two rounds.

WELTER WEIGHT—Sigmn Wilson (1st Indian Divl Signals) knocked out Corpl Turner (K.S.L.I.) in the first round. During the few seconds Wilson was in the ring, he showed himself a clever boxer and achieved the knock-out with a left hook to the jaw.

MIDDLE WEIGHT—Sigmn Cleaver (1st Indian Divl Signals) beat Pte Lane (K.S.L.I.) on points. Cleaver showed a nice style and fought cleverly, flooring his opponent in the last round. Lane adopted swinging blows which Cleaver easily avoided.

Sigmn Delaney (B Corps Signals) beat Pte Coleman (K.S.L.I.) on points. A good fight, in which Delaney gained a narrow victory.

LIGHT-HEAVY WEIGHT—Sergt Tanner (B Corps Signals) lost to L/Corpl Williams (Welch Regt.), the referee stopping the fight in the first round.



Royal Signals Boxing Team, Upper Topa.

Back row (left to right)—Signalmen Newbury and Cleaver, Sergt. Lawson, L/Corpl Stirk, Sigmn Johnson

Front—Sigmn Wilson, L/Sergt Tanner, Lieut-Colonel Fitz A. Drayson, M.C., Lieut. R. Webb, Sigmn Delaney

3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut.

Sports.—The hot weather programme has produced some interesting games between Sections. Nearly every sport is being played in the Section tournament, and very little time is wasted.

No. 2 Company challenged No. 1 Company details at hockey, and No. 1 won by 2—1. Sigmn Edwards J. played a remarkable game at inside right, and was responsible for the goals for No. 1 Company details—this in spite of a little controversy about the circle.

Our unit hockey team has not played many games lately. The last one, against No. 25 (I.) M.T. Company, resulted in a win for us.

Swimming.—Five men and a spectator competed against I (Bull's) Troop R.H.A. when they challenged us at swimming. We put up a good show, but owing to a storm and lack of moral support, we did not gain all the honours.

Cricket.—The unit cricket team played against Meerut College and won by a few wickets. A week later they played I (Bull's) Troop R.H.A. with a similar result.

The team are hoping to enter the Meerut tournament, the first match of which is being played at the end of August. We hope to do very well, but more of that anon.

Ranikhet Detachment.

Sports.—Nothing much has been done in the way of sport, owing to the late arrival of some of the detachments in the Ranikhet area. We have, however, managed a few friendly football matches. Results are appended:—v. D Company Black Watch, drew at 0—0 ; v. A Company Black Watch, drew at 1—1 and lost by 0—1 ; v. C Company D.C.L.I. won by 1—0 and 3—1 ; v. District H.Q. drew at 1—1 and won by 1—0 ; v. C Company Seaforths, won by 1—0 and lost by 0—1.

We hope to to be able to publish the results of our first league games in the next issue.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

Cricket.—King Cricket seems to take up a great deal of our time these days, and this season has shown a marked increase in the enthusiasm for this game. The fact of there being more units in the country than during previous seasons has naturally afforded us a variety of games, and our cricket has profited greatly through the added experience. The following are the batting and bowling averages to date:—

BATTING.

	Innings	Not out	Runs	Highest		Aver.
Corpl Atkinson R.	28	4	843	133*	...	35.12
Sigmn Hurley	17	1	221	70	...	13.81
L/Corpl Snow	25	—	280	52	...	11.20
L/Corpl Smith R.	29	4	262	45	...	10.48
Sigmn Samuel	24	—	251	29	...	10.45
Sigmn Musgrave	14	3	107	26	...	9.72
Sigmn Hill	16	7	67	16	...	7.44
L/Corpl Cooper W.	27	3	173	23	...	7.21
Sigmn Locker	24	2	158	31	...	7.18
Sigmn Pritchard	20	1	131	25*	...	6.90
Sigmn Ferguson-Nicholson	11	—	58	15	...	5.27
Corpl Luther	9	2	33	11*	...	4.71
L/Corpl Field	13	1	46	9	...	3.83
Sigmn Haggart	3	—	10	9	...	3.33
Sigmn Hammond	4	—	13	11	...	3.25
Sigmn Wilson	10	1	27	11	...	3

* Not out.

BOWLING.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets		Aver.
L/Corpl Smith R.	301	52	1082	124	...	8.72
L/Corpl Snow	165	18	530	57	...	9.29
Sigmn Haggart	11	1	28	3	...	9.33
Sigmn Pritchard	59	4	260	21	...	12.38
Corpl Atkinson	28	2	121	7	...	17.28
Sigmn Hurley	35	8	114	6	...	19
Sigmn Locker	13	—	60	3	...	20
Sigmn Ferguson-Nicholson	111	23	356	17	...	20.94
Sigmn Hill	33	1	198	9	...	22
L/Corpl Cooper W.	3	—	32	1	...	32

Tennis.—The unit has, as usual, entered three teams in the local Services Leagues, and results, although not sparkling, go to show that we still hold our own with other units. Our "A" team were unfortunately defeated in a hard fight by the Royal Air Force Station, Ramleh, for position of runners-up in the "A" League.

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals, London, S.W.3

Mounted Sports.—Appended are the results of the mounted sports held while we were in camp at Willingdon.

Motor cycle potato race—1, Sigmn Harris ; 2, Sigmn Wilks ; 3, Sigmn Hayden
Jumping: other ranks—1, Sigmn Hussey ; 2, Corpl Levett ; 3, S.M. Simnett
Open jumping—1, Sigmn Hussey ; 2, Major Roberts, M.C., 2/Lt Dance and 2/Lieut. Doyle, tied ; 3, S.M. Simnett
Bending race—1, L/Corpl Waring ; 2, L/Corpl Smith ; 3, Sergt Hope
Jumping: officers—1, 2/Lieut Doyle ; 2, 2/Lieut Dance ; 3, Maj. Roberts, M.C.
Wrestling on horseback—B Squadron
Tent pegging: officers—1, Captain Sale, M.C. ; 2, Captain Hon. S. A. Maxwell ; 3, Major Roberts, M.C., and Lieut. Judd, tied
V.C. race—1, L/Sergt Weston ; 2, L/Corpl Wakefield ; 3, L/Sgt Foxwell
Tent pegging: other ranks—1, Sigmn Hussey ; 2, S.M. Simnett ; 3, L/Sergt Baldwin
Motor cycle obstacle race—1, Sigmn Wilkes ; 2, Sigmn Hollis ; 3, Sigmn Harris
Mounted tug-of-war—A Squadron

No. 3 Company, 50th Divl. Signals, Darlington.

Rifle Club.—On Sunday, August 30th, the Company sent a team of snipers to Whitburn to compete in the Durham County rifle competition. The team consisted of seven men and one n.c.o., and they had to knock down ten plates from a distance of 300 yards, after advancing from the 400 yards firing point. To do this, each man was given ten rounds and a time limit of ninety seconds. Well, we successfully knocked down three plates, but we didn't win because other teams insisted on knocking them *all* down. Anyway, the shield came back to Darlington: we carried it for the Darlington detachment D.L.I.

Football.—The final for the unit football cup was played at Darlington on Saturday, September 12th, on the Railway Athletic ground. The finalists were No. 1 (Gateshead) Company and No. 3 (Darlington). The game was well contested, and some very good football was seen. The visiting side opened the scoring with a rebound from the crossbar on to the goal-line, the referee awarding a goal. This was later succeeded by a good shot from Lake, which made the score even. At half-time the score stood at 2—2. The second half opened with renewed energy and continued to the end a battle of wits and tactics, finally ending with the score of 5—3 for the home Company. Scorers: No. 1 Company, Sergt Storey and Sigmn Smith (2) ; No. 3 Company, Signalmen Lake (2), Muldoon (2) and Heathwaite.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Annual Sports.—These were held at St. Andrew's on July 28th. The officials were: Chief judge, Col. R. J. Nicol. Judges, Lieut.-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, Flight-Lieutenant C. N. Ellen, Captains G. Sturrock, J. H. Brown, T. P. E. Murray, A. H. Lennie and Lieut. A. Stark. Starters, 2/Lieuts J. J. McInnes and A. M. Keith. Recorders, 2/Lieutenants J. Cochran, A. D. Davidson and D. J. Bogie. Stewards, R.S.M. P. Quick and C.S.M.s C. F. Andrews, C. Marshall and K. C. McKay.

Long jump—1, L/Corpl Adams (No. 1 Company) ; 2, Sigmn McGown (No. 3) ; 3, Corpl Williamson (No. 1)
220 yards—1, Corpl Brand (No. 3) ; 2, Sigmn Mitchell (No. 3) ; 3, Corpl Williamson (No. 1)
Inter-Company relay race—Won by No. 1 Company
Piping contest—Won by Piper Hamilton (No. 3)
High jump—1, Sigmn McGown (No. 3) ; 2, Corpl Lenman (No. 1) ; 3, Corpl Williamson (No. 1)
100 yards—1, Corpl Brand (No. 3) ; 2, Sigmn Mitchell (No. 3) ; 3, Corpl Williamson (No. 1)
Officers' race—1, 2/Lieut A. D. Davidson ; 2, Captain J. H. Brown ; 3, Captain E. B. Reid
Ladies' race—1, Mrs. Beveridge ; 2, Mrs. Williamson and Mrs. Milne, tie
Mile—1, Sigmn Mitchell ; 2, Sigmn Hutchon ; 3, Sigmn Smith (all of No. 3)
Old soldiers' race—1, Corpl Gregor (No. 1) ; 2, Sergt Rollo (No. 1) ; 3, Driver Malley (No. 2)
Obstacle race—1, Sigmn Mathieson (No. 1) ; 2, Sigmn McGown (No. 3) ; 3, Corpl Clark (No. 1)
Half-mile (open)—1, Sapper Miller (No. 238 (F) Company R.E.) ; 2, Sapper Paper (Fortress Company R.E.) ; 3, Sigmn Mitchell (No. 3)
Cycle race—1, Sigmn Robertson (No. 2) ; 2, Sigmn Collie A. F. (No. 1) ; 3, Sigmn Mackintosh (No. 3)
Quarter-mile—1, Corpl Brand (No. 3) ; 2, Corpl Williamson (No. 1) ; 3, Sigmn Smith (No. 3)
Inter-unit relay team—Won by Royal Engineers
Inter-unit tug-of-war—Won by Royal Signals

The cups and trophies which are competed for annually were annexed for 1931 as follows:—

Colonel Hamilton Leigh cup, for most points at sports—No. 3 Company
Colonel Jayne cup, for best Company lines—No. 2
Colonel Bald cup, for inter-Company boxing—No. 1
Colonel Nicol cup, for inter-Company football—No. 3
Colonel Forsyth cup, for inter-Company visual signalling—No. 2
Colonel McHutchon cup, for inter-Company musketry—No. 1
Captain House cup, for inter-Company drill—No. 2
The Nairn cup, for inter-Company tug-of-war—No. 2
Colonel Forsyth golf cup—Sergt Thomson (No. 2 Company) and Sergt Stephen (No. 3) tie

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VOL. XII.—No. 141 NOVEMBER, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

We tender our apologies for an error which occurred in the October issue of our Journal under the heading of "Time Expired and Reservists." The writer of the letter from the Ex-Service Club, 25 de Mayo 577, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was Mr. Henry Land—not "Lane," as printed.

❀ ❀ ❀

We take this opportunity of conveying our thanks to the Organising Committee of the new Glasgow and District Branch of the Signals Association for having, in so short a time, secured such a commendable representation.

The registration of this new Branch marks another step in the progress of Association activities, and in extending a very cordial welcome to those members who have already enrolled as founders of the movement in Glasgow, we venture to express the hope that their example will be copied by many others living in that area—thereby enabling the organisers to run a real live show.

❀ ❀ ❀

Some months ago we published the first instalment of an article entitled "The Malta Command Administrative System." Shortage of space has since compelled us to hold up the remainder, but we now hope to complete the article without further interruption. Readers will find the second portion on page 440 of this issue, and we ask the author to be as charitable as possible in his criticism of the unavoidable break in his contribution.

❀ ❀ ❀

Bound Volumes of "The Wire" for 1931.—All readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1931 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. *No Royal Signals Mess Library is complete without it!* Price 8/- per copy, post free (at home or abroad). THE EDITOR.

Correspondence.

Waiting Lists for Married Quarters Roll.

Royal Signals Record Office, Chatham,
October 19th, 1931.

The Editor, "The Wire."

Dear Sir—I am continually getting applications asking where n.c.o.s and men stand on the waiting list for entry on the Married Quarters Roll. This causes a good deal of clerical labour, as often the applicant is 140 or more places down the list, and it takes time to count all these names.

I fully sympathise with the anxiety of the applicants, and I should like, with your help, to satisfy all and at the same time cut out unnecessary clerical labour.

I wish to make it clear that at present the average periods taken to be absorbed on the Married Quarters Roll are as follows:

Home and abroad—Sergeants, 2 years 8 months.
Rank and file, 3 years 2 months.
India—Rank and file, about 4 years 6 months.

I propose, every month, to send you the date of the top man on each roster, and would ask you to be so kind as to give prominence to it in the same place in THE WIRE in each issue. With this knowledge, a man can calculate just as accurately as can be done in this office when his turn will arrive.

The following are the dates on which the top individual on each waiting list was registered.

Home and abroad—Sergeants, 2/2/1929.
Rank and file, 17/9/1928.
India—Rank and file, 11/10/1927.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) H. A. VERNON, Colonel,
i/c Royal Signals Records.

[As suggested above, the information as to the top date on each roster will be included each month in the same position as now (at the end of Editorial Notes) so that readers will know just where to look for it.—THE EDITOR.]

Signals Association Notes

The attention of all Branch Representatives is directed to a new Branch of the Signals Association which has lately been formed at Glasgow. It is designated the Glasgow and District Branch. The Hon. Secretary is C.S.M. S. T. Cozens, R.Signals, Lowland Divisional Signals, 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

The following is a draft of the minutes of their first General Meeting, which was held at 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow, on Friday, October 16th, 1931 (see Editorial Notes).

Glasgow and District Branch, Signals Association.

The first General Meeting of the Association was held at 21 Jardine Street on October 16th, 1931. About seventy members attended, and amongst the officers who were present and gave their support were the following:—Colonel J. S. Muirhead, Lieut.-Colonels Rose and Robertson, Majors Smith and Barrie, and Captains Snodgrass and Anderson. The following business was transacted.

1. C.S.M. S. T. Cosens gave the meeting an account of Branch activities to date, and proposed that Colonel J. S. Muirhead, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., be elected as Chairman of the Glasgow Branch; and this was carried with cheers.

2. Colonel Muirhead having taken the chair, the following Committee was elected:—

Vice-Chairman—Lieut.-Colonel F. L. Robertson, M.C.
Hon. Treasurer—Major E. F. Smith, T.D.
Secretary—C.S.M. S. T. Cozens.
Members of Committee—R.Q.M.S. J. Gray (T.), Sergt C. Sinclair (S.R.), and ex-C.Q.M.S. Stevenson (T.).

3. The Secretary was instructed to commence a Branch Unemployment Roster.

4. It was decided to organise some form of social entertainment as early as possible.

5. The Secretary having intimated that, already, 130 members had joined the Branch, it was decided to canvass the Lowland Signal units again, and also the Glasgow district, with the object of materially increasing the Branch membership.

S. T. Cozens, Secretary.

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	Labourer
2	Ex-Signalman	Labourer
3	Ex-Signalman	Assembler
4	Ex-Signalman	Porter
5	Ex-Signalman	Postman
6	Ex-Signalman	Auxiliary Postman
7	Ex-Signalman	P.O. Cleaner
8	Ex-N.C.O.	Man Servant
9	Ex-N.C.O.	Mess Waiter
10	Ex-N.C.O.	Mess Waiter
11	Ex-Signalman	Mess Waiter

General Secretary.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

Unit Representatives are again reminded that all remittances for the above Fund should be sent direct to Messrs. H. S. Baker and Co., Treasurers to the Signals Association, 4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2—whose receipt for same will constitute the necessary clearance.

The President gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:

Cash Subscriptions from:—
The Aldershot Command Trust.
Sergeants' Mess, 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

APPEALS dealt with:—
1—Ex-Signalman, Rotherham. Domestic difficulties. £2 granted.
2—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £2 granted.
3—Ex-Signalman, Bradford. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.
4—Ex-Signalman, Hastings. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.
5—Ex-Signalman, Gosport. Illness and temporary difficulties. £1 granted.
6—Ex-Signalman, Gosport. Temporary difficulties. £1 granted.
7—Ex-Signalman, Stowmarket. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.
8—Ex-Signalman, Torres. Proceeding to relatives in Canada. £5 granted.
9—Ex-Signalman, Chichester. Unemployment and temporary difficulties. £1 granted.

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

Corps Promotion Roster—Subsequent Amendments.

Appointed Superintending Clerk

1861302 Manley A. 21/3/31

To be W.O. I. (R.S.M.)

6335626 Wills A. 21/3/31

Appointed R.Q.M.S.

*533335 Brown S. 21/3/31

To be W.O. II. (C.S.M.)

*1856927 Weston H. 21/3/31

To be C.Q.S.M.

2306533 Robertson J. 16/5/31
2306305 Robertson W. 19/8/31

To be Sergeant

*2309795 Taylor R. 14/5/31
2314172 Parsons L. 21/6/31
2308411 Pack E. 11/8/31
2311362 Udell L. 26/8/31

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

2308054 Fisher N. 24/5/31
2308406 Lacey L. 20/6/31
2311327 Jones W. 21/6/31

* *Special Roster, India*

390252 Saunders A. 2/7/31
2306482 Donahue J. 2/7/31
2315981 Cook L. 11/8/31
2315291 Frampton E. 19/8/31

To be Corporal

6909744 Alexander A. 24/5/31
2316220 Saunders T. 24/5/31
2309044 Ives H. 2/6/31
2316648 Collings H. 1/7/31
2316624 King W. 2/7/31
2306630 Varley J. 29/7/31
2316704 Elderkin A. 29/7/31
2744870 Horner G. 29/7/31
6584197 Kneller W. 11/8/31
2317326 Purdy A. 19/8/31
2317615 Wing J. 21/8/31

To be Sergeant (Farrier)

2312122 Walmsley J. 11/6/31

To be Corporal (Farrier)

730373 Warner E. 7/8/31
1850136 Hart A. 8/8/31

Appointed Lance-Corporal

2312546 Wink P. 10/4/31
2316566 Holloway W. 8/5/31
2309297 Rankin H. 23/5/31
6196892 Bartle H. 24/5/31
2317570 Kent W. 25/5/31
6839605 Watts L. 1/6/31
2318264 Bennett J. 3/6/31
2315747 Waters W. 9/6/31
2318585 Smith A. 22/6/31
2317589 Payne S. 1/7/31
2314600 Morrison H. 1/7/31
2316402 Lauder W. 1/7/31
2316168 Connaghton J. 1/7/31
2312496 Rhodes B. 29/7/31
2316401 Barton F. 16/8/31
2318995 Sanderson I. 16/8/31
5100885 Henshaw F. 19/8/31
4337900 Mattock H. 9/9/31

To Army Reserve.

2316106 L/Corpl Guthrie G. 5/8/31
7657986 L/Corpl Pratt J. 5/8/31
2317192 L/Corpl Dean S. 10/9/31
1028180 L/Corpl Neale E. 14/9/31

Discharged

2308041 C.Q.M.S. Prior F. 5/9/31
2308464 Corpl Butler T. 26/9/31
2308307 L/Corpl Godfray J. 8/9/31

Transferred to Army Educational Corps

2309270 L/Corpl Barnard W. 2/3/31

By Appointment

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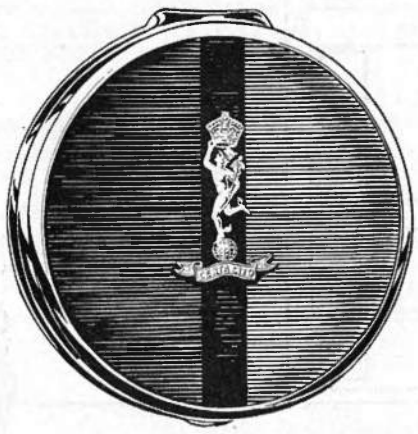

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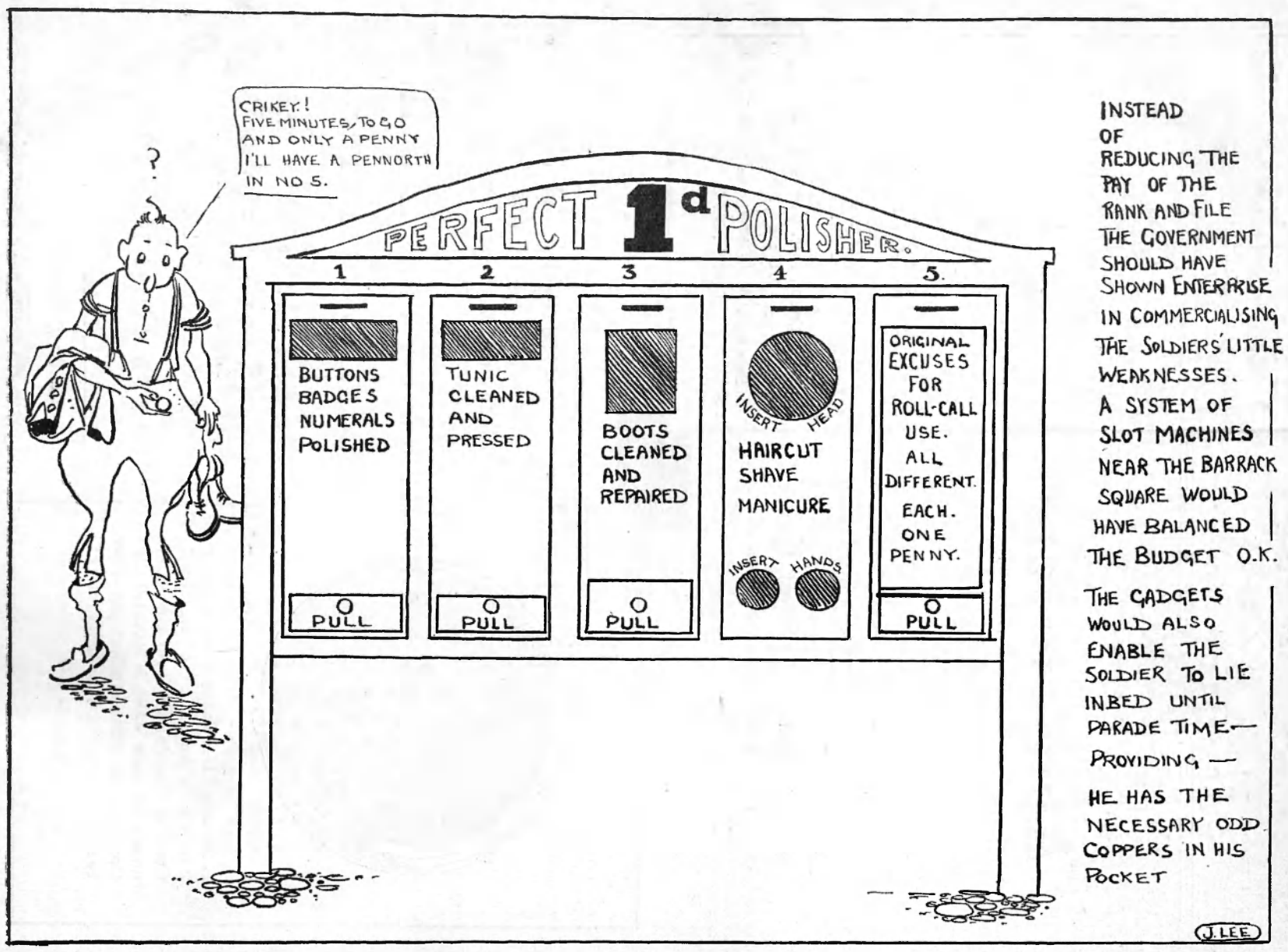
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PULL
INSERT HEAD
HAIRCUT SHAVE MANICURE
INSERT HANDS
ORIGINAL EXCUSES FOR ROLL-CALL USE. ALL DIFFERENT. EACH. ONE PENNY.
PULL
INSTEAD OF REDUCING THE PAY OF THE RANK AND FILE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE SHOWN ENTERPRISE IN COMMERCIALISING THE SOLDIER'S LITTLE WEAKNESSES. A SYSTEM OF SLOT MACHINES NEAR THE BARRACK SQUARE WOULD HAVE BALANCED THE BUDGET O.K.
THE GADGETS WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE SOLDIER TO LIE INBED UNTIL PARADE TIME— PROVIDING — HE HAS THE NECESSARY ODD COPPERS IN HIS POCKET
J.LEE

Corps News—Officers

MOVES—

Major R. A. Bagnold from S.T.C. to School of Signals.
Capt. R. H. Gem from S.T.C. to School of Signals.
Capt. L. V. Younie from S.T.C. to India ("A" C/S).
Lieut. G. H. S. Balmain from Tidworth to Cambridge Univ.
Lieut. J. E. S. Sanders from Blackdown to Cambridge Univ.
Lieut. H. V. Ewbank from S.T.C. to China.
2/Lieut. R. J. Perry from S.T.C. to India (2nd Indian D/S).

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 18/9/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

42nd (E.L.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut. T. A. H. Lea to be Lieut. 29/8/31

War Office, 22/9/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

Lieutenant T. V. Barber, from T.A. Reserve of Officers, Manchester Regiment, to be Lieut. 23/9/31

War Office, 25/9/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

A.D. Formations Signals—Major F. W. S. Jourdain, R.Signals, vacates the appointment of Adjutant, 14/9/31

Capt. W. S. Wasey, R.Signals, to be Adjutant, 14/9/31

War Office, 29/9/31

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF—

The undermentioned appointments are made:—

Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O., from C.S.O. (Cl X) Eastern Command, to be C.S.O. (Cl. X) Egypt, 18/9/31

Colonel R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C., half-pay, to be C.S.O. (Cl X) Eastern Command, 18/9/31

War Office, 2/10/31

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—ROYAL SIGNALS

The undermentioned to be 2/Lieuts. 3/10/31:—
K. C. Braine and D. J. Braine

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

44th (H.C.) Divl Signals—2/Lieut. J. H. V. Charlton to be Lieut. 3/10/31, with seniority 1/4/31

War Office, 6/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt. E. L. Farnall is seconded for service on the Staff in India, 5/10/31

War Office, 9/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—ESTABLISHMENTS

Major R. A. Bagnold, R.Signals, to be Instructor (Cl. Z) School of Signals, 5/10/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

53rd (W.) Divl Signals—S. D. Carpenter to be 2/Lt. 10/10/31

War Office, 13/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS

Capt. W. S. Wasey is seconded for service with the T.A., 14/9/31

Capt. J. W. Bailey, M.C., to be Adjutant, 11/10/31, vice Capt. E. J. Murphy

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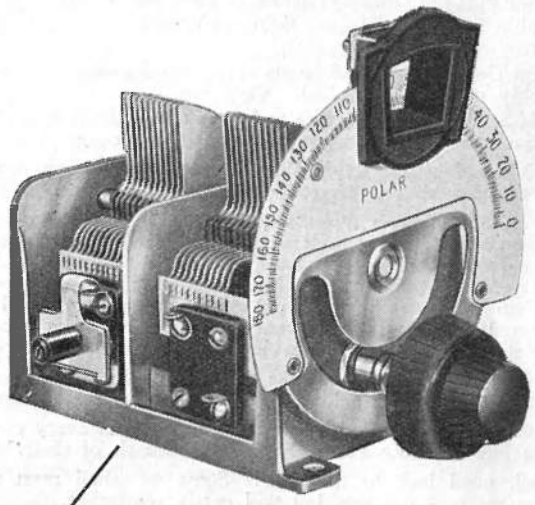

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- Plain Tales -

Exodus.—There is much gloom about. A certain number of people are due to return to England this season, and they are naturally upset about it.

For instance, there is Sergt " Willie " Wish, the Anzora King, otherwise known as Euphony Earnest. He is finished with the Army. He may well cease to smile.

Then we have Sergt Johnny Wooldridge (telegraphic address: Marcel Waves) who goes to join his bride, and may therefore be seen indulging in an occasional smile. He goes to Manchester on arrival in England, so I can't quite see what he has to be cheerful about.

Sergt George Stone and family return, and continue to soldier, probably on the T.A. Sad. Very sad.

Q.M.S. Ted Saunders, wife and family leave India with regret. Mr. Saunders has given twenty years to the country.

C.Q.M.S. MacLean finished his pontoon a few months ago, and proceeds to take over Harrods or Pontings—I forget which.

Lieut. G. I. Burgess Winn, who has been ill for some time, will also be going home. I understand that he will continue to be a patient (but not very): perhaps Millbank. We hope he will soon be restored to good health. Mr. B-W. (lack of space prevents my giving his name in full again) calmly informs me that he has consumed no fewer than seventy-two chickens since becoming a patient. I have smashed windows for less than this.

L/Corpl Carter hopes to take over Scotland Yard. A worthy ambition, but, I fear, a long job, starting from the bottom.

L/Corpls Howard and Youngs are to be seen every evening, crying like anything about the rapid approach of their boat.

Well, good luck to them all! Some we shall meet again. Others we may not see, but will surely remember.

Finally, I am coming home to England myself—but not this season. P.S.: Nor the next.

* * * *

Sticky Business.—Professor March-Hare, lecturer on philately to the National Union of Macaroni Benders, spoke for an hour and a quarter on Saturday last, when he addressed the local lads in the Town Hall.

Mr. Bangs, the chairman, opened the proceedings by drinking a glass of water and introducing the Professor.

" Mr. Chairman and gentlemen," commenced the learned old blighter ; " would it not be a splendid thing for the nation if more people adopted philately?"

" Phil who?" asked the chairman.

" Philately," said the Professor patiently, " is the name given to the hobby of collecting postage stamps."

" Oh—ah! go on, Professor."

" Well, gentlemen, we have clubs and societies of all sorts, and they all collect something. Mr. Flat Squills (on my left) has a club which collects muscles. There are others who collect thick ears, coupons, moths, malaria and entries in their conduct sheets. At home, we hear of people collecting sun-burn, and a Government collecting soldiers' pay."

At this point there was a scuffle at the back of the hall, and the voice of Mr. " Steamboat " Chadderbags was heard announcing that he was interested in the collecting of five-rupee notes, and that anyone who cared to assist him in the laudable object of increasing his——the rest was drowned in a roar of raspberries.

The Professor told, with dramatic force, of the wonderful thrill when a letter arrived from Paraguay, Patagonia or Pagliacci, and pointed out that in a hundred years time the stamps would be worth fabulous sums. I forget what else he said, but this philately stuff wants looking into. Are there any friends in Mexico, China, Bolivia, Eucador or Vermicelli who care to write? This isn't a wangle. As Mr. Gandhi said, I have nothing up my sleeve.

* * * *

Pour la Patrie.—Le majeur Maggotte returned to his quarters to find Pierre dead drunk on the settee, with twenty-two empty bottles round him, and the unfortunate Duchess of Deux-Oeufs still in the wardrobe. She was a very angry woman. Maggotte listened politely while the Duchess told him one or two intimate little things about himself and his ancestors, and collapsed into an armchair as she went out and slammed the door.

When Pierre recovered his senses, he found his capitaine seated at the escritoire writing furiously.

" What ho, Cap!" said Pierre, cheerily. Le capitaine continued to write, if anything, more furiously than ever. Pierre threw one of the empty bottles, but owing to his somewhat blurred vision, the missile struck le majeur on the forehead.

" Tut, tut, Pierre!" said le majeur. " Naughty. Naughty."

At last le capitaine Pourboire gathered up his sheets, threw his pens into the fireplace, drank the last few drops of ink, and flung himself back into the chair with a deep sigh. Then, and then only, did he notice that he was not alone. His face turned the hue of ashes. " You!" he faltered weakly.

Pierre sprang to his feet and covered the shaking man with a revolver. " Yes," said the bat-homme. " We know everything. You have betrayed the secret of——to Lord—— of——. Let us not mention names."

" —— " whispered le capitaine, his face turning the hue of some more ashes. " Exactly," said le majeur, rising. " Pierre, do your stuff." The unfortunate officier was led away to the deepest dungeon beneath the castle moat, or possibly it was the chicken house.

A cheery little dinner party that evening consisted of le majeur Maggotte, O.C. 2nd Chaussettes, Pierre le bat-homme, and Mlle. Pauline Caraway. When the port had been round about nine times, Maggotte struggled to his feet and banged on the table.

" Ordre! ordre!" he yelled. " Got a lil shu-sup-surprise for you. Jush made 'scovery. Mamselle Pauline, lemme preshent 'Sgrace Duke o' Brickdust. Been mas—masquerading as shervant in my regiment to unmask a villain. Very suc—succeshful, too. 'Sgrace Duke o' Brickdust—Mademoiselle Pauline Caraway. Hic!"

" Yes, yes. That's all right, Maggie, old boy," said the lovely Pauline. " Pierre and I are married. I am the Duchess of Brickdust ; my mother was a Hearth-stone."

They crept quietly from the room, leaving the gallant majeur trying to play La Mayonnaise on a cucumbre.

La Fin.

* * * *

About Bands.—Whilst watching the approach of a military band the other day, I was rather interested in the antics of a man in the front row, who was hopelessly out of step with the remainder. As the band drew nearer, I saw that he was a trombonist, and owing to the fact that his music was clipped on to the *slide* of his trombone, he had to run forward a few steps every now and then in order to read the notes. Rather unusual, don't you think?

If Joe Trayner will glance at the photograph of the S.T.C. (I.) Dance Band in the August WIRE, he will observe that the writer is, at least, going through the motions of producing " a snaky one on the straight one."

* * * *

Correspondence.—" Dear Barleux. I developed a swelling under the ear, and on reporting sick, was ordered by the M.O. to apply a hot poultice. This I neglected to do, with the result that the trouble became acute. The M.O. was very angry, and I am now ' on the peg.' What can they charge me with? Yours anxiously, GINGER."

" Dear Ginger.—Abscess without leave. Yours judicially, BARLEUX."

* * * *

Uncerta Cito.—Many years' absence from the saddle is not the best preparation for an exhibition of trick riding with crossed stirrups on a restive horse. When No. 118 rid himself of the weight of the objectionable Barleux with considerable vim, and proceeded to stamp him into the ground, several people rather unfeelingly suggested that it would be something else for THE WIRE. I regret to say that the title of this paragraph was suggested by an officer. Br-r-r-r! BARLEUX.

TIME EXPIRED AND RESERVISTS

[Contributions to this Section of the Corps Journal are invited from all ex-members of Royal Signals]

Aldershot, October, 1931.

To the Secretary of the Signals Association.

Dear Sir.

Political Prelude.—Politics manifest themselves in divers fashions, sometimes strange and often ludicrous ; but from all the sordid business the Man in the Ranks (correct me if I err) is girt about—fortunate fellow!—with a protective wall of regulations which shelter him from the stormy blast at this minute raging around the civilian, and provoking, I imagine, rather more than the customary quota of cold feet. Heckling the candidates at various meetings has provided some little entertainment, and pert questions, parried with bright repartee, could be chronicled. But I have yet to hear the equal of that old one about the heckler's agricultural requirements and the candidate's generous provision of an acre or two to meet immediate demands.

Shooting His Bolt!—I cull the following poignant yarn from an Aldershot weekly's review of "Humour in the Army." Visiting the sentries, the young officer approached a recruit " doing his first " and accused him of having a dirty rifle. " I cleaned it before I came out, sir," replied the lad. " Well, I don't think you made much of a job of it," said the officer ; " give it to me." The rifle was accordingly handed over, and then, turning to the youngster, the officer expostulated: " You young fool! If I were an enemy, I could shoot you!" " Don't kid yourself," retorted the other ; " I've got the bolt in my pocket!"

Passed to You, Please.—Last month I undertook to contribute my mite toward the supply of information concerning present conditions existing outside the Army, and for which this section of our Journal has been primarily allotted.

Be it known, here and now, that I will not attempt to influence readers one way or the other. If, perchance, this attracts the attention of any man who is shortly taking his discharge and is determined to return to civil life, nothing I say will prevent his so doing. Facts and a few figures are all that I can offer, and if these prove of even a small value to those leaving the Service, I will be one of the first to thank the Signals Association for enabling me to prove of some use.

There are quite a number of erstwhile Signals in Aldershot and district, many of whom I meet almost daily. Those I have in mind are ex-signalmen and drivers, and, unfortunately, several are either wholly unemployed or in but temporary employment. Whether they took the very vital precaution of securing a situation prior to their leaving the security of the Army, I do not know, nor can I vouch for their Association membership ; but it cannot be sufficiently emphasised that permanent employment must be ensured beforehand.

An almost identical admonition has appeared in THE WIRE many times already, given by individuals who have had considerably greater experience than myself, so that I will present the argument in another form—not without according it the consideration it most assuredly merits.

The Army is a benign and charitable institution which, among its manifold functions, includes the Trade Board (the indisputable fact that one of these tried to experiment with me on a motorcycle is beside the point!) If a man displays little or no bent for the trade to which he has been originally assigned, he is helped to find his own particular groove. I do not know the actual percentage of total failures among Signals tradesmen, but it must be infinitesimal. There are no Trade Boards in civil life, nor do you find many willing to accord you a single hearing, let alone two.

I could wax eloquent, at considerable length, on the why's and wherefore's of the unemployment problem and the prevailing depression in trade, but this, together with sundry scales of wages, I withhold until next month, when—three hearty British cheers! —they may be served with a few nuts.

Cheero, fellows! L.H.D.

Unemployment—Royal Corps of Signals Service.

Life in a Government Unemployment Centre.

Scattered throughout the country are a number of Centres, of two kinds—one in which men are trained in different trades, and the other for re-conditioning. This article deals with life in one of the latter.

Through the services of the Signals Association, I was appointed educational officer in a Transfer Instructional Centre in the east of England.

The work is extremely interesting, and one gains a great insight into human nature from every conceivable angle.

This Transfer Instructional Centre accommodates up to two hundred men, drawn from the depressed areas, who by long unemployment have deteriorated physically—and in a good many cases, mentally.

The whole object is to bring these men back to a state of fitness that will enable them to take up work on State-aided road and constructional schemes.

They have regular and good food, and the work is graded from kitchen work to the pick and shovel job, through weekly periods of gardening, horse keeping, light road construction, and trenching and shoring.

One comes into contact with all types and conditions of men, ranging from the avowed Communist to the fellow who would sell his soul for a job of any description.

A fair number of ex-Service men are included, but I must say that during a period of over five months at this Centre, I have not yet discovered any ex-Signals among them.

The men arrive in batches of from ten to forty, usually in the late afternoon, and after a good meal are allowed to have a look round the Centre and " shake themselves down."

The next day, after having been interviewed by the manager, they are turned over to the educational officer for an explanation of the personnel of the staff and their relationship to the work.

It should be readily understood that with the outlook of the various types of men, great tact and absolute loyalty to the manager are essential.

The educational officer's work is of a varied nature, but the main object is to try and get the men to take a better mental outlook on life.

It is sad to realise that, in spite of the present educational system, ten to twelve per cent. of the lads, ofttimes under 22 years of age, can neither read nor write. Efforts to remedy this are made by the educational officer at organised classes throughout the week.

The men sign for a period of twelve weeks at the Centre, but very few complete their full time. The majority are placed in employment soon after completing eight weeks of training. It will therefore be seen that the time is very limited in which to teach the men anything.

Instruction to all men is, however, given on the construction of concrete roads, and an effort is also made to improve the morale of the men.

And the result? Is it a success?

The answer is decidedly in the affirmative. Numbers of letters are received from " old boys " (even some from those who were unable to write previously) who are in employment, expressing appreciation of the value of the re-conditioning, but particularly of the instruction received in education ; and it is not uncommon for these men to be chosen for concrete work in preference to those who have not been fortunate enough to have the same advantage of instruction in a Centre. J. E. BANHAM.

The Malta Command Administrative Telephone System.

[Continued from June issue.]

Diagram 6 is a schematic one. The repeating coils and condensers are on the repeating coil and fuse panel rack in the apparatus room, while the tags T, R, S and A to H are on a board at the back and bottom of the switchboard. The relays, coils and resistances are also on the back of the switchboard directly above the tags. The plugs and key shelf are on the front of the switchboard.

CORD CIRCUIT

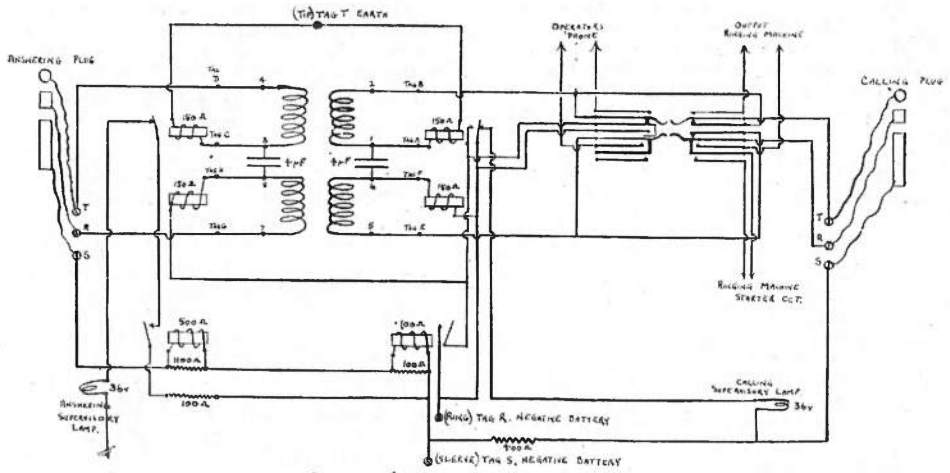


DIAGRAM 6

The eight connections for each repeating coil are joined to the tags A to H by means of 84-wire cables (double quads). There are sixteen cord circuits per section, so two 84-wire cables are required for each section. The battery connections to tags T, R and S are made by means of 63-wire cables from the fuse panels. The screws T, R and S are the connections for the flexible cord from the plug.

To test cord circuits, the battery plug of the tester 10a is inserted into the battery jack, and plug A into a spare line jack on the switchboard. The object of the latter is to connect the bush of the jack B to earth through the cut-off relay of that circuit. The plug to be tested is now inserted in the jack B, and key 4 is depressed and kept so while key 2 is operated rapidly. The diagrams of the tester 10a and of the cord circuit show that inserting the answering plug into the jack B completes the sleeve circuit, thus causing the sleeve circuit relay to operate. The contacts of the right hand sleeve relay join battery on to the answering side of the repeating coil, while those of the left hand relay complete the supervisory circuit and the lamp lights.

Depressing key 4 joins a 10,000 ohms resistance across " tip " and " ring," thus allowing a small current to flow round the left hand side of the repeating coil, i.e. through the relay on the tip side. This current should not be enough to operate the relay, therefore its contacts remain closed and the supervisory lamp remains alight. Depressing key 2 joins a 1000 ohms resistance in parallel, and the resulting increase of current through the relay should cause it to operate, thus extinguishing the lamp.

Releasing keys 2 and 4 and depressing key 5 tests the continuity of the cord circuit, the lamps A and B glowing if the circuit is continuous. If "A" lamp fails to glow, there is a disconnection in the tip side ; if " B," in the ring side ; if both, in both tip and ring. The diagram will show that depressing key 5 disconnects the negative of the battery via the "A" lamp to the tip of the plug and thence via one portion of the repeating coil and the relay to earth (positive battery), while earth is connected via lamp " B " and ring to the other side and thence to battery.

The testing of the calling plug is exactly similar. In this case, the lamp circuit is made and broken by one relay only, i.e. the one in the repeating coil circuit, and therefore, once the plug has been inserted into a jack, remains alight until a loop of sufficiently low resistance is put across tip and ring. The connections to the calling plug are via the " ring-speak " key—a possible source of an occasional fault.

The supervisory lamp circuits of the answering and calling plugs differ, because these cord circuits are designed for junction working.

The sleeve circuit relay on the right, owing to the extra resistance of a junction cut-off relay, does not operate when the plug is inserted into an incoming junction jack. The battery is connected to the answering side by the operator's key when thrown to " speak," or by the calling side relay when a loop is on the called line, which is either a subscriber or an outgoing junction.

At the originating exchange, the answering plug will be inserted in a local subscriber's jack, with the calling in an O.G.J. ; and at the terminal end, the answering plug will be in the incoming junction jack, with the calling plug in a local subscriber. At intermediate exchanges, answering and calling plugs will be in incoming and outgoing junction jacks. On the conclusion of conversation, both subscribers " hang up." At the originating end, this in itself will cause the answering plug supervisory lamp to light. At the called end, the subscriber hanging up releases the relay in calling plug circuit, both lighting the supervisory lamp and disconnecting battery from the answering plug side. This causes the answering supervisory lamp to glow. In addition, having disconnected the answering plug circuit at this exchange, the relay in the calling plug at the next exchange will also release, repeating the operation throughout the series, giving a " clear " at all exchanges through which the call is passing.

Should a fault other than broken lamps, dirty relay contacts or sticky relays be detected during the testing of cord circuits, the only course is to trace through from point to point until the defect is discovered.

As a final test, it is advisable to connect a local telephone to the exchange, speak to it from each answering plug, and call and speak from each calling plug. During this last, each head and breast set and each hand set can be proved.

The next step is to test through to each subscriber. At this time the subscriber is disconnected from the new exchange, as no fuses have yet been inserted on the line side of the main frame, but is through on the old frame and fuses to the magneto exchange. Each telephone has had a condenser joined in series with its bell, so that when the hand set is on the cradle switch there is no D.C. loop. When the hand set is lifted, the secondary of the induction coil and the receiver are connected in series across the line.

Each subscriber, in turn, was disconnected from the old exchange and connected to the new. It was necessary to have direct telephonic communication between the old and new test

rooms, with personnel in each. As the new exchange was ready to test a subscriber, the required number was 'phoned through. As soon as this subscriber was disengaged, his fuses were removed from the old test frame and the new exchange informed. Fuses were then inserted in his line at the new frame.

It was necessary to enlist the aid of the subscriber in this final test, to know if he could hear quite satisfactorily. As soon as he was connected to the new exchange, his line lamp was examined to ensure that it was not glowing. Then a calling plug was inserted and immediately after ringing removed, and the line lamp scrutinised. When this glowed, it indicated that he had answered, and that his cradle switch releasing was looping the line. The formula ran thus: "I am testing from the new exchange. Did I ring you all right? Can you hear me well?" Almost invariably, the subscriber said "I beg your pardon?" So the formula was repeated until an answer was received. Then the plug was pulled out, and the line lamp watched to see that it went out. If the answer had been satisfactory and the line lamp went out, that was accepted as proof that that number was satisfactory.

Some few subscribers could not hear so well from the new board as from the old, the reason being that, with a magneto telephone connected to a C.B. board, D.C. is flowing through the receiver, and it is possible that there might be a tendency to increase or decrease the pull of the receiver's magnets. In these cases, people were sent out to reverse the line leads on the offending telephones. This cured the trouble.

Many cases of faulty cradle switch springs were brought to light, necessitating the sending of an instrument maker to attend to the 'phone.

In quite a number of instances, a Maltese clerk or orderly answered the telephone and was unable to understand the questions asked. Consequently, a Signals representative had to be sent out to the subscriber's 'phone.

During this test the supervisory lamps, too, were watched for failure to operate. An earth on the "B" leg, if sufficiently large, will produce a P.G. (permanent glow) but an earth on the "A" leg is not visibly indicated. An earth on the "A" leg does, however, shunt the tip side of the repeating coil, so that the relay is robbed of current and fails to operate. The supervisory lamp then remains alight during conversation. This earth may be on the line or it may be inside the exchange.

A test with a voltmeter and battery will locate it to one or the other. If inside, it is probably caused by a cross of the two white wires in two quads going to the relay rack. The cut-off relay should disconnect the earth connection from the "A" line at its contacts, but if this particular white wire has been connected to another relay, the earth will remain on. This was found to be the case where the fault was traced to the inside apparatus.

Eventually, all subscribers' circuits were completed and a fair indication of their state obtained. All remaining faults were noted. These were entirely outside the exchange, since all internal faults were rectified at the time of testing. The bald statement that "the fault was rectified" gives no idea of the time and patience required to locate the trouble causing some of the faults, but, as with most things, speed came with experience.

The junction circuits next received attention. Of these, eleven are both-way manual—three Fortress to Tigne, two Fortress to Calafrana, two Fortress to R.A.F. Headquarters, two R.A.F. Headquarters to Calafrana, and two Calafrana to Hal Far—and eight are automatic. There is also one automatic line from Calafrana to Dockyard, but as this terminates on a subscriber's position at Dockyard, extra equipment is only needed at the Calafrana end. Up to this time, the new equipment for the Valletta automatic exchange end of the junctions had not been received by the Dockyard engineers, so work went forward on the manual junctions only.

The main complication in a junction circuit is that each exchange has its own battery, and each must be capable of calling the other with that battery; also, when connected for purposes of communication, the two batteries must be so joined to line as to assist each other and *not* oppose. They are, therefore, provided at each end with two or more jacks, one being the incoming or answering jack, equipped with a lamp, and the other (or others) the outgoing or calling jack(s). The connections of the incoming and outgoing jacks are reversed, and a relay, operated on plugging in to the O.G.J., changes the lines from their normal connections, i.e. the answering jack to the outgoing side.

The explanation of Diagram 7 is as follows. The calling exchange inserts a calling plug into an outgoing jack, and thus connects negative of battery to the B line. Current flows along the B line to the answering end, thence via the contacts of the change-over relay,. the cut-off relay contacts, and the line relay coil to earth and back to its own battery. The line relay contacts

MANUAL JUNCTION

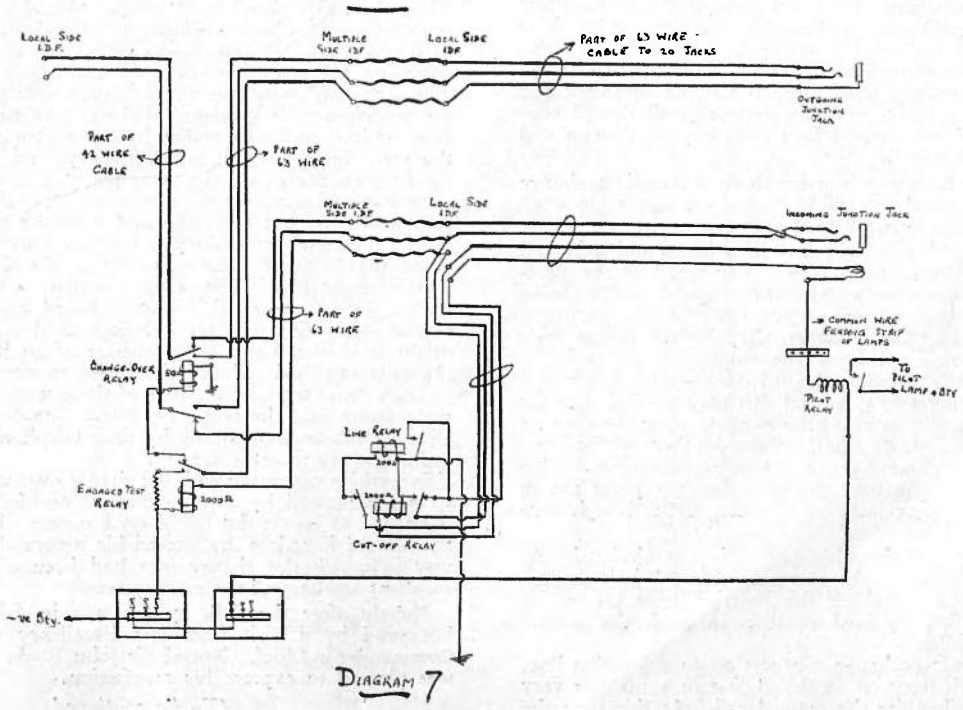


DIAGRAM 7

complete the lamp circuit, and also the " engaged test " relay circuit. This relay, in turn, connects via its contacts the negative of the answering exchange battery to the bush(es) of the outgoing jack(s). The answering operator now plugs in, and in so doing completes the cut-off relay circuit by connecting negative of battery (sleeve of plug) to bush of jack. The cut-off relay operating disconnects the line relay and the lamp is extinguished. Battery and earth, i.e. negative and positive of battery, are now connected to the A and B lines, and therefore in series with the battery at the calling end. The engaged test relay remains operated. The operator now throws the ring-speak key to " speak," and therefore joins his telephone across the lines.

To call the distant exchange, the operator takes the calling plug and, with the ring-speak key at " speak," touches the tip of the plug on the bush of the outgoing junction jack. Clicks in his head receiver indicate that the line is engaged ; no clicking shows that the line is clear. On getting a " clear " he pushes the plug home, thus completing the change-over relay circuit from battery (sleeve of plug) to bush of jack. The change-over relay operates, and the lines are disconnected from the answering equipment and connected to the calling. Battery and earth (ring and tip of plug) are now connected to the " B " and "A" lines, operating the line relay at the far end.

In testing the junction circuits, the same general scheme was followed, i.e. to prove the inside connections first. Many apparently alarming results may be produced by a wrong connection. For instance, on putting in the line lamps at R.A.F. Headquarters and switching on the battery for the first test, it was horrifying to see all four line lamps glowing, even though rather dimly. An airman friend who was interestedly watching remarked " My word! they're working all right." He *might* have been right had the lines been connected. This fault was caused by a wrong connection on the cut-off relay, the lamp connection having been fixed to the wrong contact and the error repeated on each of the four circuits.

After all the internals had proved satisfactory, the circuits were tested between exchanges. It is essential that the lines be connected correctly (so that each exchange is able to call the other), the supervisory signals working satisfactorily, and that speech is good.

By the time all the manual junctions were ready the equipment for the automatic exchange junctions had arrived, and work was commenced on these.

Traffic considerations caused a slight change in policy. From the magneto exchange there had been seven connections to Valletta automatic exchange, and it was intended, with the C.B., to have eight both-way to Valletta only. This meant that all military calls to Dockyard passed through Valletta automatic and (since they had only eight junctions to Dockyard) caused congestion. It was decided to have four both-way to Valletta and four outgoing to Dockyard.

The diagram of a both-way junction to an automatic exchange is a little too complicated to include in this article, so a written description, though inadequate, must suffice.

Each line is equipped with twin answering lamps and jacks and an outgoing jack. The twin equipment is to speed up the clearing of the lines. Suppose a call has been established between an automatic subscriber and one on the C.B. manual exchange. When they finish their conversation, they both hang up their receivers. The automatic side of the connection clears itself, but the manual side is not cleared until the operator has pulled out the plugs. During a busy period this may not be done for some appreciable time—possibly half a minute—after the clearing signal has been given. In this half minute another call for Fortress may have been passed by an automatic subscriber. This call may find all four junctions engaged, because plugs are in their answering or calling jacks at Fortress, even though conversation has finished.

With two answering jacks, this eventuality is obviated. As soon as the call is cleared on the automatic side a " jack change-over " relay operates, switching the junction lines on to the second jack, ready for any further calls. In brief, the general arrangement is as follows.

When the automatic exchange connects on to a junction line, it joins its earthed battery on to the B line in a manner very similar to that described for the manual call. At this time the " B " line at the C.B. exchange is connected through a relay to the " B " spring of one or other of the answering jacks, and thence by the inside spring to earth. Thus, current flows through this relay, operating it, and its contacts completing the circuit of a second relay, this in turn causes the answering lamp to glow. When a plug is inserted the earth is disconnected, as the jack springs are pushed apart ; the cut-off relay is operated, extinguishing the lamp ; and the manual exchange battery is connected, through repeating coils, to the two lines in series with the automatic exchange battery.

With the apparatus at rest, the connections at the automatic end are quite simple. The two lines are each connected via a relay to earth. One of the latter is the " holding " and the other the " dialling " relay. To call a subscriber on the automatic exchange, a calling plug is inserted in a disengaged outgoing jack, the dialling key is thrown, the ring-speak key of the pair of cords in use is pulled to " ring," and the number dialled by means of the dial mounted on the keyboard. Throwing the keys joins negative battery to each line ; and operating the dial causes disconnections in the line connected to the dialling relay. On completion of dialling the dialling key is restored, and the ring-speak key thrown to " speak."

The outgoing junctions to Dockyard are very simple, since all that is necessary is to have the lines terminated on a jack.

In completing and testing the automatic junctions, Fortress worked in conjunction with the Dockyard engineers. Mr. Thompson (deputy superintending engineer) and Messrs. Wright and Kevin (Telephone Department inspectors) afforded every assistance—fitting up their end and co-operating in the best spirit to overcome the many minor problems which cropped up.

Finally, everything seemed ready for the change-over, and 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 4th, was fixed for the great event.

The exchange was visited about this time by Colonel Mudie, D.S.O., the A.A.Q.M.G. i/c Administration, who had been keenly following the progress of events. From the pertinent questions he put, it was obvious that his interest was far from superficial.

During the final testing of the Fortress Exchange on Saturday, January 3rd, a fault developed on the keyboard of one section and eluded the most frenzied efforts until late in the evening. This wicked fairy was, however, banished in time for the staff to go home and dream of the morrow.

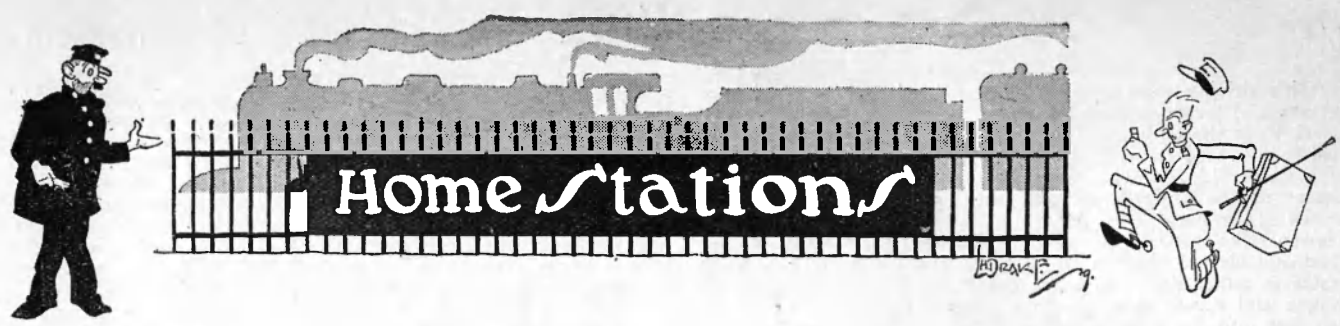
The change-over was effected thus. Personnel were detailed to various exchanges, with instructions to be in position by 9 a.m. They then carried out a final rapid test of their exchanges and reported by telephone to Fortress. The battery which was first used (there are two at each exchange) was then disconnected by removing the main fuses, and all the line fuses were inserted. Thus, an earth was put on each subscriber's line, but this did not interfere with magneto working. At 10 a.m. exactly, the fuses or heat coils were pulled by tapes from the old test frames, the main fuses inserted in the battery, and the operators took up duty on the new switchboard.

At Fortress, a matter of perhaps a minute elapsed between disconnecting the old exchange and connecting up the new, but during this time about thirty or forty calls were put through, and these, together with those connected on the old board, made up a total of about fifty. The result was that, as soon as the battery main fuses were inserted, the switchboard sprang into light. For several depressing minutes it looked as though a good number might be faults, but after a quarter of an hour's frantic work the operators had reduced the board to normal, and only half a dozen P.G.s were left. Some of these were found to be instrument faults, and the remainder line. One can only assume that all these people were sitting by their telephones, watch in hand, waiting to try the new system.

Everything connected with the change-over went very smoothly. It was witnessed by a representative of Messrs. Ericcsons who happened to be on the Island on business. Before returning to the United Kingdom, he offered his congratulations both on the way in which the change-over had been effected and on the excellent working of the new system.

Shortly after the C.B. system was in full swing, we were honoured by a visit from His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, General Sir John P. du Cane, G.C.B., who was pleased to express his satisfaction.

(To be continued)



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

The absence of notes in the October issue is very much regretted, but as Barleux says, " Tempus fugits "—and the 12th often comes before its time. In this particular instance the scribe glanced at the calendar on the 9th, glanced up again—and it was the 16th! Many " units " have been burned in the meantime, and although the typewriter was manipulated a little faster than Flight Lieut. Stainforth's Rolls-Royce engines, not a penny off the dole—or rather, not a second off the roll of time could be arrested.

Talking of speed, I expect the Americans rather wish they hadn't stirred up the mud in the first place and so " got our goat." One doesn't wish to brag, but a passing reference to British pluck, brains and skill now and then isn't out of place ; and we feel that a little tribute is due in these columns to the R.A.F. when taking up a direct challenge (assisted by our sportswomen and industries) to show the world that we *can* " get a move on," even though we are putting our house in order. We have every reason to be proud of the R.A.F.

The show jumping season being over, we can reflect on the victories gained in the various competitions, ranging from Catterick to Olympia and Aldershot. The riding staff and other n.c.o.s of the Wing have had a most successful season, as the illustrations on another page will show. Well done! There is nothing like example to emphasise one's point.

It was a pity that Corpl Beard was unable to get a look-in with his wagon, owing to the gymkhana being cancelled. Better luck another time!

We congratulate the Battalion cricket team on winning the Garrison cricket cup for the second year in succession. I wonder if we shall manage the " hat trick." A separate account of the final is printed in the Sports Section. Captain Walford's contribution was in his usual style—first class. Well done, sir! 2/Lieut Thomson, who has not been with us long, also came in for a good share of the honours.

We are looking for new talent to come forward to help us out in the inter-Company boxing competition this year. Unfortunately, we have lost most of last year's team, but we hope there are some dark horses in the Wing who are willing to take their places.

Shooting commences very shortly. Our first match is against the Dismounted Wing on October 22nd. We do not lack numbers for the "A" team, but at the moment we still require some good shots for the "B" team, which is to comprise recruits.

The day of miracles is not yet over. Driver Powell has recently been commended by the commanding officer for an exhibition of pluck—that quality which we all admire in anyone, especially in one of our own drivers who has only recently passed off his

LADY OF THE HOUSE: 'THOSE MEN LEFT A LOT OF COAL IN THAT LAST TUB.'

CORPORAL: "YES MADAM, YOU SHALL HAVE IT AND YOU CAN HAVE THIS BIT IN MY EYE WHEN I GET IT OUT."

recruit's driving course, and who was " selected " (as all our drivers are) for posting to the cadre.

Whilst at the Ordnance Depot, collecting a G.S. wagon which had been in for repairs, his horses took fright and bolted on sight of a Carden-Lloyd. The horses wildly careered round the full extent of the Ordnance Depot, missing buildings by inches, knocking fire buckets in all directions, and smashing the stands. However, he managed to negotiate two right-angle bends in the road and cleared the exit (fortunately, there was no oncoming traffic in either direction) when one horse slipped—and horses, wagon and driver went headlong down a sheer drop of about ten feet into the railway cutting. Driver Powell only vacated his saddle for a few seconds when thrown, just before arrival on the metals. Here he was found by Corpl Beard, sitting between his two pals " Ruth " and " Abdul." By a wonderful chance, Driver Powell was not injured in any way, although badly shaken ; also, there was no damage to either horses or wagon.

After collecting his senses and his charges, Driver Powell mounted again for the homeward journey. However, just before reaching "Q" Lines, the horses " took the bit " again and went out full stretch until just past St. Martin's Church, where he succeeded in gaining control, eventually arriving back complete in every detail. Well done, lad! That's the spirit.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to L/Sergt Donahue on appointment to that rank.

Births.—To L/Sergt and Mrs. Tudor, a daughter (Heather) on September 17th, and to Sigmn and Mrs. Westoby a daughter (Marjory) on the 18th. Two boys are now required to balance the Budget. Who is it to be?

Obituary.—It is with much regret that we report the death of Mrs. Devlin, wife of Sergt Devlin, at Beccles on September 29th. She had suffered from heart trouble for some time.

Unfortunately, that is not the full extent of the trouble in our midst. Corpl Dendy lost his eldest daughter (Rose) on the 27th September, after a protracted illness, at Darlington Hospital.

The condolences of all ranks of the Battalion are extended to Sergt Devlin and Corpl and Mrs. Dendy in their grief.

Courses.—Driver Richardson G. has left us for a " snobbing " course at Chisledon, and Sigmn O'Donnell is " plastering " at Aldershot. Both very useful trades at the moment ; but in these times of economy, what will they do when the Army has to march on its stomach and the civilian population revert to mud huts? However, perhaps I'm looking too far ahead. On the other hand, if we march to Aldershot for manœuvres and back for the next few years, to diddle the railway companies, perhaps Driver Richardson will be able to accumulate sufficient to be independent of any later consequences. Anyway, we wish them both luck in their new vocations.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

At the moment Catterick Camp is bathed in sunshine. We are all at a loss to know the reason, but it really is so.

Our recruit arrivals have fallen off, and at the present time we are receiving only four or five per week.

Congratulations to L/Sergts Quinn W. and Freeman K., who have joined the ranks of the benedicts.

Congratulations, also, to Sigmn Chadwick N. on his appointment to U/L/Corporal. We offer, too, our congratulations to the Depot Battalion cricket team on winning the Garrison cricket cup.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Sergt Devlin in the loss of his wife, and to Corpl Dendy in the loss of his daughter.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

Like the Schneider trophy high speed flight, our famous trick-riding team, the " Red Devils," have been disbanded. Captain Firth has given us the following report of the Founder's Day celebrations at Port Sunlight.

" On September 17th the motor-cycle display party journeyed to Port Sunlight, on the south bank of the Mersey. The next day was spent in rehearsal on the magnificent stadium of Lever Brothers' works and a visit to the factory.

" We were impressed by the efficiency and smooth working of the factory, but even more so by the model town of Port Sunlight. Even in 1931, this system of housing employees in model cottages with beautiful surroundings, pretty gardens and expanses of green lawns is sufficiently out of the ordinary to cause comment. We were informed, however, that it was all conceived and built nearly fifty years ago. This firm sets the lead to the whole world in housing, and the town of Port Sunlight may be compared to its advantage with all the modern housing schemes. No wonder that they have no lack of employees! Our whole visit was a great lesson in social service and in the method by which British industries could be placed on their feet again.

" To come to Founder's Day itself. This is an entertainment given on a magnificent scale to the employees of the firm and their friends. Over forty thousand people attended as guests. The displays consisted of massed P.T. and torchlight marching by children of the employees, some very good clowning, aeroplane displays, and, on the military side, the equitation school from Weedon, the band of the Gordon Highlanders, and ourselves.

" For the first time, we had an arena so large that we were really able to let ourselves go. The following extract from *The Port Sunlight News* gives the local impression of our performance.

" ' We have seen motor-cycling before, and wonderful performances, too, but that given us by the despatch riders of the Royal Corps of Signals had a finish about it which, with the silence of the machines, almost gave us the impression of reduced speed. It was not so: it was the absence of noise. They gave us a brilliant performance, and broke their own record with a jump of forty-five feet.'

" One more word about our entertainment. It was lavish and on a par with all the activities of this model enterprise. We were all sorry to leave.

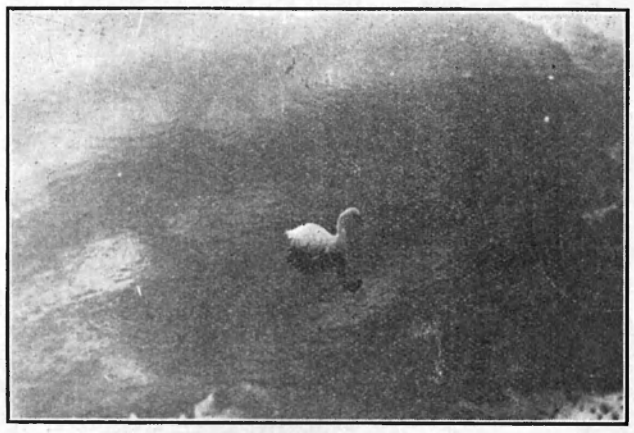
" On our return journey, we were taken on a brief tour round Stonyhurst College, the big public school east of Preston.

" On the 24th we rode the motor-cycles back to the Triumph Works at Coventry, and were entertained by the firm and shown over the works. That, at least, was the idea, but unfortunately several fell by the wayside with mechanical trouble (the first we have had) and did not arrive there until late in the evening."

We recently said " Godspeed!" to Lieut.-General Sir W. M. St. G. Kirke, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., the popular Commander of the 5th Division and Catterick Area since their formation. We welcome his successor, Major-General E. T. Humphreys, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

The Catterick Beagles have recently held some very enjoyable runs, and are deservedly becoming a very popular institution.

Believe it or not.—The Corporals' Mess have a radio gramophone, and there are swans on Lake Hepburn (we enclose a photograph to prove the latter statement).

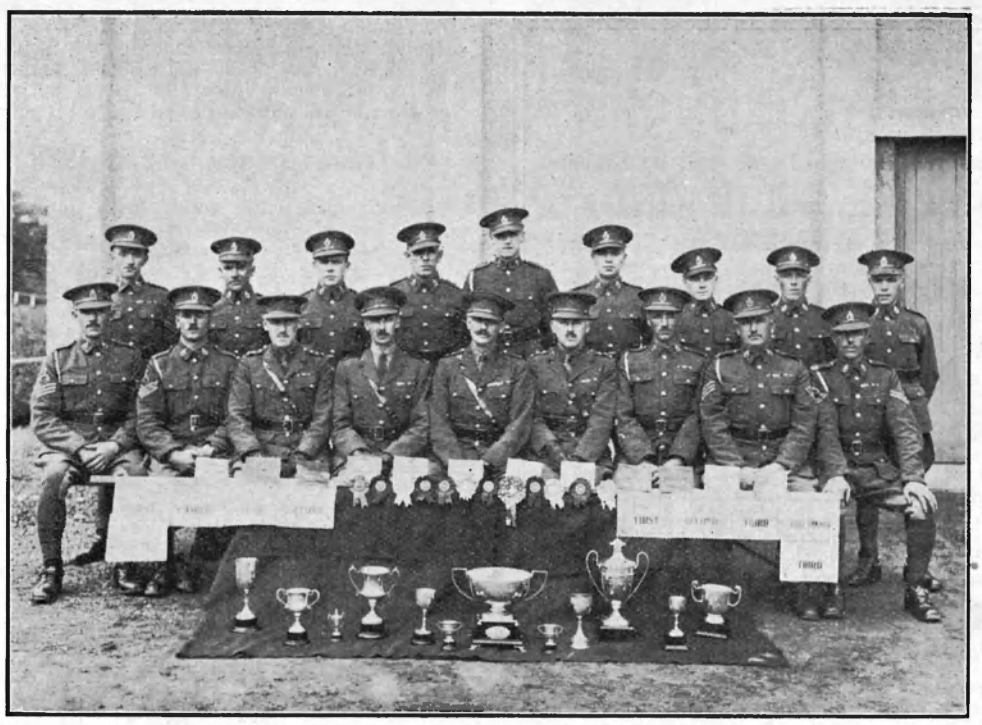


Our more ambitious members, after a period of intensive study, have now sat for their 1st class and special certificates. We wish them all success.

We learn from a certain recruit that on Sunday afternoons he goes to Richmond to view the ruins—human and otherwise.

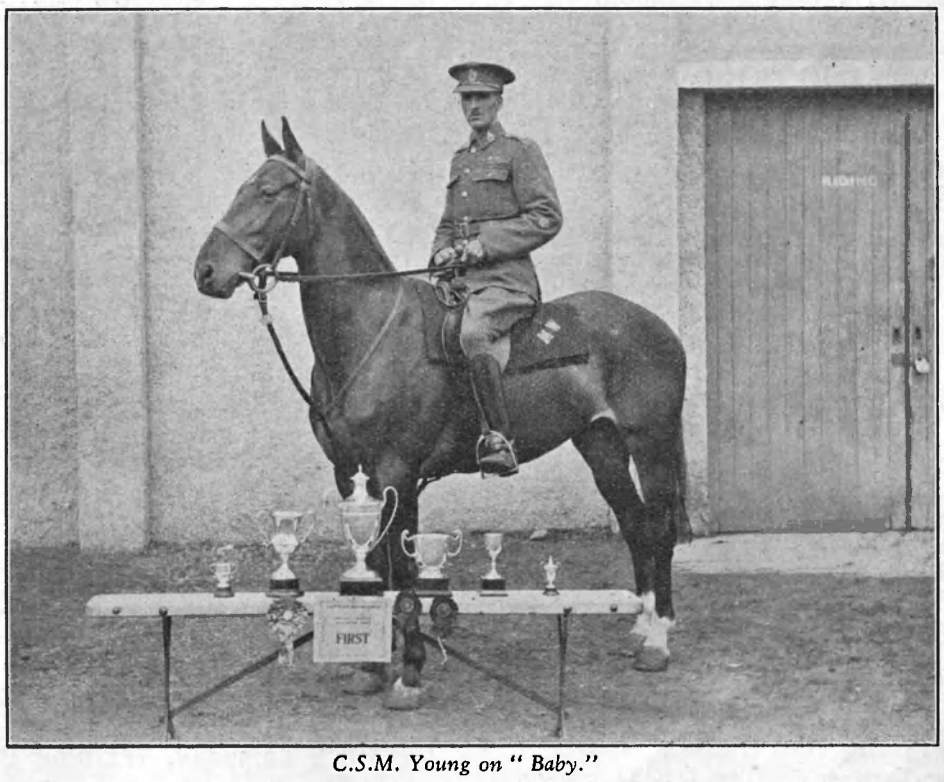
A 1st class candidate recently informed us that the chief freight shipped from Calais to English ports is human merchandise.

The start of a Contract Bridge Club in the Battalion was recently marred when an evilly-disposed person switched out the lights,



Depot Battalion Representatives in the Catterick Garrison Horse Show, 1931.

Winners of Northern Command Bronze Medal Tournament, 1931.
Winners of Team Jumping, Best Trained Charger, and Best Turned-Out Charger, at Catterick Garrison Horse Show, 1931
Third in Team Jumping at the Royal Tournament, 1931.



C.S.M. Young on "Baby."

Winner of Northern Command Open Jumping Competition, 1931. Fifth in Aldershot Open Jumping Competition,
Has won 18 firsts and 10 seconds at various Agricultural Shows during the last three years.

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TERMS ON APPLICATION

as one bridge fiend accused another of looking at his cards when the lights were out!

There is no truth in the rumour that, following the recent example set by a certain famous battalion, the Indian draft has volunteered to swim, in the interests of economy. However, the troops have shown an inclination to dispense with all parades —with the exception of *pay* parade!

Heard in the S.A. class—Instructor: "What is meant by distilled water?" Budding S.A.: "Holy water, corporal." Another B.S.A.: "Please, corporal, he means filleted water."

A certain lance-corporal has recently developed a taste for antiquities, and has taken up "brass-rubbing." An unkind person suggested that he should first obtain some practice on his own neck.

The *Flagrant* Minute.—This is the first of a new series of illustrations of "hard neck": The married corporal who pinched the typewriter oil to use as brilliantine.

D Company, Training Battalion.

All late members of the Training Battalion will be pleased to know that two ducks have appeared on Lake Hepburn. They are a gift from the gods, and being of the non-edible variety and having anchors on their tails, it is quite possible that they will remain with us until the rubber perishes.

This Company also acknowledges receipt of numerous points from F Company. These, we hope, will be converted into various trophies in due course.

We haven't a lot of news for the world this month, but if any reader of THE WIRE has a spare copy of "The Munshi," the same would be gratefully accepted by two members of Company Headquarters.

Promotions.—Sigmn Kerry from O.C. hay-makers to guard fatigue man. Sigmn Price from guard fatigue man to sergeants' mess waiter.

Departures.—Cheerio and good luck to L/Corpls Collett and Wheeler, who have left us for 3rd Div. and 2nd Div. respectively.

Sigmn Swindells has departed to civvy street on Section "D" of the Army Reserve, so will all those officers who have lost parts of their cars please apply somewhere in Oldham. Good luck, Swin, and may the sweet shop prosper!

L/Corporal Penny is leaving us shortly for A Corps Signals, and will undoubtedly greatly assist that unit in all realms of sport.

Draft Amendment.—Corpl Smalley has been warned for India, where without a doubt he will meet people who can raise a thirst.

Birth.—Congratulations to Corpl and Mrs. Blight on the arrival of a son (Dennis Arthur).

Extensions of Service.—Corpl Washburn to complete twenty-one years. L/Corpl Hawks to complete twelve years. Sergeant (Happy) Sherwood for one year beyond twenty-one years. All right, eh?

S.O.S.—Will Sergts Carpenter and Jones, Corpl Harbin, Sigmn Barnett, and the rest, please return to F Company at once, as their late Company is dangerously ill. All fares will be paid from Company funds.

Will No. 2319956 Sigmn Green, believed to be with Egypt Signals, please communicate with Taffy Player of this Company?

Will the brainy individual who first suggested having a dance hall in St. Quentin Lines please come and reside in its vicinity? —when he will not hear anything to his advantage. JOSOPE.

All ranks Fancy dress Ball. 1st Prize

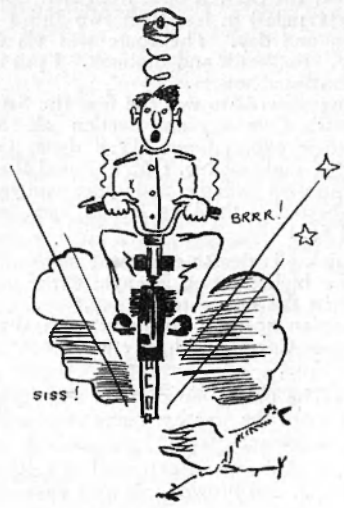
C.S.M. MURDER as "NERO."

2nd Prize. Sec-Lt E.N.O.S. St. Mildred de WIGAN as "Primitive Man".

E Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Things have doddered along so uneventfully of late that very little has happened that is worthy of comment. However, great excitement has been caused throughout the Company

by the acquirement by our tame hikist of Adam Warner's " flying bedstead." Below is the result which a glimpse of it produced on a spectator who was not wearing smoked spectacles.



EUREKA!

Our Happy bought a motor-bike (?)—it's going very strong ;
There's not much really right with it, as most of it is wrong ;
The petrol tank is battered, and it runs on " gin and it " ;
He's sure to break a " wreckord " if pedals he will fit.

" Eureka " is a marvel, although its colour's green ;
You can always hear it rattle before it can be seen ;
Happy said " The engine's gone," which surely can't be true ;
No wheels, no frame, no handlebars—it still goes " speeding through."

Arrivals.—We welcome Boy Craig J. to the " home from home."

Departures.—Boy Ellison, discharged on medical grounds, August 1st. Sigmn Adcock A. G. to Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion. Signalmen Bartlett, Chivers, Cope, Grigg, Smith H. and Thomas T. R. to A Corps Signals. Signalmen Goodall and Lowe to 4th Divl Signals. Sigmn Barry to 2nd Divl Signals. Sigmn Bailey to 5th Divl Signals.

Marriage.—Corpl Mayson B. O. (late of Bulford fame) on August 31st.

Congratulations.—To L/Corporal Boy Bennett on being appointed to that rank. To Boy Moseley on being classified B.iii. To Boy Attrill on being classified A.iii. (more shekels soon, Ikey!)

Things We Would Like to Know.—Where *do* you put it all, Tweeky?

Have *you* seen him?

Who was the lance-corporal boy who, on telling a recruit to get out of bed, was told to get out himself?

When will you get that offending feature altered, Straightface?

Answers to Correspondents.—Yes, Deathshead (Bootle), Friday night *is* Amami night.

Yea, Mex (Fyvutt), I *could* tell you the cause of the numerous small holes which have mysteriously appeared in the plaster of your wall. The following remedy is quoted from " Mrs. Beeton's Manual ":—" Marrows and their habits. Take a tube of horse-feathers, two moth-balls, one portion of ' sudden death,' and a gallon of zebo. Mix well ; take a colander-full three times a day, and before you put the cat out (this applies to you, Joe) pour it into grandmother's bed and fill the holes with putty."

Next Month.—A pulsating drama of the cold north-west, sir, where men are men and you don't have to clear the snow away.

Agony.—Hey, Ratty, when are you going to ack acks to get the three half-pence? KEEBEEK.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

Extensions of Service.—Corpl (U/L/Sergt) Powell G. to complete twelve years, and Driver Heywood E. " eight and four."

Re-Engagements.—L/Sergt Hayles, Corpl Mullins A. R. and L/Corpl Geere W. H. for their " pontoon."

Promotions.—Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. Robertson W., L/Sgt Frampton E. and Corpl Varley J. on attaining those ranks.

Arrivals.—During the month, arrivals have been far too numerous to report individually, forty-two other ranks having transferred their " attentions " from Catterick to Aldershot.

U/L/Corpl Small A. disembarked ex D Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals.

Discharges and Transfers to Army Reserve.—Under the former category, Signalmen Edmunds G. A. and Davidson F. have left the Service on medical grounds, while the latter has claimed Signalmen Miller A. P. and Wadey W. A.

Courses of Instruction.—Sigmn Garratt F. proceeded to the School of Cookery on an advanced course. We are anxiously awaiting his return.

Signalmen Meadows J. and Gunner A. attended a water course at the School of Hygiene, but no improvement has yet been noticed in our " Adam's ale."

Departures.—L/Sergt Theobald P. has gone once more to his Indian fold.

Births.—To Corpl and Mrs. Wheeler, a daughter (Pamela Marie) and to Signalman and Mrs. Egerton, a daughter (Joan Marguerite).

[*Second Instalment.*]

Marriages.—L/Sergt Mansfield (attached from India) to Miss Henrietta Elliot, at Boxmoor, on August 3rd. Sigmn Keeble to Miss Gwendoline Joan Rose, at Alton, on June 26th. Best wishes for the future!

Births.—To L/Corpl and Mrs. Rankin, at Aldershot on August 26th, a daughter (Phyllis Florence). To Sigmn and Mrs. Crowther, at Farnham on July 19th, a son (John Frederick).

Departures.—To Training Battalion, Signalman Sunter. To Northern Command Signals, Sigmn Greig. To Army Reserve, L/Corpl Dean, Signalmen Jones and Stokes. To discharge, Sigmn Macklin.

Courses.—L/Sergt Theobald (attached from India) qualified at a course of instruction at A.S. of P.T. Sergt Low attended a course of instruction in Creed teleprinting at London.

Arrivals.—From S.T.C., Signalmen Cartwright, Ingram, Smith S., Stolliday, Thomson, Wilson, Browne H., Williams G., Mason, Simnett, Burns, Garnett, Jenner C., Lewis, Wyman, Byrne, James, Lockett, Cosford, Fox, Hayes, Hardwick and Driver Moss. From N.I.S.C., Driver Matthews.

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Corpls Ede and Snook to Corporal. Corpl Powell to L/Sergt (unpaid). U/L/Corpls Gibson, Rankin, Watts, Waters and Connaghton to L/Corporal. Signalmen Goldberg, Styles, Slater, Parsons, Cartwright, Shirley, and Connachie to L/Corporal (unpaid).

Trade Qualifications.—Re-classifications: L/Corpl Connaghton as F.S., A.ii., Sigmn Stock as Lineman B.ii., and Signalman Franklin as I.M. A.ii.

L/Corpl Brown passed test as I.M. A.iii. (additional). Re-mustered as D.R. D.iii., Signalmen Mason, Simnett and Cosford ; as lineman C.iii., Sigmn Hall H.

No. 1 Company.

General.—

How doth the little busy bee
Delight to bark and frolic!
He scrubs out with Erasmic soap
And washes with carbolic.

Of course, this has nothing whatever to do with what I have to say, but one must make a start somehow—and there you are.

Things have sure been " going some " since you last heard from us. Apart from the fact that we have it on good authority that we may have a dance band, and one or two other minor items, quite a number of old stagers have found their names on the list for service abroad and are looking forward to a short holiday (?) in the land of the swaying palm and the silent Sphinx.

We wonder who will replace their smiling faces—not that they have been *mis*placed ; but you know what I mean. C.S.M. Trapmore and Sergt Francis are both looking forward to their little Cook's tour and to the meeting of many old friends.

Arrivals and Departures.—A hearty welcome is extended to the new arrivals in the Company, and the best of luck and good wishes extended to those who have left us for a better d'ole.

Congratulations.—To Captain and Mrs. Giblin on the arrival of a son.

To Sigmn Atkinson on his marriage to Miss K. Hill, at Guildford, on October 10th.

To No. 1 Company running team, who are making a bold bid, under difficulties, to retain the inter-Company cross-country running trophy.

What with drafts, furlough, courses and weddings, it has been the case of a " try-out " and hope for the best.

The runs to date have been over courses of two and a half, three, and three and a half miles. We have finished second, first and first respectively. Keep it up, lads, and do your stuff.

This Week's Short Story.—Pay Bloke: " Of course, you can have all your credits! why didn't you ask me before?" The end.

Agony.—What about it, Copper? or are you on the boat?

DASH.

No. 1 Company: No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

General.—The Construction Section have most certainly been doing their stuff. It was only last month that I was saying " Section training would boil down to a paper transaction." Gee! it didn't, and I feel sure all ranks of No. 1 M.T. have thoroughly enjoyed the training, which has been of an experimental nature.

Although " S.T. vol. iv., 1927 " lays down that the rate of building is two to three miles per day, this Section have done nine miles a day (approximately ten working hours) and on one occasion did eleven miles. I feel sure T.W.B. and all our other friends will be pleased with this achievement.

Only last week, the Section built from Ash Common to Longmoor Camp (21¼ miles) in less than two and a half days, and dismantled it in one day. The route was via Puttenham, Elstead, Thursley, Hindhead, and Liphook. I put in the route for the benefit of ex-Aldershotites.

As the training referred to was the first the Section have done for the new O.C.s Company and Section, all ranks hope they have fulfilled their expectations. Well done, Cotton Wool!

About ten other ranks of No. 1 M.T. found their way into the 1st Divl concentration scheme and quite enjoyed it (?) They came back to barracks, thinking it had been one of A Corps schemes. Nuff sed!

Individual training is due to start next month, and a big entry of candidates for higher rating is expected, if only to get back what they lose on the new rates of pay.

Our O.C. Section spent a fortnight with the Royal Signals (S.R.) at Longmoor Camp, and has returned convinced that there is airline *and* airline.

Unit Camp.—The unit camp came to a sudden end on Saturday, September 12th, the weather being responsible. The evening closed with a concert.

Arrivals.—The glad mitt is extended to L/Corpl Drury, Signalmen Williams G. and Browne. Happy days, etc.

Departures.—Signalmen Macklin and Wadey to Reserve. Signalman Heard G. to A.V.T.C., London. Sigmn Stamford to A.V.T.C., Aldershot. L/Corpl Denyer J. to A Cable Section. Cheerio and good luck, all of you!

Congratulations.—To L/Corporal Cartwright E. on the commencement of the long trail. To Sigmn Mitchell (garage dirt track champion) on joining the ranks of the benedicts.

Heard on Pay Parade.—C.S.M.: " Sergt K., I want to give you details for camp."

Sergt K.: " Yes, sir."

C.S.M.: " You will take with you—— Oh, Corpl F., about this skin disease ; see that———Er, Sigmn O., call in the office and pay for your photo. Parade, attention! Every man will see that all small debts are paid up by to-morrow morning."

[Fifteen minutes later] C.S.M.: "Sergt K.—now, you are fixed up for camp."

Sergt K. is recovering as well as can be expected.

The £ and Silver Standard.—The daily papers keep us all well informed of the drop in value of these two essentials, but on Friday night, September 18th, the inmates of Nos. 29 and 30 Barrack Blocks had a "practical lesson" on the drop, some person (not Mr. Snowden) relieving them of their cash holdings. The value of Friday evening's £ was nil on Saturday morning.

Here and There.—In answer to numerous enquiries, I would like to point out that our Bert is still suffering from the bad back sustained during his strenuous service in bad stations, "taking life." While Dixie's beauty is still the envy of all ranks of No. 1 M.T., we certainly believe the ladies of Egypt did fall in for the honour of being "saved" by him. Be satisfied with your handicap, Bert. Beauty is not everything.

Mac, the martyr to kidney trouble, neuritis, lumbago, sciatica, rheumatism and pains in the back, is slowly recovering with the aid of soda-sil-glycerine-barley water-liniment-syrug of figs-tea and wads, and kind words from Bert.

And now, ashes to ashes, positive to negative, galvo to line???

DANGLER.

No. 1 Company: A Cable Section.

Irish Stew.—Morning; sunshine; the vet. in a good mood; a game leg sound. Dora strolled forth from the sick lines, trying to look sedate. Two skips, a shake, and off she went at a canter, straight for home. "Good morning, Molly! morning, everybody! How's things?"

"Well, Dora, I *am* pleased to see you. How's the leg?"

"That's nice of you, Molly. The leg's o.k.; there never was much wrong with it, you know; but I thought I'd try this sick lines business. Not much in it. What's the news?"

"Nothing much. Throat lash too tight one day, and not tight enough the next. I hear they are working up a scheme to cut our rations, because we are not working during the winter. Jumbo says that if that is so, he's going out of condition and see if they can produce a few carrots."

"That's a good idea, Molly. We'll wait and see what happens. Surely, Molly, that is not the Sailor down the other end?"

"Yes, it is, and Gimlet, too. We are getting quite smart with all these chargers in the stable. You know, it does improve the tone of the place so, and it is so good for the remounts."

"I heard in the sick lines, Molly, that the Inspector of Remounts is coming to see us."

"It's quite true, my dear, because I saw some white head-ropes being washed, and that's the only time they come out of cold storage."

"What is the idea of sending the Jump King on a gas course?"

"Well, Dora, he collected so much headgear on the handy hunters course that he wants to start a hobby on the subject."

"Molly, I've been thinking some profound thoughts whilst I've been in the sick lines, and one of them is this: Why of a morning, on check parade, are the 'sick' fallen out, the special employed, the boxers, the rugger players, and the runners? Would it not be quicker to fall out the stable party and then play with the remaining masses?"

"As you say, Dora, a profound thought, and typical of your perverted sense of humour. Any more thoughts like that and there will be a vacancy in this stable, and someone else will shout——"

FEED AWAY.

No. 3 Company.

General.—This heading is "General," but it ought to be "General Nuisance." Once again that awful feeling: WIRE notes—what to write? what to say? and how?

At the moment of going to press, we are on the threshold of the annual C.S.O.'s inspection; and oh, boy, what a bustle!

Training is due to start in the very near future, so preparations are going strong for a winter of work; and they'll need to be hot preparations, if the nip in the air this morning is any indication of what is coming.

Having completed the summer sports season by winning most of the cups, and being runners-up for the cricket cup, we must congratulate our No. 1 Company on winning the inter-Company games cup by a fair margin of points. Let's hope it is our turn next year. Well done, No. 1 Company!

Winter sports have started in real earnest, and by the look of things generally, we are going to have a good team at the main sports: soccer, rugger, hockey and cross-country.

In the Inter-Company Cross-Country League, No. 1 Company have shown great form. No. 3 Company are running third, which is a decided improvement on last year's form.

Arrivals.—Since the beginning of August, we have had quite a number of men from Catterick, too numerous to mention by name. We wish them a happy stay with this Company, although in some cases the stay will be a short one, as some of them were actually warned for draft before they arrived here.

L/Corpl Swinson from No. 1 Company, and Sigmn (A/L/Cpl) Small A. A. from D Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals. May they all have a pleasant time in this most pleasant of Companies!

Other Arrivals.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Bob Rankin and his wife on the arrival of a daughter (Phyllis Florence) on August 26th, and to Sigmn and Mrs. Egerton on the arrival of a daughter (Joan Marguerite) on September 29th.

Departures.—Discharged to civvy street, Sigmn Edmonds G. Best of luck in your new job! Sigmn Dobinson F. transferred to the Hampshire Regiment on October 13th.

We have fifty-seven other ranks on leave at present. Forty-five of these are on draft leave, and the remainder on annual leave. Let's hope it keeps fine for them!

Courses.—Sergt Low has completed a course on the Creed teleprinter at C.T.O. London, and Sigmn Meadows a course at the School of Hygiene. Sigmn Ling is at present on a course at the School of Cookery, and L/Sergt McBride and L/Corporals Swift and Slater at the G.P.O.

Promotions and Appointments.—Congratulations to the undermentioned on being promoted as shown:—Sergt Robertson to be C.Q.M.S. Corpl Frampton to be L/Sergeant. L/Corporal Varley to be Corporal. "And about time, too, Mr. Records," sez u.

Congratulations, also, to Signalmen Slater, Parson, Styles and Shirley on appointment to the first step up the ladder as A/L/Corporal. Keep it up! The best of wishes to them all.

E.H.F.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

The main topic of discussion since the publication of our last notes has been the Budget. Wherever I went, I heard from old soldiers the half-humorous half-bitter complaint that this is a Budget that hits them far more severely than the young soldier. Well, well, all ye old warriors! why complain? We who enlisted so long after you have managed to survive; why not you? Let Mr. Snowden's stirring finish to his speech aid you: "England yet shall stand." I should say so, with the price of beer nowadays, Mr. Snowden.

The Section still manages to make itself known, and the ever pleasant recreation of scheming still tops the bill.

Owing to inclement weather, the unit camp was cancelled; and yet we have a warrior who has spent over three months under canvas in the wilds of Chobham—but how his pockets jingle!

Stray Thoughts for our Thinkers.—Patrick Weir: A bachelor is a man who looks before he leaps—then stands still.

"B" Brennan: Two bores make one wild.

Tusky Holt: Love is that glorious feeling that only the altar can alter.

Fagin Cooper: The Lord help those who help themselves!

Sammy Kerr: Women's "pasts" usually begin with presents.

Bobbie K. Fox: Eve came after Adam, and has been after him ever since.

Old Soldier Warwick: A duck is a bird that goes under water for divers reasons and comes up for sundry purposes.

Clara (Sonning Common): Most men are more for getting than for giving.

Arrivals.—From No. 3 Company, Signalmen Hawcroft, Carr, Waterston, Cates and Green. We extend the glad mitt to them.

Courses of Instruction.—L/Corpl Waters W. G. has gone to the Army School of Education, Shorncliffe. Egypt Signals and *Frimley Herald*, please note,

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High Society Blues (News).—[It is with great pleasure that I introduce a new feature to our notes. Let's go!]

The Continent has not claimed many of our distinguished residents so far. The particularly hot and sultry summer (ahem!) has been responsible for many chills and depressions, so that many stay behind to glory in the refreshing rains of autumn in England rather than face the inglorious sun of the Riviera.

Some five of our local celebrities have departed to another of their country or town houses. S. Walter-Roberts can now be seen moving (complete with yachting cap) among the yachts moored up for the winter at Cowes (p'raps Pompey). Tommy Tusky-Holt is at present recovering from an arduous summer programme amid the glories of Lancashire, a village near Preston. Rumour has it that Lady Clara Lorelli-Cobb, of Sonning Common, Reading, is much concerned about his health, as his remaining tusk is due for extraction before his intended trip to the Judean plains can take place. William Lansdowne Paget-Brennan can be seen, complete with super(fluous)charged Austin Seven, in the environments of Blackdown, where he has a summer house beautifully situated amid pine trees and artillerymen. Eric Warwick-Warwick has departed to the moors of Yorkshire, to put his house in order before sailing to India to relieve the financial situation there. No doubt, his short business trip will be occupied in amending the various rules and regulations. P. Sidney-Harris, who recently acquired the Farnham Roadster from our great wheeler Gordon H. Cooper, has completely overhauled and retuned this famous model. His marriage to a well known society girl of London is to take place before the publication of these notes, and it is thought that the Farnham Roadster will now be renamed the Ash Vale Coaster, and that its past glory will for ever fade beneath its new coat of Robialic.

We are pleased to announce in these columns that the services of one of our distinguished residents, the Mayor of Ash Vale, have at last come before the public notice in a sphere quite distinct from the rest of his activities. As inspector of aerials for the Southern Area, Ash Vale, the title conveys to many his activities in this new and interesting departure. Already, several old inhabitants have been grateful for his services ; many portable sets have been made non-portable, and many non-portables have become portable (visits to the local wireless doctor have assisted in this—many visits making it a complete portable). In a recent interview with the Mayor, who employs a portable typewriter (the property of another) to record all conversations, our correspondent gathered that as inspector of aerials, he hoped in the near future to make it compulsory for all in his district to erect aerials.

In his last lecture, he pointed out the glaring fact that if all residents erected aerials, it would completely eliminate the unsightly fowl-houses which are a great eyesore in the district of Ash Vale, as fowl houses and aerials don't agree—for the obvious reason that any such obstruction is likely to obliterate the incoming wave with disastrous results. The result of this lecture was amazing. Fowl houses, clothes lines, etc., have all disappeared, and aerials of various types have taken their places. Well done, Mayor!

The Mayor has asked for the return of one packet of thoroid electrons—maker's name on the back of each. The finder will be suitably rewarded with free advice on really modern aerials.

Sunshine Sketches of our Community: No. 9.—Bobbie K. Fox (by Never out of Pocket). A handsome colt, built on modern lines. Is known in local society as the Lounge Lizard, and east of Suez as Swire Gingin. Should do well in the mopping-up stakes. Backers should bet warily on him until the Budget is definitely settled, as eightpence per pint is a farcical weight for him to carry to victory. Handicapper Snowden, please note and amend. His trainer is preparing him for the R.A.S.C. hop, and inside information will be supplied at a reasonable cost to all interested in this big sporting event.

To Dinky Pitman, S.M.P., Shanghai, from Sam Davies: Congratulations! Then size six feet are allowed. W.G.B.

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—We have now overcome the extra bit of buffing which was required for the annual inspection by the G.O.C. 1st Division on October 2nd. Unfortunately, we were very short of men, having approximately half on furlough and draft leave ;

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nevertheless, an excellent report was given by the General, as he was very satisfied with all that he saw.

An old sport, commonly known as pokey drill, has been revived again in this Company (and others, too, we believe). It can be played with any number of men and is terribly exciting (eh, what?) The C.S.M. usually decides on the players (he decided that we two apprentice scribes should play, anyhow!) It has been fairly good up till now, we having made use of the miniature range and incidentally found some dark horses.

Appointment.—Sigmn Craggs T. to the unpaid bar. We congratulate you, Ginger, and hope this time you will have better luck.

Courses.—Up to the time of writing, the following have been allotted vacancies varying from a scrounge to hard graft:—L/Cpl Renton to Brighton for six months with the G.P.O. L/Corporal Gibbs to Catterick for training as a spouter at drill and musketry (don't go off the throat tablets, Daphne). L/Corpl Pullen to Feltham with the R.A.S.C. for an M.T. instructor's course. Signalman Lewis J. to Woolwich on a cycle repair course. We hope all will succeed in learning their stuff.

Marriage.—Our latest check parade dodger is Corpl Stone, who was married recently at Farnborough. Bear up, Jack. May all your troubles be little " pebbles."

This Month in the Garden.—If your celery is backward, bend it forward (please note, Stan).

National Economy.—A certain Scotsman of this Company is contemplating hiking to his next unit and sacrificing his fare to the pay n.c.o. for return through the usual channels to the regimental paymaster.

Agony.—Blanco would very much like to hear from Charlie Cummings, believed to be in India. What about it, Charles?

Things We Want to Know.—Has anyone in Mons Barracks seen Algy? (it *was* rumoured that he had commenced his winter vacation). What is the correct formula for the cook-house tea? What is Siberian distemper?

Obituary.—All ranks of No. 1 Company offer their condolences and deepest sympathy to Sergt Mackie A. in his recent bereavement. BLAKBRY.

Wait a Minute.—I believe Blak of the above has now to journey each evening to a remote little spot somewhere near Frensham. May I publish the following for his information:—Owing to the number of names on the waiting list, some considerable time will elapse before admission to the married quarters roll is authorised. BRY.

No. 2 Company.

General.—The G.O.C.'s inspection took place during the month, and everything passed off o.k. The Company secured a good chit and were congratulated by the O.C. (Captain B. D. Willoughby) on the way the men had worked to make the inspection a success, special mention being made of the Artillery Sections. A great sigh went up to Allah when it was all over, and the troops breathed freely again.

Musketry is now on, and we hope to have quite a full Company of first class shots after our visit to Ash ranges next week.

Sport.—The inter-unit cross-country running has commenced, and the Company did not do too well on the first outing. The first leave party arrived back, and a great change immediately took place, the score being brought down by half in the last run. Driver Hempshall was an easy first. We hope to maintain this improvement.

Draft.—Some thirty-eight men of the Company have been notified that their services may or will be required during the present trooping season. Sergt Johnson already having been given a " date," he sails for India on the 24th November.

Courses.—Drivers Borrows, Batley, Jones and Robinson have now commenced a " voc " at Aldershot, in preparation for their return to civvy life. We hope they will be a success. LULU.

No. 3 Company.

General.—So many of our students being on leave, it is difficult to find sufficient scandal to enlarge upon.

The past month has given us a little excitement in the visit of the G.O.C. 1st Division. What remained of the Company

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was divided up into small groups and handed out the portfolios, to wit, those of the house decorators, distemperers and cleaners, gardeners and turfers, fencers and weed-shifters, and last (but not least) horse polishers.

One must congratulate them on the excellent results obtained. One regrets, however, the dissolution of these posts owing to the funds petering out. However, other positions have been found for these drones and workers, and we are all one big and happy family once more.

A devastating plague which smites us once a year is upon us. There is no cure. This vile scourge is known and feared in many lands. It is scientifically known as " musketree "—sometimes as " pokeedrill." Whatever its name, it eventually leaves you marked either first, second or third, depending on how many pals you have at the butts. At the moment the n.c.o.s are being initiated into the peculiarities of the plague. They will pass them on to the recruits ad lib.

We are looking forward to some new arrivals from Catterick this month—providing, of course, that they don't get snowed up before that date.

All other fronts being quiet, we have nothing further to report.

Birth.—Congratulations to L/Corpl Marler on a son and heir, " Simon called Peter." His Morse code lessons begin shortly. The aforementioned daddy's chest expansion has considerably increased. SNIKLE.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

The only excuse I can offer for writing these notes is that I've just bought an expensive fountain pen—half-a-crown!—and that the chap who usually writes them (under compulsion) is on draft leave and cannot be " compulsed."

As inspections are as the slave-chains about our necks, I'll tell you something of them. On Thursday, October 15th, we were inspected by several different combinations of the alphabet (I wonder who invents those initials). The A.D.R. inspected our horses, and with him were several more A's to Z's. I do not know the result of the inspection, but we are all still free men—when we have time, that is.

The walls, floors and ceilings of our palatial hotel have been washed and scrubbed, and windows cleaned *and* broken. It is a shame to use the glistening white scrubbing brushes, etc., on such things as floors.

Whitewash is getting scarce, and there is a national shortage of the quick-drying stuff known as tar varnish, with which horses love to disguise themselves at the expense of the stable walls.

The mangers have been painted with aluminium: this is to give a metallic coating to the horses' stomachs, and so stop " over-hearing " between the Cable Section and A Section's wireless sets.

Our most persistent " whitewashers," the humble sparrows, are still assisting with their artistic black and white mottled effects on the roofs of the stables and garage.

Well! even " inspection wind " ceases, and the calm of annual furlough follows.

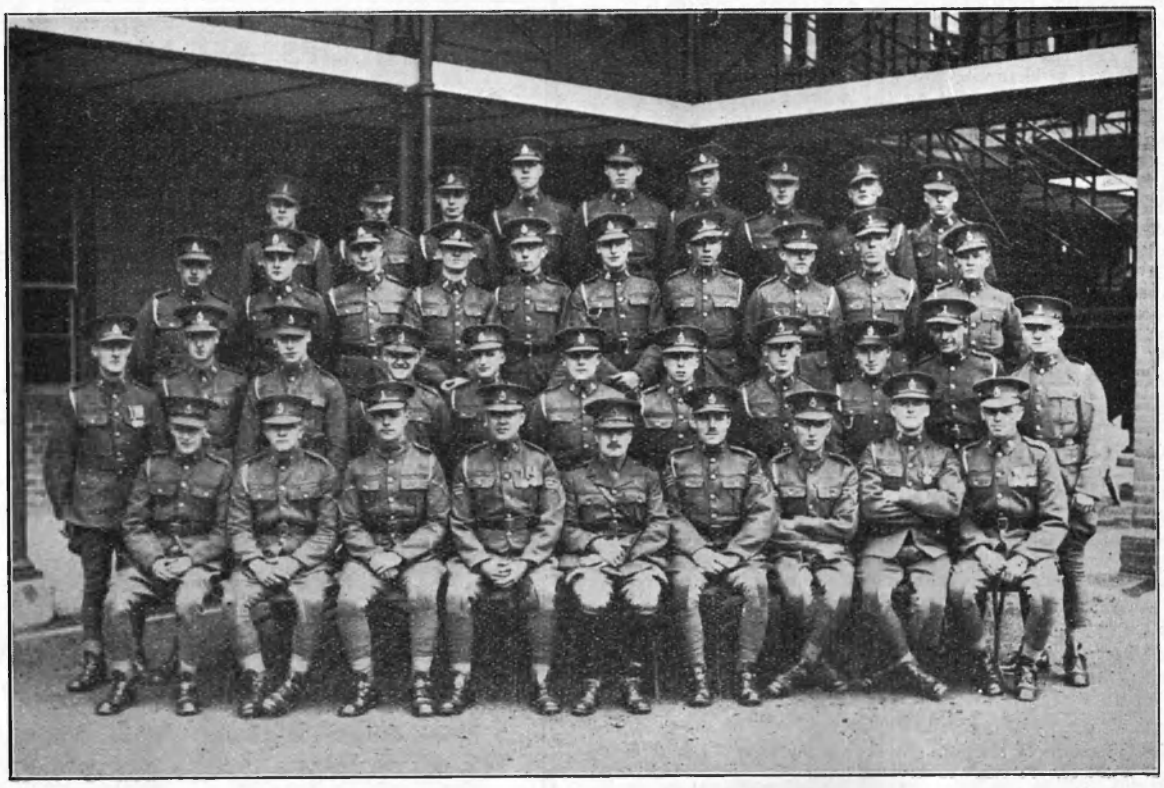
Arrivals.—Driver Preston arrived on September 28th, and is settling down nicely. He never knew that there was such a drivers' paradise as Aldershot, I'll bet! Just as well he did not.

Sigmn Barry arrived just in time for tea. His cup and saucer were waiting for him, and the sergt-cook had even changed his socks for the occasion. We are all very pleased to have him: and he came in the nick of time, as all our electricians have forsaken us.

" Young " Curtis arrived on September 25th, but Bill says Records had nothing to do with his posting. His age on arriving was nil, and it will take a long time for him to get his B.I. test and his first. I believe that he can shout up for his side, though Mrs. Curtis keeps his conduct sheet.

Musketry.—The annual musketry course is now a thing of the past. Our average might have been worse: I'll leave it at that. The weather was fine, but we were held up by mist on one day. At least one chap would have done just as well, firing in the mist: that is what he did—missed!

Drafts.—L/Corpl Hayden has left us for Gibraltar. We expect to see him any time now on a long week-end. Fancy being one



" F " Troop, Cavalry Divl Signals, September, 1931.

lone solitary insignificant soldier parading at six a.m. on the unit parade ground and being called a draft—at that time of the morning, you feel one!

Signalmen Richardson, Guest, McDougall, Brown and Turrell dashed off on furlough, on the glad news being received that they are sailing on November 24th. Signalman Richardson is waiting man for India, to which happy land Signalmen Guest, McDougall and Brown are going. Sigmn Turrell is going to the orange groves of Sarafand.

As my new and expensive fountain pen is running dry, and I am getting ready to dash off on furlough myself, I likewise dry up—with the pious hope that there is a nice little billet in India for me.

V. DOG.

No. 3 Company.

Arrivals.—There are too many to mention individually, but we welcome them all to the Company.

Postings.—Sergeant Hammond to the 56th (1st London) Divl Signals, T.A. Corpl Ravenhall to Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Transferred to Army Reserve.—Sigmn Holmes T. and Driver Fitzgerald—two more to unbalance the Budget!

Obituary.—Although late, it is with deep regret that we announce the death of Sigmn Cockran from the results of injuries sustained on Brigade training. Always of a cheerful disposition, he was greatly liked by all members of the Company.

Marriage.—Sigmn Martin W. blissfully joined the ranks of the benedicts, and is not yet too tired to carry his rations home.

Musketry.—Having fired the annual course, muscle exercises are forgotten ; but one of the senior n.c.o.s is still confident that the marker made a mistake: he couldn't have fired on the next target—it was impossible to do such a thing.

Drafts.—Already some are finally warned ; others are still hoping that they may be missed.

G.O.C.'s Inspection.—As this does not take place until after these notes are sent away, next month's notes will contain a full report on same.

Recreational Training.—Although this is not the name by which it is generally known, we mention under this heading the valiant efforts of one of the Company who, forsaking all other pleasures, decided to join in the first cross-country run. Arrayed in football jersey, long pants, cap, comforter and gloves, he managed to get a clear start of the rest ; but having the knowledge that his killing pace would no doubt upset all the rest, he sportingly let ninety-one others finish in front of him—just to prove how easy it really is. With stiff joints and aching limbs, he is carrying on—but, oh! his language when he found there was no escalator at Ash Vale!

To the Scribe.—Having been elected to the post of Chief Scribe at the Cambridge Hospital, we notice the absence of Woodbine ash that caused that extra sweep for Jimmy—who now finds the relief from this worry a great help.

Room 1, No. 31 West, has always been noted for its songsters: Corncrake, Back and others since departed—but ne'er a one sang like our present "Singing Fool" in the corner. We often wonder if, in his Scottish past, he ever edited "The Happy Mag."?

To Stinker.—We often wonder how some people fall for barmaids. Some say it's the good beer ; others, the good looks—but the fact of being a good conversationalist has never been an excuse. Still, we give you credit for trying ; but why go to Reading to try the same gag there? Woolaton Park is safer, and "one home one away" is not always a safe bet.

Rumours (denied).—On being asked how they would like to make history, a certain Mechanised Section in the Company (so rumour has it) were heard to reply: "Hand the lorries over to the Q.M. ; we'll march to Windsor."

The Biscuit.—Without any question, we hand it to the three operators of No. 1 Company who were mistaken for Guardsmen; but we would like to know the tale they told to the budding female operators, and what part of "Signal Training" this comes in.

S.O.S.—To Macker: The thought of your number being behind is helping me along to the finish. Roll on. H.H.

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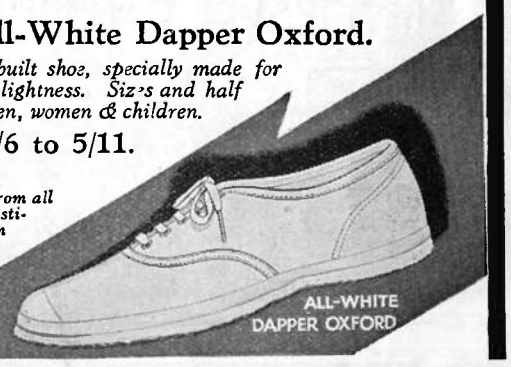

Finis.—On a stroll through the barrack blocks, we find dry scrubbers being accidentally mistaken for hand scrubbers ; but as we know what it's all about, we pass on. THREECO.

After-Thought.—As this month's biscuit is already awarded, we dip into the funds for an extra one for the new arrival who, hearing of a man being on a vocational course, wanted to know if he could apply for one. There's nothing like doing it in time.

F Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth.

General.—The training season over, we now turn our activities to individual training. Already, several members of the Troop have taken out their Parts I. and II. and have commenced to delve deep into the mysteries of those theories which, if remembered, serve to gain those extra ackers.

Two of our number have departed for a six months P.O. course: Signalmen Allen C. and Oliver U. have gone to the G.P.O. at Bristol. Don't start painting the town red, Ginger ; remember the jews' course.

Weapon Training.—Having gathered together with the object of making a big bang, we hied away to the Sidbury Hill ranges, where we took unto ourselves many rounds of ammunition and commenced to annihilate the targets. The standard of shooting was very high, and the Troop average was just over 63 out of a possible 95—twenty-five first class shots, three seconds and no third-raters. We have opened all the windows ; the road to Bisley is not so rocky, after all.

The shooting spoon presented by the O.C. for the best individual score, open to n.c.o.s and men who had previously fired on an open range, was won by L/Corpl Norton with a magnificent score of 84 ; while the spoon open to those who had only fired on the thirty yards range at the S.T.C. was won by Sigmn Mills with a score of 70.

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The shooting spoons were presented to the winners by Lieut.-Colonel A. L. I. Friend, M.C., commanding the 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) who congratulated L/Corpl Norton and Sigmn Mills on their good shooting, and spoke highly of the Troop and its achievements during the past training season.

Service Overseas.—Our numbers in the way of old faces will soon be sadly depleted, as several are due to carry out that time-worn adage of "Join the Army and see the world." Signalmen Cullen, Kinsey and Percival are under orders to sail for India on November 24th, and are at present enjoying their draft furlough. The following have been provisionally warned for embarkation some time this trooping season:—L/Corporals Malvern and Shove, Signalmen Atmeare, Constantine and Crebbin for India; Sigmn Stringer for Aden; and last, but not least, Sigmn Mills for China. Mills, by the way, holds the honorary title of mate and refuses to relinquish it on departure.

Indian Signals, Please Note.—Another hardened Frontiersman has taken the plunge. L/Corpl Norton (Badgy) was married to Miss Julia Mullen at Odiham on August 12th. The record from Shipton Bellinger is on the verge of being broken.

New Arrivals—Congratulations are offered to C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) and Mrs. V. G. Rushworth on the birth of a daughter (Margaret Anne) and to Sergt and Mrs. N. Woodcock on the birth of a son (John Lawrence).

Departure.—Sigmn Long P. to A.F.V. Signals for vocational training, prior to discharge early next year. Another of the founder members goes west!

Annual Inspection.—The Troop took part in the annual inspection of the 11th Hussars on September 25th, and now parades as the third Troop of Regimental Headquarters. The inspection commenced with a regimental dismounted parade on the square, when the Brigadier of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade was received with the general salute. After the inspection, Brigadier Blackiston-Houston bade farewell to the regiment, as his command was due to terminate on October 4th. We then marched past the Brigadier, and stood to our beds while our barrack-rooms were inspected. The Brigadier complimented Lieut. C. G. Moore on the latter.

Troop Photograph.—This shows all Royal Signals personnel and 11th Hussar M.T. drivers. Among the founder members (born 1929, and still going strong) are Lieut. C. G. Moore, Royal Signals, L/Corpls Choulerton and Norton, Signalmen Garrett, Long, Shufflebotham, Barber and Darlington, and Tpr Stewart.

It may interest ex-members of the Troop and others to know that the photograph was taken by ex-Corpl More A., who is now married and has set up in business as a watchmaker and photographer in the Tidworth Garrison market.

Things We Want to Know.—What tempted an n.c.o. to say: "Wot do yer think they tacked that extra bit on the ground-sheet for, eh? So you can stretch your legs out on lying load?"

Who wandered aimlessly about, with a wall-eyed stare, muttering "Where's my soap?" and found it stuck on his back?

Who is the young signalman who found it possible to go moonlight hiking less the unexpired portion at Rushall, and now waits at Hampsh.re Cross to see the Salisbury Plain Area welter-weight "champ" doing road work? Ask Rosie: she could tell us a lot.

Why C. Ram Charles (A.F.V.) prefers the ferneries, and is always so modest? I wonder why they believe him?

Correspondence.—To Bill Price (ex-rat) last heard of at "A" Company S.T.C. (India): Screw me down a corner bed; arriving February. Mutt Push.

To Sigmn Cole S. W., A Corps Signals, Karachi—from L/Cpl Norton and Sigmn Coles (45A): Why not get the saddler to put a few more holes in your belt and risk it, or go the whole hog? and has Raja Ram still got the book open at Loralai?

TROOPER F.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—We made a resolution on the 1st January to see ourselves in the Magazine each month, but we managed to "miss the boat" last month—and I shall put it down to the strenuous times of unit and higher training, and hope it will not occur again.

We knew there were one or two of our old 3rd Divites (now serving in distant climes) looking forward to a few words from the old unit; but they know how things move on the Plain at this time of the year, so I'm sure the poor old scribe will be let down lightly.

Once again the unit was commended for the communications provided and maintained during manœuvres; and here we must mention the good work carried out by the mechanised layer and improvised Cable Section lent by 2nd Divl Signals.

We seem to have been hit very hard by Mr. Records for drafts this year. There are about a hundred and twenty-five already warned for the boat. If they all go—and when their replacements arrive—we shall have nearly a new unit compared with last year at this time. Still, there are one or two of the old hands left on the inventory to help shape the new chums for their various jobs. Let's hope those who are leaving us will always remember the good times they had with us and keep the flag flying.

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

Our C.O. has parted company with us for a little while for a course at the Senior Officers' School, and the command of the unit has devolved upon Major E. W. J. Hobkirk.

The time has once again arrived for inspections, and the G.O.C. is carrying out his on October 26th. Let's hope we shall get as good a chit as last year.

Although our time has been taken up with schemes, etc., since our last appearance in the Magazine, we managed to compete with success in the Southern Command transport competition—winning the first prize for L.G.S. wagons and horses (see points shown below).

The annual musketry course was fired in fairly good weather in the early part of October. The weather and pokey drill must have had a good effect, for the unit average was 57.15 for three hundred and thirty men. Sigmn Lambert was the best shot, having a score of 90, and there were several good runners-up.

The first period of individual training has now started, about fifty men of No. 2 Company doing their best to obtain a few more pence in these difficult times.

The men warned for draft have gone on furlough, so the high pressure continues.

Soccer, rugby, hockey and cross-country have just started. The teams are shaping well, and we hope to have a successful season. In cross-country we have many gaps to fill, but one or two promising youngsters have already been spotted, and if we can manage a Company run once a fortnight, we should fill up all right. We have no stars at soccer or rugger, but both teams should do well. The hockey side is mainly old hands, and with the players available we should do well again in the Command this year.

I hear we are for the Big Dig again shortly, and we hope to get a practice ground out of the Pimple some time in the near future.

We have also been able to effect some improvements in the dining and recreation rooms lately—all the table tops in the former now being of white enamel, and in the latter half a dozen new arm chairs have been installed. We have also installed a W/T set working a speaker there, and one in the restaurant.

Southern Command Transport Competition.—Winning team:—Corpl Ray, Sigmn Ward, Driver Bull, and pair. The points were made up as follows (possible 100, as shown by figures in parentheses):—

3rd Divl Signals—	
Grooming and trimming (25)	24
Shoeing (10)	10
Condition (20)	20
Personnel (10)	9
Harness (20)	17½
Wagon (15)	14—94½
2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade	87
2nd Battalion K.R.R.C.	83
1st Battalion Oxford and Bucks L.I.	82

Marriages.—Sergt Green F. to Ellen Stretton, at Clowne, Derbyshire, on August 28th. Sigmn Richardson A. to Marion Ethel Waltho, at Grantham, on April 19th.

To Army Reserve.—Sigmn Clayton F. on September 4th, Sigmn Fisher J. on the 13th, Sigmn Greaves F. on the 16th, and L/Corpl Cogger on October 5th.

Departures.—Sigmn Moore S. to School of Signals, 12/9/31. L/Corpl Boniface E. to Training Battalion, 22/9/31. C.Q.M.S. Tilford C. embarked for Jamaica Signal Section, 16/9/31. Sergt Hodges R. to A.F.V. Signals, Tidworth, 1/10/31. Signalman Northway N. to 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, 8/10/31.

Arrivals.—L/Cpl Collett L. from Training Battalion, 22/9/31. C.Q.M.S. Thorpe J. from Southern Command Signal Company, 28/9/31. Signalmen Verrian E. and Waite F. from Training Battalion, 8/10/31.

Appointment.—Sigmn Bain A. to be A/L/Corporal (unpaid), 1/9/31.

Service.—Driver Ashford T. is allowed to serve for a further period of one year beyond twenty-one years, 10/9/31.

Promotion.—L/Sergt Pack E. to be Sergeant w.e.f. 11/8/31.

Re-Engagements.—To complete twenty-one years: Sergeant Tinsley and L/Sergt Gladwell T., 24/9/31. L/Sergt Child C., 30/9/31. L/Corpl Hipwood S., 7/10/31.

BY APPOINTMENT BY APPOINTMENT

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No. 1 Company.

Marriages.—Our heartiest congratulations to Sigmn Wilson on the occasion of his marriage to Alice Maud Amos, at the West Bromwich Register Office, on October 6th.

Birth.—To Corpl and Mrs. H. A. Varley (late of Peshawar District Signals) a son (Frank Dennis) at the Married Families Hospital, Colchester, on September 23rd.

Agony.—To Jock Hutch, A Corps Signals, Karachi: George is anxious to know if he is bound for the old homestead.

If Palmer and Pickle, of the Depot Battalion, will communicate with Liz, of "the Wooden Dollie," they will hear of something to their advantage.

The Mad Mullah would very much like to have a sample of handwriting from Ken Boobier and Sigmn Gladwin, late of the 4th Div.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to Signalmen Merrit, Brown, Goodall, Pilkington, Tolson, Handley and Lowe, from the S.T.C., and Sigmn Northway from the 3rd Div., Bulford.

Departures.—Sergt Jones and Signalmen Roden and Pettit are due for Sarafand on November 28th. C.Q.M.S. (F-of-S) Ramsdale is warned for Mauritius, and Sergt Wells for Egypt. Signalmen Ryan, Jamieson and Ekin sail for the land of the lurking death, and we have a deuce of a lot more going to the Indian Riviera.

No. 2 Company.

General.—"Give me 18 o.p." "18 o.p. speaking." "Clear the line, —— you." "What the —— are you doing on this circuit?" "Hello! 18 o.p. speaking." "Stop that infernal buzzing." These are but a few of the very frequent expressions heard during the Company's hiking expeditions—one may even go so far as to say, at times swimming galas—during the late but industrious training season; but, thank heaven, these are now just dim memories of the clouded past.

Though the season ended with typical English summer weather, I think I am permitted to express the feelings of the Company in general by saying that the training periods and concentrations, on the whole, were an absolute success.

The Sections have now returned to give themselves an overhauling—particularly in body—in preparation for the concentrations at Larkhill in the New Year. The Company was at full strength for a while. I say, a while, for now the furlough season has hit us with a vengeance, as there are a number of old faces on the lists for drafts this trooper who have to go on furlough this month, together with others; consequently, the Company is now sadly depleted in numbers. Those remaining behind have had no time to think of the lucky fellows who are "telling ye tale," their attention being fully occupied with pairs and sets.

The November batch for furlough is now very near, but it has been hard to find personnel wishing to go on furlough this month. I wonder why. When I went round with pencil in one hand and paper in the other, seeking clients for the November furlough, I was repeatedly told "I don't want leave in November." Shall I get the same replies when I "go the round" in December? I doubt it.

2/Lieut. E. J. C. Harrison left us on October 1st to undergo instruction in M/T. at Aldershot. The Company's best wishes for success go with you, sir.

Captain V. C. Holland, our Company commander, has left us for fourteen days on a well-earned holiday.

Unit Mounted Sports.—The Company did exceedingly well at the unit mounted sports, held here on September 29th and 30th. The commander of the 17th Field Brigade R.A. highly commended the turn-out of F Section's telephone wagon, which gained first place. It was, indeed, a sparkling show. Sigmn V. Powell, of F Section, gained first place for the best individual jump, the same Section winning second place in the Section team jumping, whilst Driver E. Redman, of E Section, won the pair jumping in magnificent style.

Sigmn Powell winning the Jumping Event.

Driver E. Pashley won the Neale cup, for driving, for G Section. F Section took top points for the best turned-out mounted men, their entrants filling second and third places respectively. Flying colours went to F Section for the best cable wagon four-horse team turn-out, who were also good runners-up in the four-horse team driving. G Section were second in the cable wagon four-horse team turn-out.

The inter-communication race was won by F Section, but though points for this were not counted towards the inter-Section trophy, there was great competition amongst the teams which entered, causing loud shouts from amongst the spectators.

For detailed results of the sports, see the Sports Notes.

Trooping.—Sigmn Peters H. P. is due to embark for Sarafand on November 28th. Signalmen Brett H. G. and Blake H. have been warned to embark for India on November 24th. Sergeant New F. H., L/Sergt Golder L., Corpl Crowe F., L/Corporals Bishop J. W. and Connor G. L., Signalmen Gartery J. E., Jelly S., Sedgwick C., Topping G. and Ward E. C. are mentioned in orders for India. Drivers Pashley E. and Hall J. for Egypt. Signalman Beresford W. L. for Malaya. Sigmn Oakey F. D. for China.

Arrivals.—Mr. Records has favoured us with four new arrivals from the Training Battalion S.T.C.: Signalmen Vickers J., Clark J. J., Williams B. and Walker W. It is hoped that their stay with this Company will be long and happy.

Congratulations.—To L/Corporal Spencer R. B. A., of this Company, on being selected to play for the Army versus the Spartan League, at Aylesbury, on October 15th. To C.Q.M.S. Kendall A. G. on being classified operator line, group B, class i.

Agony.—To Ray and the Gang: $\frac{4^{ii}.}{10}\ \frac{11}{1}$ Sez them, Sandy.

To Tim: Haven't you been to Chatfield's yet?

Audaces Fortuna.—L/Cpl Scrase R. has extended his present term of service to complete eight years with the Colours and four with the Reserve, having decided that the Army of to-day is all right.

No. 3 Company.

The Company is just settling down after the training season, J and L Sections having returned from Shorncliffe and Dover respectively.

The Horse Show took place on September 28th and 29th, and we were successful in the following events:—Neale cup: 2nd, Driver Morton (L Section); 3rd, Driver Brooks (J). Best turn-out, mounted man: L/Corpl Watson (J) on "Shrapnel." Best L.G.S. turn-out: Driver Brooks (J). Wrestling on horseback: 1st, J Section. Best pack pony turn-out: Sigmn Roberts (K) with "Kabul."

Eighteen recruits have joined us from Catterick, and are now under instruction for their B.iii. rating.

Sport.—The Section Hockey and Football Leagues have now started, and we have so far been successful. Results: J beat H by 2—1 at football; K beat F by 2—0 at hockey; L beat B by 3—1 at football.

Annual Mounted Sports.—The annual mounted sports took place at Colchester on September 29th and 30th, and were an unqualified success, both as regards the quality of the turn-outs and the performances in the jumping and driving.

An innovation was the open handy hunter competition, which attracted thirty-nine entries and thirty-seven starters from the Cavalry, Gunners, Regiments and the district. Fortunately, we have an ideal venue for this type of event, there being a natural lane and avenue adjoining the paddock. The course, which was in most respects natural, took some two months to build.

From the thirty-seven starters in the preliminary round, eleven were left for the final on the second day, and of these, four were Signals officers: Capt. M. V. Smelt, Capt. L. B. Nicholls, Lieut. C. D. Gardiner and Lieut. J. H. L. Crichton.

In the final, Captain Nicholls, after an otherwise clean round, hit the wire at the stile and took third place.

The paddock reminded one of a large horse show with all the visitors, their horses and grooms, and presented an animated appearance. In all the jumping events, a large clock face with one hand was used to indicate faults. This proved a great success from the point of view of both competitors and spectators.

Congratulations to B Cable Section on their really fine effort in winning the inter-Section mounted trophy—a great performance in the teeth of very keen and close competition. Sigmn Powell, of F Section, is to be congratulated on winning the jumping with only one fault—an excellent display of horsemanship.

Another innovation was the inter-communication race, which thrilled spectators, both military and civilian. A signal office was erected in tent shelter. Four-horse teams, cable and telephone vehicles had to gallop to a flag, erect a pole crossing, and gallop on to a distant signal office; a message was handed in, morsed to the far station, received and handed over to a cyclist orderly, who pushed his trusty steed some 240 yards over grass and handed over to a motor-cyclist D.R.; he in turn returned to the distant office, handing over his message to a horse D.R., who galloped with it to the finish.

The " Cloch " Indicator used to show the number of faults at the Jumping Events.

Our professional cyclist found his Government cycle rather a tough proposition, but he managed to push it a little faster than the rest.

The excitement was so intense that it was difficult to keep the spectators behind the ropes, and the cheering was reminiscent of a football match.

F Section won this race, with B Cable second. The outstanding feature was the accuracy with which the message was received by the operators.

The Neale driving cup produced some very fine driving before Driver Pashley, of G Section, carried it off.

Special mention must be made of the party who had been drilled to erect jumps, clear the arena, etc. They had to erect three different courses and clear them during the afternoon, and this they did without there being a single hold-up or delay.

The organisation of the whole afternoon reflects great credit on them and R.S.M. Beattie, and also on Captain Nicholls, who was responsible for all the arrangements.

A very pleasant event which all will remember. Detailed results of the sports will be found in the Sports Notes.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

General—Alas! summer has come at last, for we are enjoying sunshine and warmth—rare things for this part of England, but nevertheless welcome.

Annual musketry has come and gone, and an improvement is shown on last year. The unit marksman at Scarborough is L/Corpl Manning L., with a score of 88. Well done!

We were glad to see notes from G Section at Catterick. Keep it up! But what have Egypt Signals done? Grock, come on; we are interested.

Winter training has commenced with a B.iii. class of operators under Sergt Minion, and they are settling down o.k.

An all rating operating class has been formed, for increasing speed, legibility and accuracy, with practice for two hours daily.

A unit " drag " has been obtained for taking the children to school daily; and, by gum, they were all ready at 7.30 the first morning—full of excitement and brekka.

Congratulations to Corpl Daw (Reggie) and Miss Edith Cape, and to L/Corpl Cooper A. and Miss Louie Smith, on their marriages at Scarborough; also to C.Q.M.S. (Dub) and Mrs. Hales on the arrival of a daughter (Sheila Pamela) on September 17th, and to Sigmn and Mrs. Borrows on the arrival of a daughter (Elvira Pauline) on October 8th.

Salutations to Signalmen Coopers S. G., Vize H., Bywater E., Farley G. and Ditchfield J. on their appointment as A/U/L/Cpls.

[illegible] Musical [illegible] Scene [illegible] turning point. The [illegible] first [illegible] point speaking. Is [illegible] hand. We [illegible] used [illegible] to a man being observed walking about [illegible] the ranges. Dead men gather no moss.

Heard in the Butts.—" What's number three doing? [illegible] way?" —collapse of target.

Scotsman's Corner.—To Pip and Mrs. Pip, Trimulti. Congratulations and good wishes to you all. Am still two ahead of Pip, Dub and Mrs. Dub.

Three up and home to play. Bingo! A Corps, Karachi. Congratulations, Dub and Mrs. Dub (Dub's yer uncle scribe). From Collett—No news yet!

Late Press.—We congratulate the unit football team on splendid game against the P.W.O. Volunteers in the first round of the Army cup. We lost 2—3. Hard luck!

Congratulations are also bestowed on the Wednesday League eleven on winning the League [illegible] of Scarborough Athletic grounds. Handsome shields, for one year in the [illegible] ground.

[illegible] Kith (T.A.)—Sorry the battalion commander couldn't [illegible] going [illegible] and [illegible]; but what's it like, writing notes to a new table telegraph, etc.?

Sergeants' Mess.—A shooting cup and miniature were bought for the shoot at Scalby Beck ranges on Sunday, September 20th, and an ideal morning was spent. We were very pleased to see our C.O. and officers, who joined us in a pool shoot.

Sergts Minns C. and Minion W. tied for the cup and had to shoot off (shaky shoot off, eh!) Sergt Minion W. winning by one point. Well shot! a little piece of silver for civvy street, Charles.

The shoot consisted of two practices, lying in the open—deliberate at two and three hundred yards.

The successful scorers were Sergt Minns C., by Sergt Coles (George) and Gould (Arthur).

The monthly sealed handicap has commenced again, and Sergt Fegan C. beat Sergt Penfold A. in a real good final after our monthly dinner.

R.S.M. Hughes and C.Q.M.S. Moore (yes, Poney!) had a good game in the play-off for the highest break, and the bold lad from Bagdad ran out winner on potting the black. Nice refreshments, Poney!

Sergt Atkinson E. has left us for a spot of leave, prior to returning to the 52nd T.A. at Glasgow; and Jerry Fegan is off to Sarafand on November 28th per the *Nevasa*. Cally, he's calling at Malta for you, boy!

A social [illegible] our first this season—was held in the gymnasium on October 14th.

G Signal Section.

[illegible] Catterick Camp, October 18th.

General.—Though another month has rolled by, we have very little to put under this heading this month.

We have, however, two items of news sprung to mind. First, our O.C. (Lieut. Blaiklock) is arranging a series of football matches with the Batteries of the R.A. Though a third of the Section are on leave, we are confident of holding our own as in the previous year.

News item number two: Corpl Williams is enjoying himself with his long-faced chums in the stables, on that twice-yearly job of clipping. Nothing startling in that, you say. No, but ours aren't ordinary horses, as the old Sectionites know. But they are all the same to Big Bill, and former " teddy bears " are now looking like trimmed race-horses. I think the decrease in part is caused by a daily issue of mares.

Appointment.—Congratulations to L/Corporal Mattock on his appointment to that rank on the Corps roster.

Arrivals.—We welcome Drivers Picton and Woolveridge, from Scarborough, into our midst. A bit of a contrast, but Catterick is not too bad, is it, you drabbies?

Drafting.—The first of the season's sailings has arrived, and Sigmn Gibbons proceeds to India on November 14th. We wish him a good voyage and good luck during his tour in that great land of heat and holidays.

Strange but True.—First recruit (on cookhouse fatigue): "I wonder why the water near the edge of the boiler boils first?" Second recruit (a knowing lad): "Why, don't you know? The water near the edge is for the guard: they get their tea first."

YORKYSIGS.

Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

Victoria Barracks, October 13th.

I cannot but tender apologies for the absence of notes from this unit for the last six months. For practically the whole period, however, pressure of work has precluded any attempt at writing.

I think, therefore, that a short review of the whole training season would not come amiss. As usual, we started the season with Section training as often as lorries could be obtained from the R.A.S.C.—usually twice a week. On the whole, things went well and improved as the season progressed.

At the beginning of July, about half the Section joined the 1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and made their Signal Section up to full strength for the combined operations with H.M.S. *Warspite*. The ship embarked a composite battalion from the district and took them over to the neighbourhood of Glasgow, where they landed and fought with some skill and enthusiasm against a Scottish Territorial Brigade. I think all who participated in it enjoyed the outing very much. It was remarkable how all the signalmen—in fact, all ranks—seemed to be taking their cigarettes from "flat fifties" instead of tens when they returned.

My chronological order is wrong, I am afraid. I should have mentioned that the District small arms meeting took place at the end of June and, as usual, was a great success, even the weather being good. The lines we provided all worked well, and everybody seemed very happy about the communications. Incidentally, this would seem to be the place to mention that the prize for arms other than infantry, in the all comers cup, was won by Sigmn Ferry. This brought the meeting to a satisfactory conclusion for us, as there is no team competition for which we can enter.

In the middle of July, we went down to Ballykinlar again—this time for the Signal concentration. The weather was good, and everything went well. The speed test across Dundrun Bay—a competition amongst regimental Signal Sections—was won by the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders.

Flashlights from Ballykinlar.—Oh, I wonder! Yes, I wonder! Can Sergeant ---- give any explanation of Toney's refusing to function? Perhaps it was all the sand or the blade of grass. Nevertheless, our drivers will have to teach him (the quadruped) how to behave himself.

If I were a professor of mathematics, I would try, with the help of arithmetical, geometrical and algebraical progressions, to reckon up the huge profits made whilst we were at Ballykinlar. Who knows, it might be a negative quantity after Mac, Jock and Larry get their mitts in. Be that as it may, I know that Jose, Mona and Company can make a nice cup of cocoa—but, of course, the back entrance was not open to everybody.

One Sunday afternoon I managed to take a few nice snaps. The enemy captured the negatives, and since then neither Paddy nor myself can say "Boo!" I would like to send them for publication, but Chota objects.

Ten days after the return from Ballykinlar, we went out to Bohill Camp for three and a half weeks, for Battalion and Brigade training. Curiously enough, the weather was fine and we only had three days rain. What we did have, however, was very heavy indeed, and at one time looked like literally "washing out" the camp. The situation was saved by means of rum rations and the return of sunshine. The first fortnight consisted of Battalion training, during which time we finished our Section training. Everything ran well, and it looked as though we should do well on Brigade training. All the Brigade schemes were successful as far as communication was concerned. The A sets never failed once, and only one D.R. had a breakdown—and that a small one.

"We're happy when we're hiking." Yes, but not when we are aiking in every limb. One n.c.o. tells us he knows the number of stones between point 1066 and tent No. 9. Candidly, I believe him, for I can tell you the number of paces from cross-roads N.46 to the same tent. If we weren't hiking, we were eating; and if not eating, sleeping—or at least, trying to. The single men did manage to get to sleep about midnight, but the married pads suddenly discovered that they were in possession of two "bones, hip, G.S." One night the M.F.P.s searched the sergeants' tent for the A/C.S.M.'s double-headed penny. Just imagine keeping yourself in "Duncan's" for three weeks with but a single penny! What a swindle! Ask Tired Tim.

We returned from Bohill on September 8th. Life since then has been fairly quiet, as far as work outside the unit has been concerned. We have, however, fired our annual musketry course—with, I think, results slightly improved on last year.

Last in this general review of the summer is the fact that we have moved our offices, shops, W/T station and cookhouse. Those who used to be in the unit will be interested to hear that the new block is just behind that of the R.A.S.C. offices and is exactly the same inside as theirs. We are happy to have moved out of the huts. The new accommodation has been very well prepared for us by the Sappers, and we are very pleased with it.

Arrivals.—Signalmen Roberts and O'Flaherty from the Training Battalion. We hope their stay will be long and happy.

Departures.—Since the last notes Corpl Tilling has left the Service on medical grounds. L/Corpl Richards left for a very good job on a local newspaper. Sigmn Ferry was transferred to the Army Reserve in September, and he celebrated it by getting married. We wish all three of them the very best of luck in civilian life.

Birth.—To Sergt and Mrs. Reade, a daughter. We congratulate them—but what about a boy?

Hats Off!—To the scoundrel who had rum in his tea the morning after the night before. Some say it was our civilian driver; but believe me, or believe me not, Tired Tim knows more about it than you or I.

To the man who supplied the ammunition for the talcum battle fought in square G.3. Ask the man who went too far.

To the men not now required. Lucky dogs!

To Abe, for the patience with which he sewed on his first "dodger" one minute before he completed his "two."

To our hairy cave man. He doesn't know *it*, but some day he will.

To the lance-corporal clerk who can afford a motor-bicycle. No wonder I can't afford the pictures!

To Ginger for putting it over on the pay bloke (and the night before, he told me he was going to dump the bike in the incinerator!)

To Soapy, champion flycatcher of this unit.

To Tasch, the dashing D.R. of Bohill fame. He certainly saved the situation.

To the first class candidate who said "Gee! I know nothing about England, except that it has some coalfields and also the 'Pyrenees,' a chain of mountains running down the middle."

Trade Tests.—We sincerely hope that Signalmen Shepherd and Gallagher pass their trade tests and pocket the extra cash.

Congratulations—To O'B. on re-engaging to complete twenty-one years. May they soon roll on!

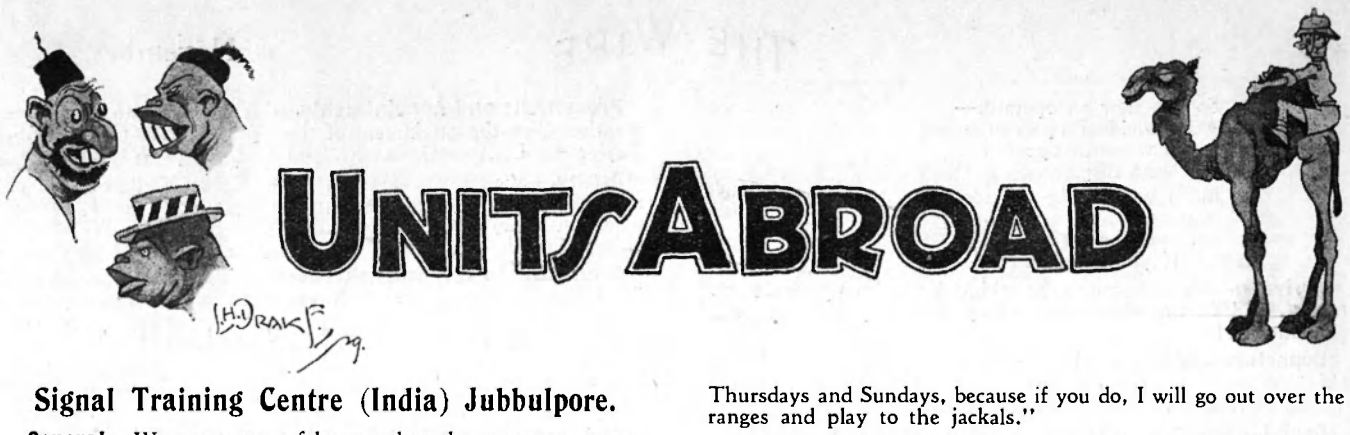
To Sigmn Wilson on extending to complete eight years. May he never regret it!

This Month's Tall One.—Non-com.: "Isn't there a vast difference in these headphones?" B.iii. operator: "Yes, I think the carbon in these must be damp."

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association?

IF NOT, JOIN NOW!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in finding civil employment. See how the Association helps its Members in that direction, as shown on page 434. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.



Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

General.—We can now safely say that the monsoon season is over, and at the present time we are perspiring in the " 'twixt and 'tween " season which precedes the cooler weather.

Many are sweating in quite another way, but by the time these notes appear in print, perchance they will be pleased to see land again. Our best wishes go with the following, due to leave Bombay on October 28th:—R.Q.M.S. Saunders, C.Q.M.S. McLean and Sergt Wish for discharge; L/Corpls Howard S., Carter E. A. and Youngs G. to Army Reserve; whilst the next two, Sergts Wooldridge and Stone, try a taste of civvy life with the T.A. Good luck to them all! may they never regret having left the Signals. Save me a place, Johnny.

Our usual fortnightly whist drives and dances now seem to be blooming after having survived the bad spasm due to the hot and wet seasons. Judging by the notices which are appearing everywhere, we are due for " some " entertainment: our star turn, " Steamboat " Chadderton, being in great demand for the fairy-like way in which he trips along the stone flags.

We have now got together an enthusiastic committee, comprising C.S.M. Adcock, Corpl Appleby (of " Dots and Dashes " fame), L/Corpl Harrison J. and Sigmn Clements. We are wondering who is going to supply the steps for the latter two to see over the whist tables. Ladies are requested to be careful when entering the hall. All it wants now to make our shows the best in the Station is the whole-hearted support of *every* married family.

Members of the Signals stationed in the Centre in 1926 and 1927 would be surprised if they were to return and gaze on the numbers of Foreign Legion who are flocking to our flag. Each six months sees fresh faces and fresh cap-badges.

Courses.—A number of our personnel have been taking a change of air during the past few months, and judging by the results, they have derived benefit in all ways.

A/U/L/Corpl Linton obtained a " good " certificate at the Army School of Cookery. U/L/Corpl Evans W. J. obtained a " P.I. " certificate at the Army School of Education. L/Corpl Harrison and Corpl Ellison qualified at a course of victualling with the I.A.S.C.

Education.—Midnight oil is being burnt, and many weird sounds are heard from those who are sitting at the October examinations. Pages are being feverishly scanned and formulæ muttered, so we trust we will have as good a result to publish in the near future as we had for the March examination. Good luck to you all! If you can't get it all at once, try it in bits. Who is " the last of the Barons," Buff?

Departures.—We bade farewell to R.S.M. McGregor on 19th September, when he departed for Peshawar District Signals on posting. Our loss is certainly Peshawar District's gain. We wish you the very best, sir, in your new station, and trust you retain pleasant memories of your stay in Jubb.

Another well-known figure is missed from our Company: after having shaved off his moustache, the powers realised his worth, and so Sigmn Fabian (Werp) proceeded to the 3rd Indian Divl Signals, Meerut, on September 19th. Jock now awaits the Indian mail so that he can read the serial story in a certain paper.

Promotions and Appointments.—It has been very quiet on that front lately. The only casualty to report is Corpl Grocott (Poona W/T Station) to be L/Sergeant, w.e.f. 21/6/31. A large number are waiting for favourable winds.

Sayings We Have Not Heard (location: M.Q.)—" I hope you don't mind my practising on my sax every evening and on Thursdays and Sundays, because if you do, I will go out over the ranges and play to the jackals."

Agony.—A slide trombone has arrived to take its place in our band. Will no one have pity on us?

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

September, 1931.

General.—The passing of September marks the end of the close season for inspections and big parades and the commencement of Section training. The daily drill parades have given way to weekly practice ceremonial parades, and the winter time-table is now in force. A selected few continue to study the aspects of chemical warfare, whilst others are engaged in the educational school, preparing for next month's examinations.

In the Sections there is much activity. The O. and M. Section now boasts a newly installed telegraph school, where frequent traffic schemes keep the operators in practice. Meanwhile, the linemen are busy in reconstructing the unit telephone system, and the D.R. Section continue to combine individual training with the maintenance of the local D.R.L.S.

The W/T Sections, as usual, do their own broadcasting. The hush-hush vans make many mysterious trips into the Sind Desert. Who knows, perhaps they seek the magic herb which will eliminate static! At home, they practise mast drill, and frequent and heated are the arguments as to the difference between a guy, a halyard and a stay.

Trade Qualifications.—The undermentioned are congratulated on their success in attaining the ratings shown:—Sergt Bishop, operator wireless i. Signalmen Knox R. and Shone G., operator signals i. L/Corpl Jones L. O. R., electrician fitter ii. L/Corpls Houghton H. and Brunton-Douglas J., Signalmen Knight C. H. and Welchman J., operator wireless ii. Signalmen Jones B. A., Hawkins A. S., Hewitt J., Smith H., Mountifield D. and Amos L., operator signals ii. Corpl Lambert J., Signalmen Fairhead F. and Green E. E. lineman ii.

A few continue to prepare themselves for the next Trade Board, which introduces the following verses on the plight of the recruit who wished to be a fitter but could not—as no vacancies existed—and was persuaded by the Trade Board to become an operator.

OP-CUM-FITTER'S LAMENT.

I should like to be a fitter—
A strong and massive fitter,
An overall-dressed fitter—
If you please.

But he said, My lad, we're crowded—
With these fitters simply crowded;
I cannot find (his forehead clouded)
Vacancies.

I suppose you want a hammer
(And he sighed) or p'raps a spanner;
Want to drive a big Hispan(er)—
Greasy slacks.

In a century, or twenty,
We may want you; we have plenty
Just at present—more than plenty:
We have lakhs.

There's a place for turned-down fitters—
For turned-down, browned off fitters;
For unambitious fitters,
There's a place.

So I'm now an operator—
A browned-off operator—
And I wear the operator
With disgrace.
But I want to be a fitter—
A strong and massive fitter,
An overall-dressed fitter—
If you please. —DE-HYPHEN.

Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold Major E. Humphries, M.C., D.C.M., and C.S.M. Weston H. May their stay in Akor be a pleasant one!

Departures.—Major P. A. Hitchcock, O.B.E., M.C., and Lieut. C. C. Worrall to 4th Indian Divl Signals, Trimulgherry. Lieut. W. D. Horniman to District Signals, Kohat.

Social.—One dance was held this month, and it took the form of a public farewell to the above officers. Their send-off was a true measure of the popularity they enjoyed whilst serving with us, and we are united in wishing them all the best in their new stations. Unfortunately, Lieut. Horniman could not attend, as he proceeded direct from Loralai, of which out-station he was in command. However, he was present in spirit. Kohat's gain is our loss.

Boat Club News.—The boat list is out, and this unit will be greatly depleted after the sailing of the *Somersetshire* and the *Dorsetshire*. The following are the lucky ones, and it will be seen at a glance that many great personalities are to bid us adieu.

Per the *Somersetshire*, 23/10/31—C.Q.M.S. Robertson J. and family, L/Sergt Cheverton, Sergt Nicholls and family, Corporal Lee, Signalmen Amos R., Leake, Hunt F., Gallery W., Usher S. and Cooper G.

Per the *Dorsetshire*, 22/11/31—Sergt McKee and family, L/Sgt Frost and family, Signalmen Dennis F., Wills R., Myers A. O., Bainbridge G., Innes G., Coles L., Tavlor J., Clarke E., Pearce R. J., U/L/Corpl Wood A., L/Corpl Ryalls W., U/L/Corporal Brophy J., Sigmn Brook G., Sergt Williams H., L/Corpls Funnel H. and Hockley B., U/L/Corpl Green J. J., Sergt Mills J., Sigmn Chitty W., L/Corpls Brunton-Douglas J., Houghton H., Gordon N. and King L., Sigmn Dyball W., U/L/Corpl Robertson J., L/Corpl Gibbons E. and Sergt Loton F.

On the departure of the above we lose a fine set of fellows, who gave of their best at work and play. At hockey, Gordon played for Sind in the Indian provincial trials for the Olympic team. Gibbons and Brunton-Douglas are two other stars, while Brophy, Dyball, Green, Robertson and Chitty proved themselves willing triers. At football, we lose three excellent players in Gibbons, Myers and Williams. However, we must not forget Brook, who has left his mark on the pitch for all time. Tennis loses Wills, Gordon, Ryalls, Clarke and Funnel; and cricket, Gordon, Gibbons and Wills.

The dance committee will have difficulty in replacing Hockley (who proved a willing worker and a splendid organiser) and the dance band its pianist, saxophonist and drummer in the persons of Myers, Wood and Gibbons.

Officials, too, deserve mention. Dyball has given yeoman service as football referee and cricket umpire, and, together with Wood, supervised most of the hockey games.

"BON VOYAGE."

Of late there's been a lot of talk and rumours in the air,
For there's expectations on those first two boats to sail;
Now, Orders give the list and many names are there—
Men who long have waited for the boat and Blighty trail.

But there's many of us here who, when they've gone, will feel
That there's something rather poignant about the word "Farewell";
But there are pleasant memories which from out the past will steal
As they return to us again in talks of "what befell."

They've helped us on to victory in scores of hard-fought games
On the many fields of the sporting world of Sind;
And they're the last of those who made for us that name
Of one of the finest units to be found in Northern Hind.

Thus, we will join in wishing all, from the bottom of our hearts,
Bon voyage, new prosperity, and all there is that's fine:
And in the good old British manner shake the hand, as each departs,
In the name of parting friendship and for the sake of Auld Lang Syne.

MURRIE STRAIGHT.

Promotions and Appointments.—We congratulate the undermentioned on the attainment of their present rank:—C.Q.M.S. Taylor A., L/Sergt Davies R., and U/L/Corpl Watson C.

Agony.—Should No. 2318575 Sigmn Duke E. (last heard of en route for Egypt) and No. 2319500 Sigmn Costello T. (somewhere in India) communicate with Sigmn Austin G. W. of this unit, they will both hear of something to their advantage.

Overheard in the Barrack Room.—"How does one sketch the 'Roaring Forties'"? "Arrers buss." DODGER J. J.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

September 26th.

General.—Once again I lay down my sword for the pen, and Edgar Wallace wonders if he can obtain the dole.

The unit are due for their annual camp at Hassan Abdul (one place over which Jack Hylton and his band have yet to see the skies) and in consequence a furrowed brow gradually appears on our worthy Q.M.

The relief for our W/T Station detachment at Drosh—consisting of L/Sergt Watt (this being his second spell), L/Corporal Fraser, Signalmen Shealer, Deighton, Blythe and Gregory (late of the Birmingham Shirt Works)—arrived safely, but only just so far as one member of the party is concerned, and took over.

By the time these notes appear to startle the world, L/Sergt Bremner, L/Corpl Ross (a puncher of haggis, as I have informed my readers before), Signalmen Funnell, Thomson, Hamer and the one and only Laird, will have returned to Rawalpindi from their twelve months sojourn in Drosh. I extend a hearty welcome to them all, and congratulate them on their good health during their absence from the unit (loud cheers greet this very stirring announcement).

Although we all look beautiful in our white patrol uniform, there is still one little thing to happen before certain members of our family will rest contented. When is the guard going to turn out under the impression that the Admiral of the Fleet has at long last arrived in the Sohan? However, for the sentry's sake I trust that the orderly officer is not in sight when this performance takes place.

Arrivals.—Since I last wrote to our Corps Magazine, we have received with open arms Sergt Walsh W. (our orderly room sergeant in the near future) from Kohat District Signals, and Corpl Slater from 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur. Like little gentlemen, we wish them all the best.

Departures.—In this column appears one name which it took some time to rub off the inventory: I refer to Sergt (Jigger) Lee, who has left us for 1st Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Risalpur. Our other losses are Signalmen Baxter and Bosten, who have shifted their kits over the road to 1st Divl Signals. We wish them luck in their new homes.

Promotions and Appointments.—The usual showers of congratulations are bestowed on the following:—Captain W. D. J. Harries, on his recent promotion to that rank. Sergt Taylor R. J. L., Corpl Howard (by far the best looking man in the unit), and L/Corpls Hills, Cowe, Fensome and Holloway, who now appear on the Corps roster.

Repatriations.—It is surprising how quickly the lists of individuals appear on this wonderful roll, especially when one's own name does not figure on it. The strains of nautical music strike one on all sides. Already orders have been issued regarding the following:—

Per H.M.T. *Somersetshire*, ex-Karachi, 23/10/31—For discharge, Sgt McCall and L/Cpl Russell J. For Army Reserve, Sigmn Catt (the one and only Moggie). For home establishment, Sergeants Collyer R. H. and Cole, Corpl Howard W. (see note in Appointments and Promotions), L/Corpls Fensome, Brand and Cowe, Signalmen Faraday, White, Macey, Gilder, Camp (no, not Harry of that ilk), and Hakesley. Vocational training, Corpl Hayler.

Per H.M.T. *Dorsetshire*, ex-Karachi, 22/11/31—For home establishment, L/Sergt Halls, Corpl Winton E., L/Corporals Moody, August, Pawsey and Winton F., Signalmen Price, Ranson, Burfield and Thomson L. For Army Reserve, P.C. (sorry! Sigmn) Simmons and Sigmn Goss.

Per s.s. *California*, ex-Bombay, 19/11/31—Sergts Hobby and Murphy, Corpl Wood, and Sigmn Cahill.

These fortunate coves will, of course, be accompanied by their wives and families. Corpl Wood, whose name appears above,

is to be congratulated on being selected for the permanent staff of the T.A. On arrival in the U.K. he is bound for 49th Divl Signals (T.A.) Leeds. Who can imagine our Chippy as a Saturday night soldier? I hope he will avail himself of the opportunity of looking up one or two old members of the Corps (particularly L/Corporals Hope and Tomkinson) and hand out the salaams in big licks.

Strange but True.—A certain individual (since returned from one of No. 2 Company's numerous out-stations) gave his companions a dog's life on the ground that he was due for Blighty this trooper. However, on looking through his A.B.64 he discovered, much to his chagrin, that he had to wait till 1932/33. Did the boys do their stuff? Well, just ask Rafferty (here's looking at you, Queen). BEKORE.

Peshawar District Signals.

September 16th.

General.—Summer is almost over, and it's now possible to enjoy a good night's sleep. The cold weather must be at hand, because the annual controversy re married quarters has been raging. The leave period is drawing to a close, and we shall soon be settling down to the usual routine.

The end of last month was marked by an attempt to run a concert. The Sergeants' Mess very kindly gave us the use of their excellent lawn. Lieut. MacMunn, assisted by Sergt Dunn and Signalmen Wilson and Williamson, gave a good deal of time to organisation. The concert promised to be quite a good show, but unfortunately the rain, for which we had looked so long, arrived at the wrong time and the opening number was greeted by a regular deluge. However, we hope to run it in grand style at a future early date.

Definite signs of trooping are in the air at last, and ten n.c.o.s and men have been provisionally warned for the first boat. We get the Blighty leave wallahs back again this month. They can have the pleasure of seeing *us* off this time. We had hopes of greeting them with the annual chota pegs, but the M.O. has decided that it's not quite fair on the mosquito, and so it (the quinine, not the mosquito!) has been cancelled.

The Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, inspected the unit on July 23rd and 25th, and was very pleased with everything he saw. The barracks have been whitewashed again—or, at least, the walls have been hurriedly brushed over with an unhealthy-looking concoction. However, they've cleared away some of the dust, so we won't grumble.

Susan, our two-dog-long-dog-half-a-dog-high-dog, has another fine family at Bara: the first of the war babies. Elizabeth was out there to see her the other day, and came back simply bursting with knowledge.

We mentioned in last month's notes that the lines were being brightened up. The trees have now been planted, and although they look rather gawky at present, they give promise of excellent shade for the generations to come. The lawn is progressing favourably, and is already in great demand by the sun-bathers. Our next move is to persuade some flowers to grow.

Agony.—The Castle, Edinburgh: I am instructed to say that Elizabeth's shadow does not diminish.

Will Sigmn Thorne, late of this unit and believed to be with 4th Div. Colchester, please communicate with Panna Lall of Landi Kotal fame? We are informed that all is forgiven and that he's started a new book.

News is anxiously awaited of the Chocolate King, 'Erb Small and Mick Nolan.

Von: Unofficial thanks for your official promptitude. We noted your initials.

Promotion.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to Lance-Sergeant Lacey on attaining that rank. SIGS PESHDIST.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

No. 2 Company.

September 15th.

Earthquakes and Eruptions.—These, being by far the most important events of the month, naturally come first. At precisely 3.10 a.m. on the morning of August 25th, we were badly scared and bumped about in our beds by an earthquake. Now, an earthquake at three o'clock is a most alarming experience. Roofs creaked, walls shook, beds danced, and when people began to realise what was happening, many of them made for the wide open spaces. From then until 8.30, a further twelve shocks were felt, and people began to get nervy. Official reports were awaited with some anxiety, but none was forthcoming. From then onwards, for the next four days, the shocks continued.

Orders were issued to the effect that beds would be moved into the open, away from buildings and offices. Officers and the outside British population of Quetta were issued with tents, in which they took up their abode. The phrase "Did you feel that one?" became as general as the old "Have you heard this one?"

On Thursday, August 27th, at about 9 p.m., a shock of greater intensity than any we had yet experienced was felt. It lasted for some four minutes, at the end of which period our nerves and knees were distinctly shaky. Buildings rocked and the ground heaved violently beneath our feet, the heaving presently giving way to a strange rolling—like a sea with a heavy swell on. The Indian population went crazy with fright, and in large masses called frantically upon their various deities to preserve them. It was truly a night not to be forgotten.

Many buildings in the city were rendered unsafe and had to be demolished, but the news from down the line was much more serious. Mach, about fifty miles from Quetta, seemed to have suffered most. The railway station and the prison had collapsed. The railway line between Mach and Sibi had been destroyed, and the town itself was practically in ruins, with many deaths and injuries reported. A detachment of the 4/15th Punjabi Regiment was despatched to Mach Prison to guard the prisoners, and relief work is in progress. Although we are still receiving slight shocks, the experts assure us that there is little or nothing to fear.

We are all thanking our lucky stars that the eruption was a comparatively slight one. Several of the first boat draft were observed to be perspiring freely while the "quakes" were in full blast.

Signals Week.—The subject of earthquakes having taken up most of my time and space, I cannot report upon Signals Week as fully as it deserves.

As usual, it was a huge success, and the fact that, this year, the Company sports were combined with it, made it far more interesting.

For the first time in the history of the unit, H.Q. entered in the sporting events as a separate Company, and though they failed to win, they proved themselves a force to be reckoned with.

The inter-Company sports shield was won by No. 2 Company by the narrow margin of 3½ points, with No. 1 Company second.

The triangular football tournament was also won by No. 2 Company. No. 1 Company, meeting and defeating H.Q. in the first round by 3—0 goals, were defeated in the final by 2—0.

The triangular cricket went to No. 1 Company. Nos. 1 and 2 Companies met in the first round, the former winning by the narrow margin of four runs in a two-innings game. A remarkable feature of this match was that No. 2 Company, with seven wickets in hand, required only nineteen runs to win, but they failed by four runs, as already stated. In the final, No. 1 Company defeated H.Q. rather more easily than was expected.

The tennis tournament was won by the Sergeants' Mess against teams from the Officers' Mess and Nos. 1, 2 and H.Q. Com-

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panies. For this event, a handsome silver cup was presented by the B.O.R.s Tennis Club.

The three dances, including a cabaret and a fancy dress event, were immensely successful—more especially the cabaret dance. We have to thank the unit dance band for working so hard to stage such an entertaining show.

On the final night, our commanding officer, Major R. E. Barker, made a short speech in which he expressed the hope that everyone had spent an enjoyable week. He then went on to give us an outline of the origin of Signals Week in Quetta. To Capt. (now Major) R. Cary and Jemadar Ganga Singh, he gave the credit for bringing the idea to 2nd Indian Divl Signals; and, looking back upon the three most enjoyable Signals Weeks we have spent, we all agree that we have much to thank them for. A more eloquent description of these functions and their origin will, no doubt, appear in the " History of the Unit " that L/Cpl Hammond is now compiling.

Baluchistan District Assault-at-Arms.—The unit athletic team did extremely well to carry off the Baluchistan District championship. They did splendidly in all departments, and fully deserved the honours of the meeting.

Quite a lot of talent has been brought to light in the unit during the past few months. Sigmn Rockall, a newcomer to the team, was an outstanding performer in the middle and long distances. Another outstanding performance was that of L/Cpl Verney in the pole jump. He has but lately taken this up, and though the height he attains is not remarkable in itself, the spirit with which he came to our rescue and pulled the pole jump team to second place, just when we badly needed odd points, showed grit and determination invaluable to a team hard pressed right to the last event.

We congratulate the whole team on putting up such a good show. Lieut. F. I. N. McOstrich (of A Corps Signals) erstwhile trainer and crack sprinter of 2nd Indian Divl Signals athletic team, is requested to note that his labours are still bearing fruit.

The Pfaffisky Biscuit.—As I am due for repatriation to U.K. early this trooping season, these will be the last of my notes to appear in THE WIRE. Therefore I propose to dispose of the Pfaffisky biscuits for all time by presenting them in a large packet to be equally divided amongst the readers of these notes. Considering that I have been writing notes for two years, those of you who have read thus far should know better. Therefore, take a biscuit! PFAFFISKY.

Toots by Timex. No. 7: Our Earthquake.

Locks, bolts and bars have flown asunder,
'Neath the ground came a roar like thunder,
Hills, roofs and walls have sunk down under—
Thus you read, and of our earthquake wonder.

* * * *

" How terrible to be up there!"
  You'll say, when this you read;
Perhaps it is, but that's not due
  To earthquakes, so you need
Not bother how we're faring.
We simply take an airing
By rusticating in the open
When earth tremors are bespoken.

Exaggerated Press reports
  Have caused no end of fun:
We read that towns have disappeared.
  They can't—there isn't one!
This place is isolated;
There are no towns located
Near us, for miles and miles around—
Nought but maidans to be found.

It is unpleasant, we'll agree,
  The earth beneath your feet
To feel a-trembling, and at first
  Your heart may miss a beat.
But that's to be expected—
Your heart also objected
The first time you chanced to be
Seasick upon a choppy sea.

In spite of all the Press can say,
  Our mud huts stand erect;
Of course, they're bulged and cracked a bit—
  What less could you expect?
But, still, they do their duty—
They were not built for beauty:
They're to collect the dust and flies,
To spoil our " char " and blind our eyes.

But even earthquakes have good points—
  At least, earthquakes like these:
They rock you gently off to sleep,
  And cause a gentle breeze.
When the trumpet's said " Good night!"
With its call to douse the light,
Earth tremors, making little row,
Lull you to welcome sleep—and how!

3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Ranikhet Detachment.

General.—Training is still all the rage here, and ambitions are soaring higher and higher as the various preliminary test results are published. We wonder how many " bright young lads " there will be after the Trade Board?

On a staff exercise held at District headquarters last month, we provided a Corps, a Division, and three Brigade signal offices, and as usual we covered ourselves with glory!

2/Lieut A. T. Sladen has left us to rejoin the unit in Meerut, and we welcome his relief, 2/Lieut J. D. L. Morris. Other arrivals have been Corpl Bunn and Sigmn Pope from Meerut, and C.S.M. Hebberd from Sialkot on a month's leave.

The Depot (Alma Barracks) were successful in winning the inter-Depot rugby cup, and as the Depot team consisted of seven players from this Detachment and eight from the Detachment, 1st Battn. D.C.L.I., it was decided to play for the cup between our Detachment and the D.C.L.I.'s, the winners to hold it for one year. We managed to field a side against the D.C.L.I.s, but they just beat us by 3—0 points. However, as we had three men who had never played rugby before, we are to be congratulated on giving the D.C.L.I.s such a close run for their money.

Mention must also be made here of those super-optimists who will just be able to spend Christmas at home after winning the Irish sweep. Nous verrons.

Music.—This term covers quite a lot, as the inhabitants of the day room will be only too glad to affirm. Strange to say, nothing can protect us from these saxophonic solos, and after hearing the latest ballad entitled " I'm N.F.R. through a cross-eyed key (DPLX)" we are sorry to say that our taste for music has become rather passe.

Educational.—Congratulations are extended to the following on obtaining that elusive " second ": —Signalmen Hall, Leonard (826), Salter and Stier. Our sympathy to the veterans, Signalmen Sherry and Fox, who once (?) again let it slip through their fingers.

Birth.—To Sergt.-Instr. Humphries (A.E.C.), a daughter, at Ranikhet on August 15th.

Sports.—The results of the various football and hockey games will be found in the Sports Notes (if you're interested!)

Things We Want to Know.—Who were the two B.O.R.s who brought a " pouches, tele mechanic " when sent for a case, baseboard, SX and DX?

Who was the gentleman who stated that polarisation was " manganese dioxide done up in a muslin bag with a carbon rod in the middle "?

Report from Meerut W/T Station.—" Cow interfered with receiver on night of——" Huh! looking for a few dilatory electrons, I suppose.

Replies to Correspondents—L.C. Wigan: Foolish one! Never trust a soldier.

T.W.O.: You are quite correct. No. 2 Company just can't help it.

J.U.C.: Write to Ruby M. Ayres.

2320: The leers of the multitude, etc.

Lan. Transwgylthsth: Tnod eb yson.

Agony.—Signalman Connor R. would like to hear from No. 2318705 Sigmn O'Neill A., last heard of at Chatham.

This Month's Best Seller.—A narrative by a certain gentleman of how he " lorst a stone coming fru the ' sewerage ' canal."

This Month's Thought.—" He who laughs last is very often a bit pushed."

A Parting Par.—TX to Ranikhet: " And if for ever, fare thee well." DETSIGS.

Kohat District Signals.

The summer is over, thermometers have been packed away (all except the one which can be *seen* but not touched near No. 4 bunk), ice chests are being turned into hay boxes, and the steady swish of the punkhas will cease on the 15th October.

We are slowly concentrating again in McQueen lines, and training programmes, bath bricks and loaded donkeys can be seen hurtling through the air in a mad crescendo of industry, for the unit is on the verge of its headlong dive into the winter's programme.

The last month has been devoted to musketry, individual training and an n.c.o.s course.

The general opinion of the new Table "C" is that, provided a little care is taken, one can be assured of being a first class shot. Of course, this does not apply to the somewhat senior n.c.o. who, for some reason, forgot to open his cut-off in one of the practices. After bravely struggling for a considerable time, he asked his neighbour on the next firing point for the loan of his charger guide—but still it was no use. Admire, then, his fortitude in finishing up by loading his rounds *singly* !

Individual training is devoted to the I.O.R.s, as our B.O.R.s go to Upper Topa for their training. It was a most original reply to the instructor's question " What is a circuit house?" when one bright youth replied " Where the *electrician* lives."

Corpl V. J. Nesbit slipped on a smooth floor and fractured his arm badly a week or so ago, and is not progressing very fast. It will be a long time before his tender compassionate voice again warbles " By the right—sick march!" His only regret is that the boat which is to take him home is even now on its way out. Foiled at the last. Ah me!

Here is a pleasant interlude on pokey drill. Instructor: "Name any one of the forces acting on a bullet." Very interested soldier: " Close the disengaged eye." Instructor (in sweet dulcet tones): " Yes, and then put up your umbrella to keep the bullet dry. . . . . Muscle exercise, second practice ; class—go!" *That* soldier was a chum of one of our pet Irishmen, who said that the team had won " nine nothing, or something."

The R.A.F. here have shown great enterprise by opening a regimental cinema in their lines. This has provided us with something to see and has been fairly well patronised. This " brighter Kohat " movement really started when the entrance to our camp was turned from a rocky waste into a park in miniature, with the flagstaff as a lofty centrepiece.

The C.S.M., we understand, is leaving us shortly—probably to re-model Hampton Court on the same lines.

Sergt W. F. Walsh and family have left us for B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. We wish them health and fortune.

May I just add that Peshdistrict Signals' remark about rugby teams has been duly pigeon-holed for future reference. We would say, however, that as a two-years station we do the very best we can in taking the raw material, making it into good rugby players, and then sending 'em on to become the backbone of other teams.

We regret to report that our hero of the flit episode (which appeared in the July number) again excelled himself by sliding into a well-filled drain the other day. We cannot believe the rumour that he was following up the clue of the cash box which was used as a lawn mower. WOG.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Siaikot.

General.—Let me begin by saying that returning to work after a month in the hills is by no means a pleasant experience. Greeted by prolonged jeers, and remarks such as " Wot, you back?" " About time, too," etc.—and there you are. Still, I found the task of note writing awaiting me, and worse still, not much to write about. Anyhow, I'll do my best—bear up.

The C.S.O. Northern Command, Colonel E. W. F. Barker, C.B.E., D.S.O., paid us a visit on August 22nd. Everything, apparently, was satisfactory, the unit being engrossed in work the while.

The training season being nigh at hand, there will soon be a conglomeration (whatever that means) of dots and dashes floating about in the air.

Just at present there is a sweat on as to who will get the various " lambs "—the racer, the moke, and last but not least, the tree rat. Personally, I have no ambition to be in on the raffle. Once was good enough for me ; once too often, in fact. However, schemes will come as a change from the present routine—unless they are night wallahs. Still, we can but hope.

Little news filters through from our khud wallahs. Obviously, they are enjoying life so much that they haven't time to tell us poor blighters what Topa is really like. No doubt, we shall hear some slander when they return. Grooming does open one out, but this we will overlook, providing they come back with brand new ratings—as we hope they will. I know one boily blighter who hasn't had one since. (Nuff said, Snoopy. Sick leave! bah!)

Agriculture.—Gardening, or the supervision of it, is becoming rather the thing. Under the fiery eye of one of our notable pen-pushers, things are looking well. Extensions have been carried out, and what used to be a small flowery patch threatens now to become a veritable show. There have been no complaints yet as to missing tools, etc., which only goes to prove what an honest lot we are. These gardens, being in the vicinity of the tennis courts, make it much more pleasant for spectators and visitors during the tennis " at homes."

Training.—Glassy stares and heavy hearts have been running round the unit during the past week or so. Suffice it to say that we have had " degrees " for breakfast, " depressions " for tiffin, " bearings " for tea, and so on, and I think there is no need to mention the name of the subject. The correct bearing of the stables has at last been found by a few ; others knew it by heart. All good things (?) come to an end, so we are bearing up.

Education still holds sway with a certain few, some of whom are in search of that elusive subject, while others are making a bold bid for the lot. We wish them all success and a few "D's."

Departure.—Corpl Frawley to Jubbulpore on a special course. Congratulations on being chosen, Bill. May you come back with a " D "!

Queries.—Information concerning an elusive troopship which should have been here this Ock would be greatly appreciated by a certain trio. Their opinions on the matter are a little too lurid to print, considering that they have been saying " Roll on, Ock " for the past twelve months ; but we hope that by the time this is published, they will have received due intimation of their early departure to the land of rain and the dole. (Roll on Ock, eh, Alf! which Ock?)

Agonies.—Will Sigmn Semmence, of 4th Divl Signals, Colchester, please communicate with Signalman J. Stocks? Come, Paddy, a reminder should not be needed after all the promises.

To Ginger Hoyle, last heard of at Jubb: Spend an anna, you banjo playing blighter! Jessop.

To L/Corpl R. K. Whittle, Wazirdist Sigs: Salaams to all Murree friends. Dare Boozy blow the light out yet? Can you give the Pirates' whereabouts? Spy.

Tail-piece.—Like all good detectives, Bungho has at last found out who pinched his last year's Christmas pud. L.A.L.

Sport.—While still keeping our end up, not much has been done during the past month. We hope to be able to publish a more detailed account in our next contribution.

Sergeants' Mess.—Since the hot weather season, we have been unable to have many functions. What with the ladies being up in the hills and many prominent members from other messes away, it makes things rather glum. However, during their absence we have taken the opportunity of " decking out " our little mess, and under the guidance of our big chief, T.S.M. Hebberd, the noble gang worked hard and succeeded in getting a nice comfortable mess together. Now we are proud of it ; yes, we are.

Our corpulent member, L/Sergt Murphy, has undertaken the duties of gardener, and since his efforts we must all admit that he has made a great improvement. In a very short while, Kew

Gardens will be nothing in comparison. Anyway, stick to your guns, Michael ; you're doing fine, stoot man.

Entertainments.—We have had a couple of tennis and dart "at homes," first to our friends the 9th Q.R. Lancers and then to the junior n.c.o.s of the Troop. Both functions were a success, and I feel sure that everyone enjoyed them.

Against the 9th Lancers we managed to pull off full honours, though we must admit defeat in the beer stakes. The junior n.c.o.s had not quite awakened for the tennis, but when we met them on the dart board—well, I'm afraid there were too many kite hawks amongst them to allow us victory. However, though we had to admit defeat, we all spent a very enjoyable evening.

Our friends the M.T.s helped to make these affairs a success. Thank you, M.T.s (right of the line).

B.S. Competition.—I am afraid the above is causing much competition amongst our mess members. So far, it is hard to say who's who. Since our chief, T.S.M. Hebberd, has proceeded to Ranikhet to enjoy a month's leave, the laurels lay now between F/S/Sergt Agar and L/Sergts Redworth and Conyers.

What did you say, Shoey? "What about the saddle?" No, never!

RICHY.

No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

September 28th.

General.—It is estimated that if all the unit correspondents who proceed on leave when THE WIRE notes are due were placed shoulder to shoulder along a wall, it would be a splendid opportunity for a machine gunner. Our regular scribe is at present spending a few weeks well-earned rest at Naini Tal—hence the high standard of these notes.

The vitality man of the unit has gone to Mussoorie to replenish his stock of that commodity, which was sadly depleted in the arduous task of reconstructing the jumping lane. His publicity manager, Corpl Spud Thomson, is at Lucknow, supervising the erection of a new aerial.

During the month we successfully survived the Brigadier's inspection, gas training, and Signalman Ferguson's return from Ranikhet.

Our C.O., Captain Duke, is now back from two months leave, the major portion of which he spent at the golfers' Mecca of India, Gulmarg. Once again he succeeded in reaching the final of one of the tournaments.

During the progress of this tournament, the Troop became golf experts, and at breakfast (scandal hour) such terms as bogie, birdie, stymie, etc., could be heard—a rather welcome change from the usual heated arguments on the relative merits of the Weedon and Saugor styles and similar topics.

Departures.—Our Troop sergeant-major, C.S.M. Brown, on promotion to R.Q.M.S., has been transferred to the Signal Training Centre (India). It is said that on the evening of his departure, Vera (No. 84) was weeping bitterly. The very best wishes of all ranks go with him and his family.

L/Sergt Chappell (Buddha) has gone to Jubbulpore on an S course. Best of luck, Buddha!

Corpl Hill (complete with that Oxford drawl—"Gorblimey, it ain't natteral ") is at Saugor, roughing it with the roughs. Don't forget, Bill, we want to keep that Vaughan cup in the Troop. Bring back a photograph for THE WIRE.

Other imminent departures are Signalmen Bisby, Ferguson and Tucker, who have been allotted passages to the promised land in October. We hope that going off the gold standard has not increased the cost of living too much (it was 4d. a glass last year).

Arrivals.—By the time these notes are in print, we will have with us C.Q.M.S. Goodman and family from 4th Indian Divl. Signals, Trimulgherry. We extend to them a hearty welcome, and hope that when they read this they will be comfortably settled in Meerut.

Sergt Percy and Signalmen Jones and Thomas are due to come back from Blighty leave during October. Just in time for camp, Pip. Congratulations!

L/Corpl Turrell rejoined us a few weeks ago, after having been on command for almost a year. We are all glad to have him with us again—he is " such a useful man to have about," being equally good at horse-breaking and S.W. set making.

Tours.—T.S.M. Cutler, from the Risalpur Troop, has just left us after a fortnight's stay. The object of his visit was a general exchange of ideas on the working of Cavalry Troops. We trust that he enjoyed his visit, and that both Troops gained as a result thereof.

Complimentary.—All ranks of the " C-bar-3 " join in congratulating Sergt and Mrs. Richardson, of the Sialkot Troop, on the advent of a son. What price the cuts in pay now, Richie?

Agony.—Will 2316745 Sigmn Barrett R. (Monty) last heard of at Peshawar, please write to Sigmn Ferguson of this unit?

Stan, Sialkot: What about it? Waiting for your next stationery indent to come through? Pat.

Awards.—We should like to borrow the Pfaffisky biscuit from Quetta, to award it to the n.c.o. who pronounces the name of his favourite actress " Tullullulu."

CEEKAV.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

Abbassia, October 7th.

General.—We open in conventional fashion by apologising for the absence of our notes in the last two issues. For this, we blame the epidemic of sand-fly fever which has now, fortunately, almost terminated. At one time nearly sixty of the unit were in hospital with this complaint, which attacked with the utmost impartiality both the new-comer and the old stager. It should be noted, however, that all sand-flies biting Charlie B——r automatically died of blood poisoning.

Individual training is fast coming to a close. The first series of courses resulted in large numbers of higher ratings being obtained. It is anticipated that the second series will result just as creditably, despite the difficulties experienced owing to the numerous admissions to hospital.

Both Companies have fired their annual musketry courses, there being only a few casuals remaining. At present, practice for the Command small arms meeting is in full swing.

Educational training also proceeds apace, the number of first class candidates being above the average.

Arrivals and Departures.—It is with regret that we have to record the departure of the Chief Signal Officer, Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., who has been with us for four years. Our best wishes go with him.

We extend a hearty welcome to his successor, Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O., and trust that his stay will be long and pleasant.

Lieut. G. B. Bell has returned from leave and has re-assumed command of the Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop.

Those fortunate individuals who spent the summer in England have also returned.

His numerous friends in the Corps will be interested to hear of the marriage of L/Sergt S. J. Murphy whilst on leave. Mrs. Murphy accompanied Spud on his return. We trust she finds the fascinating (?) land of the Pharaohs to her liking.

Birth.—To Sergt. and Mrs. H. Barnham, at Cairo, on August 27th, a son (Harry Edgar Leslie). Congratulations!

Promotions.—We tender our congratulations to Corpls Rowe, Jones and Bartley on attaining that rank. In addition, the patient waiting of the following has at long last resulted in their being appointed on the Corps roster: L/Corpls Chidgey, French and Taylor P.

Riots, Revolutions, etc.—Lance-Comrade Tuckavitch will engage to organise any riot or revolution, large or small. Estimates free. Customers should provide their own bombs, red flags, etc., as present stocks are almost exhausted.

Extracts from the Educational Waste Paper Basket.—Instructor (giving lesson on New Zealand): " Jones, where is Wellington?" Jones (waking up suddenly): " Dead, corporal."

" Warren Hastings was dismissed for taking heavy brides."

" Marlborough won the battle of Abraham Lincoln in 1815."

" South Africa was discovered by Vasco da Garbo " (brother to Greta, we take it).

" To set a map by the compass, put the compass on the ground and lay the map on it. Put the compass on the magnetic bearing. Turn the map round and round and round until the needle points to the centre."

" ' By my halibut!' quoth Sir Nigel."

Agony.—L/Corpl Bell would like to hear from Bob McClaren, somewhere in India.

To Darky Pearce, No. 3 Company A Corps: I'm still waiting, Ding Dong.

Lullaby.—To be sung to the tune of " Who is Sylvia " (with apologies to Schubert):—

" Who is Dracula? What is he?" etc.

From the October edition of THE WIRE, just to hand, we are pleased to note that C.S.M. W. Markham has at last had his desires gratified in being warned for service in Egypt again. We extend our welcome, and venture to assure him that he will find the Signals barracks in the same position as they were when he left the fold. We trust that he will not find Mr. Michelin on parade.

We also tender our felicitations to C.S.M. Tremain (more shades of Red Barracks) on joining the happy band of benedicts. How could you, after evading the net for so long? H.W.F.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

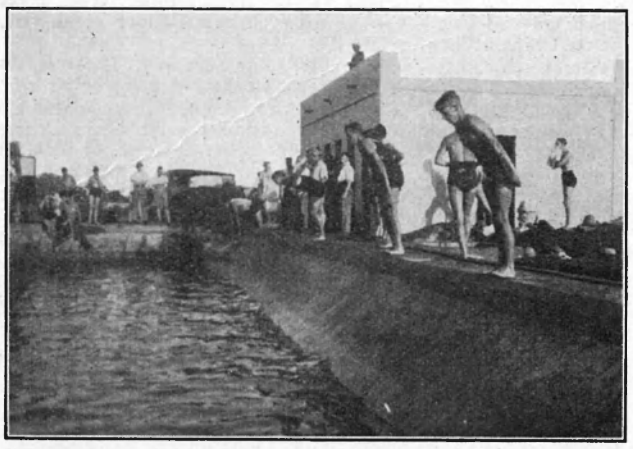
General.—Oh, yes, No. 4 Wireless Company! we *are* present again this month.

Events during the month have been various: parades, picnics, cricket matches and swimming galas; with a tennis match or two thrown in to break the monotony.

Early in September a detachment represented the unit on a parade held at the R.A.F. Station, Ramleh, in order to wish H.E. the High Commissioner for Transjordania and Palestine " bon voyage " and the best of luck and health in his new appointment.

Since the discovery of a fresh water tank at Bir-Salem (1931, Michael ; not 1921) buses from the Armenian garage can be seen to turn left instead of right at the bottom of the drive ; and in spite of the jolting over the old wire track we've heard so much about in years gone by, the fresh water seems to be more in favour than the sea at Jaffa. Consequently we have spotted some dark horses where water is concerned (no, Molly ; this is not a knock at you or Ben).

The use of the said tank has created such a wave of enthusiasm in the unit that an inter-house swimming gala was arranged by the sports officer, and we turned out in force to attend the most-looked-forward-to event. The result was a win for "A" House and a most enjoyable day spent out of camp.



Start of six lengths free style. Winner, Sigmn Parker.

An interested spectator, having smoked sufficient of a certain brand of cigarettes to amass enough coupons for a free camera, has submitted these snaps to prove (he says) that we really did have a swimming gala.

September 7th saw us laughing heartily at a novel cricket match between a team of people who had not played this season and our first eleven.

The following rules were decided upon for the occasion:—The first eleven to bat left-handed, bowl under-hand, catch one-handed, and anyone making thirty runs to retire immediately.

From the very first ball of the match until the dismissal of the non-cricketers, who batted last, the spectators were oscillating between giggles and loud laughter which seemed to be infectious, the players missing catches through joining in the mirth. The first eleven won comfortably, but the afternoon's amusement would have been sufficient consolation for them had they lost.

Finish of novices' two lengths. Winner, Sigmn Hill.

W.O.s and N.C.O.s' Mess.—The officers entertained the married families and members of the mess at a picnic held at Seven Mills, a pretty little spot on the Sarona-Peta-Tiqvah side of Tel-Aviv. The organisation was (to say the least) magnificent, and all who were present are grateful to the officers concerned for arranging a most enjoyable outing.

To complete the day's enjoyment, the male members of the party repaired to a well known skittle alley at Sarona, where the married members showed the single ones how to knock down those most elusive yet large lumps of wood called skittles.

Congratulations.—To L/Corporal Snow on his victory over L.A.C. Stamford, R.A.F., at Amman before H.H. the Emir Abdullah of Transjordania, and on the way he keeps that schoolgirl complexion.

To Sigmn Collins on putting up a splendid fight, but unfortunately losing on points to L.A.C. Redman, R.A.F., at the same show.

To Sigmn Angell K. O. on swinging the lead and not being able to fight (how do you do it, Cherub?)

At Random.—(a) On our last musketry course, a certain individual was asked to give the definition of " the culminating point." The reply was: " When the temperature on the Company office verandah reaches 115 degrees." I am inclined to agree.

(b) We hear that our late Quartermaster is growing fat. L/Cpl Smith F. A., lately seconded from sets to stores, would like to know the recipe.

(c) There is a poem which starts like this:—

Long years ago, when we were young,
We sailed across the briny
And landed here in Sarafand,
With a kit so nice and shiny ; etc.

Could any reader supply us with the remainder of this ode? The old hands have been out here so long that they've forgotten it, and the new ones are anxious to know it. Possibly the poet (thought to be at 5th Div.) could oblige. We would appreciate the effort in duplicate.

League Notes.—It is my duty to congratulate the following aspirants to league honours (native section) in the local Health and Strength League, on attaining the required dimensions for enrolment with this branch.

L/Corpl Smith F. A.—Chest now registers 25¾ inches (using the elastic tape)

Sigmn Millhouse E. C.—Biceps now go 4¼ inches over shirt sleeve.

Sigmn Davies V.—Although of scanty dimensions, has been enrolled for his Company.

Sigmn Hammond D.—Has been engaged as instructor in high and deep diving, vice Corpl Mansfield (injured).

The above-mentioned brothers are at present on a weight lifting course run by Tewfik in the bazaar each Thursday evening. Sigmn Haggart hopes to qualify at the next test.

Answers to Correspondents.—Ball: No! it could not have been Old Bill selling papers in Aldershot on the date in question. The last papers he is known to have sold were the souvenir programmes of the Barnstormers' final appearance last year.

Tusky: Yes, you can bring your cricket boots and your little short shirt.

Losty: I thought you knew that Louis Pratchay had been placed on the married quarters waiting list.

Things We Want to Know.—The name of the Imperial Airways wireless operator who honoured us with his presence at our swimming gala. Where did he get his little flat topee? and did he really (sand) fly down for the occasion?

Can our D.R. really speak German?

Was the name of the "out of work confectioner," who wore the white beret in Tel-Aviv, really Mr. Bruce-Wilson?

The name of the electrician of this Company who is so tough that when he drinks neat acid, he spits out positive plates.

When we shall have a reply to our request of last month as to the purchase of leg straighteners. We are sure the legs are getting worse as time goes on.

Gasps, Groans and Gurgles.—These are issuing daily from those who are waiting for that homeward bound troopship. Can't somebody tell us when we are going?

Regrets.—We regret that there is nothing more to report this month.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

Helmieh, October 6th.

Once again the collective training has begun, and schemes are now of almost daily and nightly occurrence. The writer had intended to use this fact as an original—if untruthful—excuse for missing WIRE notes. But no luck!

Our greatest test begins at the end of this month—a trek of about 1400 miles to the Siwa oasis and back, by the desert route. This is calculated by the optimists to take fourteen days, but there are some who are doubtful where their next Christmas will be spent! Following the trail of the lizard for this distance is no easy matter, and considerably different from finding point 406 from Tidworth.

F Troop may be interested to hear that a really efficient mast drill has been evolved; pamphlets will shortly be issued to all concerned. In one detail, we follow their example in singing the famous (?) sea shanty "For we hadn't been long at sea," etc., during operations.

Sport.—The football season has started very well. We have lost only one match out of four. With the practice and training which the team are putting in, a very successful season is now anticipated.

Musketry.—Our annual course is now finished, and some good scores were noted. Sigmn Catigen is to be congratulated on getting top score. For future reference, Birdie, it is quite in order to shift boulders when they are very near your foresight. This enables one to see the target, which is a decided asset if you wish to hit it.

Query.—We are still wondering if it is really necessary, after super-tuning the last word in Harleys, to take it on test in a flower-bed and nearly come to an argument with the N.A.A.F.I. Replies should be addressed to Connie.

North China Signal Section, Tientsin.

British Headquarters, Sept. 25th.

Apology.—The breaking of the sequence of our bi-monthly notes is much regretted, but our Section scribe is also the Section handy man, and as such spends most of the summer months travelling up and down the 250 mile stretch of railway which connects Peking, Tientsin and Shanhaikuan. He therefore offers apologies to those who may be interested in notes from this far corner of the earth.

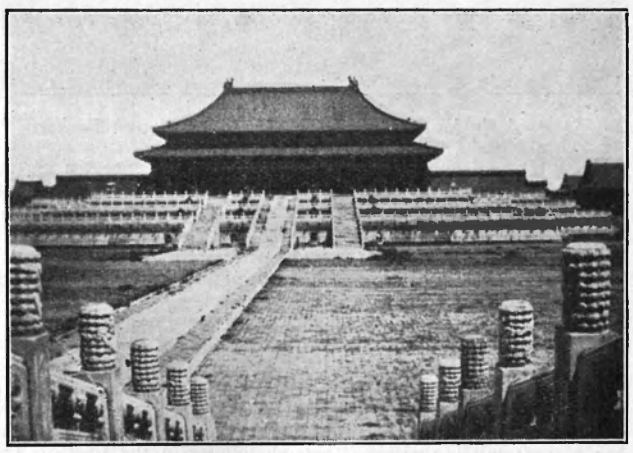
General Situation.—As predicted in our last notes, the annual civil war has duly taken place. Quite near Tientsin, this time. General Shih Yu San decided that the time was ripe to administer a nasty one below the belt to the Mukden Forces. Unluckily for him, Mukden thought otherwise and completely spoilt his little game. Shih has decided to go while the going is good. The Chinese Government is at present fully engaged on the relief of the victims of the Yangtse floods. Millions of Chinese are said to have been drowned. China is, indeed, a most unfortunate country.

Temple of Heaven, Peking.

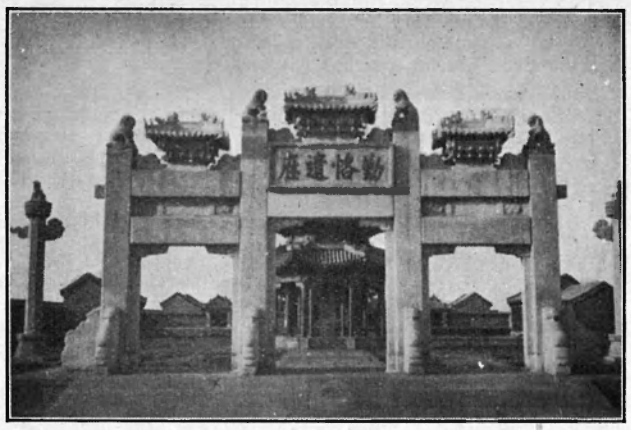
Coming Events.—The majority of the operators and junior n.c.o.s of this Section are now looking forward to the arrival of that big boat this trooping season. All these men are skilled short wave W/T operators, and we sincerely hope that their talents will be fully used in their new stations. Having acquired skill in the operation of our locally made sets, the working of any type of factory-made set shoulds be "easy meat" to them.

Of Interest to Newcomers.—To those warned for North China, we stand by ready to extend the glad mitt. By the time these notes are in print, some will, no doubt, have started on the long trail. Imitation being the most sincere form of flattery, we will follow the example set by certain other WIRE correspondents and give a few scraps of information concerning the North China station.

As regards climate, we can offer quite a variety. The temperature in winter consistently drops to 10 or 12 degrees below zero. The troops' clothing then consists of fur caps, leather jerkins and heavy gloves, in addition to their ordinary serge Service dress. In summer, the mercury goes to the other extreme, shade temperatures of 106 degrees being the rule. Topees, shorts and shirt sleeves are then the fashion. In spring and autumn, serge Service dress may be worn with comfort, the days being tolerably warm, with a pleasant nip in the air at night and morning. This continual change of dress serves to break the monotony of things: as fast as one changes into one particular dress, one is looking forward to the next change—it seems to make the time pass quickly.



Part of the Forbidden City, Peking.



Glories of the Past : disused Temples near Tientsin.

Tientsin is a large and modern city, the better and major portion being composed of Foreign Concessions. Each concession is garrisoned by the troops of the particular nation to which it belongs, and meeting with troops of other Powers is an education in itself.

The country surrounding Tientsin is very flat, bleak and uninteresting, so that if one requires amusement, one must seek it amongst the bricks and mortar of the town. There are some excellent cinemas, showing the very latest talkies, and an excellent library for the studious, while football, swimming, cricket and tennis may all be indulged in during the appropriate seasons. For the " night hawks " there are the usual cafes and cabarets, in common with all other Chinese ports. These are best left alone, as prices are exorbitant and the drink sold is, as Kipling puts it, " fixed baynits that rots out yer guts."

The local standard of currency is the Tientsin dollar, the value of which fluctuates considerably ; the present rate is 11¼d. The ordinary commodities which supply a Tommy's needs are very cheap, the reason being that a dollar is always a dollar to a Chinaman, irrespective of the value that other people like to give it.

During their tour of duty, all operators spend some months at Peking, which is some eighty-five miles from Tientsin by rail. The Signal offices at Tientsin and Peking are connected by a land line which is the lineman's joy, particularly during the cold season. Peking offers some excellent opportunities for sightseeing, and the surrounding country is very interesting.

During the summer months all personnel have a six weeks " change of air " at Shanhaikuan, which is situated on the coast some 180 miles from Tientsin. Here bathing, fishing, pony riding and exploring the adjacent hill country may be indulged in ad. lib. ; truly a wonderful place.

On the whole, North China is a very healthy station, but owing to sudden changes in temperature, chest complaints are frequent, pneumonia being the most prevalent. These, however, can be easily guarded against by a little care on the part of the individual.

The normal period of service in this delectable spot is three years, but the privilege of continuing for an extra year is granted to selected n.c.o.s and men. It says well for the station that two thirds of the Departmental Troops volunteer for that extra year.

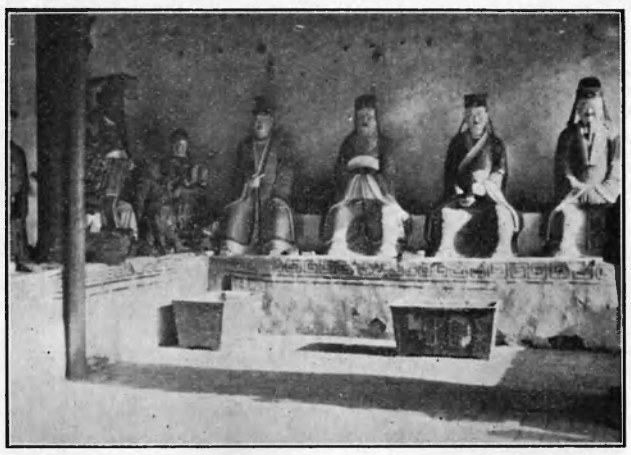
Amateur Photography.—A few samples of the handiwork of Sergeant Napper, our photographic expert, are forwarded with these notes. These may assist the Editor if he is at a loss to fill a spare page. The photo of the Forbidden City was secured under difficulties, as cameras are taboo in Peking.

Short Waves.—Continuing our policy of " Ever forward," we have re-designed our Shanhaikuan S/W station, thus bringing it into line with the standard of our model station at Peking.

Shanhaikuan Camp will be closing down for the winter in the course of a few days after the compilation of these notes. Our F-of-S and his gang will then direct their attention to re-designing the Tientsin main transmitter. If practice comes out according to theory, we shall be hearing of a few cases of broken ear-drums at the Hong Kong and Shanghai stations.

Congratulations.—To Q.M.S. Goodridge, our late Foreman of Signals, on his well deserved promotion. Unfortunately, the " Irishman's rise " which all pre-1925 men are about to receive will rather depreciate an otherwise substantial increase in his income.

HSING HAI TU.



Images in Nankai Temple, near Tientsin.

View of Native City, Tientsin.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, Sept. 14th.

General.—Always bright and breezy, we start the month's yarn with a little carol, full of the optimism of the unit and ending on our characteristic note of hope:—

Type of that promised glorious day
When all our creditors shall fade away,
And all our debts, grown weak with age,
Shall perish on this mortal stage:
And dollars, emerged from an earthly strife,
Shall reign above par with eternal life.
But truths which angels cannot reach
Are far beyond my powers to teach.

Swimming.—On the 26th August the small units aquatic sports were held at the Victoria Recreation Club's bath. Exactly what measure of success the other units expected is not known, but as results prove, they hadn't a look-in. They were not aware, apparently, of the Corps' weakness for pots, nor of the vocal powers peculiar to the supporters of a Signals team. Although standing at a good distance from the centre of the applauding cohorts, " Acoustic " of the Peak states that he distinctly heard the welkin ring, and it is certain that had the V.R.C. been equipped with a roof, it might have been lifted had the lads shouted a little louder.

Our successive wins brought their just reward, and in consequence passengers on the Star ferry that evening were treated to what appeared to be the result of a successful raid on Hong Kong's leading jewellers at the hands of a hilarious band of soldiers, but it was actually the lads gleefully bringing home the Russell cup and other spoils of battle.

The prizes were presented to the winning teams by the G.O.C., Major-General J. W. Sandilands, and I shouldn't be surprised if he was under the impression that the whole affair was a Signals inter-section meeting, with one or two open events.

The last word about the cups comes from our loquacious and humorous billiard marker, who says that it is a treat to clean them!

The proceedings on the night of the twenty-sixth need no recording. Suffice it to say that they "carried it like gentlemen."

More Swimming.—Having put it across the small units, the Company's finny ones sighed for more worlds to conquer, and nothing would satisfy them but a pleasant little amble across the harbour to match their skill against the best in the Garrison. All our entrants finished the course well to the fore, and are now the proud possessors of certificates to that effect.

In recognition of the Jantzen Brigade's activities, somebody has been guilty of the perpetration of puerile poetry in contravention of the unit's D.O.R.A., and therefore stands liable to a severe flit-spraying. However:—

When bold Leander, for his wondrous Hero,
Braved swiftly flowing flood of Hellespont
To hold that sonsy charmer in the moonlight,
Scholastic fancy placed him to the front.

Oft have I read this tale, so old and mellow,
To satisfy a capped and gowned fool;
Oft have I prayed to meet some husky fellow
Who'd beat this little plunge into a pool.

Cost him his life? It cost them but an effort—
Lusty avengers of my youthful lere,
Who swam across the width of Hong Kong harbour
And filled again my heart with peace and cheer.

Honour is theirs, and truly have they earned it—
The Corps' great name is made by such as these;
Hong Kong vouchsafes, right nasally celestial,
" They sure are the original bee's knees."

Odds 'n Ends.—The typhoon season opened promptly this year, with number ten signal and a terrific gale somewhat stronger than those mighty blasts which scatter the dead leaves in autumn at home. A terrible affair.

The following week, number four failed to coax the slightest breeze out of the sky; but, later, number nine proved sufficient to stir up a gust that did quite a lot of damage to the Colony's sampan fleet, causing the loss of about a hundred lives.

In the same gale a hard-worked and unthanked WIRE subscriber waved goodbye to his headgear, much to the amusement of his unfeeling comrades and the joy of hordes of savage S.W.B.s, who proceeded to perform the old Welsh tribal rites of belting the badge, amid enthusiastic " forby's " and " whateffer's."

Like Ferg, our long-drawn-out Scot, I am going straight to bed as soon as number one typhoon warning goes up in future.

The tale of the staff officer, who asked Ferguson if the transmitter was " the thing that makes the noise that Tientsin hears when you press this button thing up and down," is only equalled by another concerning one of our Chinese exchange operators who contracted T.B.

This worthy, according to his native doctor, could only be cured by burning brown paper in the signal office (where the old exchange was situated) and thus driving out the consumption devil. To this day, he attributes his lamentable condition to the refusals of a stony-hearted counter clerk.

Extract from the local press, under the heading of " Hong Kong Fairy Stories ":—" The increased income tax at home has been received with great glee by local naval and military units."

No, Hong Kong, you can't blame us for *that*. A certain Mr. P. Snowden does all the gleeful receiving necessary in that transaction.

On the Phone.—Overheard during a conversation between a naval W/T operator and one of ours: " . . . . . and for the sake of my peace of mind and good communications between the Hadmiralty and this blarsted Colony, get your blinkin' chaffcutter orf our sanguinary wavelength."

Heart Throb.—Sergt Bent's congratulations to L/Sergt Bevis M. on his recent promotion. We'll celebrate later, Bill.

C.C.R.B.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, Sept. 30th.

We welcome our C.O.'s return to the Rock after his few weeks in the United Kingdom. We learn that he paid a visit to the 51st Highland Divisional Signals, T.A., at their annual camp at St. Andrew's, and was very pleased to renew acquaintance with many old friends. We were sorry to hear, however, that the rain was so persistent, but we trust that in spite of this, an enjoyable fortnight was spent.

Having sent L/Corpl Cook to the land of clouds and raincoats for a three months rest (?) cure, in June last, we have pleasure in recording his return to the fold during the current month. Despite rumours to the contrary, he turned up without any apparent worry on his face, if one excepts that regarding his plans of special dieting.

We have heard that a vendor in Petticoat Lane is still lamenting the fact that he accepted a peseta in payment for a shilling's worth of goods from a certain Rockite. Yon vendor was certainly nae Aberdonian, and equally certain, the Rockite hadn't an accent.

Furlough to the United Kingdom seems akin to the diseases labelled contagious. Sigmn Saunders, well known to many as the main pillar of our canteen, sailed on the 14th inst. per s.s. *Rajputana* for a two months sojourn in the neighbourhood of Eastbourne. Don't get foolish, Willie. George wishes you to remember Estepona.

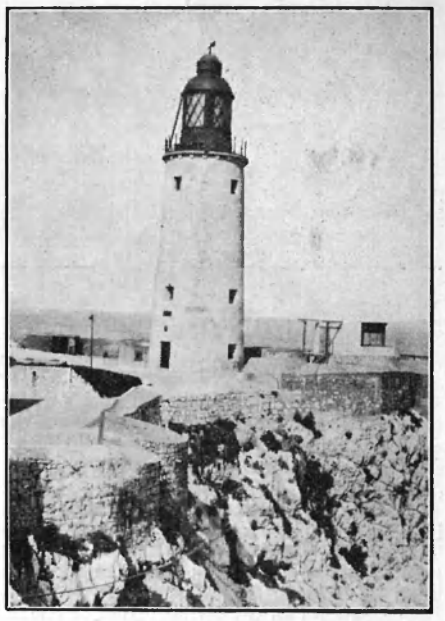
The enclosed views may be of passing interest to members of the Corps.

Europa Lighthouse, situated at Europa Flats, is a landmark probably well known to quite a large number of Signals.

Devil's Tower—probably owing its name to the Genoese, who may have built it on the site of an old Moorish tower long before

Europa Lighthouse.

Devil's Tower.



A closer view of Europa Lighthouse.

the British occupation—is situated on a platform of rock on the North Front, and was evidently used as a frontier lookout.

The view of the Rock behind the Tower is magnificently grand, rising as it does in perpendicular steeps to a height of well over a thousand feet.

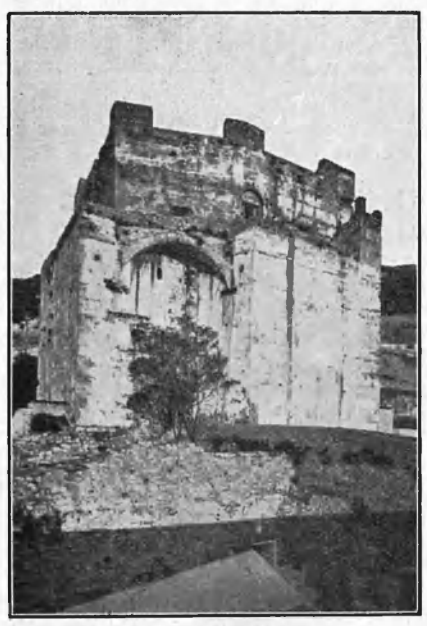
The technical photo is—well, we surmise that it calls for no comment.

The Moorish castle is situated on the north-west side of the Rock, and is probably the most interesting of the many relics of antiquity which exist in Gibraltar. This castle was erected by the Saracens, or Moors, on their first invading Spain, and was probably completed about the year 725. The present venerable remains are indisputable proofs of its magnificence and grandeur when it was in their possession.

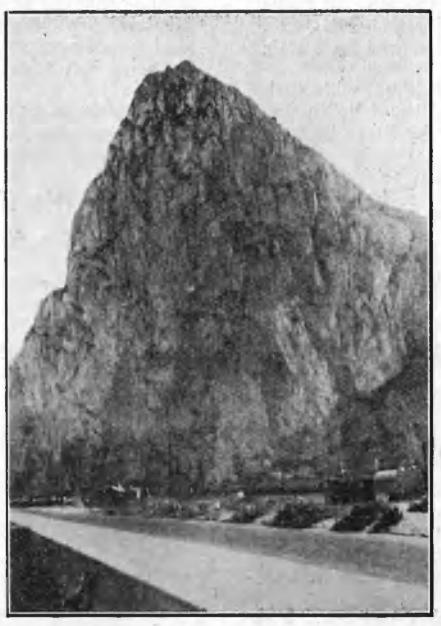
We were pleased to have an unofficial visit from Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O., on September 22nd, and had much pleasure in showing him the sights, and a few of the intricacies of our communications in Gibraltar, during his all too short stay on the Rock.

Scotland's Corner.—What is the price of postage stamps at Blackdown and Cairo?

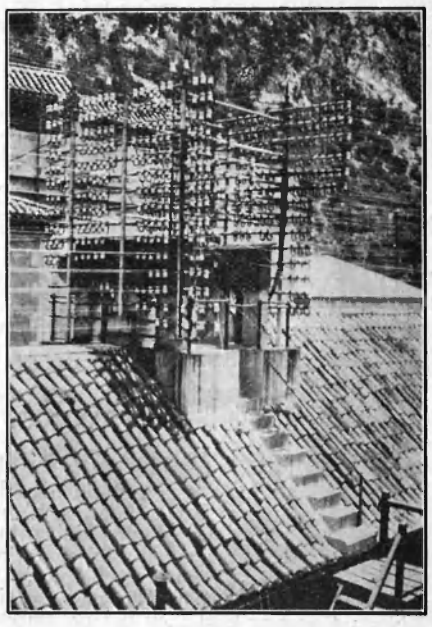
We have endeavoured, as far as possible, to prevent the early demise of the *poor printer* (the italics are ours), but regret that a few marks of punctuation have of necessity been left on our Oliver typewriter. [Many thanks. The effort is quite commendable and greatly appreciated.—The P.P.]



A Moorish Castle,



The Rock (behind the Devil's Tower).



Of technical interest to Signals,

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

(Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., London, S.W.3.

General.—Before you all recover from the shock of our notes appearing last month, we will try " shock tactics " and appear for the second time. In the meantime, thanks for the bouquets (and bricks).

I'm afraid that there are only a few notes for this month, as H.Q. is open on Wednesday evenings for recreation only until the first week in November, when once again we get our noses (and ears) down to D.iii's and C. mark iii.'s, and settle down to work once more.

Ah! before I go any further, there is one incident that happened at camp that I omitted last month, but one that is really worth mentioning. One morning, an n.c.o.s mount fell and broke its fetlock. Fortunately, this happened quite close to one of our wireless stations, and at once a priority message was sent off ; and within about six minutes of the accident occurring, our orderly room was in full possession of the facts—a feat which, perhaps, saved about an hour's delay.

And now for our two chief items of interest, which I think shall be classified as

Arrivals.—No. 1. Pard has gone, and we all join in welcoming our new caterer Joe. May his arm never grow tired, nor his bread knife get blunt, nor his smile grow smaller. What a treat to be greeted with a 100 per cent. smile when one asks for a glass of " tonic water." I mean to say, it tastes all the sweeter ; and his sandwiches, etc., are enough to make his namesake Joey Lyon grow green with envy.

No. 2.—One full-size billiard table complete. Shades of National Economy! Where did it spring from? Well, I'm sure all ranks will join with me in thanking our C.O., Major Roberts, M.C., for his kind-heartedness. It's just what we've wanted for a long while.

Two n.c.o.s gave a wonderful opening exhibition, with such remarks as " What's my score this time, Sarge?" and " Oh, you owe me two, C." A marvellous break of eight by Sarge brought forth great cheers from the spectators.

We are all going great guns, and hope soon to be able to challenge other units to matches and eventually to have a go at Inman and Reece.

We Should Like to Know.—The real reason why " Blue Dun " took a sudden dislike to a certain n.c.o. on the last Sunday morning ride?

Agony.—Have the members of A Company who promised to visit us forgotten our address? or didn't they like our faces, after all?

And the same remarks apply to the occupants of the gin palace attached to us during annual training. YEOMAN.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Not so fast—not so fast! Last month's notes foretold that by now we should have started our training, but we have *not*. This has been put off for a month and so we are still doing just as much as we were before (almost nothing). Is it to be wondered at that some people are putting on weight?

No. 3 Company held their hot pot on October 10th, and had a very good time, the commanding officer, the adjutant, and Nos. 1 and 2 Company commanders all being present.

Brevet-Colonel R. S. Newton told the Company that they had done well during the past year, and had, in fact, won the inter-Company shield, adding that they were the first Company in the unit to reach full strength, and that it was an occasion when they deserved a pat on the back. He very heartily congratulated Captain Ashley on the results of a lot of hard work. The team work throughout the Company was excellent, and that spirit must not be relaxed, because there is to be no annual training this next year. Everyone must work with the idea of being more efficient for the following camp.

An informal concert followed a film of the last camp, shown by Captain Ashley. Mr. Grundy (our bandmaster), Sergt Hayes, Corpl Kerr, Sigmn Smith and Mr. Morrichin all gave items, which made a very successful evening indeed.

Nos. 1 and 2 Companies' hot pots are yet to come. JIMMEE.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

The winter training period has now commenced, and we are to start special courses for n.c.o.s, etc., so that with the commencement of the programme of social events, we have a busy time before us. Having now got a brand new recreation room of our own, we shall be able to run many social and sporting events on our own " ground," and we hope, this year, to get the support of the whole Company. Come on, lads ; rally round.

Our budding soccer stars are making a name for themselves in local footer circles, and we are now in the fortunate position of being able to run two teams. We ask for nothing more than a sporting and enjoyable game—and indeed, up till now, they *have* been very enjoyable.

As there is to be no annual training next year, we are living in hope that the powers-that-be will allow us a few more of those jolly week-end camps, where we can show our prowess to the local population and once more hear the remark " Here come the telegraph soldiers "—quite a good definition of Corps men, I think.

The jockeys are also getting impatient and are straining at the leash to get busy on our four-footed friends. They will get it all right, all in good time. PIP.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

Headquarters, Lytton Street.

Apologies are, no doubt, due for the absence of notes from this Company for the last three months, but we ask to be excused on the ground of being very busy.

Our annual camp is now over, and all arguments relating thereto, in the Sergeants' Mess and Men's Club, are now satisfactorily cleared up. The weather we experienced was far from good, as we had only two fine days out of our fifteen. General work, etc., was well up to the standard expected—especially from the cable teams, who performed remarkably well.

There are still one or two things that require clearing up, such as:—Who cut Samuel's hair? How did the permanent staff manage to draw such a straight line at 22.00 hours? The distance from the first row of tents to the. . . .? If the distance is to be the same in the future, will it be possible to lay a light railway? Where is the Castle?

General.—We are now looking forward to the winter months, so that we may once again settle down to our training classes with a view to increasing our number of trade ratings.

Entertainments.—An entertainments committee has been formed, and has been hard at work in decorating the hall in preparation for the dancing season.

Our first dance was held on Friday, September 18th, and was a great success, there being an excellent company of about two hundred, including Major T. T. J. Sheffield (our O.C.) and Capt. Middleton, M.C., and their wives. The music was supplied by J. Burns' Scarlet Orchestra.

We have to congratulate the committee on the splendid work that was done in decorating, etc., and may say that everything looked in tip-top condition.

A similar dance is to be held every Friday evening from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., and we extend a hearty invitation to all, especially men of the Corps and other units who may be in the district on furlough.

Congratulations.—To Sergt Pinchbeck on being presented with the Territorial efficiency medal. To Sergt Newton and his squad on winning the McLeod cup. To F Section on winning the inter-Section shield. To Sigmn S. Jones on winning the general efficiency cup.

Promotions.—Hearty congratulations to the following on their recent promotions:—Sergt R. Holding and Corpls T. H. Snook, E. R. Harris and A. H. Jones.

Sports.—This subject is placed last, to give the lie to the old adage "Last but not least"—as it is about the only thing in which we did not come out with flying colours, although Driver Burton again managed to have his name among the prize-winners. We have, however, brighter hopes for the future.

When is Sergt Hunt (Quetta) going to write to the old firm?

ESPRIT DE CORPS.

No. 3 (Darlington) Company.

General.—Now that the shooting season is over and outdoor sport is more or less finished, we have to get indoors and swot—that is to say, learn watt-volt-amps.

The recruits course at Neasham was quite a success. There were six who had lucky dips and obtained a 1st, the remainder not diving deep enough into the bag. However, they all passed, which reflects great credit on them. It was rather a pity, however, that the markers did not get a shoot owing to lack of time; but if they wait until Novmeber 5th, they will be able to have a little "shoot up" at home. Signalman W. Carr was the crack recruit and wins the recruits cup for 1931. He was closely followed by Sigmn R. Walden, six points behind.

We have to thank Captain P. Jennings, our late adjutant, for his congratulations and other nice things he said about us in a letter to Captain J. W. Middleton, our O.C., which was passed on to the Company. This was very much appreciated, coming all the way from Aden, and shows that although Captain Jennings is back with the Regulars, he has not forgotten the Terriers.

Our congratulations are extended to Captain W. H. Dent, our new adjutant, on the birth of a daughter. Both Mrs. Dent and the daughter are doing well. We also have to congratulate the P.S.I. of No. 2 Company on the new addition to his family. Any eggs yet, Bill?

In closing (news is very short this month) just a few words about our n.c.o.s class. We muster fifteen, and hope to make it twenty. There are quite a dozen potential Field-Marshals. We wish them every success, and hope they each get an army of their own. They should, anyway, when Lieut. E. Glover and Corpl M. E. Podger, their very able instructors, have finished with them.

Things We Want to Know.—How to find the cubic capacity of a skeleton packing case? Whether Fairy knows that *at least* 2 *lbs.* of wedding cake must be locked in the attic to ward off the evil eye, and to ensure that the missus doesn't find out where he's been at night?

A.Q.U.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

General.—The last and most looked for parade of the year, the bounty parade, has been held by all Companies, and annual camp having now faded away in the distance, our thoughts are turning to winter training and entertainments.

Our Company correspondents have not yet come up to scratch in the matter of WIRE notes, but we are still hoping.

We regret to say that winter training is being cut down somewhat, owing to our training grant being subjected to a very severe cut of 20 per cent., so that each Company can only arrange to hold one small sixty-hour paid course during the forthcoming season. We were sorry to hear this, as quite a large percentage of the unit were looking forward to the winter training to enable them to qualify for a trade rating in the spring.

Winter Entertainments.—These have started with a flourish in Aberdeen, as the Sergeants' Mess held a very successful dance on October 2nd, and the junior n.c.o.s and men followed with one on the following Friday. Both functions were well attended, and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely; and as they will be repeated every month during the winter, we are assured of some pleasant dances.

It is a pleasant change to hear the shrill laughter of the ladies and nice soft music, etc., after an interval of six months, and everyone has soon found his best dancing form again—even the heavy-weights.

The energy put into the Scottish dances seems to have upset the equilibrium of one of our permanent staff instructors. After one graceful exhibition, as soon as he hears an unknown dance, he vanishes to —— (a different atmosphere). We are leaving the matter in the hands of the ladies for necessary action.

News from No. 2 Company entertainment committee has not yet come through, but No. 3 Company start the ball rolling with a whist drive and dance on October 30th. We hope to publish the result in our next month's notes.

Annual Camp, 1932.—A great blow was sustained by all ranks on the Army Council's announcement that next year's annual Territorial Army camps were to be suspended, as this is the one period of the year which everyone looks forward to. The announcement was accepted in the true British spirit, with the hope that something will be wangled somehow next year, if only for a few days during the Trades Week.

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

General.—Having stolen a glance at the foregoing Headquarters notes, and noting that they are not "up to scratch," No. 1 Company's correspondent gets cracking.

We have settled down again after annual training, and classes will be in full swing when this appears in print. The annual winter sixty-hour course is due to start on October 19th, and judging by the keenness of the candidates, there should be a big rise in the Company's rating figures in 1932.

Social.—The sergeants started the ball rolling this season with a dance at Fonthill Barracks on the first Friday in the month, and an all ranks affair was held a week later. Both were a tremendous success, and the season holds promise of some regular enjoyment. Of course, everyone isn't crazy on stripping the willow and reeling eightsomely, but it's a case of "When in Scotland do as the Scots do" (or *did* B.C.). Our P.S.I. doesn't seem to appreciate Scottish dancing, but then, he hasn't been properly broken in yet.

No. 3 (Kirkcaldy) Company sergeants have invited us to their dance on October 30th. We are sorry we can't go along in force, but we will do our best to send some worthy representatives.

Guessing Competition.—Who was the certain bright but lazy S.I. who couldn't quite decide which of eleven young ladies he should ask to be his bride, so wrote a letter full of kisses, love, and other amorous data, and sent 'em all a copy—using the unit office duplicator?

YEA.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

The Green, Stratford, E.15., October 6th.

General.—During the past month, many members have been qualifying for their proficiency grant, and it is anticipated that all members of the Company will have passed by the end of this month.

A farewell concert was given on Saturday, September 19th, in honour of Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Bowling, our commanding officer, who is relinquishing his command to take up an appointment in North Rhodesia. The concert was a success, and it was very well attended by all ranks. Lieut. J. Whiffen obliged the company with a few songs. The colonel gave a farewell speech, and although he spoke of his new appointment as a "gift," we

know that if it were possible he would remain with the unit. The officers presented the commanding officer with a "Jimmy."

Annual Dinner.—The Company annual dinner has been arranged for December 19th, and will be held at The Pigeons Hotel, Romford Road. Unfortunately, we shall not be able to invite Colonel Sir Robert Firth this time, for he passed away early this year. He will be remembered for his interesting speech on Mercury.

To 2nd Divisional Signals, Quetta.—Snow the old sends congratulations to Snow the younger on his successes, together with greetings from Sebert, E.7. ONECO.

No. 2 Company.

Annual Dinner.—The Company are holding their annual dinner at "Ye Olde Dr. Butler's Head" on December 12th. C.S.M. Hooper assures me that it is going to be a posh affair, and that it will be fully worth the trouble (?) of attending.

The affairs are in the capable hands of Lieut. Palmer and Sergt.-Major Hooper; so rally round, lads, and let us see a huge crowd at the dinner, just to show your appreciation and also your esprit de corps. Now, don't forget the date!

Lectures.—A series of interesting lectures will be held at Stratford during the ensuing months. The subjects are electricity and magnetism. The lecturers are Lieuts. Beck and Nicholson. Lectures commence at 8 p.m. sharp. Come along, chaps! "To hear much is to learn much." With trade tests nearing, you will require the information. So please give these officers your full support.

Annual Dance and Prizegiving.—Our annual dance is being held at the Town Hall, Stratford, on the 15th October. A full description of the affair will appear in my next notes. A good time is being looked forward to, anyhow.

No. 3 (Southend) Company.

October 8th.

Farewell.—We bade farewell on Saturday, September 19th, to our commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Bowling, who is taking up an appointment abroad. The Company will miss him very much.

He formed the Company at Milton House, Milton Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea, in 1924. After having great difficulty in getting a start, he soon had a complete Company, with a waiting list. His untiring efforts eventually brought us to our new drill hall, which was opened six years later: on October 18th, 1930.

The Company turned out a charabanc load to attend the farewell concert, the first man recruited for the Company by Colonel Bowling (Sergt W. Bradbury) being present. Our heartiest congratulations go with him in his new sphere of life. We will leave Headquarters to give an account of the concert.

Lectures.—A series of very interesting lectures is being given during October, November and December, on all subjects. It was very noticeable that the younger element were in the majority on Monday last, October 5th, and we are looking forward to quite a lot of questions being asked in the near future.

Efficiency Cup.—The efficiency cup, presented by Lieut. T. M. Wilks for the best all-round man in H Section, is still keenly contested. The result is due to be published at the end of October. At present it is a tie, but it is understood that the Section sergeant, Sergt J. McMenamin, will withdraw from the competition. Is that so, Mac?

Billiards.—The handicap entries are now closed, and the first series will start on Friday, October 9th. Five prizes have been put up, and we hope to have the winners' names published in the December notes.

Annual Dinner.—It has been noted that the Bedford Detachment are holding their annual dinner before Christmas. No date has yet been fixed for ours, but we are looking forward to it, and we hope that the dates will not clash. THREECO.

Bedford Detachment.

The Drill Hall, Ashburnham Road, Oct. 1st.

The unit is still going strong, and we hope to greatly increase our strength in the near future.

Since the publication of our last notes, we have lost the services of Sergt F. Harrison, one of our most popular n.c.o.s. He will be greatly missed, and all ranks join in wishing him all the best. As he is still living in the town, we sincerely hope that he won't altogether forget us.

A series of lectures is being held here during October and November. These lectures are on magnetism and electricity, and should prove quite interesting; and it is hoped that all ranks will take advantage of this course. BEDS.

55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Mason Street, Liverpool.

Until the winter classes start, parades after camp are usually of a skeleton nature and are mainly attended by those who must complete a certain number to qualify for their bounty. This year, however, parades have been unusually large and have been devoted mainly to sounder practice.

Camp proved our shortage of operators, and to ensure against a similar occurrence next year, special classes for operators have been arranged, starting in November. Running in conjunction with these classes is a scheme whereby those who qualify in the tests will be paid a bonus, the amount varying with the speed attained. Thus, five shillings will be paid for qualifying at the rate of five words per minute, ten shillings for ten words per minute, and in proportion up to twenty-five shillings for twenty-five words per minute. The tests, composed of messages in plain, will be carried out during the first week of each month, beginning in December. We hope, by this method, to encourage all operators to improve their speed and to ensure that the present scarcity of operators will soon cease to exist.

Early in September, the officers challenged the sergeants to a billiards match. We played in the sergeants' mess and spent a very jolly and most enjoyable evening, just managing to win after several very close and interesting games. [The "we" is rather vague.—ED.]

A certain—or more exactly, an uncertain—officer and an equally uncertain sergeant played a most exciting game. Unknown to both, a rubber ball was substituted for the red. It is impossible to fully appreciate the humour of the situation without actually having been there; but something of the fun may be imagined by picturing the red bouncing along the cloth and not infrequently bouncing off the table. The main scoring was done by the "uncertain officer" carefully sighting along the cue and then, with a powerful forcing stroke, either missing the ball completely, potting his own, or smashing into the red so forcefully as to cause both balls to fly from the table. The game ended in a draw of 14—14, a fitting result to a tight game.

With the near approach of winter, the usual social functions begin to appear on the horizon; and although the dark clouds of the national financial crisis are blotting out the officers' annual dinner and also their dance, there is discernible in the mists the brightness of the sergeants' hot pot and a new attraction in a unit hot pot to be held early in December.

Shooting.—The annual competition for the Altcar challenge cup took place shortly after our return from camp. The weather was gloriously fine, and those who were lucky enough to be in the butts spent a most enjoyable day in sun-bathing and acquiring a thirst which they lost no time in quenching.

No. 2 Company were again successful, No. 1 second, and No. 3 third. We hope for a closer competition next year; and seeing that a miniature range is to be built at Mason Street, the Liverpool Companies will at least be able to practise.

We congratulate Mr. J. E. Clare, of No. 2 Company, on obtaining the highest individual score, and Sigmn Spencer (No. 1) and Corpl Goodwin (No. 2) on being second and third respectively.

Arrivals.—We extend a hearty welcome to L/Sergt Macdonnell from 2nd Divl Signals, Aldershot.

Departures.—To those who have joined the Regulars, good luck! To Sergt Hobbs, who has left us for Catterick, our sympathy and best wishes. FIVE-FIVE.

For conclusion of Territorial Notes see foot of page 480.

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

Final of the Catterick Garrison Cricket Cup.

Depot Battalion v. 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry.—This match commenced on the 14th and ended on the 16th September, and resulted in a victory for us by 27 runs after a very exciting game.

We won the toss and decided to bat first, Capt. Rosenberg and 2/Lieut Thomson being the opening pair. Keen fielding and a misunderstanding between our opening pair resulted in Captain Rosenberg being run out for 4. The hero of the side followed. Capt. Walford, off the first ball he received, scored a 2. He and 2/Lieut. Thomson soon settled down to some very good cricket. 2/Lieut. Thomson was dismissed first after making an excellent 52, being bowled by Lieutenant Simpson. This partnership had realised 82 runs and made things look much brighter for us. Sigmn Duncan was next in, and after scoring 10 he was caught off Bandsman Sparey's bowling.

Tea was then taken—and this, by the way, proved disastrous. On resuming, Bandsman Sparey completed his " hat trick " and his total analysis for our first innings was seven wickets for 43 runs. The innings closed with the score at 162, of which Capt. Walford had made 66 not out.

The D.L.I. innings was opened by Lieut. Jeffreys and L/Corpl Machin, Capt. Walford bowling the first over. Off his third ball Lieut Jeffreys should have been caught, and there were loud groans from our supporters when he was missed from a similar opportunity off the next ball. This batsman we wanted out badly, as he is reckoned one of the best bats in the Garrison. Eventually he was well caught by Lt.-Col. C. H. Walsh, fielding at mid-off. Unfortunately the C.O. damaged his forefinger rather badly, and this prevented his taking the field on the final day, Corpl Rawson fielding as substitute.

Well, after some more missed catches, the innings closed at 130. The D.L.I. chief scorers were Lieut. Jeffreys (61), C.S.M. Bush (22) and Lieut.-Colonel Greenwood (17). Captain Walford had the excellent analysis of six wickets for 28 runs.

Our second innings opened in a disastrous fashion—exactly the same thing happening as in our first innings, only this time it was 2/Lieut. Thomson who was run out. One for three, last man nil. Once again Captain Walford came to the rescue, scoring a fine 59 and bringing his total runs for the match to 125. Other chief scorers were Lieut.-Colonel Walsh (18) and Sigmn May, a very promising batsman (16). The innings closed for a total of 118, thus leaving the D.L.I.'s to get 151 to win.

Once again Lieut. Jeffreys played a masterly innings for his side, and a great roar went up when Captain Power bowled him after he had scored 54. Some idea might be given, why I say it was masterly, when I give the fall of wickets: 1—24, 2—35, 3—46, 4—46, 5—47, 6—61, 7—78. Then came a stand by Lieut. Simpson, who made a very useful 27: 8—113, tense excitement, 38 runs required to win ; but excellent bowling by Captain Walford saw to it that this was not reached, their innings closing for 123 and leaving us the victors by 27 runs. Special note must be made of Captain Walford's bowling analysis in this innings, which was eight for 43—his total for the match being fourteen wickets for 71 runs.

Lieut.-Gen. W. M. St. G. Kirke, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander of the 5th Division, and Mrs. Kirke were present on the last day. Mrs. Kirke presented the cup.

A photograph of the team will be found on another page of this issue.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, Catterick.

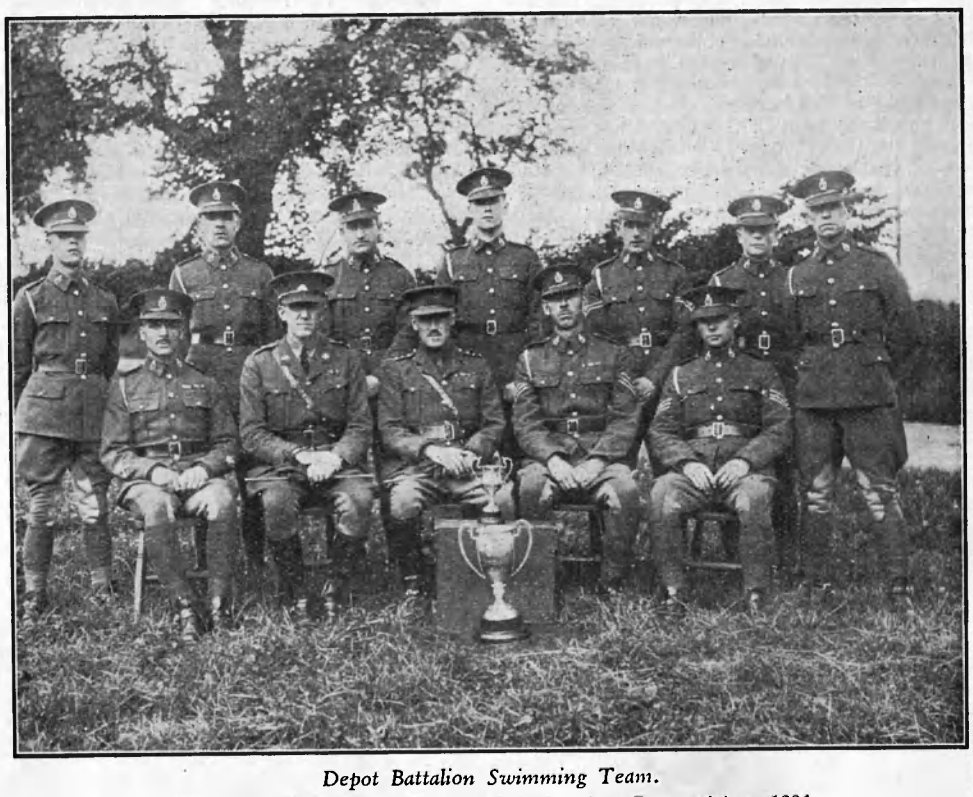
Boxing: Inter-Squad Championship.—The inter-Squad championship took place on October 7th and 14th in the historic confines of the " Blood Tub " (or " Salon de Zonk ").

Straight lefts, right hooks and upper-cuts flashed in the sunlight, and indrawn breath or resounding thuds announced their arrival on the target. On the whole, the fighting was very good, and no quarter was given or asked.

Special mention must be made of Sigmn Prescott, of No. 62 Squad, who in every case had a real tough opponent to dispose of. He won the final of the feathers by defeating Sigmn Hircoe, of No. 59 Squad, who made him go all the way. A splendid fight, and very close indeed.

Sigmn Page, of No. 60 Squad, took the lights, and Signalman Sokell, of No. 67 Squad, the welters. Page had to depend on his left in his last two combats, as his right thumb was giving him trouble, but he pulled through very successfully. Sokell, as befits a member of the Battalion scrum, was very strong and fought very well in defeating Sigmn Craddock, of No. 59 Squad, another strong and useful welter.

Depot Battalion Cricket Team.
Winners of Catterick Garrison Inter-Unit Cricket Cup, 1930 and 1931.



Depot Battalion Swimming Team.
Winners of Northern Command Swimming Competition, 1931.
Third in Army Team Championships, 1931.

The result was as follows:—Champion Squad, No. 59, with 15 points; runners-up, Nos. 60 and 69, with 13 points.

D Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Rugby.—After floundering in mud and water for our summer recreation, the winter sports season opened on a glorious summer evening with a rugby match against our old opponents, F Company, when we succeeded in mastering their "A" team by 3—0 points after one of the hardest fought games seen in the Signal Training Centre. Our "B" team lost their game by 5—8 points.

We were up against another stiff proposition on the following evening, when we met the Mounted Wing and avenged the defeat which they inflicted on our sadly-depleted team last year by winning both matches. The "A" team result was 6—4 points, and "B" team 17—0 points.

With the exception of scrum practice and those participating in Battalion, S.T.C. and Garrison trials, we were able to recover from the strain of those two hard games to beat the School of Signals on the following Tuesday evening by 19—0 points.

Unfortunately, when we played the Prince of Wales's Volunteers in a friendly match on October 7th, our stars were assisting the S.T.C.; but, playing a man short throughout the game, we only lost by the narrow margin of one point, the score being 9—8 in favour of our opponents.

Hockey.—For the first time we have secured the hockey trophy, our "A" League team coming through the competition with an unbeaten record. The only drawn match was against Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion, when we played a man short for the whole of the first half and were a goal down at the interval. The following are the results:—"A" League—v. Mounted Wing, won by 2—0; v. E Company, won by 2—1; v. Dismounted Wing, drew at 1—1; v. School of Signals, won by 4—2; v. F Company, won by 5—1.

"B" League.—v. Mounted Wing, won by 4—2; v. E Company, lost by 1—3; v. Dismounted Wing, lost by 1—2.

Association.—The following results in Mackworth League matches will show that, as in other strenuous games, we are not far behind the leaders, and that we were the first to lower the colours of F Company in both games.

"A" Team.—v. Mounted Wing, won by 3—2; v. E Company, drew at 3—3; v. F Company, won by 3—2.

"B" Team.—v. Mounted Wing, won by 2—0; v. E Company, lost by 0—1; v. F Company, won by 5—2.

We have also done well in friendlies with teams from other Regiments in the Garrison:—v. P Battery R.A., won by 3—2; v. 55th Field Company R.E., won by 7—3; v. H.Q. Wing, 2nd Hampshires, lost by 1—5; v. R.A.M.C., won by 10—0; v. H.Q. Wing, Lanc. Fusiliers, drew at 3—3.

Cross-Country.—Only one run has taken place, and our team packed very well indeed, the only mistake being that they packed much too far away from the leaders. Better luck next time!

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Football.—The first team played Dismounted Wing in the opening match of the season and won with comparative ease.

Following this was a match against the School of Signals, but after a hard struggle we managed to win.

Thirdly came the match with Mounted Wing, and although the play was very even throughout the game, we managed to win by a narrow margin.

Then, lastly, the match with D Company. It was a tussle all through, but D Company won—and were lucky to do so.

Our seconds have been unlucky, but are improving with each game.

Hockey.—The first team have been rather unfortunate in their efforts, and although they have tried hard, bad luck seems to have opposed them.

The seconds have done very well, winning every match up to the present. We congratulate Moseley on his play in the match against Dismounted Wing.

Rugby.—Only two matches have been played up to the present. The firsts have hardly had time to shine, but the seconds have done well.

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Cross-Country.—Our cross-country team seems to be up to its usual standard, and should be capable of holding its own in the forthcoming runs.

On Saturday, October 3rd, a swimming team and a football team were sent to oppose Barnard Castle. They were both defeated, but offered creditable resistance to their opponents, who had the advantage of weight in football and training in swimming.

1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Boxing.—This being an awkward time of the year for sport, we must excuse ourselves for short notes.

We have several teams in training, including boxing, running, football, hockey and rugby. At the time of going to press, we are drawn against No. 3 Company A Corps Signals in the soccer cup, and against No. 3 Company 2nd Divl Signals in the Willan boxing trophy. Our Company likes the "threes," so look out, No. 3 Company 1st Div. Both n.c.o.s and men are urgently required for the above mentioned sports, so roll up, all you dark horses.

The following letter was received from the secretary of the British Legion boxing tournament, Warwick:—

"I am directed by the committee to thank you for the splendid substitute you sent us, at such very short notice, in place of Sigmn Hogg. The contest between Sigmn Warburton and Pte Crotty, of the King's Regiment, was the finest of the evening. You may guess what a good show he made when I tell you that his opponent was awarded the best loser's prize. Sigmn Warburton received the finest ovation of the evening. He is all you said: a splendid sporting, clean boxer, admired by all who saw and met him—the making of a future champion.

"Yours faithfully (signed) C. H. J. LITTLEWOOD."

We must offer our hearty congratulations to Sigmn Warburton, and hope that he will maintain this fine form throughout the season.

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 3 Company.

At the finish of what we regard as a very successful season, we find ourselves the holders of the following trophies:—The Aldershot Signals cross-country challenge shield, the 2nd Divl unit trophy, the inter-Company cross-country cup, the cricket cup, the athletic cup, the rugby cup, the water polo cup, the swimming cup, the relay cup, and the football cup (shared with No. 2 Company). This proves we can still hold our own with the best—and what we have, we hold!

In the newly-formed inter-Company football shield, we find ourselves drawn against No. 1 Company, A Corps Signals. In the Hitchens rugby cup, we meet No. 3 Company, 1st Divisional Signals. It's too soon to talk yet, but we are quite hopeful.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Soccer.—Since the publication of the last notes, Ipswich Town have been defeated by 1—0 at Ipswich, R.A.F. (Martlesham) defeated by 3—0 at Colchester, and R.A. (Shoeburyness) defeated by 3—2 at Shoeburyness in the Amateur cup.

The draw for the first round of the Army cup decrees that we must travel again to Shoeburyness—this time to meet the 2nd Medium Brigade R.A.

Rugby.—*4th Divl. Signals v. 17th Field Brigade R.A.* Played at Reed Hall on October 1st, and resulted in a win for Signals by 9—5 points. We were without Sergt Jones and Signalmen Snowball, Manson and Smee. The Gunners scored first and led at half-time by 5—3 points. Sigmn Reid scored a very good try in the second half, and L/Corpl Langham again got in just before "no side." The team is settling down into a good side.

4th Divl Signals "A" XV. v. Colchester "A."—This match followed directly after the 17th Field Brigade R.A. game. Colchester, in order to fill up their team, played six of the Middlesex first fifteen and rather outweighed us. However, several young players showed up very prominently, especially Signalmen Sims, Topping, Fitzpatrick F. and Walton, and L/Corpl Henning. At half-time Colchester led by 12—0 points, and just at the end of the second half they scored again on two occasions, eventually winning by 20—0 points—a score rather flattering to them.

4th Divl Signals v. Mr. McDonald's XV.—Played at Reed Hall on October 3rd, and resulted in a win for Signals by 20—0 points.

Mounted Sports.—These were held on September 29th and 30th. Results:—

Open Handy Hunter Competition—1st, 2/Lieut A. W. P. Herbert (3rd Carabiniers); 2nd, Capt. A. F. Holland (3rd Carabiniers); 3rd, Captain L. B. Nicholls (R.Signals)

Four-Horse Team Driving—1st, B Section (Drivers Barnett and Valentine); 2nd, F (Drivers Jeffery and Crews)

Pair Jumping: Drivers—1st, E Section (Driver Redman); 2nd, B (Driver Westwood); 3rd, F (Driver Crews)

Best Turn-Out: Mounted Signalman—1st, F Section; 2nd, B; 3rd, J. Individuals—1st, L/Corpl Watson (J); 2nd, Signalman Jordan (E)

Team Jumping: two per Section—1st, B Section; 2nd, F; 3rd, G. Individuals—1st, Sigmn Powell (F); 2nd, Sigmn Etheridge (B)

Best Turn-Out: L.G.S. Wagon—1st, B Section; 2nd, J; 3rd, E. Individuals—1st, Driver Hill (B); 2nd, Driver Morton (J)

Pair Driving: Neale Cup—1st, G Section; 2nd, L; 3rd, J. Individuals—1st, Driver Pashley (G) challenge cup; 2nd, Driver Morton (L)

Wrestling on Horseback—1st, J Section

V.C. Race—1st, Driver Ketteridge (K Section); 2nd, Driver Valentine (B); 3rd, Sigmn McConnell (E)

Best Turn-Out: Pack Pony—1st, Sigmn Roberts (K Section); 2nd, Sigmn Darnell (L)

Best Turn-Out: Four-Horse Team, Cable or Tele. Wagon—1st, Drivers Jeffery and Crews (F Section); 2nd, Drivers Heydon and Pashley (G)

Inter-Communication Race—1st, F Section; 2nd, B

INTER-SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.

Column 1, Best Turn-Out, Mounted Signalman; 2, Team Jumping; 3, Best Turn-Out, L.G.S. Wagon; 4, Pair Driving; 5, Pair Jumping, Drivers. The last column shows the total points scored by each unit. (See table in next column.)

	1	2	3	4		Total
"B" Section	12	14	14	8	12	... 60
"F" Section	14	12	6	2	10	... 44
"G" Section	5	9	6	14	8	... 42
"J" Section	10	4	12	10	5	... 41
"E" Section	5	6	10	4	14	... 39
"L" Section	5	9	2	12	5	... 33
"K" Section	5	2	6	6	2	... 21

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Hockey.—The season 1931/32 commenced on October 1st with a match between Nos. 1 and 3 Companies for points in the inter-Company shield. Considering that we could not manage any previous trials, the game proved very keen, the score of 1—0 in favour of No. 3 Company being a fair reflex of the play and strength of the teams.

On October 10th we opened our official fixtures with an away match against Scarborough Northern H.C. (the old St. Mary's College team). As their goal keeper was unable to turn out, Mr. Conway kindly offered to keep goal for them. The result was a win for us by two goals to one, the game being very fast and even.

In registering our first win we are confident of a successful season, and with the assistance of practically all last year's team, we are hoping to give a better account of ourselves in this year's Army cup—although last year's performance we considered no mean achievement.

Our team has lost one of its best members in the departure of Mr. Beeton for India, while our arrivals include Corpl Badham, L/Corpl Webber (who has played for the Sind Province team) and Corpl Smith, from India, and Sigmn Burke (who, with more experience, will be a useful man in the side) from the S.T.C.

Football.—The unit has entered a team in the Scarborough and District League (played on Saturdays) and another in the Scarborough Wednesday League (speaks for itself). At the end of last season, the former were runners-up in the Scarborough League cup and received medals. Up to date they have played four matches, as follows:—v. Oriel (home), drew at 1—1; v. Kirbymoorside (away), lost by 3—5; v. Oriel (away), lost by 1—3; v. Kirbymoorside (home), won by 3—1.

The last match was played for the last hour with only ten players, L/Corporal Spargo becoming a casualty through knee trouble. By their display the team have certainly given the selection committee something to think about, with the Army cup in the offing. Now that they have at last struck a winning vein, it is hoped that they won't look back.

The Wednesday team played off the deciding match for the Wednesday League championship against the Alliance F.C. on the athletic ground, Scarborough, on September 30th. The team was as follows:—Sigmn Cord; Sergt Brandon and Dvr Evanson; L/Corpl Barnicott, L/Corpl Falkner and Sigmn Cooper A. D.: Sigmn Whitehead, Sigmn Martin, Lieut. Wintle, Sigmn Steele and Sigmn Cranshaw.

The following account of the match appeared in the *Scarborough Evening News and Daily Post* of Saturday, October 3rd:—A crowd of over four hundred assembled to witness the replay of the League championship deciding match, Alliance v. 5th Divisional Signals.

The Signals, winning the toss, elected to defend the Seamer Road goal. In the early stages, Sands of the Alliance almost let the soldiers through by miskicking. The Signals, applying pressure, caused uneasiness in the Alliance defence, but Kidd proved equal to the occasion by keeping a good goal. The Alliance now took up the attack, but could not penetrate the soldiers' defence. Brown had hard luck with a good shot, which the Signals custodian had difficulty in saving. During an attack by the soldiers, Sands was the means of causing a penalty from which the soldiers opened their account.

From the kick-off, the Alliance attacked hotly and penned the Signals in their own half for a while. An attack by the soldiers was launched, but offside spoilt the movement. Further pressure was, however, applied, resulting in Youngman almost heading through his own goal. The Alliance were the first to gain a corner, but this proved fruitless. Each side now attacked in turn. A free kick for hands was awarded the Alliance on the verge of the penalty area. Sands, taking the kick, placed the

ball out of the soldier goalie's reach and put his side on equal terms.

This setback caused the Signals to fight back, but an infringement by them gave relief to the Alliance. Through mis-kicking Kidd almost let the soldiers in, but the situation was eventually saved. End to end play followed, both sides playing well. The soldiers again took up the attack, but spoilt their movement by an infringement. Sands was playing a good game for the Alliance, having hard luck with a long shot which struck the upright. Steele of the Signals put his side ahead shortly after this during a breakaway. Half-time score—5th Divisional Signals 2, Alliance 1.

The first incident of note after the restart was a corner awarded the Alliance. This, however, was placed outside. The Alliance backs were playing a good game, repeatedly repulsing the soldiers' attacks. A splendid save by Kidd when a goal seemed certain received the applause it merited. Each side now attacked in turn. The Alliance were fortunate in not having their arrears increased, Youngman again nearly heading through his own goal. Kidd was again conspicuous, but had to concede a corner, from which Barnicott scored.

With only Kidd to beat, Steele had a good opportunity to put his side further ahead, but spoilt his chance by shooting over the bar. A further corner was awarded the soldiers, but this was cleared. The Signals increased their lead very shortly after through Cooper, who beat Kidd with a high dropping shot.

The soldiers were now playing well, their stamina prevailing over the Alliance. A free kick awarded to the latter saw Sands score his side's second goal, the Signals custodian miskicking in an attempt to clear.

Shortly after this, a further infringement by the soldiers resulted in a melee in their goal, during which a further lapse on their part resulted in the Alliance being awarded a penalty. Sands, taking the kick, saw the soldiers' goalie only partly save and, following up, netted, thus performing the hat trick.

Nettled by this setback, the Signals set up a determined attack and were rewarded in their efforts through Steele, who netted their fifth goal.

Further pressure was applied, the Alliance defence conceding a corner, which Kidd did well to clear. Not to be denied, the soldiers kept up the attack, which was rewarded by Martin scoring another goal. This was late in the game, as the whistle sounded shortly after with the score reading: 5th Divl Signals 6, Alliance 3.

. . . . . .

Thus did the team carry off the League championship for 1931, together with the shield and gold medals. Their first league match for this season is not due until October 21st, and of this I will report later.

Army Cup.—We have been rather fortunate in the draw for for the first round of the Army cup, as we are to entertain the 1st Battn The Prince of Wales's Volunteers from Catterick Camp on our ground on Wednesday, October 14th. Needless to say, the unit is looking forward to this match. Dame Rumour has been very busy, and many faces can be seen, day by day, scanning the sports notice board for the " mysterious team " that the selection committee have up their sleeve. For a report of this match, see December WIRE.

Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

Cricket.—The season was spoilt by interminable rain, and we only played about four matches, including the York and Lancaster Regiment in the semi-final of the N.I.D. cup. The latter match was played at Derry, and finally ended in our defeat by an innings and one run. The wicket was very soft, and we had no bowler who could do anything on it. We batted first and made 107. They made 159. We only made 51 in the second innings. The York and Lancaster Regiment won the final by an innings and 130 runs.

Football.—We played the R.A.S.C. to decide the winners of last year's Garrison Company League cup. It was a great game. We opened the scoring with a beautiful long cross shot by Burnett. In the second half, Blount put us further ahead with a good shot. Then came disaster: we went to pieces, and the R.A.S.C. put on three goals. It was a very fine recovery, and we congratulate them heartily.

Major-General E. S. Girdwood, C.B., C.M.G., our new G.O.C., presented the cup and shook hands with the team. He said he was very pleased to see such a hard and clean game for the first sport he had watched in N.I.D.

Hockey.—We have played two matches, losing by 1—2 to the R.A.S.C. and beating B Company R.U.R. by 5—3.

A combined team of Royal Signals and R.A.S.C. was beaten by 8—2 by the R.U.R. The game was not so one-sided as the score suggests, and was enjoyed by all.

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Football.—At last the Sergeants' Mess have bitten the dust, No. 9 Bungalow being the victors. It was entirely a one-man slaughter, though, as Sigmn Nelson (normally a full back) operating at centre-forward for the first time, scored all six goals by which the sergeants were beaten.

A few days after this game, Nelson again gave us some idea of what a centre-forward is supposed to do by getting a number of goals against the Attached Section. I lost count of the score after he had scored five.

Several interesting matches with the Indian ranks of the Signal Training Centre have recently taken place. They have a number of promising players, some of whom can teach our players a little about ball control.

The Indian ranks are busily preparing their teams for the forthcoming Indian inter-Company Brigade football shield. Judging by the displays of "B" and "C" Companies of this unit, it will be a veritable slaughter of the innocents until these two teams meet, when a good game should be witnessed.

Rugby.—Once more have we said goodbye to the Eduljee cup for a year. On August 25th we played and were defeated by the 2nd Battn Prince of Wales's Volunteers. We were not beaten, however, until we had provided them with a real shock.

Five minutes after the commencement of the game, a brilliant passing movement between Lieut. Knox, L/Corporal Kelly and Sigmn Cale resulted in the latter going over for an unconverted try. Our slender lead was maintained until about mid-way through the second half, when we had the misfortune to lose Sergt Parker, who was taken to hospital. The defence then appeared to collapse under hot pressure by the P.W. Volunteers, who managed to win the match with two unconverted tries. The try of the Signals was considered by the majority of spectators to be the finest witnessed on the Garrison grounds this season.

In closing these rugby notes, it might be of interest to mention that the P.W. Volunteers have one of the finest teams in India at the present moment. A few years ago they won the all-India tournament at Calcutta, and have held the Cawnpore cup for the last three years. In the competition for the latter trophy they are making great efforts to retain the cup, having already beaten the 23rd Field Brigade R.A. by 12—3 points and the Cheshire Regiment at Allahabad by 14—0, which has landed them in the semi-finals, which have not at present taken place.

Cricket.—With the advent of cooler weather, some very interesting cricket has been witnessed. An exciting game was witnessed on the sergeants' ground between the sergeants and corporals, which resulted in a tie, each side scoring 53 runs. The majority of the corporals' score came from Corpl Wellock and L/Corpl Coker. I think the rest of the side managed about ten runs between them.

The Sergeants' Mess are to be congratulated on making such a fine cricket field on the old parade ground to the south of the mess. Set in rather sylvan surroundings, with its border of trees on one side and the main road running close by, it reminds one a little of the old village ground at Maresfield. Until a short while ago, the ground resembled a hay-field badly in need of cutting, but Sergt Foley gathered together a couple of hundred " chikkos " and soon gave it a lawn-like appearance. Matches are held regularly, and these serve the very good purpose of keeping the troops away from their beds on Thursdays and Sundays.

Features of the season so far have been the popularity of Sergt Farmer's bowling and Sergt Bramwell's batting. In one match L/Corpl Coker knocked up 22 in one over from Sergt Farmer, and the crowd seemed a bit peeved when the bowling was changed. They howled loudly " We want Sergt Farmer "—but they didn't get him.

The ground was opened with a match between the w.o.s and sergeants and the junior n.c.o.s. Batting first, the corporals knocked together the respectable total of 94, to which L/Corpl Coker contributed 33 and L/Corpl Driscoll 20. Sergeant Foley "carted" the bowling honours with five wickets for 20. The sergeants replied with 101 for five wickets, thus winning by five wickets. R.S.M. McGregor (26) and Sergt Brewer (25) were the top scorers.

On the Company ground, on August 19th, No. 9 Bungalow played the Royal Fusiliers Attached Section and won easily by 123 (Sigmn Nelson 61) to 54.

On August 20th, No. 8 Bungalow played the personnel of the Royal Fusiliers attached to this unit. Batting first, No. 8 knocked up the magnificent score of 173, the chief scorers being Signalmen Brooks (47), Mitchell (36) and Gale (31). The partnership between Signalmen Gale and Brooks for the eighth wicket realised 52. The Fusiliers made a fine start in their reply, having 80 on the board with one wicket fallen. However, after Fusilier Lavender had been dismissed after scoring 44, the rest of the side did not offer much resistance and were all out for 123.

On September 17th No. 1 Section beat No. 2 by 98 (Sergeant Bramwell 26) to 54.

On Sunday, September 20th, the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess were visited by a formidable team from the G.I.P. Railway. Included in the Railway team were three players who had represented the Europeans v. Hindus and v. Mahommedans in quadrangular matches. Batting first, things looked none too rosy for the visitors with four of their best men out for 29 runs, but a change of bowling altered the complexion of the game, and they amassed 113 before being all out. The Sergeants made the somewhat feeble reply of 47, of which Sergt Jackson scored 22 out of the first 30. Batting a second time, the Sergeants just managed to beat the Railwaymen's total.

On the following Thursday, an interesting match was played between No. 4 Section and the Sergeants' Mess. Batting first, No. 4 could do little against the bowling of Sergt Foley, who took seven wickets for 23 runs, the Section being all out for 55. The Sergeants made a deplorable start, having three wickets down for 11 runs. The match was at a very interesting stage when the last batsman (Sergt Farmer) went in to partner Sergt Foley. Six runs were then needed for a tie. A leg-bye was scored, and then excitement was quickly dispelled by Sergt Foley hitting Sergt Parker for six, thus winning the match. The Sergeants went on to 70, at which total the last wicket fell. Sergt Foley was top scorer with 17 not out.

Football.—Efforts are being made to get together the unit team, but it seems we'll have to sweat on the promised players from Colchester.

Matches have been played as follows:—v. 60th Field Battery, drew at 1—1; v. 90th Battery, lost by 1—2; v. 100th Battery, lost by 1—3.

Hockey.—The following matches have been played:—v. Cantonment Sports Club, drew at 5—5; v. Indian Military Hospital, won by 10—1 and 7—2; v. St. Joseph's College, won by 7—3; v. "C" Company, won by 9—1 and lost by 1—2.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Football.—Several trial matches have been held, and also a few friendlies, in preparation for the Garrison League—which we won last year. This commences next month. The prospects at present are far from rosy, but we hope to improve as the season progresses. Results of matches played are as follows:—Played 4, won 1, lost 3. Goals—for 7, against 9.

Hockey.—The results this month are very deceiving. As far as tactics and keenness go, we are more than equal to our opponents; but whatever the number of goals we score, they generally manage to get one or two more. The results speak for themselves:—Played 8, won 1, drawn 2, lost 5. Goals—for 14, against 29.

Cricket.—This sport is dying hard, and during the last month we played three matches, losing each one.

In the first match, we batted first against the Sind Police and put together the useful total of 122, to which Lieut. Worrall and L/Corpl Gordon contributed 30 and 24 respectively. The Sind Police replied with 123 for nine wickets, of which Corpl Ashford took three for 19.

In the second game our opponents, "A" Company Royal Sussex Regiment, opened first and declared after making 115 for the loss of three wickets. We could only answer with a total of 84 all out, of which Lieut. Worrall scored 21.

The third was the last match of the season, and Sind Police were our opponents once more. Their score was 123 for nine wickets, Sigmn Thomas returning an analysis of 12 overs, 5 maidens, 19 runs, 3 wickets. In reply, we compiled a meagre 60, to which Sigmn Chitty contributed 22.

Rugby.—Up to the time of going to press, one trial match has been held, and we have every prospect of a successful season.

Tennis.—INTER-SECTION TENNIS LEAGUE. This very popular portion of the inter-Section championships was held in September, and the men's court was the scene of several tense struggles. The majority of games were fiercely contested, and produced some surprising results. Many reputed stars met their Waterloo at the hands—or rather, racquets—of the lesser fry.

The matches consisted of three single-set games, one singles and two doubles, and a point was scored for each game won. The final table was as follows:—No. 3 Section, won 7 and lost 2—7 points. No. 2 Section, won 4 and lost 5—4 points. No. 1 Section, won 4 and lost 5—4 points. No. 4 Section, won 3 and lost 6—3 points.

SIND LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Ladies' Doubles.—Mrs. Helps (wife of our C.O.) and partner won the final in two straight sets, 6—3, 6—3. The match was very evenly contested, nearly every game going to deuce, and definitely proved that ladies are quite able to drive hard and fast, and volley and chop with vigour.

Men's Doubles.—Sergt Shardlow and partner lost to the ultimate winners by 1—6, 4—6.

NORTH-WESTERN INDIA TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Ladies' Doubles.—Mrs. Helps and partner repeated their success in the Sind lawn tennis championships by winning again, thus proving themselves the premier ladies' pair in North-Western India. The result was 7—5, 3—6, 6—2.

Mixed Doubles.—Mrs. Helps and partner were the runners-up, losing in the final by 2—6, 6—3, 3—6.

Men's Doubles.—Sergt Shardlow and partner just failed to reach the semi-final, losing to the ultimate winners after a very close game.

Sind Point to Point Races.—Entries from this unit did exceptionally well this year, Lieutenant W. R. Smijth-Windham and C.Q.M.S. Taylor coming home first in the Commissioner's cup and Sind point-to-point cup respectively, with L/Sergt Anderson third in the latter event.

The weather was putrid, sand and dust ruling the day, and riders and steeds are to be congratulated on a fine exhibition. The final placings were as follows:—

COMMISSIONER'S CUP.

Lieutenant W. R. Smijth-Windham's "Jorrocks," 12st. 7lb. owner up 1
Mr. D. N. O. Sullivan's "Lady Bird," 10st. 7lb., owner up 2
Major J. C. Crocker's "Dark Blue," 12st. 7lb., owner up... 3
Mr. F. H. Hodgkinson's "Buster," 12st. 7lb., owner up... 4
Also ran:—"L'Amour," 12st. 7lb.; "Nicky," 11st. 7lb.

SIND POINT TO POINT CUP.

A Corps Signals "Sultan," 11st., C.Q.M.S. Taylor up 1
11th Field Battery's "No. 2," 11st. 2
A Corps Signals "Brownie," 11st., L/Sergt Anderson up ... 3
11th Field Battery's "No. 4" 4
Also ran:—11th Field Battery's "No. 5"; 52nd Field Battery's "No. 6"; A Corps Signals "Argus" and "Brutus."

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Hockey.—Owing to our pitch resembling a coal mine, no matches have been played within the unit, but we have managed to play a few away from home with the following results:—v. 1st Indian Divl Signals [? result—ED.]; v. H.R.S., Chaklala, lost by 0—6; v. Border Regiment, won by 2—1.

Cricket.—In the second round of the Jagan-Nath hot weather tournament, we defeated the 66th Battery R.A. by nine wickets. B Corps Signals, 90 and 19 for one wicket; 66th Battery R.A., 78 and 27 (L/Corpl Hills, seven for 14).

The semi-final saw us pitted against old rivals in the 7th Battery (Sandham's Company) R.A., to whom we bowed the knee to the tune of an innings and 28 runs. 7th Battery R.A., 224 ; B Corps Signals, 69 and 127 (Sigmn Lundie, 43 not out).

Whilst on the subject of cricket, I must congratulate No. 1 Company on their first victory over No. 2 since round about 1927. This occurred on September 26th last, when No. 1 proved too good for their rivals by an innings and 53 runs. No. 1 Company, 141 (Sigmn Managhan, 57 not out ; Corpl Winton, 43) ; No. 2 Company, 44 and 44.

Roll on, the Spratt cup games.

Kohat District Signals.

Sport.—Always a lively unit as regards this branch of activity, we have had just as much fun as ever on the sports ground. Something to do nearly every night, and all eager to do it.

In football and hockey against the local Regiments and Departments round about, we have managed to hold our own well, despite the fact of our being very much split up.

Cricket is really taking a hold here this season, and a very imposing fixture list has been arranged. Details of our Don Bradmans and Jack Hobbses will be to hand next month.

Animated old age displayed its prowess the other night, when our sergeants' mess played a cosmopolitan team of senior n.c.o.s of other units. This spectacular match featured Percy Smithies in positively his last appearance as a footballer in Army matches (he's going in for Bryant and May's—will you buy?) ; Nippy Bartlett, the speed king ; Leager Todman, the bustling back ; and many others who are stars in their way (" 'Ere—don't come-et "). The result was a drawn game and drawn corks.

3rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Ranikhet Detachment.

Football.—The Alma Barracks Football League is now a thing of the past. We managed to obtain third place out of seven teams competing. Three points separated us from the winners, A Company 1st Battn Black Watch, and one point from the runners-up, A Company 2nd Battn Seaforth Highlanders. We lost and drew respectively with these teams. Results are appended below :—v. R.T.C. and Attached, won by 3—0 ; v. C Company D.C.L.I., won by 2—0 ; v. A Company Black Watch, lost by 2—3 ; v. D Company D.C.L.I., drew at 1—1 ; v. D Company Black Watch, won by 3—1 ; v. "B" Team 2nd Battn Seaforths, won by 4—1 ; v. "A" Team 2nd Battn Seaforths, drew at 1—1.

Several second eleven games have been played with the B.M.H. and a second eleven of C Company 2nd Battn Seaforth Highlanders, with the following results :—v. B.M.H., won by 2—0 and drew at 2—2 ; v. Seaforths, drew at 4—4 and lost by 2—4.

Hockey.—We have played three friendly matches with the D.C.L.I.'s and a team from A Company Black Watch. The hockey ground is not yet fully completed and still leaves much to be desired. Results were :—v. D.C.L.I., won by 2—0 ; v. A Company Black Watch, won by 5—4 and lost by 2—4.

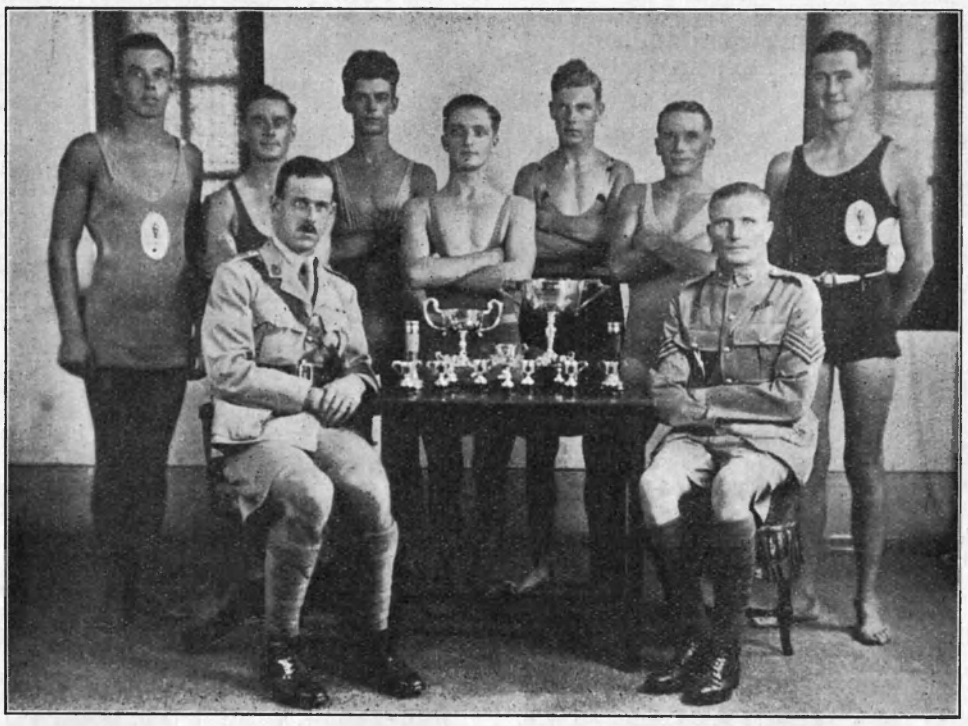
Cricket.—Up to the present we have only played two games, one of which had to be abandoned owing to rain, and the other we lost by five runs. Both matches were against the 3rd Hussars at Dulikhet.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

Football.—The commencement of the season found us without many of our last year's players. The team has, therefore, been largely experimental, and several difficulties have yet to be surmounted. Several of our new players show great promise and should improve vastly when they get used to local conditions.

We opened with a match upon our own ground with the 17th/21st Lancers. A hard game resulted in a goalless draw—a very fair reflex of the play.

The following week we visited our old rivals the R.H.A., and beat them by one goal to nil. This was most gratifying, as we have always regarded them as our " bogey " team. We had not beaten them on their own ground for seven years. The play was evenly distributed, each goal-keeper being visited in turn. The return of Huson at half-back made a great improvement in the team. Play up to half-time left little to choose between the two teams. After the interval the Corps had the better of the exchanges, and about fifteen minutes before the finish L/Corpl



Hong Kong Signal Section Aquatics Team.

Standing (left to right)—Signalmen Yates, Cotton, Taylor W. R., Wild, Newman, Bryce and Thom

Sitting—Captain R. R. A. Darling (O.C. Section) and C.Q.M.S. Pearce (A/C.S.M.)

Smith scored the first goal of the season by heading in a neat corner from Beard.

On Tuesday, October 6th, the 12th Lancers from Helmieh visited us. Several changes had been made, the team lining up as follows:—Harrison ; Murphy and Evison ; Huson, Whitehouse and Wheatley ; Blunt, Beard, Lieut. Cole, Smith and Hitchen. The changes did not bring the success that was anticipated. Throughout the match the forwards, especially Mr. Cole, played well individually, but the attack lacked cohesion. Consequently the half-backs had plenty to do, Huson and Wheatley, especially, playing excellent football. The Lancers, a team of opportunists, gave nothing away and profited by defensive errors to the tune of three goals. To these they added a fourth just before time, securing a well-deserved victory.

Hockay.—Little serious hockey has been played so far. The team is shaping well, and acquitted itself very creditably in several friendly games. The only league match played so far resulted in a win for the Corps by two goals to one, the 2nd Brigade R.A. being the victims. We will have more to say about hockey next month.

Somebody has just imparted the glad news that the Corps has been drawn against a team in which two internationals and a few Army players are regulars. Was it a wangle? It might have been the 12th Lancers. However, we may still be able to beat the South Staffs.

Rugby.—Most of the team which reached the final of the Command cup last year are still with us. Training has commenced, and great keenness is evident. We have great hopes of improving on our performance of last year. No match has been played yet.

Cross-Country.—Many of the unit have turned out for training runs, which are now becoming quite numerous. The first inter-Section cross-country run will take place on October 13th, and should give some indication of the ability of the runners compared with those of last year.

Stop Press.—Football. First round Robert Hughes charity cup: 17th/21st Lancers 2 ; R.Signals 0. Never mind! We'll be able to concentrate on the Command cup now.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

Tennis.—The unit doubles handicap was won by Signalmen Ferguson-Nicholson and Hurley after a hard fight against Corpl Cox and Sigmn Walters.

A correction is hereby made to our statement of last month to the effect that our "A" team lost to R.A.F. Ramleh in a match to decide the runners-up position of the "A" League. It has since been discovered that our "A" team *are* the runners-up. Well done, "A"!

Cricket.—The season is on the wane, but interest in cricket is still being shown by the greater part of the unit. The inter-house competition has resulted in "C" taking first place, "A" second, and "B" third.

Rugger.—A movement has been made to prepare for the coming season. Posts, shirts, etc., are being purchased, and we are looking forward to making a start, possibly in October (rain permitting).

Soccer.—Training has started, but as yet the weather is too hot to make any serious commencement in the line of trial games. Perhaps, next month, we shall see the blue shirts once more on the field.

Hockey.—Our talent in this direction is at present very obscure. We are hoping that Records will be kind enough to send some hockey players to this station.

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Tennis Results.—Inter-Section Doubles, played on August 28th: W/T Section 4, F.E.C. Section 2.

Water Polo Results.—Garrison League: v. C Company S.W.B. drew at 4—4 ; v. B Company S.W.B. won by 6—0 ; v. A Company S.W.B. lost by 3—8 ; v. D Company S.W.B. lost by 0—1 ; v. H.Q. Wing S.W.B. won by 1—0 ; v. No. 12 Battery R.A. lost by 0—2.

Small Units Aquatic Meeting.—The following is a list of results:—

Russell Cup: Unit Team Championship Relay (teams of six).—Dead heat between R.E.s and R.Signals. This was swum off and won by R.Signals by about three yards. Signals: Signalmen Bryce, Yates, Taylor W. R., Newman, Wild and Thom.

Inter-Unit Team Diving Championship.—1st, Royal Signals, 99 points ; 2, R.A.S.C., 97. Best individual dive, Sigmn Cotton.

25 yards Dash.—1, Sapper Evans, R.E. ; 2, Sigmn Yates, Royal Signals.

Pillow Fight.—Sigmn Thom.

Invitation 50 yards Race.—1, Pte McPhee, 2nd A. & S.H. ; 2, L/Bdr. Lewis, R.A.

Children's Race.—1, Miss Barbara Kerrich.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

No. 3 (Southend) Company.

Boxing.—The Company team had its first outing when they opposed D Company 6th Essex Regiment at the British Legion boxing tournament at Hockley on September 23rd. Sergeant McMenamin and Sigmn Langley being above the class of the 6th Essex, were given contests, which they won. The competion finished in a draw, so the cup is to be contested again, when we hope D Company will furnish a full team.

We learn that the Legion will give points to any team who attend but do not get a fight. It was rather unfortunate that our beginners, whom we wished to try out, could not get a fight ; they came back very disappointed. The team spirit is " We will win that cup next time."

Results—Sigmn Ryder (welter) and Sigmn Rands (bantam) won their fights, while Sigmn Dent was knocked out in the second round, and Sigmn Lawrence lost on points to a much better man. Well done, all of you, and better luck next time!

TERRITORIAL NOTES—*continued from page 472*

56th (1st London) Divisional Signals.

(City of London Signals)

51 Calthorpe Street, W.C.1, October 15th.

" This is a rush job, that was." Well, that's a start, anyhow ; but how we are to carry on, I don't know. There seems to be nothing of interest happening, as far as we are concerned. What with the cuts and increased taxation, one hardly knows how to approach the subject of " notes." Oh, I do think that is rather a clever one, although I ses it meself.

First of all, I have to introduce this month one brand new P.S. instructor, Sergt P. J. Hammond. A hearty welcome is extended to him, and we hope his stay with us will be a happy one. He seems to have settled in to his new job very well indeed.

We have entered a team this year in the Divisional football competition, and are hoping for a successful run.

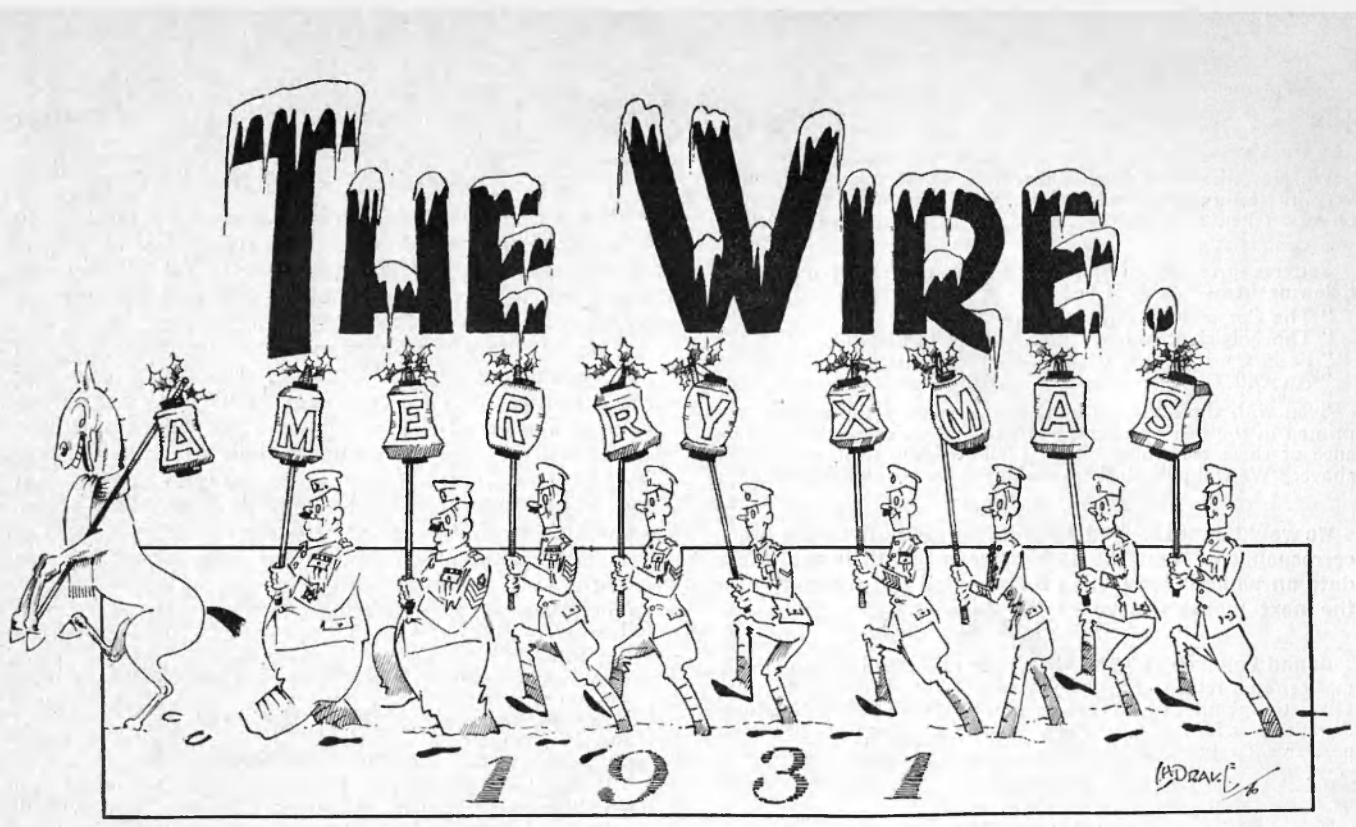
We have also entered a team in the boxing competition, so we are now looking for budding Carneras. Talking of boxing reminds me that Curly Langley, of Aldershot fame, paid us a visit last week ; and we often have the pleasure of seeing " Big Boy " Stuart, who is hoping (I hear) to win back some of the laurels he lost last year, and in this we wish him the best of luck.

I very nearly forgot to mention a most important item: that His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of this unit being in future known as the 56th (1st London) Divl. Signals T.A. (City of London Signals)—and very proud we are of our new title.

I was hoping to run down to Grays last Saturday and see the 4th Divl Signals play in the Amateur cup, but was prevented at the last moment. Nick Carter, who went, tells me that at present they don't appear to be the team they were last year, but that there is great hope of improvement before the Army cup games come along—so we may yet see them at Aldershot once more on Easter Monday. What about it, Monty? you never let me know if you received that memento I saved for you.

On reading it through, this appears to be a personal epistle rather than notes, but I can't help it. Good night, everyone ; good night!

GEE HEN.



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
Telegrams: "Sigasn Churton London."

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
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to whom ALL REMITTANCES *must*, in future, be forwarded.

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VOL. XII.—No. 142 DECEMBER, 1931 PRICE—SIXPENCE

- Editorial Notes -

With the Best of all Good Wishes for a Merry Xmas to our Readers at Home and Abroad

Particularly to:—
Ex-Sergt Frank V. March, Victoria, Australia.
Ex-Sigmn Mervyn Trueman, Australia.
Ex-Sigmn W. McDonald, America.
Ex-Sigmn W. Bowles, Canada.
Ex-Sigmn E. J. Young, Venezuela.
Ex-Sigmn C. F. Vicker, Venezuela.
Ex-Corpl E. S. J. Haines, New Zealand.
Ex-Sergt A. C. Lennox, Vienna.
Ex-Sigmn W. Mycroft, Berezniki, Russia.

❀ ❀ ❀

Once again we express our thanks to Unit Correspondents and all contributors who, during the past year, have so ably and regularly assisted in furthering the interests of our Corps Journal. THE WIRE still continues to hold its own as the Regimental Journal with the largest circulation among many contemporaries, and a great deal of the credit for this is due to those who have so consistently contributed to its pages.

We would also take this opportunity of thanking the many Firms who use THE WIRE as an advertising medium, for their support and co-operation during the period under review. It is an accepted fact that no publication of this description could exist without the support of such revenue; and it is with confidence that we appeal to all our readers to patronise on every possible occasion the Firms who *do* advertise with us.

❀ ❀ ❀

It is only recently that one Unit Representative in India received instructions from his Mess Committee to ask our assistance in obtaining a suitable parting gift for a Mess Member who was leaving the unit for discharge to pension after twenty-one years service. The nature of their suggested gift was described to us, we were allowed a certain amount of money to spend, and were asked to assist them by obtaining an article which was not procurable in India.

A letter was sent to three Firms advertising in THE WIRE. This produced a reply from one by return of post, enclosing their illustrated catalogue which depicted the identical article required and at a very moderate cost.

We replied to our Unit Representative by air mail. He cabled instructions to purchase immediately he received it, and to-day a very useful and appropriate gift is waiting at this office for presentation to the recipient on his arrival in this country.

The whole transaction was completed within fifteen days of the request being received from India—which, it is suggested, is a fair example of present-day business enterprise.

There may be other occasions when WIRE readers, particularly those serving overseas, may wish to avail themselves of offers made through the many advertisements appearing in the Journal each month, and we should be pleased at any time to act as the medium through which such readers can not only BUY BRITISH, but buy from the Firms who continue to give us their valuable support.

❀ ❀ ❀

We are indebted to Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Ozanne, M.C., for a very interesting photograph of many well known Royal Signals officers, taken at Jubbulpore, India, in 1921 (see page 485).

❀ ❀ ❀

Extreme pressure on space constrains us from printing the following items in this issue:—

"The Corps and Army Athletics."
"The Nilgiris, Southern India," with illustrations.
"From Cairo to the Red Sea," with illustrations.
"An Old Glasgow Regiment," with illustration.

Even with these eliminations, this number is the largest ever printed in the history of the Journal; and we crave the forbearance of those contributors who submitted the items mentioned above. We will publish them at the earliest possible opportunity.

❀ ❀ ❀

We would again remind all Unit Representatives and other correspondents that the 16th of each month is the latest date on which "copy" can be accepted for publication in the next month's issue of the Journal.

❀ ❀ ❀

Bound Volumes of "The Wire" for 1931.—All readers, units, messes, etc., requiring bound volumes of THE WIRE for 1931 are asked to submit their orders as quickly as possible. *No Royal Signals Mess Library is complete without it.* Price 8/- per copy, post free (at home or abroad). THE EDITOR.

Correspondence.

[D.O. 496.] Royal Signals Record Office, Chatham,
November 18th, 1931.

The Editor of "The Wire."

Waiting Lists for Married Quarters Roll.

Dear Sir—The following is notified for publication in the December WIRE:—

Dates on which the top individuals were registered on the waiting list for the Married Quarters Roll.

Home and abroad—Sergeants, 2/2/29.
Rank and file, 17/9/28.
India—Rank and file, 11/10/27.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) H. A. VERNON, Colonel,
i/c Royal Signals Records.

Signals Association Notes

Important Notice.—Will all Hon. Branch Secretaries kindly take the necessary steps to ensure that all their Association members are in possession of appropriate membership cards, duly initialled and receipted to date?

It is also vitally essential that when members are transferred to units abroad, full particulars of their participation in Association activities should be communicated to the Association Representative of the new unit, as failure to do so causes much unnecessary correspondence.

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-N.C.O.	Attendant
2	Ex-Signalman	Set Tester
3	Ex-Signalman	Set Tester
4	Ex-Signalman	Set Tester
5	Ex-Signalman	Set Tester
6	Ex-Signalman	Set Tester
7	Ex-Signalman	Set Tester
8	Ex-N.C.O.	Postman
9	Ex-Signalman	Assistant Cook
10	Ex-Warrant Officer	Reception Clerk

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Benevolent Fund Notes.

Clothing.—Will readers who may be in a position to help the Benevolent Fund with gifts of clothes, underclothes, boots, etc., kindly take note of the gloomy fact that the cupboard in Mr. Butler's office at 95 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1, is *nearly empty?*

The gift of an unwanted overcoat or suit of clothes is a very welcome one. We do not want to have to buy more clothes than we can help. This week comes the case of a man who is waiting to take up employment which will necessitate that he be tidily dressed. At present he is anything but tidy, so we shall have to buy him several garments if the promised job materialises before some kind reader sends us the wherewithal to make him presentable—there being nothing in the cupboard to do it with.

The Administrator gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following:—

CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS from:—
President, Sergeants' Mess, Depot Battalion, Signal Training Centre, Catterick.
Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess, Aldershot.
Mr. W. Moffatt.

APPEALS dealt with:—
1—Ex-Signalman, Aldershot. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.
2—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £4 granted.
3—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.
4—Ex-Signalman, Exeter. Temporary difficulties. £2 granted.
5—Ex-Signalman, London. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.
6—Ex-Signalman, London. Temporary difficulties. £3 granted.
7—Ex-Signalman, Hull. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.
8—Ex-N.C.O., Portsmouth. Domestic difficulties. £3 granted.

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

Corps News—Officers

MOVES—
Major H. A. J. Parsons from Catterick to Hertford.
Major R. T. O. Cary from Catterick to India.
Major H. D. Beadon from Aldershot to Catterick.
Captain P. M. H. Lemon from Catterick to Palestine.
Captain G. W. Ogden from London to Khartoum (Sudan Govt.)
Captain J. R. Patten from Catterick to Exeter.
Captain G. W. Odell from Exeter to Aldershot.
Captain T. C. Thompson from Portsmouth to Colchester.
Lieut. P. W. C. Van Straubenzee from Catterick to Colchester.
2/Lieut. R. A. Conner from Catterick to Aldershot.

Extracts from "The London Gazette."

War Office, 16/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF—
The undermentioned appointment is made:—Major H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., R.Signals, from Instructor (Cl. Z) School of Signals, to be D.A.A. and Q.M.G., East Anglian Area, 5/10/31

War Office, 20/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Major R. A. Bagnold is seconded whilst employed as Instructor, School of Signals, 5/10/31
Captain J. E. S. Walford, M.B.E., to be Adjutant, vice Captain J. R. Patten, 21/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—ESTABLISHMENTS
Captain L. V. Younie relinquishes his appointment as Adjutant, School of Signals, 1/10/31
Captain R. H. Gem is appointed Adjutant, School of Signals, 1/10/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Air Defence Brigade Signals—Lieut. J. F. Thoburn, M.C., resigns his commission on account of ill health and retains his rank, 4/8/31

By Appointmen

Appropriate Gifts

If you are unable to call we shall be pleased to forward our illustrated catalogues of other useful gifts, in Gem Jewellery, Gold, Silver, Regent Plate, Leather Goods, etc.

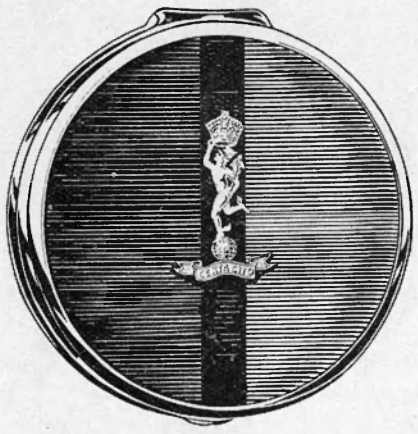
THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

Diamond, Platinum 18ct. Gold and Enamel Brooch - **£22 : 0 : 0**

Set Rose Diamonds instead of Brilliants - - **£17 : 10 : 0**

In Platinum, 18ct. Gold and Enamel **£6 : 17 : 6**

Smaller size on Platinum faced bar **£5 : 0 : 0**



A Sterling Silver Vanity Case (diameter 2 ins.) with the colours of the Royal Corps of Signals beautifully enamelled on the lid, upon which is mounted the Corps Badge in Sterling Silver, can now be supplied at the very moderate price of

£2 : 5 : 0

Allow us to forward a Badge Brooch or Vanity Case for your inspection at our own risk.

The

GOLDSMITHS & SILVERSMITHS COMPANY LTD.

Jewellers and Silversmiths to H.M, the King

112 Regent Street,

London, W.1

(at the corner of Glasshouse Street)

The above Advertisers support our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

War Office, 23/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF—
Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., relinquishes the appointment of C.S.O. (Cl. X) Egypt, 16/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Captain R. H. Gem is seconded whilst Adjutant, School of Signals, vice Captain L. V. Younie, restored to the establishment, 1/10/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS.
47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—Lieutenant S. A. W. Philcox (Lieut. Reserve of Officers) to be Captain, 5/9/31

War Office, 27/10/31

REGULAR ARMY—COMMANDS AND STAFF
Colonel R. M. Powell, D.S.O., on ceasing to be employed, is placed on half-pay, 16/10/31

War Office, 3/11/31

REGULAR ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Captain M. F. M. Parkes, M.C., to be Major, 5/10/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Colonel J. W. Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D. (Hon. Colonel, 56th (1st London) Divl Signals) having attained the age limit, retires and retains his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform, 30/10/31
Lieut.-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., from 47th (2nd L.) Divl Signals, is appointed Deputy C.S.O. for T.A. duties, London District, 30/10/31

War Office, 10/11/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
47th (2nd London) Divl Signals—Captain H. C. L. Humphreys to be Major, 30/10/31
Lieut. W. L. Gartland (Lieut. Reserve of Officers) to be Captain, 30/10/31

War Office, 13/11/31

TERRITORIAL ARMY—ROYAL SIGNALS
Lieut.-Colonel and Brevet-Colonel L. J. Worthington, T.D., from 46th (N.M.) Divl Signals, to be Colonel with seniority 11/2/29, 14/11/31
46th (N.M.) Divl Signals—Major G. J. Underwood to be Lieut.-Colonel, 11/11/31
Captain S. Smith to be Major, 14/11/31
Lieut. S. N. Turner to be Captain, 14/11/31
D. A. Findlay to be 2/Lieut. 14/11/31

- Plain Tales -

Greeting.—Whereas you have stood up to all this for yet another twelve months, be ye comforted and know that we finish in 1936. For the nonce, a right merry Christmas to you, and many thanks. We Bank Presidents and Directors of large Syndicates will have very little time to spare for—um—journalism in 1937. It may so happen that we shall not take over a bank or even a little syndicate. We have only just thought of that. Well, then, perhaps a mere sales manager or consulting engineer could find an odd moment to drop a line to Citizen Butler. We must see about that when the time comes. So far as Christmas 1931 goes, we hope it keeps fine for you and that you will all enjoy yourselves like anything.

Special Christmas Poem.—Owing to the financial crisis and the urgent need for economy, readers are requested to turn up their WIRE for December, 1930, and read the masterpiece therein contained. Thank you. Shut the gate as you go out.

After Duty Daily.—Being a few notes for ex-citizens of Jubbulpore.

The Strand Theatre, renamed the Regal—I don't know why—opened with Paul Whiteman's "King of the Jazz" on Wednesday, October 7th. As predicted in these notes, the Regal Theatre has dealt the Empire a fourpenny one.

Opposite the Regal is the old Strand Café, renamed the Pomme d'Or—I don't know why—where one may dance on certain evenings of the week. The Signals Band supply the music. One hundred yards away (G.M.T.) in a north-easterly direction lies the Imperial Café, renamed the Cafe Royale—I don't know why—where one may play whist, dance and dine on other evenings of the week. Providing, of course, that one has some money left. The Signals Band supply the music. All these places are under new management. I know why.

Noto about Notes.—Once again I completed my perusal of THE WIRE with a deep sigh and a tear in my eye: the left one, I think. Not a word from the S.T.C. (India). Ever charitable, I sought excuses for the local correspondent, but, alas! it was not until I asked the gentleman himself that I discovered the truth. He hadn't got a stamp!

Blowing 'Em Straight.—The alto sax on page something of the whenisit WIRE thanks G.K. for his interest, and assures both G.K. and G.W. that the said alto sax does indeed make nearly as many chips in India as he made quids in England.

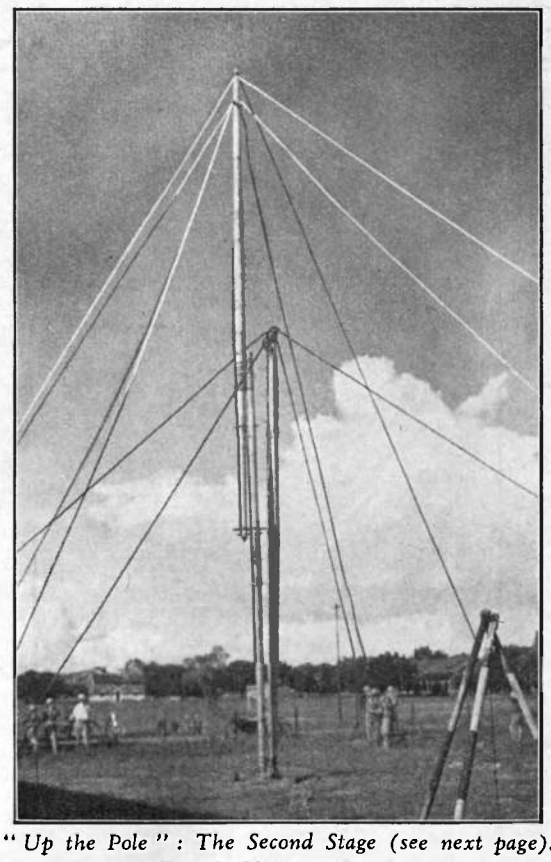
Note for English readers: There are not quite fourteen chips to one quid.

Rhapsody in "Q."—What with working steadily on a comprehensive index of the ten thousand and seven things that a Signal Depot requires—or thinks it requires—and then being confronted at every turn by cinema advertisements, is it any wonder that I found myself writing a preface to the new index? No, it isn't.

A Thrilling romance in twenty-six Reels *Antennæ*, featuring Mike Rometer and Jack Plane, the fearless tools of old Sir Cingle PGS. Also Suleetah *Drum Cable*, the beautiful spy. Do not miss this wonderful Spectacle *Tinted*. Her Pivot Turns are marvels of Coils *Repeating* and Curves *Calibration*. Hear Mag Neto's red hot Band *Iron 1½ inch*.

You know, between ourselves, a quarterbloke leads a hard life nowadays, and not many attain the riches of his war-time brother-in-the-trade. Some of these unfortunate people have been reduced to absolute poverty, many having had to give up one of their cars.

Apart from the quartermasters themselves, there is very little to amuse the staff of a large "Q" Department, so that when something does happen, a "Q" clerk usually abandons himself to a riot of laughter. I saw a letter from the Local Audit office



"Up the Pole": The Second Stage (see next page).
(Photo by Lieutenant Newell)

the other day, containing this bright sentence: "Please state correct size of Files Dead Smooth Half round 9 inch." This was treated with becoming gravity for a wonder, and the reply went back: "The item under reference is twelve by four inches, pitched in B flat, fingered like a waiter's dickey and jewelled in every hole."

Up the Pole.—Now in the tenth month, when the people were groaning under a grievous taxation and saying among themselves "What a bake," there arose one Um-Free, known to the multitude as Pop.

And Pop chose able men out of all the Company of A, which lies within Jubbulpore, to set up a large pole of iron, saying unto them: "Take thou these halyards and stays. Fear not. If thou hearest aught snap, stand still and hold tight. Malum?"

And the Wireless Ginx sat back and smiled, for they knew that the pole was for them in due season. But there were many scoffers who chuckled quietly and said: "All is vanity. We will tarry awhile near the W/T station that we may not miss a spot of fun."

And Pop scrounged rope from far and near, even rope that had been hidden from the sight of man for many years but not from the effects of monsoons and other seasons. So the wise men of the tribe borrowed pencils and made calculations on the walls of the city, crying: "C two squared and safety margin of twenty-four tons for falling object." But the rope did not know any maths.

Now when the clock struck three, Pop cried unto the hosts "Take the strain," and they took it, but not very far; and at three-twenty of the clock, the rope divided itself into two parts, one to the right and one to the left, saying unto itself "Ping!"

And the Samaritans shook their heads sadly, saying "What evil thing is this?" but the Philistines said "Ha! ha!" and clicked their cameras.

Now when the hands of the clock showed three-forty, the rope again divided itself, saying "Plonk!" whereat Pop smote himself upon the brow, crying "Sir, I must go up the pole."

And when the time drew near for these tablets to be delivered up to Garnett and Mepham and Fisher, lo! Pop was still up the pole. So the scribe tarried a few days.

And on the first day of the next week, being rested and therefore full of beans, Pop did gird up his loins, and bade his henchmen do likewise. And they did.

Then Pop went among his men and comforted them, saying "Perchance the pole will fall upon thee. Fear not, for thou wilt have brass handles, many flowers and a Pipe Band." And the men placed their hands to their mouths, making certain noises indicative of the gift of much fruit, which was the custom.

So they heaved a mighty heave, whereat the rope, being now of wondrous strength, performed nobly, and the pole fell into the place prepared for it. Wallop!

Now when Pop saw this, he blew out his chest so that his shirt buttons flew asunder. Colonels, Majors and Captains breathed again, and all was joy in the land. More or less.

BARLEUX.

C.S.O.'s Conference, Jubbulpore, Autumn, 1921

Back row (left to right)—Lieut H. E. Talbot; Capt Barker; Lieut ——; Lieut L. A. Hearn, General List; Lieut F. Church, Special List; Capt A. P. Figgins, M.C., I.A.; Captain Tollemache, I.A.; Lieut ——; Lieut J. Veale, D.C.M., 7th Hussars; Lieut J. D. Bevan, Special List; Lieut E. Fiddaman; Capt Platts, I.A.

Second row—Capt A. R. Simpson, I.A.; Lieut Davidson, I.A.; Captain A. J. Harris, O.B.E., R.E.; Captain F. Wickham, I.A.; Lieut L. C. Bell, M.C., Black Watch; Capt E. Humphries, M.C., D.C.M., Special List, Adjutant S.T.C.; Lieut W. A. Dimoline, M.C.; Lieut E. J. Murphy, 21st Lancers, O.C. 1st Cavalry Bde Signal Troop; Capt G. E. Mansergh, M.C., R.E., Assistant to Cl. Instr., S.T.C.; Capt C. H. H. Vulliamy, R.E.; Lieut ——; Capt P. B. D. H. Foot, Middlesex Regiment

Third row—Capt H. Dane, I.A.; Major J. Fergerson, R.E.; Major H. P. Radley, M.C., I.A., O.C.; Major L. H. Morse, M.C., I.A., Commandant, S.T.C.; Lieut-Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., C.S.O. India; Capt A. E. Meredith, M.C., I.A., 2nd-in-Command S.T.C.; Major G. D. Ozanne, M.C., I.A., Cl. Instr., S.T.C.; Capt G. J. R. Turner, I.A., O.C. 40th Divl Signals; Capt C. B. Farrar, I.A., O.C. Corps Signals

Front row—Capt H. S. Lewis-Barclay, I.A.; Lieut B. W. Duley, M.M., I.A.; Capt G. St. J. Martin, I.A.; Lieut F. Brewer, I.A.; Lieut E. Stevenson, Royal Fusiliers Lieut L. R. Swinhoe, R.E.; Lieut R. W. Morgan, R.A.; Lieut W. A. Simpson, Royal West Kent Regiment

The officers shown in the above group have a total of 137 medals to their credit.

Established 1829

M. B. FOSTER & SONS
LIMITED

LONDON, ENG.

"Bugle Brand" Bottlers of

LIGHT SPARKLING ALE

GUINNESS' STOUT

CHAMPAGNE

DEVONSHIRE CYDER

Obtainable in all parts of the world

The Malta Command Administrative Telephone System.

[*Conclusion.*]

Up till January 4th the weather had been good. Then, as if to shatter complacency, it broke, and we experienced a period of over two months of torrential rain, with high winds which rose to gale force at intervals. A considerable amount of damage, entailing urgent and extensive repairs, was caused by these unusually heavy gales. Consequently, the time since January 4th has been occupied very largely in coping with these troubles. Time has been found, however, to effect one or two minor adjustments in the apparatus, and to instal nearly all the new telephones. At the present moment, almost all the C.B. phones are fitted.

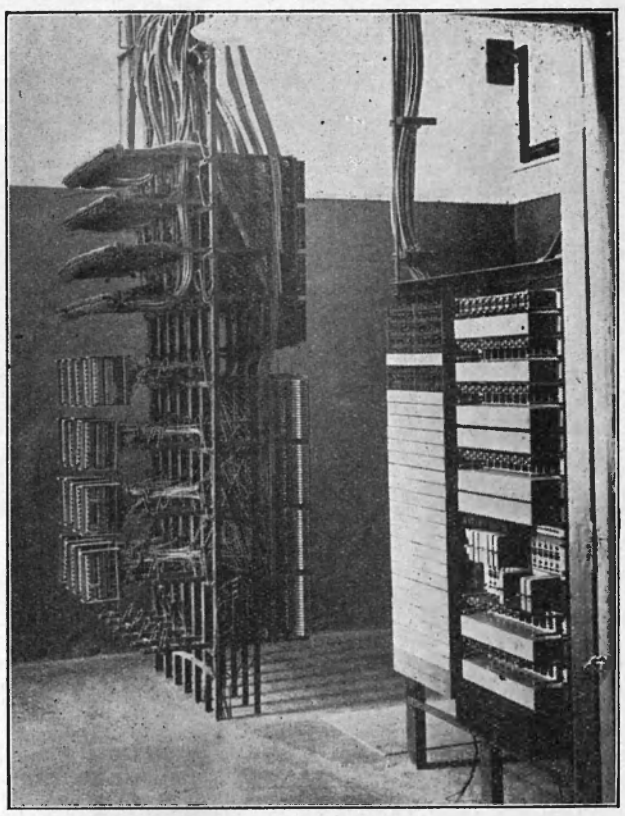
Most of the line troubles are due to faulty " leads-in " at the two ends or where the line is cross-connected at junction poles. The whole of the summer will be occupied in improving the line system, so that it will be impervious to rain by next winter.

As an instance of the sort of minor fault in the exchange apparatus, the case of the four automatic junctions to Valletta may be quoted. Trouble arose at intervals from a permanent glow on all four lines. The jack change-over relays, at these times, also failed to operate satisfactorily. This occurred during wet weather. The fact that the circuits between the two exchanges are entirely cable ruled out any question of line contacts during rain. A test showed that each line had a permanent small current. On disconnecting, by removing the fuses on the test frame in the automatic exchange, the current ceased, so the fault was attributed to that exchange. Messrs. Wright and Kevin tested and got exactly the same results, i.e. a small current on each line, which ceased when *Fortress* disconnected. After further tests and a consultation, it came to light that the automatic earth is the water main, whereas Fortress earth is a buried plate. Possibly, therefore, the trouble was due to an " earth cell," or at any rate a P.D., between the two earths. Putting a voltmeter between Fortress earth and the water-pipe, a reading of over 2 volts was registered. Just at that moment rain began to fall heavily, whereupon the voltmeter reading went up to 3.5 volts. Commoning Fortress earth with the water main system cured the trouble, and the circuits have worked excellently ever since.

One other complication with the automatic junctions had been met almost as soon as the change-over was completed. The automatic exchange reported that calls to Fortress were getting through and being answered by the operator, but were " falling off " directly afterwards. The cord circuit shows that, when an answering plug is inserted into a junction jack, owing to the extra resistance of the cut-off relay the relay which connects battery on to the answering side is not operated. Thus, when a call came through it was answered, battery being connected when the operator threw his key to " speak," but being cut off again when he threw it to "ring" to call the wanted subscriber. To test if this was the cause of the trouble, the operators were told to *answer* automatic calls with *calling* plugs, call the wanted subscriber with another calling plug, and then change the second calling plug for the first answering. Calls now matured satisfactorily, but operating became complicated. Finally, the contacts of the cord circuit relays were joined, so that battery is always connected to the answering as well as to the calling cord. This has the disadvantage of destroying the " through " clearing signal in multi-exchange calls, but the greater advantage of restoring operating to normal.

The accompanying photographs show the disposition of the various pieces of apparatus in Fortress Exchange.

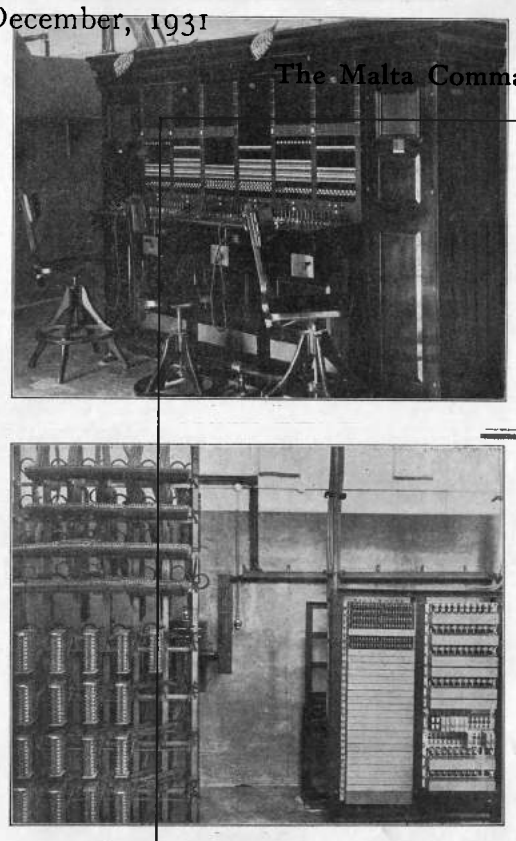
No. 1 shows the switchboard with its three positions. The top row of jacks (five sets) on panels 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 comprise the subscriber's multiple. The next row, panels 1 and 5, are



Photograph No. 2
(R.A.F. official photograph ; Crown copyright reserved)

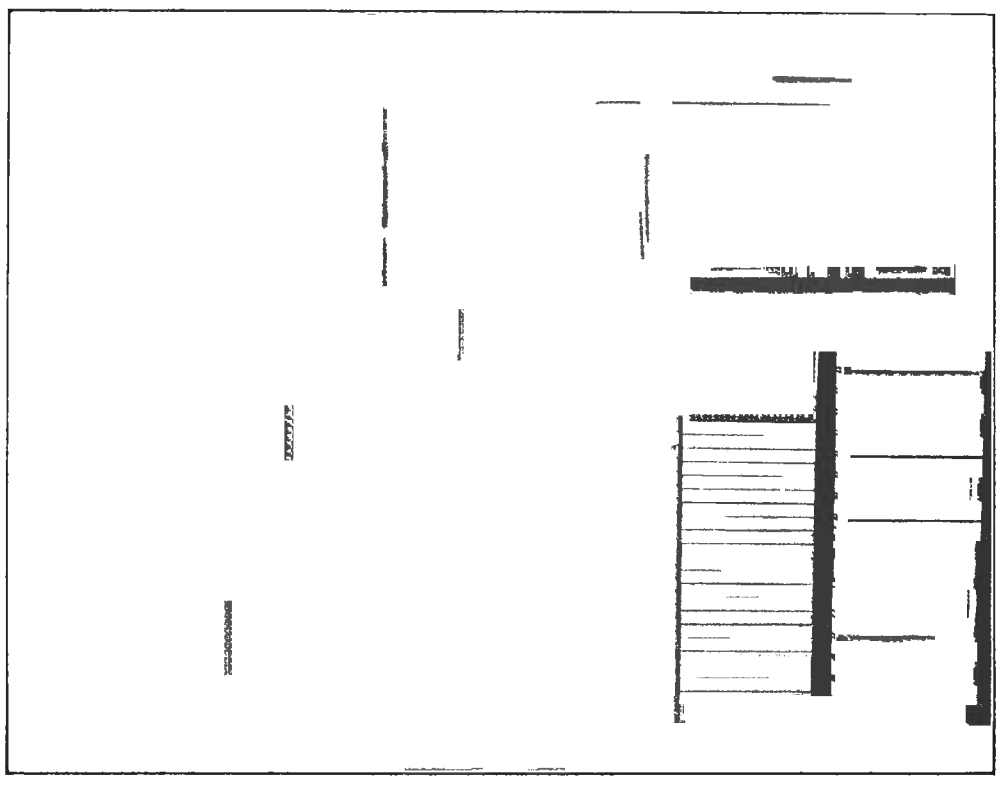
December, 1931 THE

The Malta Command Administrative Telephone System.



Photograph No. 1

(R.A.F. official photographs ; Crown copyright reserved)



Photograph No. 3

BY APPOINTMENT BY APPOINTMENT

STYLE

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the cord test jacks. Then, on panels 2, 3 and 5 is the junction outgoing multiple, the manual being concentrated on 2 and 5 with the automatic on 3. Next come the subscriber's answering jacks, one hundred to each position—forty on the left panel and sixty on the right. The incoming jacks of the manual junctions are on panels 1, 2, 5 and 6, with the automatic on the centre section. The dials can be seen fitted on the middle front of each keyboard, with the keys and plugs behind. The dialling key is the extreme right-hand one of each section. Hand generators are fitted for use in case the power ringer should fail.

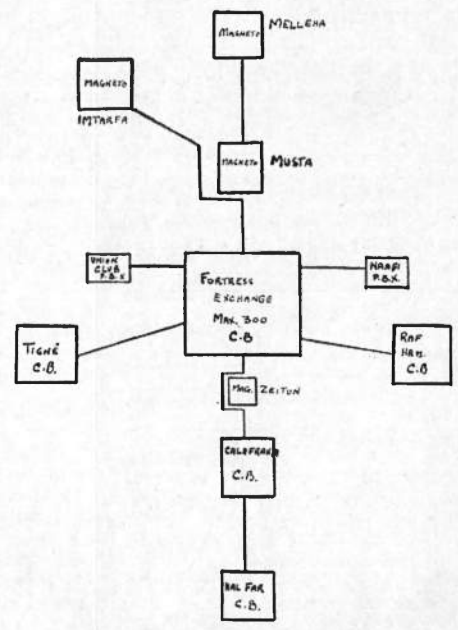


DIAGRAM 8

Photograph No. 2 shows the main and intermediate distribution frames, and on the right the subscriber's relay and the special apparatus rack. The main frame occupies the lower portion and the intermediate distribution frame the upper. The street cables are led in to the tags on the left, pass through fuses, and are "jumpered" across to the protector side. This photograph was taken before all the fuses were inserted. From the protector side cables will be seen passing up to the right hand (multiple) side of the I.D.F., from whence cables go to the subscriber's multiple and jumpers to the left hand (local) side. Cables from here run to the answering jacks and lamps. The subscriber's line and cut-off relays occupy the left-hand side of the combined subscriber's relay and S.A.R., while the right-hand side is given over to junction apparatus. Some of the covers have been removed to expose the relays.

Photograph No. 3 shows the same apparatus and in addition part of the repeating coil rack. Some of the repeating coils can be seen on the left of the subscribers and S.A.R. The test case is visible, fixed to the wall behind the main frame.

The schematic diagram (No. 8) shows Fortress and its dependent exchanges. It may perhaps assist in visualising the Malta Command administrative telephone system—now successfully converted, after the vicissitudes enumerated, from magneto to C.B. working.

G. H. R. FLYNN, Q.M.S. (F-of-S.)

Corps Promotion Roster.

Subsequent Amendments.

To be W.O. II. (Q.M.S., F-of-S)

2310426 Mutter W. 21/8/31

To be Staff-Sergeant (Farrier)

2310014 Marshall C. 31/10/31

To be C.Q.M.S.

*5764824 Taylor A. 13/6/31

Appointed Lance-Sergeant

2314200 Grocott J. 21/6/31
395576 Davies R. 21/6/31

To be Corporal

2317941 Butler F. 29/7/31
3948702 Williams E. 3/8/31
2317154 Bartley H. 10/8/31

Appointed Lance-Corporal

2318346 French H. 20/6/31
2317215 Taylor P. 1/7/31
2315501 Philpott C. 1/7/31
2312788 Peters A. 2/7/31
4265450 Adamson J. 29/7/31
2317005 Ross R. 6/8/31
2318108 Taylor E. 10/8/31

Discharges.

2311628 Sergt Tidmarsh B. 16/10/31
2306287 Sergt Inman F. 27/10/31
1024284 Corpl Smith W. 2/10/31
2308489 Corpl Knight E. 23/10/31

Transfers to Army Reserve

3442043 L/Cpl Tomlinson J. 13/9/31
2317219 L/Corpl Cogger F. 5/10/31
2316269 L/Corpl Shepherd G. 6/10/31
2317426 L/Cpl Moorhouse T. 19/10/31

* *Special Roster, India*

[Contributions to this Section of the Corps Journal are invited from all ex-members of Royal Signals]

Aldershot, November 15th, 1931.

To the Secretary of the Signals Association.

Dear Sir—

Onco Again.—The compliments of the season to all members of Signals at home and abroad.

I find it difficult to appreciate the passage of three years since I tendered similar greetings to the lads at Catterick—in the winter of '28—when I turned my sled south and, with the hot breath of my team of huskies condensing in the frigid atmosphere of those barren wastes, ploughed my way through Scotton village, where the fur-clad inhabitants flocked out from their ice kraals and threw lumps of blubber and seal flesh at me in token of respect for the White Man. It is an old North Riding custom. I had spent two years in the Arctic belt with Harry Ring—he whom the natives called Mighty Hunter—Johnny Wooldridge, and many another doughty fellow, as my companions.

Harry has since gone in for central heating and covers a considerable area of India. Johnny, I note, has shown a preference for an even warmer climate and is now in Manchester. I wonder where the other members of that happy rollicking band are at this moment situated? The majority, I fancy, must have returned to plain clothes, although I could never picture Ginger Norton in spats, nor George Whittle wearing a bow tie with the now fashionable wing collar. No doubt, a few of the original pioneers remain in the frozen North. Even the most adept and highly developed wanglers have been known to become benumbed after a while in the S.T.C., and their very motions in the "wet" canteen have, to the close observer, in time become palpably mechanical.

To those I have named, and to one and all, greetings!

An Apology.—I regret that the continuance of my writings on the subject of civil employment must, for the time being, remain in abeyance, since the lists I hoped to prepare in time for this number have not been completed. In this I am enlisting the assistance of the local Labour Exchange authorities, and hope to provide something tangible in the New Year. L.H.D.

---

c/o Spedding Ltd., Box 462,
Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 3rd, 1931.

The Secretary, Signals Association.

Dear Sir—By the last home mail, I received a copy of THE WIRE containing the report of the Old Comrades gathering at Aldershot. I am not quite certain whether I owe its receipt to yourself or to our mutual friend L.H.D. However, I rather think that it was to your good self. I must say that I appreciated the thought immensely, and obtained very considerable pleasure from its old familiar pages. I have only had one previous copy during the five years I have been in New Zealand, and can assure you that it was like meeting an old and valued friend again.

I must congratulate you and contributors in general on the very fine production that the Journal now is. I feel sure that such an excellent production can be a very great help towards fostering the right Corps spirit, and an absence of several years from all things connected with the Corps makes one realise what a very real and desirable means of keeping in touch with old friends and associations THE WIRE is.

It must be ten months since I last heard from L.H.D., although I have had one or two home papers from him, so that my knowledge of things connected with the Corps has been very scanty lately. However, your kind thought has made me *au fait* with many promotions, discharges and so forth, and I read it from cover to cover with real appreciation.

In spite of trade depression and a good deal of unemployment in New Zealand, I am glad to be able to say that I have been very fortunate and that I have now been with my present firm for more than four years. I have a fairly responsible job, and one that is interesting, too. The firm are importers, exporters and shipping agents, so that the work is very varied and rarely monotonous.

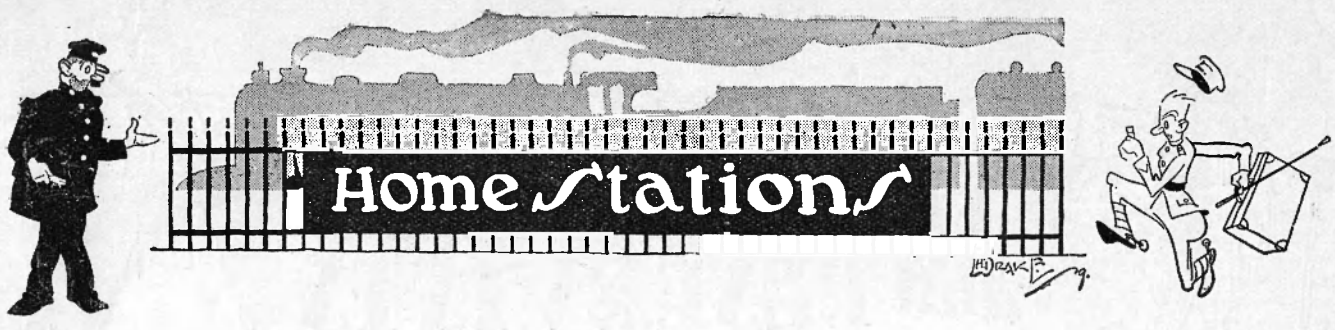
I have a nice little house about five miles out of the city, within a hundred yards of a bathing beach, and have a large garden which occupies any spare time I may have.

Just at present we are particularly busy owing to Great Britain having gone off the gold standard. It has upset all our quotations in every department, as we are large importers from England, the States, Canada, Germany and France. Amongst our English agencies are Mullard valves, E.K. Cole radio, Rawlplugs, Robertson's protected metal, Chivers' jams, Gillard's pastes, Brown's speakers, Pye radio, and James Gibbons' bronze and steel windows. That will give you a very small idea of the varied range we cover. Our American and Canadian importations are plaster, wallboards, timber, fruit and produce, radios, refrigerators, salt, etc. We have fairly wide dealings with the East, too, so that we are in a state of chaos until the situation clarifies. In spite of it all, I shall be glad to see America forced to realise that miserliness does not always mean prosperity. If only Britain could get rid of the Labour Government, I feel sure that it would mean the commencement of a return to normal trading.

I expect the Signals Association has been experiencing a good many demands for assistance during these trying times, and I only hope that conditions will now improve. Certainly, it looks as though Britain has as last realised that she cannot always be putting her hand in her pocket for another nation's benefit, without any likelihood of being repaid.

A discourse on politics is the last thing you want, I suppose, and as I won't descend to talking about the weather, I will close, again thanking you for THE WIRE and wishing the Signals Association and yourself long life and prosperity.

I am, yours very sincerely, E. S. J. HAINES.



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE NOTES

Mounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—As I write, it is Armistice Day. The Battalion paraded as usual and stood at the " slope " for the two-minutes silence. Poppies were in evidence everywhere, and when one considers that the Great War commenced seventeen years ago and the average age of a recruit is about eighteen, it speaks well of the manner in which they rally to a good cause. The Haig Fund would be considerably poorer without " Tommy's little bit," but we know that those coppers or little bits of silver so generously given (on a Wednesday, too!) will be faithfully applied to render relief to the thousands of disabled ex-soldiers—a legacy of the late war—who fought side by side with the younger generation's fathers and with the older soldiers themselves.

We hope that, in spite of enforced economies, the contributions of the nation thirteen years after the termination of hostilities will be a record, and that our maimed and disabled compatriots will know that, in spite of the passing of time, our gratitude is not waning and that their sacrifices are still fresh in our memories.

We paid our tribute to those who fell to keep our shores free from invasion and our homes inviolate with a solemn silence of two minutes, which was observed throughout the British Empire and throughout the world wherever the British flag flies.

* * * * * *

By the time these lines are circulated, we shall be close to Christmas, when our thoughts will be turning to probabilities of family re-union, whilst those who remain behind for Christmas dinner will witness the spectacle of a short " general post." Probably an officer, the R.S.M., or that n.c.o. who is continually telling you to chuck a chest and set your ears back, will struggle with several plates loaded with turkey, etc. (and possibly some gravy, if it lasts the distance and isn't soaked up in somebody's " blues "), plank one down in front of you, dash back for reinforcements, and fill your glasses up with " fine old " or " pop " whilst his tongue cleaves to the roof of his mouth in anticipation. Worth remaining behind for, if you've no other particular appointment. I forget, now, whether they tuck you up at night, but you have to get out next morning!

Arrivals.—We welcome Sergt Oliver back from Colchester. Unfortunately, his wife and family were unable to accompany him, but we hope they will soon find a vacant quarter large enough for them to settle down again. There must be something in the Yorkshire air to bring them back so soon.

Promotion.—All ranks heartily congratulate Major M. F. M. Parkes, M.C., on his recent promotion. Unfortunately, it will mean that he will not stay with us much longer, but no doubt many of us will have the pleasure of serving under him again before we draw the dole or pension.

Birth.—To Sigmn and Mrs. J. Brown, a stout young fellah named Kenneth. From all accounts, he is quick at grasping things.

Dismounted Wing, Depot Battalion.

General.—We are experiencing cold weather at present in Catterick, but we are lucky not to have had the wintry white carpet which covers the Catterick area about this time of the year.

" The Guards are on parade " echoes its harmonious way along the various approaches to the Depot square, and when the listener arrives within sight of that school of military bearing, he will become aware of the aptness of the words of the song as he watches the squads of the Dismounted Wing carrying out all the various drill movements to the time of the Royal Signals Band. Their music is inspiring, and its effect can be plainly seen in the bearing of every young soldier as he marches smartly along the parade ground. A splendid idea, and one which is put into practice every Saturday morning.

This parade has already earned for itself the appellation of " The 1931 Follies," and I must say that the numerous members of the chorus always look forward to rehearsal. The stage manager and his staff are on the go the whole time, correcting here, advising there, and generally ensuring that the show goes along with a real swing.

A very helpful morning's work, which does a tremendous amount of good both on and off the square, because the various members of the Battalion whose perambulations take them within sound of the music automatically step out to the martial strains with a light heart, and every journey becomes a real pleasure.

Carol time is fast approaching, and all ranks of the Dismounted Wing join in wishing every member of Royal Signals, at home and abroad, a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

The squads have already commenced vocal training for the festive break. Every night, the whirr of brushes on leather and brass and the rustle of burnishers on steel during shining parade are practically drowned by the full-throated choruses broadcast by the martial songbirds within every squad hut.

Headquarters, Training Battalion.

We tender the season's greetings to all readers.

The heavy hand of Records has fallen, and we are losing C.S.M. Mitchell P., L/Sergt Askew W., and Corporals Gratwicke S., Kilford L. and Yates E. We wish them bon voyage, although it is perhaps futile to wish them a happy Christmas, as they embark on Christmas Eve.

The results of the 1st class examination have been published, and the S.T.C. have done very well in obtaining thirty certificates and fourteen distinctions. We congratulate Sergt Packman ("D" in English and maths), L/Sergt Walker, L/Corpl Black, Signalmen Walker T. (" D " in maths and map reading), Mandell, Surfleet (" D " in maths), Brookes (" D " in maths), Lord (" D " in maths), May, Cutter, Baker (" D " in maths), Bucke (" D " in maths), and Foster W. C., also Boys too numerous to mention.

The new G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir J. Francis Gathorne Hardy, inspected the Battalion

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at work on November 12th, and expressed his satisfaction at what he saw.

On November 11th the Battalion paraded with the remainder of the S.T.C. to observe the two-minutes silence.

Our swans have disappeared. We don't know what connection this has with the rumour that a certain staff officer was seen feeding them with ration biscuits!

This month has produced a prolific crop of howlers, some with a distinctly local flavour, such as this one: "Oliver Cromwell was a great tailor. He discovered New Found England." We learn that "Nelson had one arm, one eye and a strong determination." "The Normans raised an army by the futile system." "Clive was a reliever of the dead." "In 1920 the Signals were created a 'desperate' Corps." "After the Indian Mutiny, Queen Elizabeth became Queen-Emperor of India." The plum, however, goes to the man who said that "Kumassi seized the throne of Abyssinia and sent a telegram to Queen Victoria, 'Rejoice, we have conquered.'"

The Flagrant Minute: No. 2.—The L/Corporal Fitter who used a Colonel's orderly room table to test a greasy magneto.

A Tall Story.—We learn that in West Africa the cable was not insinuated and was often bitten through by giraffes.

On the evenings of the 10th and 11th November the Imperial Players (Orange Company) gave a concert in the Vimy Lines Institute to a crowded house. In fact, the R.O.S. had grave doubts whether the walls could bulge any further with safety.

D Company, Training Battalion.

There doesn't seem to be much to write about this month. I expect L/Corpl Nicholson will disagree. He couldn't get his foot on the brake at Darlington, and it cost him ten shillings.

Then there was the guard commander who told the man on open arrest to fall in on the left of the absentees—but he is a person of no particular importance.

Education.—Congratulations to the following on being awarded the first class certificate:—Sergt Packman (distinguished in maths and English), and Signalmen Baker, Brookes and Lord, who all obtained a "D" in maths. L/Sergt Walker passed in map reading, which is something towards it, anyway.

Departures.—The well-known face of C.Q.M.S. Smith will be missing soon, as he has been posted to the Command Signa Company, Aldershot. Sigmn (Sammy) Cartwright is going tc North Ireland Signal Company, and our rugby team will suffer as a consequence. We wish both of them the best of luck.

Extension of Service.—Sigmn Balch to complete one year beyond his twenty-one.

Congratulations.—To the boxing team on its splendid performance against the Hampshire Regiment. We lost by one point, 16—17, and of course, as losers, didn't agree with all the decisions—but better luck next time. JOSOPE.

E Company, Training Battalion.

General.—I regret the absence of notes from the Company last month. I offer no excuses!

A band concert, arranged by our O.C., Major R. H. R. Neale, took place in the mess room during October. The band, under the able baton of Sergt McMahon, gave us a highly appreciated performance. Community singing took place during the evening, and I trust that we shall have more of these concerts during the forthcoming winter.

An old friend of the Company and one well known by members of the Training Battalion—"Peter"—was shot recently. He was buried with full military honours, and his presence is still sadly missed.

Musketry.—The musketry has now been completed for this year, and a very high standard has been attained. The Company average is 70. The following are to be congratulated on making such fine scores:—Sigmn Lilley (93), L/Corpl Robinson (90) and Sergt Sullivan (88).

Departures.—L/Sergt Askew and Corpl Kilford (Tich) have left us and joined F Company to be prepared for drafting to India. An old friend (the R.102) will be very badly missed from the verandah, Tich. Are you pensioning it off?

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* * * * * *

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Sigmn Lawrence, of the Company cadre, has been posted to A Corps Signals, Aldershot. Best of luck!

We have recently sent to field units a large number of men. Space forbids my mentioning them individually. I hope they will soon settle down in their new sphere.

Education.—News has just come to hand that the following have been successful at the last 1st class certificate examination, recently held at Catterick:—L/Corpl Black, Signalmen Walker T. ("D" in maths and map reading), Mandell, Surfleet, May, and Bucke ("D" in maths).

Re-Engagements.—Corporals Dadswell and Moore have re-engaged to complete twenty-one years service with the Colours, and therefore retain 1919 rates of pension. Rather cute, that.

Marriage.—I shall have to break this very gently. Mention of this taking place was officially made in my last notes. Corpl Dadswell, our able Company orderly corporal, took unto himself Miss Hilda Irene Platt at Richmond, Yorks, on September 26th. 4th M.A.B. Section, India, please note. Did anyone guess correctly?

Promotion.—Heartiest congratulations to L/Sergt Saunders, of the Band, on being appointed to that rank.

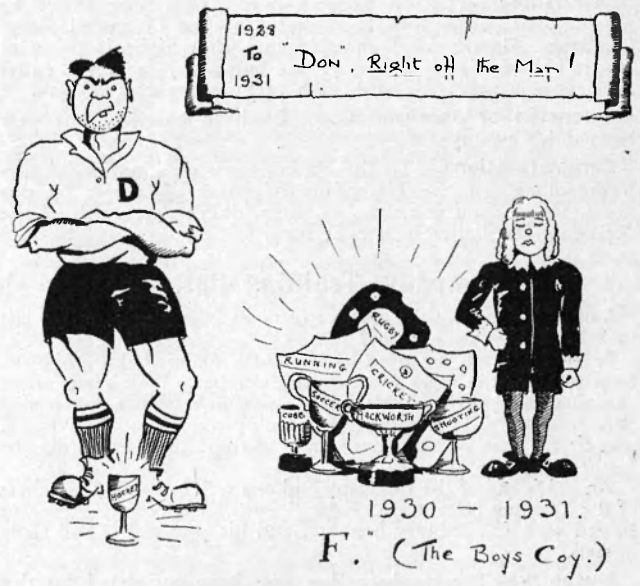
Sport.—Congratulations to all on the fine performances to date in the Mackworth trophy—especially to the second football team, who did not lose a point. Complete tables to date of the hockey and soccer teams are given in the Sports pages.

THE WATCHER.

F Company, Training Battalion.

General.—Things still keep jogging along; little occurs to deviate them from their usual chronological order. However, a good deal of excitement was caused by a well meaning constable. Below you will find a description of the occurrence.

While hunting for clues concerning a garage raid in the Catterick district, Constable ——— stumbled on what he thought to be parts of a motor-bike. He promptly consulted Sir James Clutterbuck, an eminent student of old crocks and "flying bedsteads." Sir James at once identified them as part of Adam Warner's "Eureka," which was stolen from Messrs. Blades' stores last month.



Departures.—Only one this month: Sigmn Cragg J. R. to 1st Divl Signals on the 10th.

A Quotation from a "Wire" Advert.—From General to Private, Wrigley's packet is always sought after. Even the Sergeant-Major can't find fault with its delicious flavour."

Things We Would Like to Know.—What's the lucky charm which Fraser jun. keeps up his sleeve and enables him to win all our sweeps? Two up next time, Jock!

our Magazine. Will our Readers please support them in return?

In answer to S.O.S. from D Company. Yes, it is indeed unfortunate that the n.c.o.s, etc., mentioned are no longer with us, since we can no longer annihilate as in the days gone by. After all, our very dear friend Josope will admit that 113 little lads and their n.c.o.s cannot always be successful against some 330 odd hoary old he-men.

Answers to Corrrspondents—Yes, Cuth (Bulford) your initials are still engraved on Highlands.

Yes, L.W., we agree that flag drill is good muscle exercise, but we can hardly hope to attend your health and strength classes on a Saturday afternoon.

Agony.—When will our medical adviser find a cure for stiff necks and white collars? KEEBEEK.

ALDERSHOT NEWS

A Corps Signals.

Although somewhat early in the day, nevertheless we seize this opportunity of wishing all our readers a very happy Christmas.

To past and present members of the unit and the Corps, we extend our cordial greetings, and trust that wherever they are, theirs may be a jolly season full of good cheer.

Nor must we forget our Editor and his staff (yes, the printers, too) whom we gladly include in our broadcast message of goodwill.

May I remind old friends who have left the Service that we should be delighted to get news of them through the columns of our Journal specially reserved for "Time-Expired and Reservists." Christmas is a season of memories. We cannot all foregather and chat over the past and the present, but a newsy letter to THE WIRE would be published and would be much appreciated and read with interest by friends who are still serving. These reserved columns offer a wonderful opportunity of keeping in touch. Why miss such an opportunity?

The officers' handy hunter competition for the Prescot challenge cup, this year, produced a field of eighteen competitors, some of whom entered two horses. A course of about one and a quarter miles, with sixteen jumps, provided an appropriate test of performance.

We are glad to record that the first place was claimed by the unit, "Silvertail," with Captain Murphy in the saddle, completing the course with four faults (including a handicap of —2). Lieut.-Colonel Worlledge on "Winsome" was second with 15 faults (handicap —10), while Mr. Gambier on "Wynne" was third with 18 faults (handicap —10). The handicap was based on whether horse or rider, or both, had hunted regularly or otherwise during the previous season.

At the moment of going to press, the unit is busily occupied with individual training. The first leave party rejoined early in the month, and we hope they all had an enjoyable holiday.

Old Comrades.—Ex-Farrier-Corpl Lancashire writes to say that he is very comfortably settled, with a job in Stockport. We are indeed glad to hear such good news from him, and wish him every success in civilian life.

Attachments.—Sigmn Allan J. from Depot Battalion. Sigmn Backshall from 3rd Div. Signalmen Stone and Greig from 4th Division.

Departures.—Driver Diment to A.V.T.C., Chiseldon. Signalmen Frames and Swain to Depot Battalion on posting. L/Sgt Baldock to P.S., T.A. Sigmn Greaves H. to S.I.C.D. Sigmn Dobinson to 2nd Battn Hampshire Regiment on transfer.

Postings and Arrivals.—From Training Battalion: L/Corpl Penny A., Signalmen Mandell M., Lawrence J., Gough, Heatlie, Clarke C., Hartley, Boldison, Hughes, Rowles, Lamb, Webster, Whitelaw, Palmer, Russell, Sanders, Wood, Beck, Durbar, Cope, Henry, Kitley, Walker, Bartlett G. E., Bartlett G., Chivers and Smith H. From Depot Battalion, Driver Finnegan. From 4th Div., Sigmn Dickson. From Jamaica, Sigmn Pratt. From A.F.V. Signals, Sigmn Clarke K.

Service: Extensions and Re-Engagements.—L/Corpl Gay and Signalmen Kerr P. and Clarke K. to complete twenty-one

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years. Sergt Withers continued for one year beyond twenty-one. Sigmn Taylor L. E. extended to twelve years.

Marriages.—L/Cpl Harris P. to Miss Sylvia Florence Knight, at Canning Town, on October 24th. Sigmn Atkinson A. to Miss Elsie Kathleen Hill, at Guildford, on October 10th.

Education.—Signalmen Cox, Craik, Davies A., Greaves G., Lewis and Thomas J. were awarded 2nd class certificates on 7th August.

Courses of Instruction.—L/Corpl Prince qualified to instruct at a course in fire fighting. Driver Mason qualified as Farrier C.iii. at the School of Farriery, Aldershot. Signalmen Meeson and Ingram qualified at the Army School of Hygiene, Aldershot. L/Corpls Donovan and Allen to Depot Battalion for a course of instruction in drill and musketry. Sergt Searle to S.A. School (Anti-Gas Wing) for a course in gas. Corpl Mullins and L/Corpl Connaghton to R.A.S.C. Depot, Feltham, to undergo a course in M.T. driving and maintenance. Corpl Brown C. C. and L/Cpl Waters to School of Education, Shorncliffe, to undergo a course of education.

Trade Qualifications.—Sergeant Church re-classified as op. W/T B.ii., Sigmn Henderson as I.M. A.ii., Sigmn Jury as E.F., A.ii., and Sigmn Frames as lineman C.ii. Sigmn Ball passed test as clerk, C.iii.b (additional).

In Lighter Vein.—The following are true stories and are registered at No. 1, Abbassia. (Egyptian colleagues, please note.)

Pathrick (he was Irish, otherwise there would have been no story). Pathrick, I say, was a sentry, and after the manner of his tribe he possessed weird and wondrous ideas of things in general. With an air that suggested an intense indifference to all things material and spiritual, he stood outside the guard-room, gazing in melancholy mood at the middle distance.

The night was not dark, and as he gazed he saw the form of someone approaching. He bellowed (as he had often heard it bellowed): "Halt dere, will ye. . . . Who the divil are ye?"

Soft and sweet came the reply: "Visiting Rounds."

"All right, sirr; advance, will ye?" responded Pat.

The orderly officer approached within speaking distance of the sentry, and then said "Do you know your orders?"

"Yes, sirr," answered our friend.

"Well. . . . what are they?"

Here Pat ran through many passages of the usual rigmarole associated with Government property, fires, suspicious looking characters, etc., until he came to a part where he was to turn out the guard in the event of any unusual occurrence.

Here the orderly officer ordered him to stop. "And what do you mean by an unusual occurrence?" asked the officer.

Pat stood, seemingly petrified, for some moments; then. . . . "I haven't the smallest idea, sirr."

"Come! come!" said the questioner, with feigned annoyance. "Supposing the colonel fell from the top window of his house over there and broke his neck, would you turn out the guard?"

Pat reflected upon the possibilities of this tragedy, and then said, "Indeed, I would not, sirr."

"What! You wouldn't. . . . not if he fell down from that window and broke his neck?" exclaimed the officer.

"No, sirr," went on our hero; "but if de colonel fell upwards from de ground and broke his neck. . . . that would be another matter, and I would turn out de guard."

. . . . . .

Pat had long since recovered from the regimental sergeant-major's remarks upon his idea of an unusual occurrence, and in accordance with the inexorable law of the duty roster, he was again placed on sentry.

In a manner similar to that described in the first story, Pat found himself speaking to the orderly officer, but not the same (fortunately, we imagine).

This officer was accusing Pat of having a dirty rifle, and despite Pat's assurance that it was cleaned before guard-mounting, the officer insisted upon inspecting it.

"Give me that rifle," demanded the Visiting Rounds.

Inspired by a discipline that had been instilled by a drunken father, Pat obeyed and forthwith tendered his rifle.

"Ah! ah!" exclaimed the officer, in tones that seemed to come from the heart of a victorious gladiator. "And what are you going to do now? Don't you realise that you have committed a most serious offence by surrendering your arms? What are you going to do, I ask?"

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Pat's eyes narrowed for a moment, and a smirk of superior intelligence betrayed the fact that somewhere—somewhere in the mind of that good old Irishman was a sinister thought—a thought that would place him high in the ranks of the inventive genii. He slowly placed his hands in his pockets and just as slowly withdrew them. In one, he held a large knife, clasp (forgive technicalities, but Q.M.s are quite lost outside military English). Pat carefully opened the blade of the knife and stood . . . . watching and waiting.

"What are you going to do?" repeated the officer.

Pat advanced, blade first, towards the thief. "I'm going to stick this kn.fe into ye if ye don't gimme back that gun."

The officer handed back the gun, withdrew, and reported all correct. H.E.G.

No. 1 Company.

It is really surprising how the time does fly. No sooner is one lot of WIRE notes completed than it is time for the next. The man who said there was no such thing as perpetual motion didn't know what he was talking about.

Anyway, never mind. Can you tell me the difference between a bookmaker and a bootmaker? No, it's quite all right ; there's no catch in it. A man was marched into the Company office and asked by his O.C. what he intended doing on his return to civil life, and he told the O.C. he was going to help his brother, who was a bookmaker.

"All right. Sergeant-major (says the O.C.) put him in the saddler's shop for a few weeks."

I am still trying to work this out. I'd like to ask the C.S.M. about it, but he is still very busy trying to balance his photo-poppyrunningshoeshirt account—and will be busy for some time yet.

Greetings.—To all ranks in all units, at home and abroad, we wish a very happy Christmas, with plenty of all that goes with it, and the best of good luck for the coming year.

Arrivals.—A hearty welcome is extended to all arrivals during the past month. We hope each will soon get used to our funny little ways and be one of us.

Departures.—L/Sergt and Mrs. Baldock and family left us for Manchester, on November 13th, for a change of air and attachment to the Terriers. We wish them the best of luck, and hope they will let us know how they are getting on later.

Congratulations.—To Driver Gray B. on his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Whalen at Thorne, Yorks, on November 4th.

Again we must congratulate our running team on winning the five mile inter-cross-country on November 10th. By keeping this up we hope to retain the Aldershot Signals inter-Company cross-country challenge shield.

Gems of English Verse.—No. 11: A Slight Mistake.

Well done, 3 Company, 2nd Div.!
  In your successful season
You've won so many cups and things,
  You've almost lost your reason.
In fact, you're doing very well
  (At least, that's what we're told) ;
Your password is a good one, that of
  "What you have, you hold."

Please do not think us kill-joys—
  We would not spoil your fun:
In fact, we'd like to come and see
  The trophies you have won.
We've visions of a table filled
  With silver and with gold:
They're yours, and no one can deny
  That "What you have, you hold."

There's one small item overlooked
  (We hate to tell you this
And spoil your show of shields and cups)
  But something's gone amiss:
The Aldershot cross-country shield
  Is in our little fold,
And as we're going to keep it, well—
  You cannot have or hold. —DASH.

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No. 1 Company: No. 1 M.T. Construction Section.

Dangler has defaulted! Still, I think we can forgive him, for (as he told me a day or two ago) his Section has disappeared for the time being, and he has therefore no material for his copy. To use his own expression, he has often been "in" when other Sections failed to come up to the scratch ; and for his past notes we thank him very much, and look forward to the next series, which I am sure he will contribute in 1932.

Dangler and his Cotton-Wool Section, scattered as they are, would, I know, like me to cast their Christmas greetings to the four corners of the earth and trust that they may reach the ears (or the eyes) of all past members of this Section.

No. 1 Company: A Cable Section.

"Why the worried look, Dora?"

"Worried, Molly! I'm not worried ; but I've been thinking, with all these remounts in the stable, it is up to us to outline the altered conditions under which we cable-hands work."

"That's a good idea, Dora ; it might even do the old hands, who are so fond of talking about the old days, a mite of good. I suggest you give us a lecture. Order, please, for Dora."

"Officers' chargers, riders and draught. In a changing world, amongst changing conditions, the firmly established and conservative business of cable wagon drill and field cable laying is altering—slowly, it is true, and somewhat reluctantly.

"No pamphlets have been issued on the subject, but much has been tried and much discarded.

"Let us, first, briefly consider the modern mechanised army which the cable wagon has to cater for. Brigades and Divisions are still largely held to the rate of advance or retreat of the foot soldier, but their headquarters are capable of rapid movement for long distances.

"It is, in the main, headquarters which the cable wagon serves. Under the old conditions, the cable wagon average speed of three to four miles per hour for any length of time was ample. It is obvious that we horses cannot increase our rate of movement

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to any great extent, if we are to remain fit ; therefore, the only method of increasing the laying speed of a detachment is by eliminating all halts. For the purpose of transporting the extra wire necessary to link up the now widely separated headquarters, a motor vehicle is attached to the Cable Detachment. We will shortly assign to this vehicle another and more technical job, to enable us to speed up.

" The delay factor, to the cable wagon, is the necessity of building crossings. All crossings must be left by the wagon, but, of course, must be erected by someone very shortly afterwards, if the line is to answer its purpose.

" If we accept this as a general principle, it becomes necessary to organise the Detachment into laying and building parties, similar to the front and rear parties of an Airline Detachment. It is clear that the actual laying of the wire can at present be most conveniently done by the cable wagon. The vehicle, with a skeleton crew, comprises the laying party, and simply lays the wire as it proceeds, dropping any necessary stores that are required at crossings.

" The mechanical vehicle moves in rear of the cable wagon, and carries construction tools (i.e. hammers, jumpers, etc.). With the remainder of the detachment, it forms the building party and makes the line safe as it travels along. The type of stores dropped indicates the type of crossing the commander wishes built.

" This system answers most requirements of the modern Cable Detachment, but there are two occasions we have yet to deal with. Firstly, laying with a moving column, between the advanced guard and the main body of troops. The distance between these two bodies may be half a mile, and troops travelling at three miles per hour will traverse half a mile in ten minutes. It is clear that, even with a mechanical vehicle capable of spurts of speed forming a rear party, much of the construction necessary for real safety must be left. To deal with these conditions a light car, with one or two linemen, travels in rear of the whole column and effects such maintenance as is necessary.

" Our second problem is the necessity for the detachment to travel a number of miles before it can start laying. If the time factor enters into the conditions we horses are at a discount, and the only solution is to utilise the mechanical vehicle as an improvised cable wagon, mounting in it a " drums, barrow," from which the wire is pulled off by hand, the duties of No. 7 being performed on foot. On occasions when a light car or motor cycle combination is available, No. 7 is duplicated, and the light vehicle leap-frogs the two men—one past the other every quarter-mile.

" Well, Molly, that is the end of my lecture. I'll ask John, as a youngster, what he thinks of things."

" It seems to me, Dora, that very shortly we horses will be looking for another job or travelling to the Continent, and that grooming brushes will be replaced by spanners and oil cans!"

FEED AWAY.

No. 3 Company.

To Let.—Free of charge or criticism, to any literary aspirant of the Company: this space for WIRE notes. Long lease the only condition.

No. 4 Wireless Company: No. 1 Section.

On the whole, we have had very little excitement. Financially, the Section has weakened considerably owing to the starred football teams failing to do their stuff ; but in the near future we hope to lay this bogey by the heels, and then—caramba!

Congratulations to L/Corpl and Mrs. Harris on their recent marriage. A cynic (?) once said that only a bachelor could appreciate the joys of married life. Perhaps they can give the lie to this.

At last we have said goodbye to Blackdown, and are now in our new site at Hartford Bridge Flats. Many old campaigners of foot-slogging days will remember this spot, with its most famous map reference of all time. The " I " in Ely Inn has brought comfort to many a tortured mind—it sounds so personal, somehow.

Most of our new members have just returned from their annual leave. We trust it has blessed them with a sense of humour, now they are among us, for they will need it to get over people like R. K. Fox, W. L. P. Brennan and S. A. M. Kerr. My advice is to ignore them—they tell lies.

L/Corpl Willcocks has just returned to us from a stay in hospital. He featured there in a role similar to that created by Alf and his button—strike me pink! We are glad to see him again, and hope he has now repented his rash-ness.

Christmas is almost upon us, and we wish all units, at home and abroad, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year—including the buckshee.

High Society Blues (News).—With the opening of the Aldershot winter season, several of the more notable people have returned to town. Those present at the Wellington last night included, among others newly returned, the smiling and debonair Paget Brennan, Waffles Ball and Lizzie Henderson-Fox. The latter, in addition to an air of affluence, wore the famous Henderson-Fox pearls. In response to a query from Snidge Robinson as to the whereabouts of the swine, she replied that he was at home, minding the baby. In an awkward silence, it was explained to her that Snidge was only jesting on that old saying of " Casting pearls before swine."

Lizzie was ever tactless. Later in the evening I tackled her on this, but all she returned was a haughty stare and two empties.

On the stage Toots Harris was in great form ; in fact, she positively bulged. In a short address, prior to the performance, the Mayor (speaking, as usual, with his mouth full) referred to the coming departure of one of the best known of the younger set: Eric Warwick-Warwick (pronounced " Burnley ").

On rising to reply, the latter showed signs of nervousness and a horrible set of dirty teeth. Evidently he has not profited by his contact with the Yorkshire dialect. He is leaving for India on the 24th December.

The Count of Lester was to be seen negligently swinging a lead, and appeared a trifle " aurora borealis " with the rest of those present. He left quite early, accompanied by Lady Kitty Willcocks, who wore an intriguing frock of diamante and a boil on her shoulder. She is noted for her collection of priceless old relics—her husband can be often seen pottering about among them.

Paget Brennan's party occupied the back row of the sixpenny seats, and were obviously enthralled by their host's reminiscences of China—he is a great raconteur, we all know.

Further to the rear of the hall could be seen that eminent leader of the scientific world Herr Dokter. Some thought was evidently pleasing him, for he was jingling the coins in his pocket in a most abandoned manner. Possibly his greatest achievement has been the construction of that popular set, " The Married Man's Three." Its most remarkable feature is the complete lack of expense associated with it, all components being obtained by sheer personality and tenacity of purpose. The original model is still in existence at the Dokter's laboratory in New Cross, to which he repairs every week-end in the hope of adding some improvements.

During the evening, the Mayor announced the widening of his field of activity. His local appointment as Inspector of Aerials, Ash and Tongham, has now been extended to include Mytchett. This should give general satisfaction in the latter district, for the interference question has lately become a matter of great concern. The Mayor may be forced to take up the trams in his effort to eliminate this nuisance, but he has given his assurance

that this will only be done when all other technical fields have been exhausted. Good luck to him and his efforts for brighter and undistorted wireless reception!

Sunshine Sketches of our Community: No. 10.—Monty Lester (by Window out of Broadmoor). This grand old horse shocked his backers by winning the clerk's stakes with comparative ease. He has sired several winners, but is far from being a spent force himself, and will doubtless come again before long. His age leaves him without vice—he remembers Hyde Park as a plant pot, and that's going back some. Was originally a gangster, but failed to classify when last firing his course, and consequently migrated to England. Has also been a deck hand with Steamboat Bill, which accounts for his nasal twang. Sings "Little Brown Jug" with gusto, music, anybody, and infinite pathos.

Topical Tips.—The draft board of our Company presents an ugly sight. Two definite dates have been fixed, one even before these notes are published. Sigmn Holt leaves (has left) for Palestine on November 28th, and Sigmn Warwick for India on December 24th. The usual laudations will appear next month, but—contrary to what will be said then—this Company's loss will not be someone else's gain.

Mr. Holt will now say a few words. "I am not likely to improve their team's football, cricket, tennis, rugby, or even swimming displays, nor will I prove an acquisition to any social side my new Company may have. I know I'm good; but aren't we all?" As a last message, he leaves these words from "Morte de Arthur": "I go to prepare a place for you. Goodbye."

Sez You.—The following is an extract from a recent edition of *The Daily Mail*:—

How Sergeant-Majors are Made.—Sergeant-majors begin their career in the cradle, according to Dr. A. Helen Boyle, hon. physician at the Lady Chichester Hospital, Hove, who lectured on "The Preventive Treatment of Nervous Breakdown" at the headquarters of the Medical Society of London, Chandos Street, W., last night.

"The baby that cries loudest is fed first," she said; "and babies, being canny creatures, sometimes find they get the best of life by shouting loudly. That develops their lungs, and when they grow up they find they have loud voices. Not knowing what to do with their voices, these strident speakers become sergeant-majors and inflict their voices on the ranks."

As I finish reading that, a fearful imprecation escapes my lips and a great mocking laugh—a laugh wrung from a tortured and seared soul—echoes violently through the silent and crypt-like passages of No. 14 barrack block. I suggest that if the good lady alters the title of her lecture to "Infanticide: Its Problems and some Justifications," her words will become of vital importance. Seven thousand signalmen can't be wrong, madam!

1st Divisional Signals.

No. 1 Company.

General.—Having fired the annual musketry course, and presented Steve with the wooden rifle and Dixie with a double-breasted silver bullet, we now settle down to the wagging of flags, step dancing on keys, and investigating the innards of Duggies—all of which form part of technical training.

Draft.—Before these notes are in print, we shall have lost some of the boys, who will then be sailing the ocean waves for India. Many sad hearts will be left behind. But never mind, Bob; six years will soon pass by, and then you can have the Christmas pudding without the basin broken.

Courses of Instruction.—L/Sergeant Chalmers R. has been selected for a gas course at the Anti-Gas Wing, and 2/Lieut. C. L. Ommanney for an instructor's boxing course at the Army School of Physical Training. We are now hoping to have the Corps heavy-weight champion, sir.

Marriage.—Corpl Martin to Miss Gladys Amy Richardson, at Watford, on the 14th November. It was a lovely affair, as Ginger was best man and Steve was in attendance to finish off what the other two couldn't. Congratulations!

Birth.—At Aldershot, on November 9th, to L/Sergeant and Mrs. H. Field—a daughter.

Departures.—Corpl Morris has now left us for civilian life, after all this time. We hope he will fall into a very prosperous situation.

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Corpl Whitehead R. C. to A.F.V. Signals, Tidworth, complete with the Birmingham sparrow and gouzelmeter.

Heard at the Firing Point.—An n.c.o. to telephone operator: "Ask whether there were four or five hits on No. 10 target." Operator (after phoning): "None."

To the Editor.—A charming young scribe, with a Phospherine grin, is eager to outwrite Barleux for a small consideration each month. Would you please quote your terms, for his information.

Congratulations.—To Corpl Pratchett on re-engaging to complete a pontoon. You must have a good kit to last all that time, Bill.

It's Easy.—Watch the 110 this time, Robo. It can't eat the insulation, but you can do with the splash (Blanco).

This Month's Wish.—"Lover, come back to me" (with apologies to Stan).

The Greasy Biscuit.—This has been the trophy of the M.T. Section for the past six months, and it has been awarded to the same person who has held it for the whole period. (Have a guess; he is good.)

Agony.—To Fairy at Sarafand: Mush reply. Surely you aren't on your way home!
To Loss: Mush better? S'not fair. BILL PRATCH.

No. 2 Company.

General.—I'm afraid we have not very much to report in this month's notes, so they will be rather brief.

Draft.—By the time these notes appear in print, L/Corporal Hunt H. will have left us for India. Sigmn Horne T. S. also leaves for Sarafand. We wish them the best of luck in their new stations.

Sergt Johnson A. is also detailed to sail for India on the 24th, but owing to illness he is now a doubtful starter.

Football.—In the second round shield match, against No. 3 Company 2nd Divl Signals, the match had to be abandoned with the score at 1—1 owing to the bad weather. We hope, however, to win the match at the next attempt.

We congratulate the Group on entering the third round of the Army cup. In the first round they disposed of the 5th D.G.s and in the second the 3rd Brigade R.H.A. (by 4—3). We are now looking forward to the next game.

Cross-Country.—The Company have not done any too well in this branch of sport this season, but Driver Hempshall continues to run to form and is always an easy first home. However, we hope to improve as time goes on and the boys get into their stride. LULU.

No. 3 Company.

General.—This being the last time that I shall have the honour of penning the notes for this Company, it would be fitting that I rise to the occasion and excel myself; but, alas! a lump rises in my throat at the thought of leaving my dear friends, and I am afraid the result will be disappointing.

The tumult and shouting having died, I will get down to business.

That dreaded disease "musketree" having being conquered with but few deaths, we pass on to a better period, where those of talent may show their genius.

The period which I speak of is known as "tecknikel." The brighter lads, having been specially selected, are attending a course of instruction, at the end of which we expect them to rise to the heights and obtain their B.i.'s. At the moment they are grappling with A.C. and seem very interested. At night one sees them poring over their books, keen and ardent students; but, looking closer, one also sees a pass form by their side being filled in spasmodically and some wondering if it is o.k. for a long or short week-end (no names, no tugs).

This month will start the egress of some of our most brilliant material, embarking for foreign climes where talkies are few and "stuff" fewer. However, one scorns the well known and worn phrase "Upholding the Empire." We wish them all the very best in their new adventure—including myself, sez me.

Armistice Day is upon us and red poppies are in abundance. but we also notice last year's models adorning some tunics and caps. I take this occasion to call on the scribes of this Company to take over the duties of WIRE correspondent. What about it, you budding Shakespeares? SNIKLE.

Arrivals and Departures.—We take this opportunity of welcoming the arrivals from Catterick, and hope their stay will be a long and happy one. We also say farewell to the following, who leave us on the 24th:—Corpl Arnell, U/L/Corpl Jennings and Sigmn Davis for India. Sigmn Dewar to Sarafand on the 28th. Corpl Elkins E. to Somaliland (watch the lions, Elky; don't bring me too many skins).

What a Racket!—A great wailing and moaning was heard coming from the direction of the canteen the other night, but on enquiries being made as to the cause, it was found to be "the blue lions" trying to imitate Jack Payne in his best mood and a chorus of cats at full strength. Even the drums were heard.

Sweating.—Now that the Christmas Eve draft has been posted, the waiting men of the Company have already started to sweat in case of having to spend Christmas on the briny. Bear up! DEPUTY.

2nd Divisional Signals.

No. 3 Company.

Discharges.—To the Army Reserve: L/Corpl Ruffals and Signalmen Martin W. and Robinson. Sigmn Armstrong purchased his discharge, and in doing so has upset all the cries about Scotland. We wish them all the best of luck.

G.O.C.'s Inspection.—As there has been no undue comment passed since this took place, we satisfy ourselves that everything was in order.

Muscle Binding.—L/Corpl Reardon having started a P.T. course, we now notice the robot-like action in his walk. Jump to it!

Technical Training.—All the members of the Company undergoing technical training are walking about with a learned look on their faces, which accounts for this month's clothing indents consisting mainly of bigger hats. Sweat on!

As You Were!—The C.Q.M.S.'s bugbear—or, to give it its right name, blanket exchange—is now finished, but the recently acquired hump on his back was not caused by dismissing his fatigue party and carrying on on his own. Oh, no!

Information.—As the majority of the Company seem to be in ignorance of the identity of Stinker, we are sorry that we can only offer the information that he may be found hanging around in 31 barrack block.

The Biscuit.—As there is no one more deserving of this than myself this month, I am taking it without any question. My lapse was mistaking a lady's fur for a scarf—and only myself knows why. Roll on!

Progress.—The Company is surely becoming a second Salt Lake City. Our most promising aspirant for the title of M.M. (Master Mormon) has stated that his claim extends for a radius of sixty miles. We all thought it more, but sixty isn't so bad, and there's time to extend, even in seven weeks. His trusty steed, unlike the mounts of old, is of the mechanical age. Even Mormons and sheiks have become mechanised. I know you never did like kicking horses, Len.

Heartaches.—One of the flock thinks that the songs, "Lover, come back to me" and "Just one more chance" are very appropriate and fitting to his case, inasmuch as he sings them all day long. But I doubt whether the girl who sent the ring back will hear him. Leeds is a long way from 34 room, Mons.

This Electrical Age.—We are told that electricity governs almost everything now, but it is the first time we have heard that an electric car would send a man into inebriation to the extent that he would have to spin a coin to decide whether he or his pal was the merrier. Usually, these gay times leave you without a coin to spin. Still, it's hard luck, Bill. Try a dash with it next time. Heath 401.

Excuses: and How to Make Them.—It is said that a week-end per month helps to bring your service to an end, but having it the same week as the Q.M. wishes to check your kit is too obvious. Still, we know you could lay one, Trudge. The time will soon be ripe for the next one.

Too Hasty.—Some people think that a China draft comes at a very appropriate time, but why tell the girl two months before. It spoils all the fun of the fair. But bear up, George ; you can always try. She may even wait for a long time.

Last Words of Famous Men.—The Pay-bloke: " Sorry!"

Greetings.—To all Signal units at home and abroad, the Territorials and Supplementary Reserve units: We wish you all a bright and happy Christmas as a forerunner to a successful 1932.

THREECO.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

General.—The G.O.C.'s inspection on October 24th went off without a hitch. During his inspection of the barracks and men at work, the G.O.C. expressed a desire to see dinners issued and went thoroughly into the messing system. Once again we were congratulated on the inspection.

Furlough is now in full swing. The first party has returned, and the second party departed—they will miss the first " big dig " of the year.

Individual training and education are taking up the time of those who can be spared. May they all get the desired results —chiefly, as far as most of the individuals are concerned, a few more pence on the pay in these times.

We are still busy getting turf down between the huts and making unsightly patches look decent. At any rate, weeds will not have such a chance as they have had in the past.

Congratulations to the rugby side on beating the 11th Hussars in the Army rugby cup. Now get ready for the 9th Field Brigade R.A.

Hockey has been going well, and a list of results to date is in the Sports pages.

A lot of soccer is being played, but the teams have just got settled and are now playing fairly well. I hope the soccer committee will let me have a list of their results for the next WIRE.

Boxing goes on apace, and on November 13th we held a novices show in our mess room. The attendance was fairly good, but I think a lot more could have supported an excellent show. Our thanks are due to Lieut. A. B. Ruck and his committee. It looks as if we shall again put up a good show in the Garrison. Results in Sports news.

Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. F. H. Bury on the birth of a daughter (Anne Rosemary) in London, on October 23rd.

Sergeants' Mess.—The usual whist drives are being held fortnightly. The attendance has improved, and the evenings have been very jolly. The special property committee have not done much yet, but we believe that carpet, etc., will arrive eventually. Still, thanks for the library, which is now well stocked. Let's hope no more books will get unaccountably mislaid.

Postings and Arrivals.—Signalmen Carter S., Evans F. R., Ferguson R., Farrell G., Jenkins I., Harrison A. and Martin H. from Training Battalion on November 7th. Signalmen Crick C., Pitt A., Kendall E. and Hague J., also from the Training Battn. on the 23rd.

Marriages.—Sergeant Pack E. W. to Dorothy May Harris, at Sheerness, Kent, on October 17th. Corporal Prees J. W. to Louisa Thornton Mustard, at Stockton-on-Tees, on October 19th.

Appointments.—Appointed L/Corporal on the Corps roster: A/L/Corpl Hadland C. w.e.f. 20/10/31. A/L/Corpl Camm P. w.e.f. 9/10/31. U/L/Corpl McDonald F. w.e.f. 6/10/31.

Births.—To Corpl Twigger, a daughter (Barbara Jannette) at North Tidworth on October 7th.

To Army Reserve.—Sigmn Holmes J., Sigmn Gunn J. and L/Corpl Moorhouse T.

Discharges.—Sergt Tidmarsh B. on October 16th, and Corpl Knight E. on the 23rd (under K.R. 370).

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

General.—We must congratulate both the soccer and rugby teams on their success in the first rounds of the Army cups. In the soccer v. 2nd Medium Brigade R.A., at Shoeburyness, we won by 7—2. In the rugby v. 17th Field Brigade R.A., we won by 25—0 points. Both teams should, on present form, go very near to the final.

Hunting.—In the Easton Harriers hunter trials at Ashbocking, near Ipswich, over one and a half miles of fair hunting country, there were three entries from the unit.

In the open light weight class, Captain M. V. Smelt on " Shrapnel " and Lieut. C. D. Gardiner on " Jorrocks " were thirteenth and fourteenth respectively out of an entry of twenty-eight ; and in the heavy weight class, Captain L. B. Nicholls on " Selima " was seventh out of twenty-nine. " Selima," unfortunately, had an attack of colic the night previous and was not at her best.

All three entries completed the course, in which there were some pretty stiff obstacles, and were competing against horses drawn from both local hunts and the shires.

The communications were admirably carried out by the last batch of operator signals from the S.T.C. They handled over nine hundred results without a single error, and were the recipients of much congratulation and hospitality.

Trooping.—We are losing many old faces this trooping season, and we shall miss them and their services. Perhaps they will remember the 4th Divisional Signals station as a pleasant place, where everyone has played hard to make the unit what it is.

To mention a few. C.Q.M.S. Ramsdale, who has lent a hand to do anything, anywhere, at any time ; Sergt A. E. Wells, who has done so much towards building up our soccer reputation ; Corpl Longhurst and L/Sergt Jones, of rugger fame ; Corporal Andrews, our most valued educational instructor ; Sergt New, one of our best swimmers ; L/Sergt Golder, good at all the games he plays. There are many others, too numerous to mention, who have also done their bit. Good luck to you all! We shall miss you sadly.

No. 2 Company.

General.—Yet again I have been called on to write a syllabus of the Company's progress during the past month. The first item, I am sorry to say, is that our Company commander, Captain V. C. Holland, will have left us for Catterick by the time these notes appear. I can freely say that during the two years he has been with us this Company has been as contented a body of men as one could wish to find. We are all very sorry to lose him, and wherever he may travel, our good wishes will always go with him.

To his successor, Captain M. V. Smelt from No. 3 Company, we extend a hearty welcome, and trust that his stay with us will be just as happy as his predecessor's. The Company hockey team needs you, sir.

The hunting season is in full swing now, much time and energy being spent on it by all the officers of the Company. Suum cuique voluptas.

We were eagerly looking forward to the first round of the Garrison inter-Company knock-out hockey competition, but when our opponents, the 92nd Battery R.A., heard of our reputation with the sticks, they scratched ; so now, having " won " the first round, we are anxiously awaiting the draw for the second round. Keep it up, No. 2 Company!

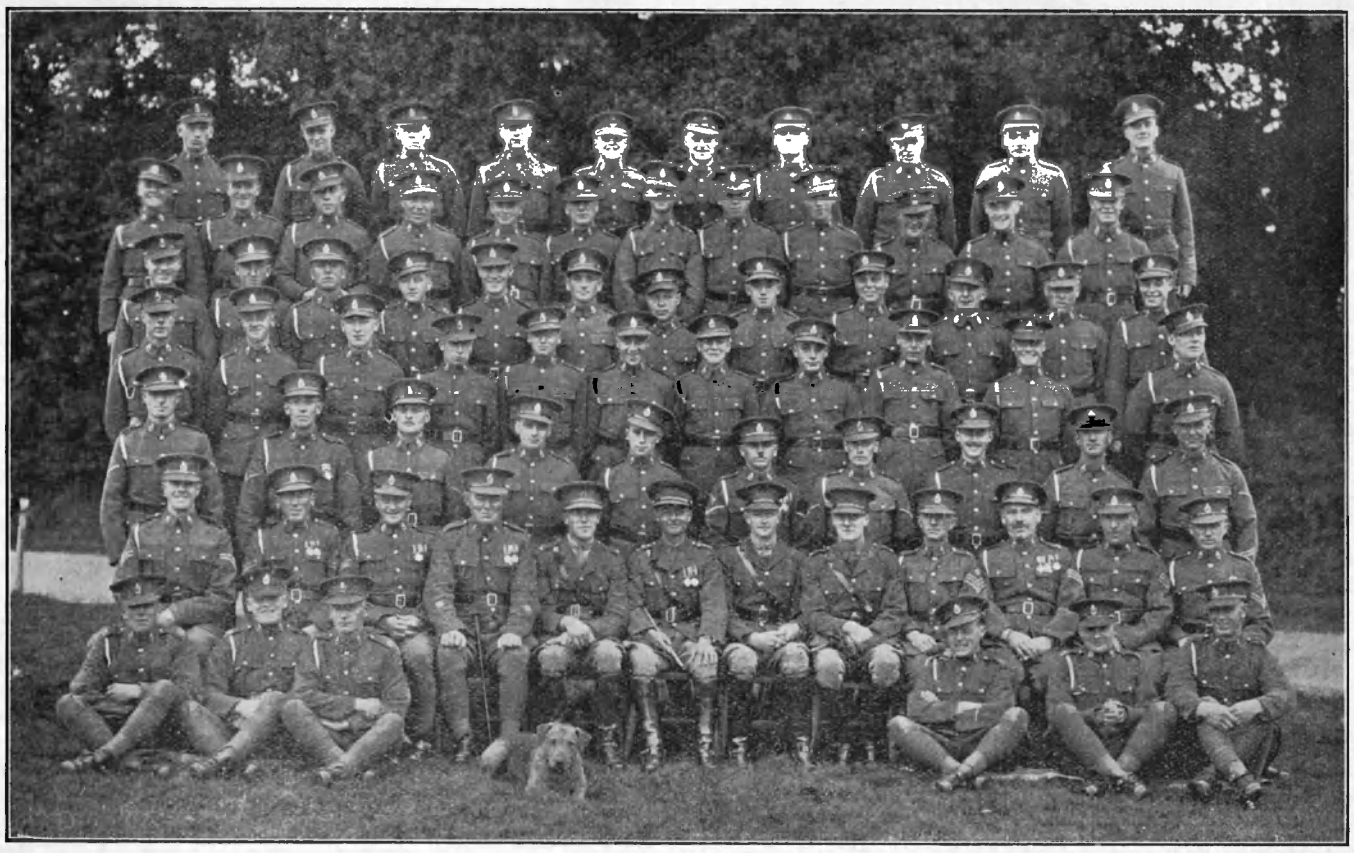
In the first round of the Garrison inter-Company knock-out soccer competition, we have the pleasure of meeting Headquarters 2nd Battn Royal Fusiliers.

Do miracles happen? Well, one *has* happened here just recently. I am at a loss to explain how it came about, but I will let you all into the secret of it. Now, sit still, take it quietly, and here it is. L/Corpl Baker H. (Zack) has been warned for India ; yes, complete with his soft, sweet and melodious voice, which members of the Corps—and Garrison, for that matter—who were here nine years (or maybe more) ago will remember only too well. Corpl Hodgson, somewhere in India, please take extra special note of this. It will interest you, I am sure.

Correspondence.—Hello, Meerut! " Round the table conference." Dutchy, late of E Section, 3rd Indian Divl Signals, would like to know whether Gandhi brought all the writing paper and stamps to England with him. If so, I have no objections to receiving letters from any pals out there, written on A.F.'s blob blob.

Yes, I have another certificate at last, but not a first. It's a double harness one.

A merry Christmas to all, and roll on your boat.—G.W.H, and Co,



No. 2 Company, 4th Divisional Signals.

Top row (left to right)—Sigmn Green M., Driver Heydon W. R., Signalmen Upton H. and Peters H. P., Driver Smith T. F., Signalmen Doe A. W., Jelly S., Oakey F. D., Holland G. W. and Faulkes E. F.

Second row—Sigmn Ward E. C., Drivers Redman E. and Souter A., Signalmen Jordan E., Rice F. and Widdowson F. W., Drivers Jeffery P. L. and Foster W. E., Sigmn Topping G., Driver Hall J., Sigmn Beresford W. L., Driver Thornhill J.

Third row—Signalmen Powell V., Matthews E. W., Pope H. W., Gleaves H., Robinson J. G., McConnell R. C. and Guest L. E., Driver Read L. R., Sigmn Gartery J. E., Driver Pashley E., Signalmen Eslemont R. J. and Russell H.

Fourth row—Signalmen Jardine R., Price C. H. and Boobier C. H., Driver Crews F. A., Signalmen Scott E., Stone P., Blake H., Brett H. G., Sims E. A., Geer J. G. and Taylor W.

Fifth row—L/Corpls Bully W. G., Murphy W. H., Parks E., Connor G. L., Henning H. C., Bishop J. W., Spencer R. B., Scrase R., Richards G. H. and Baker H.

Sixth row—Corpls Freemantle G. G. and Crowe F., Sergt New F. H., C.S.M. Herbert A. F., 2/Lieut A. B. McVittie, Captain V. C. Holland, 2/Lieut N. M. Hay, 2/Lieut E. J. C. Harrison, C.Q.M.S. Kendall A. G., Sergt Oliver W. J., L/Sergt Golder L., Corpl France J. A.

On ground—Signalmen Roake J. H. W., Sedgwick C., Booth T. H., Harding J. E., Robinson E. and Richards C. E.

S.O.S.—Will the individual who went for a midnight walk in the vicinity of Reed Hall Camp on 9th/10th November and accidentally walked away with the N.A.A.F.I safe, complete with fittings (and not forgetting the money) please communicate with the Colchester Sleuth Company, Limited. He will hear something to his (dis)advantage.

Departures.—Sigmn Stone P. left us on November 3rd for a course at the A.V.T.C. Aldershot.

Sergt Oliver W. J. once more returned to Catterick on 9th November. What's the attraction?

Sigmn Dickson R. M. has travelled south for duty with A Corps Signals, Aldershot. What will the Company soccer team do now, Jock?

Birth.—To Sergt W. J. and Mrs. Oliver, a son (Cyril John), at Colchester, on October 28th.

Marriages.—L/Sergt Golder L. to Elsie Jeffs, at the Register Office, Colchester, on November 2nd.

L/Corpl Parks E. to Henrietta Bennel, at Colchester, on 3rd October.

Sigmn Rice F. to Lilian Ethel Leadbeater, at the Register Office, Eltham, Kent, on October 5th.

Education.—Sigmn Walker W. obtained his second class certificate on August 7th.

Trooping.—L/Corpl Baker H. and Signalmen Green M. and Parker W. have been warned for service in India. Date not yet known.

Sigmn Blake H. has now been definitely warned for embarkation to India on December 24th—not on November 24th, as previously notified in the last issue of this Journal—together with Sergt New F. H., L/Corpl Connor G. L., Signalmen Jelly S., Topping G. and Ward E. C. Sigmn Gartery J. E. is the waiting man for this draft.

Sigmn Peters H. P. will have departed for Sarafand, embarking for that station on November 28th.

Sigmn Oakey F. D. will leave us for China on December 22nd.

Champion "Howler."—Pupil to Instructor: "What is the length of a short circuit?"

No. 3 Company.

Arrivals.—The Company extends a hearty welcome to Captain T. C. Thompson from the Southern Command Signal Company.

Sigmn Cann L. from F Company, Training Battalion—a good type of ex-Boy. He has already proved himself an asset to his Company on the field of sport.

Departure.—Sigmn Brightmore A. to the Training Battalion. Our loss—their gain.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Burniston Barracks, November 15th.

General.—A happy Christmas and a bright New Year to all at home and abroad.

Major-General E. T. Humphreys, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., our new G.O.C., inspected the unit on the 30th October and was very pleased with everything. The barracks really looked fine, and the decorators are in. Paint! paint everywhere!

The D.A.D.R. has been up, and on Wednesday next the A.D.V.S. is looking at the horses; and then most of the unit will be spending Christmas with the log fires.

Armistice Day was observed with a short service and address on the unit square, "Last Post" and "Reveille" being sounded at the end of the two minutes silence.

On Sunday, the 15th November, we sent representative war veterans to the British Legion annual memorial parade in Scarborough, when the parade marched to the local War Memorial, Oliver's Mount.

Au revoir to the drafts! Sergt Fegan C. P. is returning to sunny climes—Sarafand—on the 28th inst. Signalmen Gibbon R., Shields J., Scott C., Hughes C. and Freeman P. are off to India on the 24th inst; and a big draft on the 24th December: R.S.M. Hughes, Sergt Penfold A., L/Sergt Effland, Corporals Birkett A. and Williams A., L/Corporals Collett E., Simpson S. and Sanderson I., Signalmen Brown W., Downs H., Faircloth W., Peacock E., Parris R., Martin S., MacDonald C., MacFee J., Parker C., Pleasance A., Rigby L., Bryan J., Scantleberry C., Thompson G., Sanderson A. and Roberts G. Sigmn Guy G. H. is off to Malaya on the same day. Bon voyage to you all!

C.Q.M.S. Moore is with Notts Forest now. Sergt Atkinson has returned to the 52nd T.A., Glasgow, and Sergt Hoyland has returned here in his place.

Congratulations to Sigmn Barker N. B. on obtaining the first class certificate of education ("D" in mathematics) at the October examination.

Dole dodgers are R.S.M. McIntosh P. A. (permitted to continue for a further five years in his present rank) and Sigmn Adams A. B. (to eight and four).

Corpl Daw has disappeared on a gas course, while L/Corpl MacLean is awaiting a fire fighting course at the "Shot," and L/Corporals Barnicott and Swan H. are off on an upgrading course at Catterick. Sigmn Coole is learning to make duff for Christmas at the School of Cookery. All passes A.1, please!

A welcome is extended to the new arrivals:—Signalmen Boyland J., Snaith J., Price F., Ramsden H., Venner F., Wilson A., Welburn W. and Milnes F., from Training Battalion; L/Corpl Humphreys H. from Jamaica; Signalmen Faraday and Macey A. from India.

Salutations on the occasion of their marriage! Sigmn Hughes J. R. to Gertrude Wilson on October 17th, and Sergt Fegan C. P. to Dorise Noad on November 6th—both at Scarborough. Here's luck and many many's. What about it now, Artura of Singapore?

It is suggested that the green medal, now painted red and hung in the carpenter's shop, be transferred until after the chippy's trade test and re-marked "pummers" to have and to hold.

The dances attract the usual number of supporters, and an enjoyable evening is spent every Friday. This week is a farewell jazz to our first Indian draft—so hatchars salaams, etc.

Seen at Scarborough.—Viscount Ratchett of Sarona avec plus fours. Lord Ledger of Khadimmain complete with spats.

Scot's Press.—What about it, Dangerfield? Bert,

Congratulations to Hart, from Hart, on his promotion to farrier-corporal.

Sergeants' Mess.—Here we are again: happy as can be, all good pals and jolly good company. Hurrah! 'midst paint and plaster, 'ere we sit and "scribe" a few words to the world.

A lively final this time in the partnered snooker tournament, for R.S.M. Hughes S. and Sergt Brandon played C.Q.M.S. Moore and Sergt Lewis W. Down went the red—sippy-dy-sip went the bayonets—and the former two ran out winners by a good twenty-one points. Collapse of our C.Q.M.S., who shook hands all round. The latter is still trying to spend his 7/6. M.I.M.

A happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all.

Stop Press: Latest from Sergeants' Mess.—The reason why our M.O. comes early nowadays is that he is doing "delirium tremens" for a bloke down town.

The indoor games tournament versus H.M. W/T Station was won by us after a very enjoyable evening. At soccer we beat them by 7—0 and left them becalmed.

G Signal Section.

Catterick, November 14th.

General.—Last month we said that Catterick offers very little in the way of excitement, and consequently there was nothing to report. But what can happen in a month!

First of all, the annual horse inspection by the D.A.D.A.R., which brings back to our mind boned and polished headgears, burnished buckles, lovely white head ropes, and last, but not least, that extra pressure when applying the "circular motion." Everything went off fine, and the colonel's comment of "Horses very fit and an excellent turn-out" was ample reward for our labour.

And now for five minutes stand easy. "What! what's that? No, I haven't seen Orders." "Well, I have—and the G.O.C. is coming to see us." "And there's a prelim to-morrow." "And he will probably want to see our kits."

Then followed a monthly collection of cypherable groups, green paint and dry scrubbers, white blanco, Bluebell, and paraffin—and don't forget the black paint that comes off on to your puttees.

October 29th found us all spick and span and formed up on the left of the 20th Field Brigade R.A. We were inspected by Major-General E. T. Humphreys, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. The General and his staff were quite interested in the Section, and plied our O.C. (Lieut. E. P. Blake) with questions regarding our work and training. Then followed an inspection of the barrack room, stores and stables. Again, the horses and stables came in for further comment to our credit. The General also noticed the new horse cards and holders which we had just received from Scarborough. So now we *are* having our five minutes stand easy.

Embarkations.—Corpl Williams, L/Corpl Simpson, Signalmen Peacock and Faircloth, for India on December 24th, and Sigmn Jones for China on December 22nd. We sincerely hope the seas are not high on Christmas Day for them. Good luck!

Greetings.—To all readers of THE WIRE, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May all your parcels be big and plentiful!

YORKYSIGS.

Northern Ireland Signal Company, Belfast.

General.—Our operators have had a month's individual training, and are now looking forward to their annual furlough.

The linemen have started their training, and are at present relearning the use of pick and shovel. They are repairing the underground cable of the Belfast Lough defences.

The n.c.o.s and men on the out-stations are lucky this year: they are getting six weeks leave instead of four. People who have been to Dunree and Lenan will agree with me that they deserve it. Rumour has it that Tubby is spending his six weeks in Dunree and district. Good luck, Tub! Larry volunteers for "best man."

Ballykinlar has now been added to our list of out-stations. One n.c.o, and four men there are maintaining W/T communication

with Belfast, thus doing away with the telephone and helping to balance the Budget.

Club Notes.—There will be a meeting of the Nisco Hik'ng Club eight hours after the receipt of the December copy of THE WIRE, and all members must attend. They will meet at Bladon Drive and march in a smart and soldier-like manner to Tim's Hill, three hundreds yards north-east of Shaw's Bridge. Great care must be taken to evade any mud.

H.R.L. Patrick will be present. President Tim will take the necessary documents, etc., with him. Ginger and Carnera will be presented with their membership badges. The badge has been designed—I should say, accidentally discovered—by our president ; it represents a miniature overcoat badly covered in mud.

A committee will be selected, and next month I hope to be able to publish the rules of the club.

Cupid.—I have been informed by my Ogpu that individual training is followed daily by dual training between the hours of 4.0 and 11.59 p.m. People are asking me many questions which I cannot at present answer. Just give my Ogpu one month, and then I will answer all enquiries. At present my men are distributed as follows:—

No. 1. Tracking a driver who shows all the symptoms of having been hit by a stray arrow.

No. 2. Night duty. Taking evidence from the n.c.o who talks in his sleep.

No. 3. Outside Grand Central, keeping his eyes open for Archie's sandwich.

No. 4. Following the clue of the mud-stained overcoat.

No. 12. Super-efficient, known as Bloodhound ; watching Darky, seen with Paddy every Monday night.

No. 34. Keeping an eye on No. 9 Hawthorne Street.

No. 5. Finding out where Tired Tim goes for week-ends.

No. 6. Proving why Hooper refuses to do voluntary H.Q. D.R.

No. 7. Why Blount persists in saying "Kathleen" instead of "Katherine." Who is she?

No. 10. Looking for Bill's "jacket, canvas, overall."

No. 11. Where Wootton got his watch.

Greetings.—The Club wish Mr. Forte and staff a very happy Christmas, and forgive him for getting mixed up between "sun" and "daughter."

Anticipated.—Rumour has it that a certain senior n.c.o. is getting engaged this Christmas. We wish them the best of luck. How about your bunk, Chota?

O'B. has nearly killed himself smoking "Kensitas," to save the coupons, and is making remarks about the "bottom drawer" and the 8th of April. No. 12 warns me to watch my step, so enough said.

Arrivals.—We welcome Sergt Bachelor and family from the School of Signals, and Sigmn Cartwright from the Training Battalion. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

Education.—Quite a large proportion of the Company are going to school to improve their educational qualifications, and we hope they are all successful in their examinations.

Marriage.—Jock Shepherd took the fatal step on November 4th and got married to Miss Myrtle Porter. We congratulate them both and wish them every happiness.

S.O.S.—Will Sigmn G. Foster (170) somewhere in Bulford, answer that last letter sent by 211 of this unit—or is he on the jew?

All is well that ends well, so let us end the year by wishing all other units a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

LARRY.

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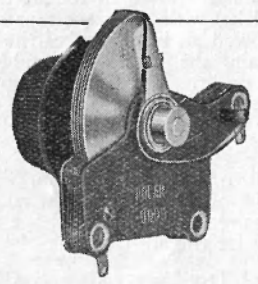

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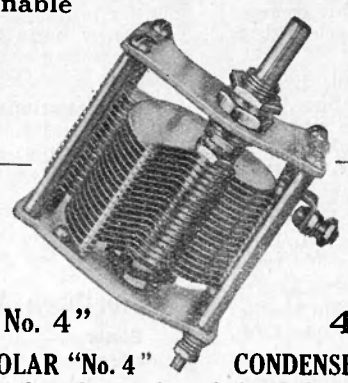

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UNITS ABROAD

Signal Training Centre (India) Jubbulpore.

Greetings.—Though many days must elapse ere the festive season is with us again, I open my notes this month by greeting all readers, members and ex-members of the Corps, and wishing them a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May they be the best ever, in spite of the increase in the price of food (liquid). Here's to all!

Homeward Bound.—Another week, and those mentioned in my notes of last month will have bidden farewell to India. At the moment they do not know what to do with themselves. One bright lad, who has been undergoing a course of motor driving, wants to fit all clocks with super-chargers, and is sighing for " Schneider-like speed " out of the *Nevasa*.

We must now unearth a guard commander for inspections and the like. Applicants for this " sinecure," please apply early to avoid the rush.

Casual (but, by the way, a true story).—Scene: Company parade ground. Time: Morning check parade. Actors: two Signalmen (A, a bit hard of hearing, and t'other B, eyesight hazy). Sigmn A: " When they call ' Markers!' you give me a dig and then I'll lead you on parade."

General.—I must have made a slight miscalculation last month when I said the monsoon was over, because it isn't, even up to the time of writing. It is certainly making up for its late arrival. The atmosphere, however, is still decidedly muggy, and we shall be very pleased indeed when our winter weather arrives.

Social.—Our fortnightly whist drives and dances are becoming quite famous, and under the skilful management of C.S.M. Adcock and Corpl Appleby, helped by one or two energetic assistants, they will soon become *the* events of the month.

En passant. I may add that the above-mentioned have also taken over the entertainment side of the Signals Association, and we should soon have something to report of this sphere of their activities.

Entertainment.—The talkie apparatus reported by Barleux to have arrived in Jubbulpore gave up the ghost last week. We are not without solace, however, as a new house has opened—or at least, an old house under a new name: for " Strand," read " Regal "—and being equipped with a Western Electric installation, we are getting quite an English air about town. No doubt, the arrival of this helped to hasten the end of the one which has kept us amused for the past few months. Now we know what talkies are like—thanks!

Drafts.—The Officer i/c Records gave us a shock when he decided to send us a draft out *before* Christmas. However, all's well that ends well. We are getting your Christmas dinner ready, boys.

Promotions and Appointments.—Once again the good fairy has paid us a visit, and the following are now taking a size larger in tunics:—L/Sergt Cook T. to be Sergeant. Corporals Chadney and Ellison D. A. to be Lance-Sergeants. L/Corporal Mills to be Corporal.

Having taken a stroll around Jubbulpore during recent months, here are a few things that have actually happened.

On September 7th the Nerbudda Vale Hunt held their first point-to-point meeting of the season. A very sporty course, calling for expert horsemanship to negotiate holes and canal crossing turns. But for his horse pecking at the last fence, a handsome cup would have been presented to Sigmn Gibbons. I can see him passing the post first in the near future. Mr. Knox left nothing to chance in the Signals officers' race. In the w.o.s and sergeants' race, Sergt Dilworth popped up second in a hard ridden contest.

If anyone requires any knowledge about the erection of wireless masts, please send stamped addressed envelope to L/Sergeant Humphrey. If he is not up the pole, he will find time to answer it.

On Sunday night, October 18th, our leading lights could be seen in a fancy dress football match. " Gunboat Jack's Dinner " was M.C. I rather admired the girl in crepe de chine, Pat. What about it?

On Saturday, the 17th, the Nerbudda Hunt gymkhana was held in glorious weather. Everyone having the gymkhana spirit, a lovely afternoon was spent. May another be held in the near future!

Owing to Sergt Wish's departure in the near future, a special benefit football match was held on Sunday last; but should I meet him in the Strand with his umbrella, we will recall old times at the nearest coffee stall.

The O.C. D Company is arranging a Wild West show, probably to be held early next year. If you burn the sheriff at the stake, sir, you will get a large amount of fuel in proportion (more details later).

Now I come to the time-ex soldiers about to depart on 28th November, packing up their parrots and monkeys. No doubt, one can recall a lot when one has a pontoon in, but we shall be at the station to see them entrain on Monday next.

Someone in the S.T.C. (India) was pleased to notice, in the October WIRE, the prizes obtained by R.S.M. Shave for his garden produce, but I'm afraid he has not a pot big enough for the cabbage.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

October, 1931.

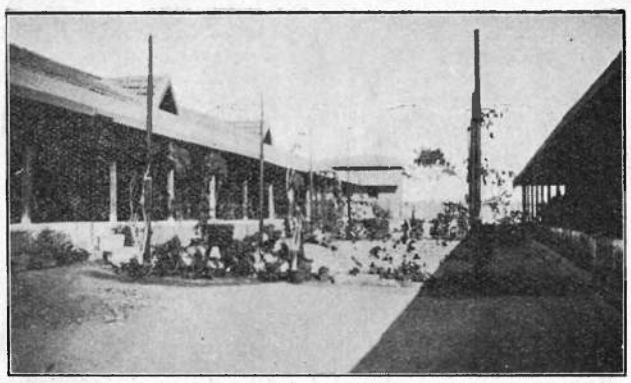
A Corps Signals wish all members of the Corps, at home and abroad, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

General.—This month has seen many changes. The W/T Detachment at Quetta have returned to the fold, only to see a complete Pack Section, augmented by a few of their number, in process of mobilisation. They are to proceed no one knows where, and are merely standing by at the moment. A few others have gone to the Zhob area in relief of those of their comrades who are being repatriated to the United Kingdom next month. Others returned from U.K. leave, and the first draft sailed for home a few days afterwards.

Section training continues, and many and varied are the preparations in anticipation of the annual excursion to Mangho Pir, due to take place next month. This year will undoubtedly see the age-old ritual of introducing the newcomer to life on the " blue." There will be the usual sweepstake on the age of the crocodiles and the debate as to whether they are cannibalistic or otherwise. " Kuchh fikir nahin "—no volunteers will be forthcoming to prove it. However, opinion will be unanimous on one thing: their odour.

The repairs to the floors in the men's bungalows have relieved the orderlies considerably. It wants but the visit of the painters and decorators (rumoured for next month) to make them look really spick and span.

The men's recreation room now boasts a garden (see photograph) between it and the dry canteen. This was laid out by the Construction Section, who erected the fencing and the supports for the lighting system. Flower beds were dug out and filled with imported earth, in which were planted the seedlings,



B.O.R.s Garden.

bulbs, etc. With the addition of a number of potted plants, some on the ground and verandah floors and some suspended from the fencing and verandah roofs, it affords a pleasant place in which to while away the cool of the evening.

An Economy Committee has been formed, and next month should see the report of the changes and improvements they have introduced. Meanwhile, they are discussing ways and means of continuing and even bettering our present amenities with a lesser outlay.

Inspections.—Major-Gen. C. Kirkpatrick, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. Sind (Independent) Brigade Area, held his normal routine inspection of this unit on October 13th.

This but served as a forerunner to the visit of Lieut-General Sir G. Torquhil Mathieson, K.C.B., C.M.G., G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, India, who inspected us on October 31st.

On both occasions A Corps Signals was considered entirely satisfactory and thereby proved itself, once again, worthy of its traditions.

Arrivals.—We welcome to the fold Lieut. J. F. Longfield from the 4th Indian Divl Signals, Trimulgherry.

Captain R. M. Lunt, Captain C. D. Clapp (I.A.), Corpls Baker D. and Lewis F., and Signalmen Fellows R. and Knight L. C. rejoined from U.K. leave.

Departures.—We bid adieu to C.Q.M.S. Robertson J. E. and family, Sergt Nicholls H. and family, L/Sergt Cheverton B., Corpl Lee J., Signalmen Amos R., Donnelly C., Hunt F., Usher S., Cooper G., Gallery W. and Leake A. H. to the United Kingdom. Corpl Baker D. and Signalmen Matthews J., Mountifield J. and Starmore E. to Zhob Area.

Promotions and Appointments.—We congratulate Corporal Cooper W. on attaining his present rank.

Extensions and Re-Engagements.—Sigmn Berry W. now completes eight and four, while L/Sergt Bosworth H. C. and L/Corpl Brunton-Douglas J. have confessed their faith in pontoons only.

Social.—The usual fortnightly whist drive and dance was held on the 7th October, and proved as popular as of yore. Even so, it was quite insignificant in comparison with the big dance held later in the month.

Signals Annual Dance.—This was held at the N.W.R. Institute (the " Loco ") on Wednesday, 21st October. It proved to be the outstanding social event of the month in the Karachi Garrison. It served a three-fold purpose—as an outlet for the energy of the more active of our comrades ; a farewell to the first Blighty trooper, which sailed two days afterwards ; and a feeler as to the possibilities of profitably running a similar show once a month during the cool season.

The event itself was more than a dance: it was a riot of gaiety and good humour. Side shows were installed in the grounds surrounding the building, and they weaned many from the lure of Terpsichore. The raucous shouts of the lads running the cocoanut shy, darts, skittles and treasure hunt greatly belied their assertions that they had not had previous experience ; whilst one cannot help but remark that some of our patrons found it easier to " lead the blind man home " than they did themselves later on. Superstition, too, was catered for by Dame Fortune, who intrigued all comers with her (or rather his) amusing dialogue and novel repartee.

The dance band gave pleasing renderings throughout the evening of all the latest " hits " and enhanced their reputation as the finest band in Karachi. Spot dances added to the general fun, as the cessation of the music brought about much frantic jostling for what were thought to be the lucky positions. It is commonly believed, in these competitions, that you stand a better chance of a prize if you steer your partner, or if she allows herself to be steered (arguments between couples were rife), under a fan, lantern or other conspicuous part of the ceiling decorations. Hence the jockeying.

A humorous interlude in the form of a comic boxing match provided an amusing parody on the noble art of self-defence. The theme was based upon a quarrel between two extreme, though common, types of manhood. One was a broken-down " pug," and the other an effeminate young man or " gigolo." The administrations of the seconds were in keeping with the cult of their respective principals. One pinned his faith on the proverbial " peg," whilst the other hid his rage 'neath powder and rouge ; and their mutual antics were suitably accompanied by the band.

A sweepstake made the attractions complete, and it really is surprising how many persons favour the same lucky number. Nevertheless, they are undaunted when forestalled, and serenely accept the next available in their order of merit.

The passage of refreshments during the interval made the Schneider cup race an amble in comparison. One moment, the tables groaned under their weight ; the next, not a crumb was left—a fine tribute to the Oxford Cafe, which provided such delectable fare. Readers will have gathered, by this time, that the confection was good ; but our unit bard is if anything persistent, and puts it this way:—

Refreshments there were in masses—
Of quality and quantity, too ;
But our patrons, too, were in masses:
Their motto, " Set to and get through."—*Oscar.*

The time passed all too quickly, and the side-show managers fell to oiling their somewhat strained vocal organs. The climax was reached when the M.C. announced " the troops' dance." This is a time-honoured institution, and has rules very similar to those of rugger. In appearance, it reminded one of the tales of the Red Indians and their war dances, interpersed with scrums, line-outs and tackling of a by no means half-hearted nature. As was inevitable, the participants exhibited a great affinity for French chalk, which they proceeded to remove from the floor much to the amusement of the onlookers and the detriment of their clobber.

The evening was certainly a great success and a credit to the small army of workers who did so much to ensure it. We trust that, inspired by the reception of their first endeavour, they will carry out the third part of its purpose and institute it as a monthly feature.

Believe It or Not.—A star is about to set in the Karachi firmament, only to rise in the Mother Country early in the New Year. This comes about through the repatriation of one L/Cpl Gibbons E. to the home establishment this trooper. A first-class hockey player, he proved himself a clever dribbler, a deadly shot when in the circle, and unselfish with it all. He possessed the knack of drawing the defence and passing perfectly at the right moment. At football he set a very high standard: he was a right-half of exceptional ability. Cricket knew him as a forceful bat and a safe field. An accomplished athlete who would be an acquisition to any sporting unit. He is also a very good horseman, and crowned his achievements with his performance as jazz drummer of the unit dance band.

A barretter is a glass tube containing a strip of fine wire (termed hot wire). Its use is to keep a steady flow of current through a set. Should the set be struck by lightning or excess voltage through it, it will simply burn the barretter and leak away to earth without damaging it (set).

Humidity is what makes you sweat when the sun ain't out.

It is rumoured that music is to be introduced into the training programme. This item will no doubt take place during the siesta hour, and some of us will have to re-allot our beauty sleep accordingly.

A second class candidate asserts that malaria is a new Indian State.

When adapting a C mk ii. rotary to a C.I.P. sender, it is *essential* that the induction coil of a Tele. 110 should be inserted in the H.T. circuit.

One of our number knows of the existence of a C mk ii. generator 408w with H.T. brushes.

The case-hardened cutlet is awarded to the n.c.o. who had an 8¼ inch appendix. DODGER J. J.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Saturday, October 24th.

General.—Preparations for camp at Hasan Abdul are at present in full swing, and the advance party leave us to-morrow, the 25th inst. The main party will take the road on Wednesday or Thursday next. Our worthy Q.M. still remains worried—he will arrange this and that, and fatigue parties are at a premium. Still, March 1932 will soon be here, and then—?

Our married families have nearly all returned to the plains after their vacation in the Murree hills. With one or two exceptions, everyone is looking remarkably fit and well.

On Friday, October 16th, we held a farewell dance in the regimental theatre for those who departed to the Blight cantonment on Tuesday, 20th. Several of our officers attended and were given a rousing reception. The decorations in the hall were a credit to the members of the committee, who certainly showed that their time had not been wasted.

On Tuesday, October 20th, we held a whist drive in the B.O.R.s dining hall, which it is hoped will become a weekly event.

Arrivals and Departures.—In the arrival column, the name of L/Sergt Toogood appears. He has been on the strength of the Wireless Experimental Section for some time, but at last he was found out. All good things come to an end. The usual salaams are extended.

Sergt Lawman has again departed for the W.E.S. in exchange for L/Sergt Toogood, and we wish him the best of luck.

In addition, we have lost Sigmn Eccleshall to A.H.Q., Delhi ; Signalmen Davies A. E. and Mills to S.T.C., Jubbulpore ; and we hope everything in the garden is lovely.

Bouquets are extended to the following on their recent advancement in the Service:—2/Lieut. P. G. Docker to Lieutenant. L/Corpl Clay S. to Corporal. Corpl Howard W. (one of our recent departures to U.K.) who has been successful in the Foreman-of-Signals examination.

Congratulations are also handed out in large quantities to Sergt Payne G. W. E., who has taken unto himself a wife. The knot was tied at Karachi. Unfortunately, we hadn't the opportunity of wishing the lady all the best, as she left for England very shortly after the happy event. A case of another good man gone to the wall?

Things We Want to Know.—Has Gandhi signed on for Chelsea yet? (Enquiries made by a certain merchant in our midst.)

Whether a certain senior n.c.o. has graduated as a commissionaire?

Heard on the Tennis Court.—Player (who was very lucky with some " Eton drives " off the wood): " Just a minute ; I've got something in my eye." Exasperated opponent (very fed up): " What is it? a splinter?"

Agony.—Tommy Tunney still waits patiently. BEKORE.

Sergeants' Mess.

Entertainments.—Gee, bhoy, what a month! The King of Jazz has handed the laurels to us, and, by gum, we need them. Three tip-top shows have happened so close on each other that I don't remember sleeping in between them.

Oh, bhoy, what shows! The first was a games tournament, which opened up with the R.S.M. being choked off by Mrs. Murphy for putting her husband on " whitewashing the last post " every Thursday and Sunday. This, of course, put us in good form from the start. As this couple are going on the home establishment shortly, " English papers, please copy." After all the prizes had been won, the R.S.M.'s wife kindly rattled the ivories and community singing went strong.

The second show was of a more sentimental nature. We had a novel farewell to Sergt Tiny Draper, who, after supporting the excise revenue for twenty-one years, decided that his nerves could not stand the reduction of pay and left us for civvy street. Never mind, Tiny. All further internal security schemes will be held in the village pub. On the whole, it was a good show, although it seems impossible that in these enlightened days there are so many shy young bachelors. The Rev. Busty Haigh gave us a few particles of a sermon by " Marie Corella," and after that, his famous coon repertoire. We have some very good talent in the mess, and it always helps shows on.

The last, but not least, of the month was our open air whist drive on the tennis courts, which was a roaring success—especially the bar, at which the takings exceeded the reduction of pay. The last waltz was played at 2 o'clock a.m. ; at least, so I am told, but then hearsay evidence is never admissible. We had a great crowd from the I.A.S.C. M.T.s, the Border Regiment, and the R.A.

Now we must settle down to a few weeks training at camp, but if all happens as arranged, we shall have a real good vacation. The married personnel are looking forward to week-ends already. Auto suggestion sometimes works.

Sport.—Tennis seems to be the craze now, and the courts are crowded every evening. The ladies bring tea and eats, and we have an informal tennis " at home " every afternoon.

Agony.—Sergt Taylor would like to hear from his brother, last heard of in Angleterre.

Finale.—I think that we have exceeded our allotted space this month, but if the Editor could give us a margin, we would be indebted to him until next time. BUCK.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

Saturday, October 10th.

General.—

Our poet now has gone—
His tour abroad is done ;
His number long has dried,
And for months he's cried
" Roll on, Oc' of '31."

He's gone and is no more.
You'll forget his monthly roar
Till another cry
Goes up on high :
" Roll on, March of '34."

Toots by Timex. No. 8: " Ock's Come!"

For seven long and weary months
I've " tooted " in THE WIRE ;
My rhyming drivel has, I fear,
Raised certain people's ire.

" A sanguinary muse," I'm called—
I wonder how *that's* meant ;
The dictionary's version is
" Hopeful, or confident."

It matters not which way it's meant—
I guess I'm not a muse ;
I simply pull to bits, each month,
A spicy piece of news.

A retrospect review of " toots "
Reveals what in my mind
I've thought, when it has seemed to me
The Fates have been unkind.

The Fates, just now, are really kind—
The boat goes home next week ;
And as Timex will be on board,
I hope it doesn't leak.

In valediction, may I speak
A word of good advice
On digging up the Maidan?—
I've dug it once or twice.

The recent earthquakes clearly proved
That Quetta, as it is,
Is best—so digging, please, forget :
It's really not your 'biz.

And now my pen I lay aside—
My final " toot " is done,
Unless in Blighty I am rash
And write another one.
Farewell, ye lads of Two Div. Sigs.!
I hope your time won't lag,
And when you reach Southampton Pier,
Please let me take your bag! —TIMEX.

Conclusions.—

We've heard old Timex' final " toot,"
And wish him well, the cusser!
We've lost our sanguinary poet,
And now we've won a wusser. —A. N. OTHER.

Pity the poor quartermaster! He gets very little. Twelve new quarters to be allotted, and being in blocks of four, there were naturally only six end quarters. The problem has not yet unfolded itself to you, but when the six end quarters have to be shared between twelve aspirants, it is difficult, isn't it? Why this rush for the end positions is not quite clear, but we presume that owners of cars require free garage accommodation, gardeners more scope, and quiet people are certainly assured of peace—at least, on one side.

I do not intend giving a detailed description of these new abodes, because if I did there would be such a rush of applications to be posted to this unit that the whole staff of Records would be unable to cope with routine work and the upheaval that would undoubtedly ensue.

The remainder of the new buildings are gradually taking shape, and the most important—to many, at any rate—is the guard room. Judging from appearances, there *will* be sufficient room for eleven to anchor in. At present our guard room will hardly accommodate six beds. Admitted that one could find rest in the fireplace since it was remade, but " Oh, if winter comes "—and according to reports, it will.

Unit Library.—This has been recently opened, and under the able management of F/Sergt Jagger (who is looking ahead and thinking of the time when he will have to leave the lucrative post of farrier to His Majesty's Forces and face the cruel world) and L/Corpl Wainscoat, business continues brisk. The prospect of having to pay one rupee entrance fee has not prevented the men of the far north from joining. I should like to point out that though the rupee is returned when anyone leaves the Station, interest will not be paid on the deposit.

Education.—Congratulations to Signalmen Goodhand, Grattage and Reeve on obtaining the 2nd class certificate of education. If the latter had had the following question on his maths paper, would he have passed? " A trick cyclist attempts to ride round a ballroom floor—very smooth, by the way—and keeps falling off his cycle. If he fell off every five yards and walked back four to get a flying start, how long would it take him to circumnavigate the floor?" The distance was seventy yards, the band was silent, and the night well nigh gone.

Those who were successful in part should remember " Something attempted, something done," and those who live to fight again should think of Bruce and the spider.

October 14th sees the next examination for firsts, and may we have 100 per cent. passes to record in our notes next month. A.F.B. 271 allows very little space for the entry of the award of a 1st class certificate of education, so remember Belgium and get it all at once.

While on the subject of education, can anyone tell me in what position the soccer man of Minstead played? I cannot remember whether it was forward or at full back.

Departures—Within a few days we shall have said "Cheerio!" to several celebrities. First and foremost, of course, is Major R. E. Barker, who has been like a father to a good many. His object in life was efficiency, and if you knew your Standing Order No. 17, all well and good ; if not, you collected a number of unserviceable " brushes," and they could not be exchanged by the Q.M.

Being a new arrival in the unit, I am not in a position to give a detailed account of all that has been done for the unit by Major Barker, but I can safely say that what he has done has been appreciated by everyone.

We extend our heartiest wishes to Major and Mrs. Barker, and hope that they find their new unit all they desire.

To Lieut. and Mrs. Weir, who have left us for Meerut, the best of luck—and may the climate of Meerut be more suitable for your health than that of Quetta. Keep a smiling face, sir, and ensure that tag foxtrots are included in the programme—and you will be o.k.

The following have also gone forth to conquer worlds anew: Sergt Thomas (T.O.T.) to 4th Indian Divl Signals. Sergt Russell (Tich) to Army Signal School. Sergeant and Mrs. Campbell to Ceylon Defence Force. Sixteen B.O.R.s to U.K., amongst whom are such notables as Bud Hammond (Timex), Tosh of Sharman's, General, and (last, but not least) Nobby Hall.

To avoid confusion, the latter had better be described. He is of the rank of sergeant (and therefore, according to Timex, entitled to be called Uncle), 5 feet 7 inches in height, with sandy complexion and a capacity that precludes any thought of McEwan's suffering from trade depression. His expression could be safely described as Scottish: the effort required to bring a smile to the surface " costs " too much.

To Lofty: Have a good time on leave, but bear in mind that even if your pay does not come under the axe, prices in India are being raised 25 per cent. Thoughts of marriage are about all you will be able to afford.

Marriage.—Corpl A. Chantler to Miss Phyllis Rose Padwick, at St. Mary's, Quetta, on September 30th. Heartiest congratulations! I regret I was unable to attend, but U.H.Q. must figure on the guard report, schemes or no schemes.

For Ladies Only.—The bride looked charming in an ankle-length dress of white silk, and wore the traditional orange blossom, and tulle veil ornamented with true lover's knots in silver in the corners. She carried a bouquet of deep cream roses. The bridesmaid wore embroidered net over pale green, with coatee to match. As head-dress, she wore a wreath of silver leaves.

Back to the Gentlemen.—The reception was voted a great success by all who attended, and those who were on schemes regretted their inability to be present. The honeymoon was spent in a charming bungalow about four miles from Quetta. Just visualise, you ops, the newly-weds strolling round the spacious grounds behind the bungalow, surrounded by dogs and chickens.

My advice to the happy couple is this: Let *not* your troubles be little ones. They grow!

? ? ?—What was said when a D.R. was produced instead of a K.R.? (I know.)

When some of the senior n.c.o.s will visit the dances given by the juniors (or by anyone else)?

What happens when " the head of the family " belongs to the fair sex?

If Flossie, the lost scribe of Wazirdist, has returned?

If No. 2 Company's notice board could be put nearer to the road? (In the winter, it will be too dirty for the ladies to cross the present intervening ground.)

" Our Bus."

We have a bus—a motor bus ;
Its duty is to transport us
To talkies, dances, anywhere,
And with a driver does get there.

On Sat'day afternoon, each week,
The families after bargains seek—
Outside the guard room meekly wait
The bus to town, at annas eight.

If more than eight for our bus dive,
The annas eight become but five ;
But this is what is puzzling me:
Do all the children go buckshee?

This may be so, and if what then
Appears a family of ten,
For annas eight 'twould be a snip,
While father stayed at home in kip.

It sounds o.k., believe me, bo,
While our posh bus consents to go ;
What happens if it catches fire
While stuck out in Samungli mire?

We can but trust in brawn and brain,
And should these prove to be in vain,
Take my tip: you won't get stuck again
If you travel a la mode in an aeroplane. —OXO.

Waziristan District Signals.

Unit Headquarters, Dera Ismail Khan.

General.—After the lapse of a number of years (!) we again make our bow to the public, and, earthquakes and wars excepted, we hope regularly to record activities, official and otherwise.

Headquarters of the unit moved down to Dera Ismail Khan on October 9th, and are now comfortably settled in for the winter season. Some considerable activity was necessary to uncover the fort, etc., from the mountains of sand accumulated through the summer, but fortunately all the buildings have chimneys, so we knew just where to commence digging.

Amusements.—A very successful indoor race meeting was held in Razmak shortly before our departure, and by a ten per cent. levy on the tote takings, a useful sum was raised for the O.C.A. Space forbids a reproduction of the race card, but we can confidently state that all pedigrees of the horses entered proved worthy of study.

An ambitious programme for the season is contemplated, and some record will be made in due course.

Welcomes.—We are thinking of taking special leave to Bombay to welcome some of the old friends likely to arrive this season. Failing this, however, they are still likely to hear our loud and prolonged chuckles.

Departures.—L/Sergt H. E. Hall ('Arry) to the Territorial permanent staff, Bedford. It's a long Ashburnham Road without a turning, so remember you will not have dad to look after you.

By the time this appears, we shall have lost our one and only Sergt Chenery, who shortly proceeds to the home establishment. Good luck! and may your Austin Sevens keep on the road as long as your late Morris lorries.

Society Gossip.—The married families have now returned from their respective summer residences, and "harness, sets, double," and "shackles, I.P.," have been duly taken into use by all concerned.

Agony.—Fay: A line would be very much appreciated by Wilf.

Technical—In response to numerous enquiries, we would like to state that we undoubtedly *are* experts in all systems of remote control for Army W/T, and it is hoped in the near future to contribute a useful technical article on the subject.

Congratulations.—From the one and only editor of the "Headquarters Gazette" to its some-time junior reporter on the great progress made in the journalistic art as now exemplified in "Plain Tales." "The heights that great men reached," etc.

To the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards on their "economy march from Aldershot to Windsor—a distance of twenty-two miles." Even our chaplis squeaked with laughter.

To A.H.Q. India on stepping in where angels fear to tread, and officially countenancing that awful expression "Jazz instruments." May a humble "rhythmic" exponent venture to ask what instruments come under this heading, especially as "stringed instruments" have been separately ostracised. (See para. 1 of India Army Order 608 of 1931.)

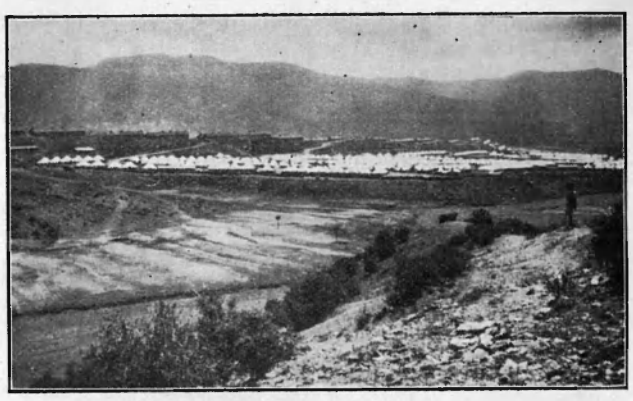
To Barleux on admitting in the October issue that he did learn something. E.A.B.

Razmak Brigade Signals.

General.—We wonder how readers of this Journal will survive the shock of once again seeing notes from this Section. It will be even more remarkable if *all* Sections contribute, as has been threatened. At least one welcome article is assured us every month, from the pen of a very favourite "Uncle Alfred." We hope he has not lost any of his old style.

Take a good look at the accompanying photograph of the camp, and endeavour to picture anything which could happen in Razmak to inspire a budding correspondent, sitting at a machine with a vista of bare hills in front every time he looks up from these notes. Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu wallahs are lucky in always having details about which they can write. At least, we are told so.

Razmak Brigade Signals, the designation by which we are known, is a detachment of Waziristan District Signals (tips), with



Lower Camp, Razmak.

a strength of two British officers, three sergeants, two lance-sergeants, five junior n.c.o.s, twenty-six signalmen, and some forty-six Indian ranks, stationed at the delightful spot known as Razmak, on the North-West Frontier (Wana Brigade, please note) and commanded by Captain H. P. Hart, M.C.

We comprise a semi-mobile W/T Section of three C.I.P. W/T sets and four A sets, and a Brigade Visual Section. We have recently been formed into an improvised Artillery Cable Section for co-operation with the 20th Indian Mounted Brigade R.A. on their annual practice camp. To enable us to function in this sphere, both W/T and visual personnel have had to set to and perform such strange duties as cable laying, linemen, exchange operators, etc., and all have come through with the greatest credit.

Main body of Razmak Brigade Signals returning from Column.

Salaams.—The long-awaited boat has come and, for some, gone again. Our best wishes go with the following:—Sergeant Spencer A. G. V. to the Territorial staff. L/Sergt Lake A. F. to the home establishment. Sigmn Planner to civvy street.

By the time this appears, Sigmn Richardson G. E. will also have sailed for home for a vocational training course. Good luck, Geordie!

Signals Association.—Things have been looking up a great deal in this direction since the return of our adjutant from leave in the U.K., and two very successful concerts and race meetings have been held. A record of the latter appears in H.Q. notes, so nothing further need be added except to say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Musketry.—The Section is firing its annual musketry course on October 26th and 27th, and from the optimistic views held, it appears we shall have to share the title of "dead-eye." An exception, perhaps, is our Ginger, who, on being informed of the practices in Table "C," remarked despondently: "Cut out the grouping now, 'ave they. The only blooming practice I could score in." Our correspondent, in a burst of enthusiasm,

has backed himself for highest score to the extent of three Scissor coupons and one M.B.

Personal.—2318858 Tommy to Davis, 25/26 Squad: Write and all will be forgiven.

Sigmn Chisnall can recommend Woolworth's scribbling blocks to Sigmn Glanville, late Bulford.

Skiff: What about it? B.C.P-Brani, India. OLIVE.

Wana Brigade Signals.

General.—Despite its primitive nature, life here now is very tolerable. Many improvements have been and are being effected, all conducive to a comfortable existence. Prospective naturalists are endeavouring to cultivate flowers, which decidedly enhance the appearance of our self-constructed bungalows. Doubtless we shall ultimately possess a veritable little home from home.

Departures.—We recently said adieu to three of our number—Signalmen Parker, Praeger and Weston—who have gone to the Army Reserve. In Stan and Tom we have lost two towers of strength in the sports field; and since Trunky said farewell, well—cutlets have been conspicuous by their absence. Nuff said! All the best, lads, in your new venture.

Training.—An interesting and instructive course, organised by Lieutenants Burridge and Humphrys, has just concluded. It embodied most of signals training and was universally enjoyed. Alas! no more Saturday morning tests. Perhaps!

Columns.—One Sunday morning (Sunday, of all days!) the Brigade proceeded on column to Dhanna Valley. Nothing eventful happened, save that on arrival at Wuchoba we discovered that some obliging tribesman had cut off the water. This necessitated a further three-mile tramp, during which many wonderful and varied descriptive epithets concerning tribesmen could be heard. Water diviners G.S. were issued en masse, and the troops proceeded to locate hidden fountains. The response was adequate.

The water problem thus solved, misfortune again befell Signals, as owing to the higher mathematics of the cook orderly, bread was nishta. However, chappatties filled the aching void. The following was overheard when all were wondering from whence might arrive the following morning's breakfast. O. i/c: "Sergeant, I have managed to scrounge two small loaves which may help you out." Sergeant: "Thanks, sir; but where are the fishes?"

Employment.—At the moment we are again copying the Israelites, and everyone is employed in making bricks to improve our bungalows for the winter.

Sport.—A Brigade football tournament has just concluded, and although the cup eluded us, I think the performance of our team merits some mention. To lose only one game is a creditable performance. Well played!

Recent departures left the hockey team somewhat depleted, but with the advent of reliefs, prospects are now again brighter.

From L/Corpl Watts, late of 1st Divl Signals, Aldershot: Congratulations on winning the Rawson trophy—"and without me, too."

Christmastide.—Christmas is fast approaching. To all comrades at home and abroad, we extend sincere wishes for a happy Yuletide festival and a bright and prosperous New Year.

WAZIRI.

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

Sunday, October 25th.

The hill exodus is almost completed, and the unit is now nearly completely re-installed in Cambridge Barracks. Owing to the move down, these notes must be short this month.

All ranks are busy (where possible) with Section training, preparatory to the move on November 8th to unit camp, at Rewat, which is twelve miles south of Pindi on the Grand Trunk Road.

We have a busy training season ahead of us, as after the unit camp, we have Divisional manœuvres in January, followed by a Command staff and signal exercise.

The hot weather has definitely ended, and all games will shortly be in full swing. Details of those already played will be forwarded later. Prospects for the season are good, and the unit should be able to produce good teams in every branch of sport.

We have had to bid farewell to the first departures for the United Kingdom, Sergt Draper and Sigmn Wise, who left on October 20th for Karachi for embarkation. We hope they will soon settle down. They will both be missed as old hands of the unit, and we wish them good luck in civil life.

Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Drayson, M.C., returned from leave in the United Kingdom on the 28th September and re-assumed command of the unit. FAD.

Detachment, Upper Topa.

Thursday, October 22nd.

Greetings.—The year is drawing to a close. By the time these notes appear in print the festive season will be upon us, so I will commence by wishing a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all members of the "1st Royals," and to all other members of the Corps who are not so fortunate as to belong to the jolly old unit.

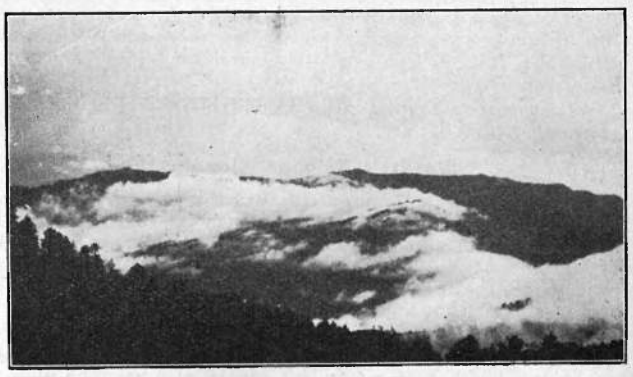
En Passant.—At last the hustle and bustle have died down, and nearly everyone has departed from Topa for their various stations in the Northern Command, leaving a few stalwarts to clear up the mess and close the station. That phrase "Clear up the mess" is merely figurative, for there is very little to clear up, thanks to the efficient way in which the station has been run.

With the departure of the troops from Topa, the famous Omar-Red combination stood in danger of being disbanded, the former departing for Abbottabad somewhat earlier than was expected, and the latter remaining to assist in closing the station. For a short period the station was in an uproar. Men just sat down and thought for hours in a fruitless endeavour to form a plan whereby this famous combination should not be dissolved—for what would the unit do without its scribes?

At last, when things seemed just about as black as they could be—and that was a very deep black, considering that we are in India, where everything is darker than it is at home; even the bread is almost black on a Thursday morning. But I'm wandering from my subject. At last, when things seemed just about as black as they could be, our Chippy came to the rescue with the suggestion that perhaps Omar could communicate with Red by the expenditure of an anna for a stamp.

And lo and behold! this actually happened, for on opening my morning mail yesterday, what did I find but a voluminous epistle from Omar, setting forth the doings of G Section at Abbottabad; and if you bear up and succeed in ploughing through these notes, you may find that G Section's will interest you.

Perhaps, one day, some of the other Sections will take Chippy's hint and let us know what they are doing whilst they are away in the "blue."



High, high, high up in the hills, Upper Topa.

Social (very much so).—Before the main body departed from Topa, several very successful functions were held.

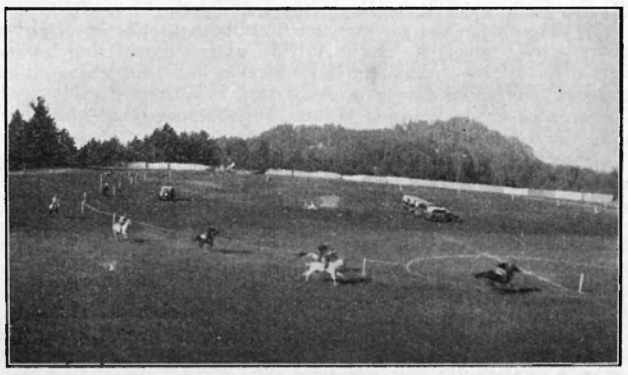
The first of these was the autumn race meeting on Gharial Flats on September 19th. The meeting was very much the same

as any other except that it was in miniature, even the racehorses being somewhat smaller than the usual variety and perhaps a little bit slower.

However, I will not deal with this, for you have all been to a race meeting at some time or other ; but I don't suppose many of you have ever had the opportunity of attending what turned out to be the big success of that eventful day—the amusement park.

It fell to our lot to organise and run this amusement park as a sort of side-show on the race course, but actually it turned out to be just as big an attraction as the races. The organisation was carried out by Captain C. M. F. White, who was ably assisted by Sergt Hall. When they had finished, the hockey pitch presented a very good imitation of Mitcham Fair. Many willing helpers were forthcoming to run the side shows, and altogether the " park " was an unqualified success.

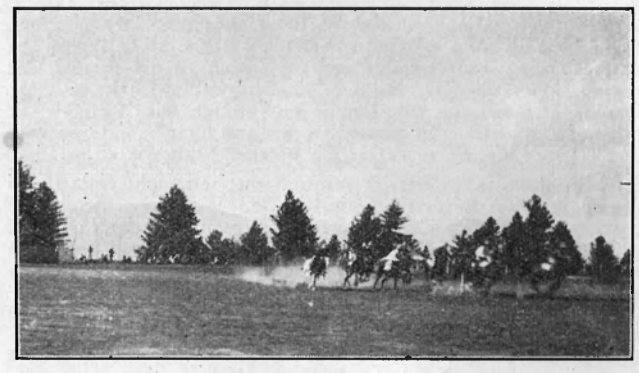
Signalmen are usually good at anything they care to turn their hands to, but the way these showmen beguiled casual spectators into knocking Sally's teeth out, throwing a neat arrow, etc., was a treat to watch.



An Easy Win.

You will find with these notes a few photographs of the races and a cloud photo taken from Topa, kindly supplied by Sigmn G. A. Smith. I had hoped to send some photos of the amusement park, but they haven't yet come from the photographers. Never mind! it will be an extra treat for you next month.

A farewell cabaret dance was held in the regimental theatre on October 2nd. This was undoubtedly the most successful event of the season and was very well patronised, not only by our own dance enthusiasts, but by dancers from Lower Topa, Gharial and Kuldana, who turned up in force. However, as I am not a dancing man, and as all dances appear very much the same to me whether they are successful or not, I won't say any more about it.



A Close Finish.

Since the departure of the main body, things have been fairly quiet. On October 16th the signalmen played the remainder of the station at billiards and snooker. After raking round all the odd corners of the station and inducing the padre and doctor to play, the " remainder " managed to collect a scratch team. As was expected, the signalmen won fairly easily, but it all helped to pass a pleasant evening.

Two Showmen (Sergeants Hunt and Dipple) stroll round for advertisement purposes.

On October 12th a billiard and snooker team from Upper Topa played a team from Lower Topa, and won every game, as will be seen from the scores.

Snooker.—Royal Signals: L/Sergt Dipple 132, Sigmn Costello 108, Sigmn Arnott 127. Royal Air Force: Corpl Slack 67, L.A.C. Mott 47, Sergt Lovell 70.

Billiards.—Royal Signals: Corpl Rees 100, Sigmn Edgington 100, Sigmn Smith M.A.K. 100, Sigmn Bartlett 100, Sigmn Reed 100. Royal Air Force: L.A.C. Crook 34, Corpl Wright 53, Cpl Fletcher 39, Corpl Hicks 45, L.A.C. Grayson 59.

Finale.—On November 2nd the station closes for the winter, and Upper Topa notes will close with it, so it will perhaps be of some value (?) to students who intend coming to Topa next year to assimilate knowledge, if I place on record a few selected answers from the papers of some of the candidates who appeared before the last Trade Testing Board.

Action of a generator.—For one turn of a handle, two spurts of current: one positive and one negative. The current is *led away to do its work by means of bushes.*

Action (again).—A generator moving in a field of force in which it induces the current as it rotates in opposite directions ; nothing goes to something, and as it rotates, something goes to nothing. The ratio is 5 to 1, which means that it rotates five currents in opposite directions.

Relayable information.—The relay current brings the tongue over to a marking " vias."

The relay is worked by a local battery.

The relay is put in double current system to overcome the effects of retardation and prolongation.

A 120-watt can transmit on a greater resistance.

With the C mk. ii. sender we have a smaller valve which is only capable of dissipating half the energy.

With the 120-watt we have no stages of H.F. amplification ; therefore, the signal is rectified in its raw state.

Put a short across, reception would be possible, but signals would be *soft* (so would the operator!) RED.

G Signal Section, Abbottabad.

Thursday, October 15th.

It's a true saying that you can't keep a good man down, but the johnny who coined the phrase was certainly not acquainted with G—otherwise he would have said " You can't keep a good Section down."

I was 'way up in Topa, browsing peacefully among the learned volumes, listening with rapt attention to lectures on various intricate subjects, and generally unconscious of the world around me, when the call echoed and re-echoed among the hills: "Where is G? We must have G "—and those of us who were near sprang blithely to answer the stern call of duty. We packed away our learned books and other things and departed for the

heat and dust of Pindi, there to commence a little Section training under Lieut J. N. Barker prior to our trek to Kakul.

Comment on Section training is hardly necessary, since everyone knows all about it ; also, the standard of efficiency in G makes it almost superfluous—you should know that, too, by now. I almost think I've mentioned the fact before, somewhere.

However, we won't digress into these highly controversial subjects—so to return to our " oats." We left Pindi at midnight on September 18th-19th, and reached Kakul on the 23rd, a little bent at the knees but otherwise quite cheerful.

I was going to mention the various camping grounds, but as we travelled by an unusual route and I cannot spell any of them after Sang Jani, I find that I am unable to do so. There have already been one or two wordy conflicts on the subject, ending with antagonistic looks and a furious tearing up of old paper by the parties concerned, so I'm not going to risk raising anyone's ire by airing my own private views.

After the usual tuning of D.iii.'s, replacing old valves, polishing condenser plates, seeing that resistance coils resisted and "atmos" desisted, etc., we spent a few days on Section schemes, getting acquainted with the landscape, and generally brightening up our mental processes—not that the old grey matter really needed it, but just to assure ourselves that it was impossible to improve on the meaning of the expression " Acme of perfection " as applied to—well, it's obvious.

The real object of our visit was to assist the senior officers' course, and this we did. I for one had some wonderful views of H.E. and shrapnel exploding ; not a new experience, of course, but once or twice I wondered what was the correct attitude to assume for the act " Another redskin bit the dust."

Well, that's over, so after moving from Kakul to Abbottabad, we are quietly resuming Section training pending the arrival of the remainder of the 21st Mountain Brigade, when again we'll no doubt perform with our usual bullarney. OMAR.

Kohat District Signals.

October, 1931.

General.—October has satisfied the wish of many and " rolled on." It has, of course, also " rolled off."

With the rolling on, the following have rolled out of the unit: C.Q.M.S. P. H. Smithies, Cpl H. E. Tant, Sigmn A. G. Richards and Sigmn A. E. King—all to U.K. Corpl J. V. C. Nesbit has also left us as an invalid, with a broken hea——(sorry, arm) per the *Nevasa*. We have also sent Sigmn F. E. Purchase to 3rd Cavalry Brigade at Meerut. Sigmn A. Kerr has transferred to 1st Div. Rawalpindi, in place of Sigmn L. V. Clifford, who has joined us.

Captain F. P. L. Gray leaves us for 3rd Cavalry Brigade, Meerut, on November 1st.

The following have rolled in from U.K. leave:—Sergt and Mrs. S. A. Stevens (looking very Devonian) ; L/Sergeant C. L. Hamilton (was looking round when he arrived) ; Corpl F. C. Leary (was looking rounder) ; Sigmn W. Hayes (wishing he had not crosse-D-over).

Close in their wake came L/Sergt P. I. Theobald, who has returned to us after a two years absence whilst attached to the P.T. staff. His only ambition, now, is to vault the Arabian Sea, do Europe in three handsprings, and finish with a neck roll down East Street, Farnham. (We regret to announce that she caught him on the wrong foot.)

Sgt C. M. Bartlett and Farrier Linton have also joined us from S.T.C. (India). May they find us quite sociable and harmless!

We cannot say just how glad we are to see all the families returned from the hills. Even the gardens, which struggled feebly for existence during the summer, seem to flourish and bloom with ease—and polyanthuses—as soon as the ladies arrive.

Welcome, ladies! But don't pucker your brows too much with retrenchment wrinkles. Ask the bachelor Q.M.S. ; he may help you now that your pin-money is " undercut."

Training.—Most of the Topa course men won their spurs and can flick their fingers at budgeteers. They all returned this month, and we have settled in as a unit again. Already most of the Sections have been very busy training.

J Section still seems to be the favourite of the staff, for they had hardly caressed the blisters of a Brigade signal exercise before they were out as a flying column. Meanwhile, K mourns the non-appearance of the mythical Multan Brigade.

Entertainment.—Of late, we have heard strains of music and drama emanating from the late heat stroke station. Rumours have it that a concert party is tuning up. Good! More later.

Beaten on the Post.—The game stood at three all and one to play. Excitement was intense as the player of red came swooping round the corner and headed for the home stretch. Blue was after him like a flash, with a " never say die " look in his eye. Was he beaten? Yes—no! for red had stumbled in the straight and was going very slowly. With a shout of triumph, blue went dashing along in leaps and bounds, slowly but surely gaining on red. Red, however, had a great lead, and whilst blue still wanted six to win, red had only one to go.

Both were in the home stretch, and the onlookers were held spellbound as red made his effort for the goal. A gasp went up —he had failed! All eyes were turned on blue as, with shaking hand, he made his attempt. A great and mighty shout proclaimed that he had thrown a six and was game to the hole.

The great ludo championship had changed hands, and the victor, bowing, accepted the applause—and the magnificent challenge cup. This is a wonderfully carved cut-glass (and empty) vaseline jar, put up by that well known film star sheik and wireless enthusiast, Radio-Reg from the Tyrol.

The above is an extract from our ludo bulletin. Ludo—by the way, first introduced to the N.W.F.P. as the latest from home, by Nutty—is the antidote for short waves and grid leaks. It is of much more importance in A Section bay than the National Government or the Budget. Liquid refreshment (piped) may be obtained free from the washhouse.

Agony.—Hoch aye, look you! We are grateful to the Welsh corporal who translated for Jock at a recent sports meeting. News leeks out this way.

We are curious to know whether Edgeley was on running bent, or whether he was bent through running. Probably he was broke at the time he volunteered for the athletic committee. Imagine our surprise! He should make things hum. (Jimmy committee, please copy.)

We would publicly decorate the battalion commander (not yet gazetted) who, on a recent scheme, captured all the positions on his own—practically, but not tactically.

We admire the sang-froid of the gentleman who casually asked his chum, in the middle of a scheme in no man's land, to get his blue patrols pressed for the night. This should certainly have been a " p." C.C.'s, please note.

Anyone wanting Spats must go, first, to the left round a heap of valves, and second, to the right round that pile of condensers. Now, don't kick that wire, please! Ah, there he is, peeping coyly over his control board, vaguely listening—listening. Put it on battery drive, Spats!

Sports.—Having only just gathered together, the usual mediocre games have been played, with very few outside items to record. The season, however, promises to be a good one, for we are arranging much inter-Section tournament work. WOG.

4th Indian Divisional Signals, Trimulgherry.

Thursday, October 15th.

Apology.—As our regular scribe is attending headquarters, Secunderabad, for a course in shorthand, the duty of typing the notes falls on your humble servant—much to my sorrow and regret. Why, oh why, do these " indispensables " take courses? Having accepted the job, I must go through with it, with the hope of " something attempted, something done " and apologies to all long-suffering readers. To proceed with the effort.

At Random.—The Reason Why: Someone bought pints round the canteen for the first time in his life. Well done, Ernie.

After the Storm: Cookie, the collector of " ducks."

Query: The W/T Station want to know how to run a wireless station without accumulators. (No prizes are offered for any solutions.)

Advert.: Try our noted hair restorer. Fish cutlets taken at tea every day cure baldness.

Dogs and their Habits: I don't mind paying the fine of a rupee for my dog, but I should like to have seen some fun for my money.

Agony.—In reply to " Agony " of B Corps Signals, 24/7/31: Sweetheart, we need each other.

" It," the Isles of Rest: Monty is heartbroken. Ed.

Scribes of A (W/T) and J Sections, Burma: Be matey ; I have to type 'em. Fermont.

The Crasher Again.—'Twas a dark and stormy night, and after the troops had waited impatiently for an hour in a torrential downpour for the bus (?) which did not arrive, the one and only Crasher came to the rescue.

Mounting a cycle (not his) he proceeded in the direction of the Artillery lines in a vain effort to beg, borrow or steal a conveyance.

On his return, some hours later, we were enthralled by his graphic and lurid account of his adventures. Have you ever heard of a " bucking cycle " (on cha)? We have! " A female came out of the sergeants' mess on to the road, and the bike bucked me completely over the handle-bars right into her arms. Look at my blues and see for yourself "—to quote his own words.

Arrivals and Departures.—Sergeant Taffy Thomas from 2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta (a welcomed addition to " Q " Branch). C.Q.M.S. Goodman to No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut. May your new stations be all that you could wish. Oh, yeah, says you—it's an ill wind.

Overheard in the Lines (to be spoken with a lilt).—Oh, Derek, attaboy!

A.F.W.

A (W/T) Signal Section, Rangoon.

September, 1931.

General.—The Section left Mingaladon for Thayetmyo on the 11th August. We travelled by paddle steamer *(The Showboat)* up the famous Irrawaddy river, and the experience we gained has prepared us for *the voyage*.

Eventually we arrived at Thayetmyo, where our headquarters will stay for a considerable time. We are billeted with a Company of the Manchester Regiment, and the only excitement we get is listening to the orderly sergeant shouting " Fall in, the guard!" " Fall in, the patrol!" " Collect the ammunition!" " Fall in the piquet!" etc. There are so many patrols and piquets that these cries go on from 18.00 to 22.30 hours, and are known as " the talkies of Thayetmyo." At night, a hand dare not be put outside the bungalow unless it has a light suspended from the fingers.

Yet, although life in general is quiet here, we do occasionally have some excitement. One night, the news came that there was a rebel camp about ten miles from Thayetmyo, and at daybreak the following morning a party of Burma Police and 3/16th Punjabis went out after them. The rebels, on hearing the party, decamped into the jungle, and all that the party found was a rifle, quantities of gunpowder, books, etc.

Our O.C. (Lieut. Harrison) met the party on their return and managed to scrounge the rifle from the Superintendent of Police as a souvenir. It was a rebel home-made rifle (oh yes, I know what you are thinking). What is a rifle? That is hard to say, but briefly this is how this one was made. A steel water-pipe three feet long, with a bore of 1¼ inches, constituted the barrel ; the butt was roughly shaped like our rifles, but nearly twice as long ; the trigger was a piece of wire bent into a 3 inch half-circle, and bound with raw cotton which, when lit, smouldered. When found, the rifle was loaded. The police tried it out, and reported that it made a very satisfactory noise.

The recipe for operation is as follows. Fill the bottom of the barrel to a depth of four inches with gunpowder, fill another three inches with nails, boot studs, horse shoes and any other buckshee metal which you may have. Safety precautions having been taken, pull the trigger, and the bent wire with the smouldering cotton comes over until the point dips into a small touch hole. Then pray hard that it blows the nails, etc., in a forward direction. (The rear of the butt should be placed against a tree trunk, and the firer behind the latter.)

Arrivals.—Major W. M. Miller (Senior Signal Officer, Burma) and Captain A. J. A. Schofield visited us on a tour of inspection on August 30th. They were satisfied with what they saw of the Section.

Things We Want to Know.—What were the feelings of the signalman who, after being sick with hæmorrhoids for three days, was on the fourth day asked " How is your throat this morning?"

A.W.T.

J Signal Section, Mandalay.

September, 1931.

On the Road to Mandalay.—" To err is human ; to forgive, divine." That, fond readers, is my only excuse if this literary effort fails to appeal. Apologies for the absence of notes last month ; but, hang it all! we fighting men have other things to do.

Quite a family gathering bade us " bon voyage " at Trimulgherry, and our thanks are extended to all.

Of the journey—sundry groans! One was forcibly reminded of those last words of a famous explorer: " This journey has shown that Englishmen can endure hardships, help one another, and meet death with as great a fortitude as ever in the past " (we did nearly expire). These agonies come under the heading of memories now, and should be put among our lost limbo of forgotten things.

The train journey was suffered in silence, except when a few members of the Section decided that the compartment would make an exceedingly fine dhobi ghat—and then sundry curses rent the air. To a gentleman of my perspicacity it was truly annoying, but, dash it! what's in a name.

Our arrival in Calcutta would have made our esteemed friend Gandhi blush with shame if he had seen us, but the railway authorities must take the can back for not having adequate facilities for keeping the compartments free from dirt, etc.

We embarked on the s.s. *Sirdhana* the following day, and then away to the blue. During the four days that elapsed before we again found ourselves on terra firma, first-class accommodation prevailed (steerage). Bruised backs and sore hips testify to the fact that we never had the use of a cabin, but for all that we came through without mishap and with an occasional smile.

'Twas to the sound of clicking cameras and loud cheers that the first I.B. Section landed in Rangoon (I raise my hat to A (W/T) Section), and we were mighty thankful.

The last stage of the journey from Rangoon to Mandalay was occupied by the troops in knocking 'em back. Truly a wonderful trip (who murmured " Liar "?)

General.—So far, we—that is to say, Mr. Mountford and his little band of followers—have taken no active part in quelling the rebellion, but our Intelligence staff (save the mark!) have been giving us many a mysterious look of late, with the result that we have conjured up visions of jungle haunts and V/T stations (Kajuri Plain wallahs, please note) in the near future. Meanwhile, we are trying to find solace in twenty pounds of kit and an esteemed charpoy (groans).

Our latest joke from home is the letter from a loving mater to her adoring son, in which it was stated that " Those pagodas must be awful savages."

Again, we have the lance-corporal who paid ten annas Customs duty on a parcel which, when opened, contained a gift of a rag doll from his sister. Doleful story, eh, what! If that's brotherly and sisterly love, well, 'nough said. Poor old Joe!

Congratulations.—To L/Corpls Ham, Wop, Ginger, Doctor, Geordie and Bennett on being paid. Those other lads who are sweating on a like kindness may rest assured that everything comes to those who wait.

The glad mitt is also extended to U/L/Corpls Missen, Day, Daniels and Bond on their entry to the two years sweat. Cheers! in every private's knapsack there reposes a Field-Marshal's baton.

Marriage.—Nil, but I have heard some really nice remarks about the Burmese women.

Births.—A kitten in our midst, and many a guilty look. (Don't blush, Robo.)

Deaths.—Prayers not answered.

Agony.—L.P.C. (lost pay certificate).

Head weak ; brain is numb—
Inspiration will not come ;
Rotten ink ; bad pen ;
Best of wishes. Amen.

Collapse of author—bless his little heart.

When are notes from No. 1 Company, 1st Divl Signals, England, going to appear in this Journal? Have you sprained your typing finger, Robbo? Hank.

Things We Want to Know.—Can you sue a U/L/Corporal for a debt of five annas?

How to run the bill of fare on the " Corner House " system at 3 annas 2 pice per day.

When will our office staff be repatriated (Netley)?

Who was the n.c.o.—new to the guile and cunning of the native vendor—who gave Rs. 3/8/- for a kettle, and then nearly collapsed when he realised that in English money this represented 5/,? Live and let live. P.C.G.A.

No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Sialkot.

Wednesday, October 21st.

General.—Considering that these notes will appear in December, it is possible that some of the water wagon admi's will be too sozzled to read them. However, as there isn't much to scrawl about, perhaps it won't matter. Things have been very quiet here of late.

Schemes have started, and as a result our W/T lads are getting in some practice at that sporty pastime known as " Packs on—packs off." How long this will go on without a groan from someone remains to be seen, but as we have a few Apollon pupils here, including a would-be nail bender, the air should remain fairly clear.

Our hikers, or hill-parrots (second party) have at last returned, looking very brown about the knees and presumably very weak about the arms—though this latter complaint can soon be rectified with a little circular motion, which is issued out across the way. Rumour hath it that they have all gone up another step on the trade ladder. Some have reached the top. It is hoped that official intimation re the above will be to hand for the next issue. At present, everybody seems to be looking forward to Christmas—and camp (I.D.T.).

Maybe our readers noticed that, last month, our Sergeants' Mess awakened to the fact that THE WIRE seemed empty without a few words from them. Having taken the last ten years to think about it, their heads will probably be bursting with news. Anyway, now that they have made a start, we hope to see a spasm each month. We should, at least, like to hear just how the worthy Spud gargles, and how a certain Wet Half Troop admi liked his presentation cigar (complete with ash). We wonder, has he found the guilty one yet?

By the time these notes are posted, we shall have the ladies with us again. The menfolk have already scrounged a spot of leave, which only goes to prove that any excuse is better than none at all. I suppose the sewing meetings will again blossom forth, and other such like entertainments, whilst the aforementioned leave scroungers will—well, maybe the following will explain.

No longer shall we hear the songs,
  The laughs, the shrieks, the groans,
The gramophone, the merry throngs—
  Some sozzled, going home—
Or hear the yell at pokey die
  When someone foots the bill,
And voices bellow " Bring some more!
  These glasses, jaldi, fill."
At twelve, at one, a trifle past,
  The mess across the way
Just let one know that they're alive—
  Life made a round of play.
But now that times are changing,
  And the better half is back,
What will those hardy fellers do?
  Ah, yes!—go on the tack.

Departures.—Lieutenant R. W. P. Bradford to the Equitation School, Saugor, on October 10th. Sergt and Mrs. Turland to England on the 19th (our best wishes go with them on their return to civvy life).

Agonies.—To Fanny, Malta: Re your query about D Troop. Am afraid it no longer exists. Wasn't it the famous Toundrow who originated that song? Salaams. Paddy.

To Smith, Q.M. 1st Div. Pindi: Have now made my 12,300th attempt, but it hasn't come out yet. Am considering taking a Pelman course. Snoop. (P.S.—He needs it. L.A.L.)

To Hammond (Bud) Wazirdist. D.I.K.: Your green ink will always be acceptable, but regret that cypher expert will not always be available. Cheerio! Spy.

Trade Qualifications.—The undermentioned are congratulated on their successes at recent trade examinations. Corpls Frawley and Healey, O/W B.i. L/Corpl Day, D.R. class ii. L/Corpl Webster, O/V C.i. Signalmen Brett and Knowles, op. sigs. B.ii. Sigmn Roebuck, elect. fitter A.ii. Just in time to level the coffers before the drop, eh?

Robertson's Haggis (Special).—The above is, this month, awarded to a certain lance-sergeant who was heard to report his signal strength (W/T) as " One visual terminal, one line terminal, and one six-wheeler." You win, Mac; it only takes *one* like this to win it outright.

Things We Should Like to Know.—Just when that hoped-for boat is due to arrive for that certain few? (The " Wet Half " is getting wetter through waiting—but *not* with tears.)

If Berry would like the dog kennel made any bigger?

And if Harold still prefers the verandah to his bed after one of his nights out?

Sport.—Quite a lot has been done during the past month in tennis, hockey and football, the latter predominating. Strange to say, the results have not been kept and so cannot be given. Suffice it to say that we are still doing very well. Most important of all, we can now turn out two soccer teams instead of having to scratch our heads to find one. This burst of talent is due, perhaps, to the swell-looking footer kit that is floating about at the present time, our colours having changed from that dangerous looking red to those of the Corps.

It is hoped that a more detailed account of sporting events will be to hand for the next issue, and as the weather is becoming cooler, there should be enough to talk about.

P.S.—Oh, yeah!! L.A.L.

Sergeants' Mess.

General.—Since our last notes, we have had the pleasure of seeing some sad faces (whose owners have had their wives in the hills) looking a little more cheerful. Compared with their previous demeanour, they are looking almost sprightly. Cheer up, Shoey, Mac and Richy. No more sighs as the train steams out of Dalowali. Now that everybody is back we hope to start our socials, tennis at homes, etc., again, and to get them going weekly as before.

Entertainments.—In the Sialkot District tennis tournament, we have had two matches, both played away. First we met the B.M.H., to whom we lost; we put up a splendid fight, but were unsuccessful against their combined forces. General opinion goes that they look like winning the cup, as so far they have won every game. The second game was against the 2nd Battalion the Norfolk Regiment. We just managed to win after a hard struggle. Both matches were thoroughly enjoyed by all Mess members and friends.

On October 10th we held a farewell tennis and social to the 9th Q.R. Lancers, who have left Sialkot for home service at Edinburgh. Everybody had a good time and left happy.

Things We Know.—We now know the " brave " one who slew the rat which had previously frightened two of the Mess members (?) Congratulations, sir, from Richy and Con. But make sure that your jacket buttons are sewn securely before sticking your chest out. RICHY.

P.S.—All gardeners in England are requested to apply to Richy for tips on cabbage growing. Advice on anything up to 120 lbs. is given free.

Tail-Piece.—We have had the pleasure of seeing our worthy member, the slightly corpulent Sergt Richardson J. (Corps lightweight champion) wheel the pram. Good luck, Richy! it quite amused the lads to see the new nurse-maid.

No. 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, Meerut.

Friday, October 30th.

General.—The rains appear to have finished, and with the coming of the cooler weather Section training has been started. Each day the Wireless and Visual Sections sally forth and spend a few hours in mantling and dismantling; setting up, down and sideways; and all those other feats of speed and agility which seem to delight the hearts of operators. Behind all this activity is the incentive of camp, to which we are due to proceed about the middle of next month (November).

An unsolicited and purely involuntary testimonial to our W/T Section was given by an Indian of my acquaintance recently.

When asked the whereabouts of our C.O., he replied, "The C.O. sahib is watching some men taking things out of boxes and putting them back again quickly"—an eloquent tribute to the speed at which our pack-sets are handled.

Detachments of the various units in the station have now returned from the hills where they have been escaping the worst of the summer. Meerut is, therefore, much brighter than it has been during the past few months. The usual round of "at homes" and "aways," dances, etc., is commencing again.

Talking of summer reminds me of two things. Firstly, how incongruous these notes must seem to anyone who has not been to India. Here we have a host of people annually migrating to the hills to dodge the summer, whilst at home a host of highly paid weather experts are employed in searching for it. What a chance for retrenchment!—why not send them out here and pay them off? Secondly, I am reminded of Christmas—why, I don't know, unless it is that talking of an English summer invariably reminds one of Christmas.

Anyway, the jolly old *tempus* still persists in *fugit*-ing (sounds like Wodehouse, that; I *am* improving) and by the time these notes appear, it will be very near the festive season. So here's the best to everybody, everywhere, from the officers and men of this unit. We hope you will all have as pleasant a time as we intend to.

Arrivals.—C.Q.M.S. Goodman and wife from Trimulgherry, and Sigmn Purchase from Kohat. Welcome! We know you will all enjoy your tour in Meerut.

Prodigals.—As predicted in our last month's notes, Sergeant Percy and Sigmn Jones-Thomas are back in harness again after six months in Blighty.

Departures.—It was with regrets and all good wishes for the future that we bade good-bye to three old Troopers: Signalmen Ferguson, Bisby and Tucker, who have proceeded to U.K. on transfer to the Reserve. Best of luck, once more, lads; and don't forget the new feature for time-ex wallahs in THE WIRE. We will all like to hear how you are getting on.

Conclusion.—Confucius (or was it Hans Andersen?) said "You can't have too much of a good thing." I disagree. Therefore, in view of the excellent quality of these notes, I do not propose to extend their length. Thank you! Next, please.

CEEKAV.

No. 1 (Madras) Co., Royal Corps of Signals, A.F.I.

Wednesday, September 16th.

The first definite connection of Madras with Army Signals was when despatch riders were required in August and September, 1914. Among those who volunteered and went out were G. A. Bambridge and A. O. T. Webb, who later on were to be the chief instruments in the formation of the above unit.

The next step was when the Madras staff office asked the different Volunteer units if they could take over the three signal stations connected with the local defence organisation from the Regular infantry (the Dublin Fusiliers), who were under orders for the Western Front.

Where other units feared to tread, the M.A.V. (Madras Artillery Volunteers, The Duke's Own) gallantly filled the breach. The position was taken and held with a skeleton force, of whom only three—all of them sergeants—knew a dot from a dash. Two of these (time-expired Regular signallers) were fairly efficient, and the other (a Boy Scout) was at any rate "Prepared" and had good eyesight. Along with each sergeant were told off six gallant gunners.

Naturally, the two ex-Regulars knew most of the tricks of the trade and took the two terminal stations, leaving the poor Boy Scout to worry on with the transmitting station. Perhaps we malign the Regulars, however, as one of the terminals was on a sewage pumping station and the other was on one of the most verminous and cranky vessels in Eastern waters, the steam yacht *Lady Nicholson,* which was anchored near the entrance to Madras Harbour.

Early the first morning the Boy Scout was awakened to receive a message from the *Lady Nicholson,* which turned out to be a P.P. (private palaver) message, and after much difficulty was read as an S.O.S.:—"For goodness' sake, will you change stations?" (the Regular, though a man of diverse qualifications, was no sailor)

From this time the Madras Artillery Volunteers—then, the R.A. Indian Defence Force, and now the Auxiliary Force, India—always had a fairly efficient Signalling Section, of which this Company is the outcome.

After the war, when various units, detachments and individuals returned, and when the I.D.F. was abolished and the A.F.I. formed, ex-Corpl Bambridge became O.C. of the 2nd (Madras) Field Brigade R.A., A.F.I.

Attached to his unit was a Section of R.E.s, A.F.I., whose sole duty was to persuade a 1911 Standard car (on which was mounted a search-light) to function. It is definitely stated that it once worked, but the evidence is doubted. The Corps is proposing to celebrate the car's coming-of-age next year in some fitting manner.

Having commanded a Signal Company during the war, Colonel Bambridge thought that better use might be made of this Section. He accordingly approached the powers-that-be, and obtained their "unofficial sanction" to train the personnel in signalling. The remnants of the old war-time signallers were also roped in, and thus the present Madras Signal Company had its beginnings in this Section.

About this time ex-Corpl Webb, who had risen to the command of a Signal Company during the war, became the first O.C. the Section. B. W. Batchelor, an ex-signals officer of the Northumberland Fusiliers, became his second-in-command.

Fortunately, for equipment the R.A. had a small amount on charge, and a certain amount more was "obtained." Two lifeboat wireless sets (spark) were bought out of Corps funds, and these spluttered heroically, usually on borrowed batteries, until this year. Along with the aforementioned car's coming-of-age, we propose also to mourn the demise of these sets.

The greatest difficulty was experienced at this time in getting repairs done and obtaining renewals to our equipment, owing to the fact that we had, officially, no equipment, and we did not like to advertise any to the local auditors. The local repairs done to equipment were weird and very wonderful. Flags were used, of course, as much as possible, as the local durzi, Carpenter and Binny's Mills, solved this difficulty.

The powers-that-be not only showed their sympathy, but did their best to urge on the slow moving tortoise of red tape and "financial stringency"—and proved this by sending us Sergt Petchey J. W. as our first S.S.I. on July 4th, 1922.

This was not Sergt Petchey's first meeting with The Duke's Own (Madras Artillery Volunteers) as he had been in charge of a wireless station at Mudalil, on the Tigris, alongside a sub-Section of the Volunteer Artillery Battery, the personnel of which all came from Madras, commanded by the Boy Scout.

Shortly after this (in 1924, on increase in establishment) the Boy Scout, the senior subaltern of the Artillery Brigade, transferred to the Signal Section.

Up to this date, the history of this Section as a definite Signal unit may be considered pre-natal, as the actual birthday of the Madras Signal Company was the 6th March, 1925, when we became No. 5 (Madras) Signal Company, R.E., A.F.I. Now followed three years of hard work, still with little equipment.

In this state, we actually functioned with Regulars in manœuvres in Bangalore. On one of these occasions, the lifeboat wireless sets (though not noted for their portability) and one temporary despatch rider kept the force in touch with civilisation. Modest though we are, it ought to be mentioned that our efforts on these occasions earned the praise of the higher command.

Till now, this Company had acted as Signals for the Artillery Brigade, but the latter, realising that we were growing up and would soon be leaving for home, proceeded to form a Signal Section of their own (taking our best n.c.o.s and men for this purpose). This marked a period when we did little else but train recruits who, when efficient (?) signallers, were snaffled by the Gunners.

The question of promotion began to exercise the minds of the officers about this time, as Army Headquarters were emphasising the necessity of all officers qualifying for further promotion. We found this rather difficult, however, as on making application, we were informed that no syllabus was laid down for A.F.I. Signals—with the result that it was found impossible for the O.C. to become a Major and for the senior subaltern to become Captain, to bring us up to our establishment. After correspondence lasting several years, this difficulty was overcome by promoting the O.C. Company to Major, as he had held command of a Signal Company in Gallipoli and Egypt during the war, and the senior subaltern to Captain on the strength of an examination passed by him

when a full-blown sergeant in the Cawnpore Light Horse in 1905. The promotion of the latter officer was ante-dated four years, but, unfortunately for him, without pay or allowances.

Towards the end of 1927, to our sorrow, we lost S.S.I. Petchey, who went home time-expired. Fortunately, he was succeeded by an equally energetic S.S.I. in the person of Sergt C. Pathey-johns from the S.T.C. (India) Jubbulpore.

In March, 1928, Lieut. B. W. Batchelor resigned from the Corps on leaving Madras, and luckily we were able to pick up Mr. Barlow, who had had previous signal experience during the war.

Later on in the same year, No. 5 (Madras) Company R.E., A.F.I., was reconstituted as No. 1 (Madras) Signal Company, A.F.I. Signal Corps, but was still attached to the Artillery Brigade for administrative purposes. The new unit was composed of Headquarters and Visual, Light Cable and W/T Sections (still without official equipment). It will be noted that at this stage we were a new Corps (the A.F.I. Signal Corps) and belonged to nobody. True, we wore khaki uniform like the rest of the British Army, but buttons and badges had we none! However, all's well that ends well, and in 1929 we joyfully nestled under the maternal wing of the Royal Corps of Signals.

In 1930, things moved apace. Firstly, the Company severed its long connection with the 2nd (Madras) Field Brigade R.A., A.F.I., when a separate establishment was sanctioned, and though parting brought sorrow, we still have the happy days of our childhood with Colonel Bambridge and his merry men to look back upon.

Secondly, we had to record with regret the resignation of Major A. O. T. Webb, V.D.

Thirdly, a Regular adjutant was added to the establishment, and Captain F. J. Allen, R.Signals, was appointed. He was dismayed to find, on his arrival, that all his officers were away on home leave, but with the aid of Lieut. C. D. Priestly, transferred from the Gunners, he got down to it.

Fourthly, after much hard work and many disappointments, we were able to prise away from their foundations two excellent S.S.I.'s, namely Sergeants J. J. Watts and L. A. Penny from Waziristan and Peshawar District Signals respectively.

During the past year, the unit has gradually been finding its feet. Equipment regulations were issued in November, 1930, and we found out what stores and equipment had been sanctioned. Arsenal was very helpful and gave us a fair proportion of our indents. Our wireless sets (six C mk. ii.) turned up towards the end of July and immediately caused tremendous enthusiasm. Not having any motor transport available, we send stations out by rail, and great is the competition to be chosen for this job.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

Signal Barracks, November 12th.

General.—It's quite a pleasant change to be able to commence writing without first having to think out a plausible excuse for the absence of notes in the previous month's WIRE.

We trust that the many units who enquired about us have noted our effort in last month's issue and have killed the fatted calf accordingly.

Individual training has finished, and many n.c.o.s and men may be observed wearing an air of affluence as a result (despite the recent reductions in pay).

Collective training is now proceeding apace, the usual schemes being the order of the day.

Departures.—On the night of October 27th we received instructions to send certain Wireless Detachments to Cyprus. On the following morning Captain H. Bartlett, Lieut. G. B. Bell and thirty-five other ranks departed for that island to join Major H. C. Carey-Thomas, who had left some days before. So far we have had little news of them, but we hope to be able to publish an account of their operations in next month's issue.

As these notes were being compiled, further instructions arrived, detailing another small detachment to proceed to Cyprus. This included the one and only Geordie Graham. It is reported that the education n.c.o. is inconsolable.

In connection with the Cyprus emergency, a notice which excited considerable comment has appeared on one of the walls of the Signal Troop barrack room:—"Sigmn —— would be obliged if one of the non-combatants remaining would be kind enough to write to his mother, at the following address, and inform her that her son has been ordered on *active service*. He assures her that he will face the foe with that magnificent courage which has long been a family heritage, and that he will either return to her, plastered with medals, or his body will remain upon a stricken field." This effort was greeted with sobs and other noises.

Arrivals.—Major H. C. Carey-Thomas and Lieut. J. B. Adams have returned from leave and have resumed command of No. 1 Company and B Cable Section respectively.

Promotions and Appointments.—L/Corpl E. S. Taylor, of the C.S.O.'s directorate, has at last attained a position on the Corps roster.

Command Small Arms Meeting.—As usual, the unit entered teams in several of the events at the C.S.A. meeting. Firing against all the other units in the Command, we did not expect to cover ourselves with glory, but we put up quite a good show considering the size of the unit. Our best performance was obtaining third place in the competition for the best all-round shooting unit (small units).

Miscellaneous Jottings.—The following conversation took place between an officer and a corporal in charge of a squad of D.R.s:—Officer: "Who is that man without a horn on his cycle?" Corporal: "Horne, sir." Officer: "Yes; he hasn't one. Who is he?" Corporal: "Horne, sir." Officer: "Quite. What's the *name* of the fellow without a horn?" Corporal: "Horne, sir." Whereupon the officer gave it up as a bad job.

. . . . . .

Heard in the Barrack Room: "You're not an n.c.o.; you're a curi-o."

. . . . . .

These extracts from test papers should be of interest, especially to electrician fitters and instrument mechanics: "A primary battery has one cell, and a secondary has two or more." "To find the polarity of a field magnet, use pole finding paper." "An alternator is a machine which goes round in opposite directions many times a second."

Answers to Correspondents—Sophy: (a) We regret that there is at present no vacancy for a chief constable in the Palestine Police, and we are informed that the general manager of the Egyptian General Omnibus Company does not contemplate resigning in your favour. (b) As regards your second enquiry, we are unable to say if Moscow provides red flags gratuitously. (c) Yes. No. Do not be too ambitious. Remember, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a throne."

Indignant: We agree. Scottish-Canadian lance-corporals should not be allowed to referee football matches.

Silas K.: Stick to ice hockey.

Typist (No. 3 Company): No, there are not three "k's" in "Mohrstadt."

Agony.—If Sigmn Gregor D. H. is still in the land of the living, the writer of these notes would like to hear from him.

Conclusion.—Readers, especially those in Egypt Signals, are reminded that assault and battery are criminal offences.

H.W.F.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

October, 1931.

General.—Social activity has been more or less at a standstill during the month, the change over from summer to winter sports having claimed the attention of most individuals.

Committees for the various branches of sport have been elected, and the unit fairly bristles with "live wires" emanating from the permanent bank (P.R.I.) and the sports officer.

By the time these notes appear, the festive season will be upon us, so I therefore take this opportunity of conveying the best wishes of this unit to all other Signal units at home and abroad for a most happy Christmas.

For the information of old Sarafeans, it has been decided to have no band this year—the big drum was burst last time and has not yet been repaired. Nevertheless, we hope to have the late unit De Groot with us for the 25th, so we are looking forward to having a few minutes with the old masters.

On Thursday, October 22nd, an indoor games tournament was held in the Institute, our opponents being the Jaffa Section of the Palestine Police. The evening's play resulted in a win for our team by a small margin of two points. The usual smoking con-

cert was in evidence to complete the evening, and the affair was unanimously voted a good show. In this connection I would like to mention that the Bomonti shield competitions have been re-introduced, but so far the shield has not left our camp.

At last, work has been commenced on our new sports pavilion —thank goodness! The other one would never have lasted this winter through. I've half a mind to sign on for another year in this station, just to be able to walk out to the wicket through the rustic gate 'mid the cheers (sorry, jeers) of the crowd.

W.O.s and N.C.O.s Mess.—The monthly dinner of the Mess was held on Tuesday, October 27th. All members were present, and a vote of thanks was proposed by C.S.M. Pitt to the P.M.C. (Sergt Molyneux) and his committee (Corpls Cox and Atkinson) for providing such a good dinner.

Later in the evening an individual competition was arranged, which included billiards, darts, shove-halfpenny, etc. To conclude the show, two teams played blow-football, Corpl Atkinson's side proving too strong for their opponents.

It is hoped to carry on these monthly entertainments ; possibly, in fact, to launch out on a rather different line in the near future.

Promotion.—L/Corpl Williams E. to be Corpl w.e.f. 3/8/31.

Congratulations.—Members of this unit extend their hearty congratulations to C.S.M. Tremain on his recent marriage. We never thought it of you, Fairey. Is it to avoid unnecessary income tax?

To C.S.M. and Mrs. Hopkins on their new arrival. Mine's a top, Hoppy.

To Corpl Atkinson R. W. on scoring over 1100 runs for the unit cricket team during the past season. This feat is a record for this Company.

Things We Want to Know.—Who told the new draft they could play football?

Where is the little flat hat? (it hasn't been on view this month).

The name of the n.c.o. who was sentenced to do three hours flit drill each morning.

Who *is* the Big Cheese?

Arrivals.—Sigmn Mintram's boats—as you were, boots. These have been allotted encroachment No. 12—coinciding with the size. We congratulate him on reaching double figures.

Answers to Correspondents.—Ingle: You must have made a slight mistake. Rider did not buy a combination ; the one he used to drive about was the property of the canteen manager.

Ball: Yes, the trenches are still fit for exhibition to the new draft on their arrival, but the bows and arrows used were sold to the Tel-Aviv Museum. R.W.A.

G Troop, Cavalry Divisional Signals, Cairo.

Helmieh, November 6th.

Again it is necessary to burn the midnight oil to produce in print our doings (misdoings, by private correspondence only) for the past month.

It has been a very busy and interesting time for most of us, schemes still being the order of the day. Although most of these have been held locally, such places as Port Said, Suez and the Wadi Natrun have been visited in turn.

The Port Said trip was in connection with the Cyprus affair, one detachment accompanying a section of armoured cars from the 12th Royal Lancers, which went to the scene of operations. Unfortunately, the Section had to travel light, and the detachment was unable to go further than Port Said.

Wadi Natrun was visited—with the 12th, again—on a big reconnaissance operation to Bir Hooker which lasted over three days.

The run to Suez was undertaken at the same time, but there were no armoured cars for escort. Although the writer was not present, it is understood, on good authority, that the heavyside layer expert decided to continue his investigations and accordingly slept as high as possible. (We afterwards wondered if this was in the cause of science, or if it had anything to do with snakes?)

Cross-Country Run.—During the month we assisted B Squadron (to whom we are attached for sport) to win the Bongo beaker. Since the remaining events have been decided, and B Squadron are now sure of the trophy, everybody seems to have developed a thirsty look!

Football.—We have played several games, and in spite of the fact that we are only a small unit, we have managed to hold our own in most of them.

Agony.—2560345 acknowledges with thanks a letter from Kohat.

J.O.J. Dunstan: I cannot hear you yet. W.A.W. Tyne.

Howlers.—Extract from an electrician fitter's test paper: "A primary cell is one cell and a secondary cell is two or more cells."

It is also reported that, in order to find the polarity of an electro-magnet, one uses pole-finding paper. Is this another name for A.F. blank blank?

Hong Kong Signal Section.

Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, October 12th.

General.—This month has been quite an interesting one on the whole, and were it not for the tragic climax, highly amusing.

The trouble in Manchuria had an echo down here when, on "Humiliation Day," the police had to turn out to quell disturbances in the Wanchai district. Here, gangs of hooligans attacked Japanese shops, etc., and generally made it known that their feelings were strongly anti-Japanese.

The first place to fall a victim to the rioters' stones was "Nagasaki Joe's," a restaurant and beer hall catering for seamen, and soon all Japanese premises in that district were boarded up and the rioters with difficulty dispersed—but not before the S.W.B.'s were ordered to stand to.

Wanchai being out of bounds, the rabble next proceeded westwards, and on the following afternoon news came through of a general clearing out of all Japanese goods from shops in Des Veoux Road, and soon after of similar occurrences on the mainland.

By this time the police found that they had more than enough to cope with, and requested military aid. To protect the mainland, all available Argylls and three Companies of Jats were turned out. Yaumati was in an uproar. Japanese merchandise was being burned in Shanghai Street, and all Japanese in the Colony were being interned in emergency refuges. Over nine hundred were housed in the Kennedy Road School under a strong guard of S.W.B.s. Similar arrangements were made in Kowloon.

Several cases of Japanese being molested, and in some cases severely handled, were noted, rescues being effected by baton and bayonet charges.

At about 23.30 hrs. on Saturday, September 11th, news came through of the siege of a Japanese family living at Tsang Fook Villas in a village near Kowloon city. Police were immediately rushed out to render any assistance necessary, but on arrival they found the house surrounded by several hundreds of Chinese and reinforcements were sent for. On dispersing the mob, it was found that the family had been assaulted in a most brutal manner, only one child surviving.

So things went on through Sunday and into Monday, alarms coming from all quarters, and gangs collecting in another place as soon as they were dispersed in one district. Many casualties, suffering from the after-effects of a little too much baton, bayonet and bullet, were sent to the hospital or mortuary according to the state of their health. Some wounds were inflicted on those supporting law and order by bricks, bamboos and an overhead plant-pot service. The Colony was declared to be in a state of emergency, and troops were sent out in commandeered buses and afoot.

Then, as swiftly as it started, the whole show petered out, and despite two very provocative dates on the Chinese calendar, nothing more has happened and the Colony is once more its normal humdrum self.

A bibulous passenger from Canton on the *Star* ferry was trying to tell me that the cessation of hostilities was due to the extreme discomfort of three inches of bayonet between the aitch-bone and the spare rib, and the indignity of the rioters at the aggressive measures taken to spoil their little bit of fun. Who knows?

Extensions of Service.—The following members of this unit have decided that you can't beat it, even on the 1925 rates:—Signalmen Ferguson D., Hardy A. E. and Brown C. C. R. The reason why they have taken this step is *not* to ensure getting a cooked dinner at the canteen, as some aver—the extension being only for eight years with the Colours.

Special.—Phyllis, our lady friend who has for a long time helped to while away the long night watches at C.H.Q., has come

into prominence lately, due more or less to an abortive effort or the part of one of us to terminate her career. Hence this effusion.

Throughout the weary watches of the night,
Filled with the buzzing of nocturnal sounds,
It gives us all the greatest of delight
To see fair Phyllis going on her rounds.

She pauses on the mat, and cocks her eye
And parts her whiskers neatly on each side,
Then flirts her tail with grace ere passing by
In answer to the call of time and tide.

She lines her little tummy with the best—
To soldier's pay accounts her diet confines;
And just to give the meal an added zest,
She chews the insulation off our lines.

I try to catch our Phyllis every week
With meat in rat-trap of enormous size;
She merely passes by with nose a-tweak,
Because she's vegetarian—and wise!

Trade Test.—We just missed a 100 per cent. success in this event, but have no non-rated personnel in the unit now. Credits are going up willy-nilly.

Congratulations.—To Sergt Lockyer on his marriage.

A Song We Would Like to Hear.—"I hear you calling me." Sung by A'By.

It's a Fact.—That our barrack-room verandah made a darned fine grandstand when the trouble was on.

That the emergency rather cramped the style of the three wise men of the East.

That Buck was able to prove that his wireless sets *do* work when he got caught for duty on them one night in the examination period.

Agony.—To the new draft, from tour-ex: Welcome.

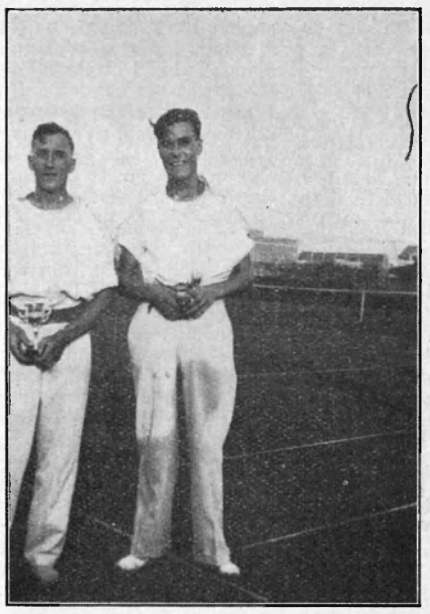
All can do. C.C.R.B.

Shanghai Signal Section.

Wednesday, October 28th.

General.—Let us commence by wishing all Royal Signals, at home and abroad, a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. This Christmas will be the fourth spent in Shanghai by many of the present Section, and the third for most of the remainder—and, we hope, the last!

Moves during the forthcoming trooping season are as follows: The O.C. (Lieut. J. W. Gordon), two n.c.o.s and twenty-two signalmen to homeside; one n.c.o. and one signalman to Tientsin; and one n.c.o. and two signalmen to Hong Kong.



The Winner and Runner-up (Singles).

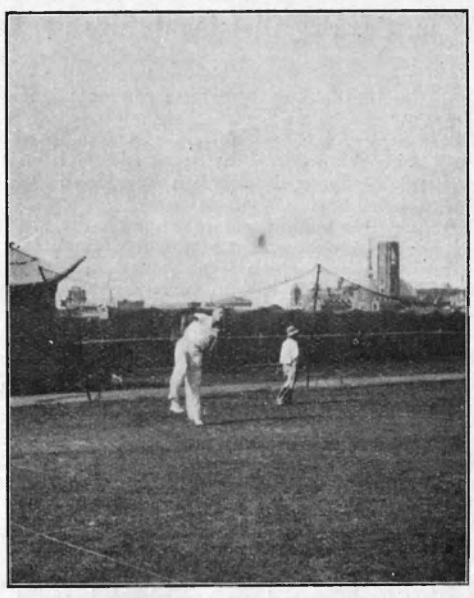
Sergeants Griffith and Higham and L/Corpl Bowie remain in Shanghai to carry on the traditions of the S.D.F., with the aid of the new arrivals. Owing to the reticence on the part of Mr. Records, we cannot say whether our reliefs will come on the second or the third boat—according to dot and dash, they are not on the first.

We take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to Lieut. H. V. Ewbank, at present "somewhere at sea," who is on his way to relieve our O.C., Lieut. J. W. Gordon.

Recreation.—During the past summer season, practically the whole of the Section have taken part in tennis, and many enjoyable days have been the result.

We wound up the season with an inter-Section doubles and singles handicap tournament, and spent some very pleasant afternoons in playing off the games. Lieut. J. W. Gordon and

Mrs. Griffith presenting the Prizes (Singles).

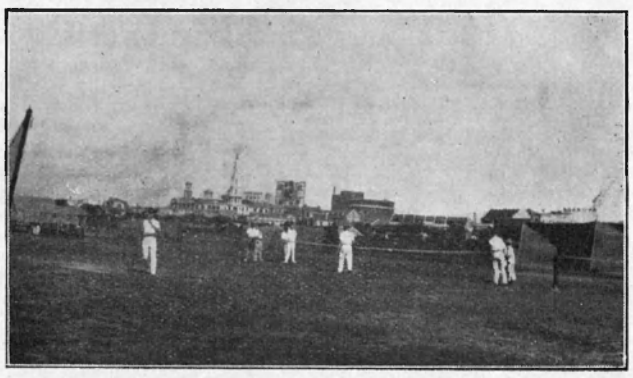


Lieut. J. W. Gordon in action.

Sigmn Hayward won the doubles after some very keenly contested games, the runners-up being Signalmen Butler and Fielding. The singles event was won by one of those " dark horses " of whom one hears so little, to wit, Sigmn Duke, with Sigmn Croft a very worthy runner-up.

Thanks are due to our O.C. for the keen interest which he has taken in this branch of sport, and for his kind participation which has helped us to bring to the fore a game which is both athletic and interesting, to mention only two of its advantages.

Thanks are also extended to Sergt Griffith (our section sergeant, and a keen all-round sportsman) who has worked exceedingly hard in all branches of sport during the time that he has been with this Section.



Scene during one of the games.

Why Sing Kee was Sacked.—Scene: Barrack Room. Signalman (to " boy "): " Can you take these blue patrols and get pressed, boy?" After: Return of the " boy " with $6 and a pawn ticket.

Later: Another Signalman (to " boy "): " Catchee slacks press, boy." On enquiries being made several hours later, it was discovered that the said slacks had been washed and were trying their best to dry. Needless to say, the services of Sing Kee were promptly dispensed with.

Extensions of Service.—Sigmn Cavill to complete eight years with the Colours. This came as rather a surprise to many, as it was thought that continued successes at the " dogs " would have paved the way to a much brighter future.

We Would Like to Know.—Does vodka inspire dancing?

Is it correct that Bernard Xavier came to Shanghai in the " roaring forties "—or was it the late eighties?

Agony.—Please, Mr. Records, reserve a soft spot in Blighty for we poor hard-bitten Shanghailanders on our return.

DEBROY.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

South Bastion, November 1st.

Introductory.—We apologise if these notes are not up to standard, as this is our first attempt at reporting. However, as we have decided that two heads are better than one, the results may be passable.

Bill Warren said, in 1921, " It is hard to find WIRE notes from Gibraltar," but we anticipate a shortage of space—not notes.

General.—Things are beginning to move here. Talkies have arrived at our local so-called Theatre Royal. Do not laugh; this is not a joke, but a plain fact. " The Five Days Wonder," by Hearmore. All good things come to an end—possibly within the five days.

Air service between Gibraltar and Tangier is now in running order. The fleet at present consists of one plane, but all big things have small beginnings.

Much to our regret, the Gibraltar Guide Book, from which previous notes have often been reproduced, has run dry.

The official bathing season ended on September 30th—needless to say, following four days of rain. October 1st marked the return of the sun and warm weather!

Musketry.—Having returned the highest score when the Section fired, L/Sergt Betts W. was preparing to fill the cup—but, alas! he had forgotten that the casuals had still to fire. On October 5th the aforesaid casuals proceeded to the ranges, all hoping to return cup winners. One of these, L/Corpl Cook F. J. by name, found the bull so many times that his score card totalled 79 out of the possible 90. He thus managed to gain the coveted trophy by the narrow margin of two points. Congratulations, Cookie! Your leave has apparently done you good. Hard luck, L/Sergeant Betts! The best man always wins (on form). Sez me.

Things We Want to Know.—Who holds the record for continuous home service?

When the next " cut " is due?

Why the n.c.o. i/c messing is so eager to get rid of his job?

Who puts the " livers " on our Exchange Superintendent?

What difference is there between rock and our Army cake?

Information.—Full particulars of the Rock can be obtained from the wet bar, Mons Barracks. Where is your rendezvous, Joe?

Since the recent cut, we have noted that certain individuals have given up smoking, whilst others have reverted to the cheaper form, i.e. pipes.

Re-Engagements.—Sigmn Taylor H. L. to complete twenty-one years, L/Corpl Cook F. J. to complete twelve, and Signalman Goodanew F. to complete eight. You all know a thing or two.

Arrivals.—L/Corpl Hayden V. and Sigmn Taylor G. We welcome you both, and hope your tour will be a happy one.

Overheard.—Scene: Military Hospital. Pte —— R.A.M.C. (approaching n.c.o. of Signals): " Will you have a look at the office phone?" The n.c.o.: " What! I have just tested six, including that, and it proved the best." From this, we conclude that the other five have been destroyed.

Cookhouse Scandal.—Scene 1: Cookhouse, 9 a.m. Messing n.c.o. (to cook): " Yorkshire duff to-day, sez me." Orderly cook: " O.k., chief."

Scene 2: Cookhouse, after dinner. Messing n.c.o.: " Hi, loudspeaker! what did you put in the duff to-day?" Orderly cook: " Everything I put in cakes bar the fruit." Messing n.c.o.: " Sez you."

Congratulations.—We extend our heartiest congratulations to the D.R.S of the Southern Command on their display at the Tidworth Tattoo.

Expectations.—One man in this Section is eagerly awaiting the next boat home, having only a few weeks to complete on the Rock. We hear that his bank book is fast approaching three figures. Which is the nearest way to the post office, Ted?

Agony.—Received your message, Banger. It is now up to Charlie and Freddy to do their stuff. F.J.C.

Bill: Re dripping account, write L/Corpl Manning.

Last, but not Least.—We wish all units at home and abroad a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Do YOU belong to the Signals Association ?

If not, join now!

Your military service will come to an end some day, and you may then need help in finding civil employment. See how the Association helps its Members in that direction, as shown on page 482. The subscription is only 2/- per annum. Ask your Unit Representative for further details.

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals.

(Middlesex Yeomanry)

Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3.

General.—There is very little of interest this month, as we only commenced our winter training programme on November 1st. However, here goes.

O.C.A. Dinner.—The thirteenth annual dinner of the Middlesex Yeomanry O.C.A. was held at the Regent Palace Hotel on November 3rd, Captain C. E. Boosey, M.C., the president, being in the chair.

Colonel E. J. Woolley, M.C., the guest of honour (being an Infantryman) likened himself unto the man who married a widow and who felt that he was doing something that had been better done before him.

The musical entertainment was provided by "Gunboat" Smith and Herbert Hawkins, and altogether the evening was voted a great success, a great point being that this year there were more serving members of the unit present than ever before.

Billiards.—Our recent acquisition, the billiard table, is still providing great amusement, both among the pro's and the "shut your eyes and trust to luck" brigade.

On Wednesday, November 3rd, our sergeants' mess challenged the sergeants of the R.E.s to a match. The challenge being duly accepted, they tried to show the junior n.c.o.s and men the right way to play, the result being a draw of two games all. The feature of the evening, however, was an R.E. sergeant walking in with a pot of tea and a can of condensed milk and causing the collapse of our worthy caterer, who had ordered an extra barrel of "tonic water" for the occasion.

Klu Klux Klan.—Owing to the mysterious meetings and gatherings of members of a certain Troop in various corners of H.Q. (it is suggested that the items under discussion were "How to put A Squadron to flight" and "How to bump off a rival Troop") the rival Troop (no doubt, deciding to retaliate) held a full meeting of their worshipful order with the Arch B——d in the chair and Al D——ll at his right hand; and by the serious looks on their faces, etc., it is thought that the aforesaid certain Troop will probably be "taken for a ride" one dark night.

Armistice Day.—As in the past three years, we were represented at the British Legion "Remembrance Festival" at the Royal Albert Hall by an officer and twelve other ranks. I can safely say, from my own experience, that this event is a very impressive one and well worth attending at any cost (that is, if you can get in) and that the individuals picked are very fortunate indeed.

Departures.—It is with deep regret that we say goodbye to one of our permanent staff, Sergeant Adams—otherwise Daisy. During his sojourn with us, he has done his best to make us understand how and why a wireless set works, and I am told that the sergeants' mess will miss him in more than one way. However, all ranks join with me in wishing him farewell and the best of luck in that part of the globe to which he goes.

Stop Press.—Just as the postman called I learned that, for the third year in succession, F Troop have won the Van der Bergh cup for the highest average score in the annual musketry course. Congratulations, F.

We Should Like to Know.—What individual proved the aptness of the saying, "If the cap fits, wear it," after he'd perused recent notes.

YEOMAN.

42nd (East Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Burlington Street, Manchester.

Christmas comes but once a year (someone has said this before), but you can usually tell when it is about to arrive by the general stirring-up which takes place. For instance, shop windows get stirred up, plum puddings get stirred up, and many of those old letters which have not been answered for twelve months also get stirred up. This unit, always in the forefront of fashion, has also been stirred up. Most of the Section officers have been moved to new homes, the P.S.I.s have all changed Companies, and many of the n.c.o.s have also been moved. So we are now quite ready to proceed in good style, be there camp or no camp.

No. 1 Company's hot pot supper, held on October 31st, proved a great success; the attendance, numbering ninety-four, was a record one. This year the Company had the honour of entertaining the commanding officer, the adjutant, and Nos. 2 and 3 Company commanders.

Captain E. R. Sutton, after welcoming the guests, made a strong appeal to all ranks of No. 1 Company to increase their attendances at evening and week-end training, in view of there being no camp next year.

Brevet-Colonel R. S. Newton, M.C., congratulated the Company on the high standard of their work throughout the year and also on winning the Dobson cup, the Cable Section the Roberts cup, and No. 2 Detachment of the Cable Section the *Telegraph* cup.

A really excellent concert was provided by a number of artistes, of whom we were glad to note the outstanding ones were Territorials. On all sides one heard the evening referred to as "the best yet."

The Company took the opportunity of expressing to the adjutant, Captain C. E. Sketch, their regret that the time for his departure was drawing near. The cheers and whole-hearted rendering of "For he's a jolly good fellow" that followed the adjutant's farewell speech showed unmistakably the high regard in which this officer is held.

The Company express their thanks to C.S.M. Worsley and Sergt Johnson, P.S.I., for the excellence of the arrangements.

Since last month's WIRE was published, No. 2 Company have held their recruiting "hot pot," and this was a great success. Our commanding officer, Brevet-Colonel R. S. Newton, attended and said how very pleased he was with the progress which the Company had made. It was a long time since Sections E, F and G had entered for the *Telegraph* cup, and it was a great achievement for the Company to have been able to have entered all three Sections; and he congratulated Captain Delaney on the results, which could only have been obtained by a lot of hard work on his part and that of the whole Company.

The adjutant then told the Company that this would be the last time he would address them as a whole before he left in January. He very much hoped that they would continue to advance as they had done this year and soon succeed in winning the Company shield.

The concert which followed was very good, and the excellent turn-out and the really good hot pot made the evening a splendid success. There is no doubt that C.Q.M.S. Watts and ex-C.Q.M.S. Jones did their work well and truly.

We are pleased to welcome to the unit two new P.S.I.s in C.Q.M.S. Robertson and Sergt A. G. Spencer, both just back from India. We hope they will enjoy their stay with us, and not get too much of an "idea" about our weather. By some mistake, the usual fog with which we are able to greet people at this time of the year has been mislaid, we are glad to say, and so perhaps things did not seem too bad, even after India.

The whole unit will be very sorry indeed to lose C.Q.M.S. Watts, who has been with us for over three years. He has made very many friends, and we all hope that his stay with the A.F.V. will be as pleasant as his tour with us. His work has been difficult, and the Companies to which he has been attached are very grateful to him for the way in which he has carried it out. We wish him the very best of luck.

Sergt Whittington is also leaving us in a few weeks time to join the 4th Divl Signals. He has been with us longer than C.Q.M.S. Watts, and seems very much a part of the unit. His work with the largest Company of the unit during the last three years has been thoroughly appreciated by all, and the gap he leaves will be very difficult to fill. We wish him every success, and hope that he will get far in the Corps.

Training in general, with a view to passing the Trade Boards, is under way now. The work of the year has started well and should prove even better when we get to our new headquarters.

JIMMEE.

No. 2 Company, 1st Corps Signals (S.R.)

The decision of the Government to cancel annual training in 1932 has dealt us a sad blow, but we hope to have some compensation in the shape of a week-end or two. Nothing, however, *can* take the place of camp. It is unique in its attraction, concentration, and building up of the body corporate. So, may 1932 pass quickly and bring us to 1933 and Aldershot or Salisbury.

Whilst the O.C. has drawn closer to the drill hall, circumstances have compelled Captain Halsall and Lieut. Ellis to live farther away—the former moving to Blackburn and the latter to Wallasey.

A hearty welcome to Lieut. Barber! May he have a happy and a useful time amongst us.

We could have wished for a larger attendance at the Company hot pot, but it was a splendid affair for all that. Lieut. Bottomley was presented with a silver tankard to mark our appreciation of his service in the Company and his unfailing good comradeship.

ACK ACK ACK.

P.S.—Do not forget the children's party on January 2nd.

43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals.

The annual dinner was held at Deller's Cafe, Exeter, on the 31st October. It was good to see the unit so fully represented. We were also honoured in having with us as guests Colonel R. G. Earle, D.S.O., A.D.C. (hon. colonel), Colonel F. A. Heymann, O.B.E. (C.S.O. Southern Command), Colonel W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. (D.C.S.O. Southern Command), Lieut.-Colonel A. L. Symes (commanding 56th F.A. Brigade), the Mayor of Exeter, and Lieut.-Colonel G. D. Ozanne, M.C. (commanding the 56th (City of London) Divl Signals).

The dinner was excellent. Are we indebted to our new, or old, P.M.C. for this? After dinner we entertained our guests at the mess, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. To those who played bridge, we hope that they pursued their *calling* as vigorously as those who indulged in a quiet game of vantry. Our congratulations are due to Lieut. Govier, who won the blow football competition in spite of vigorous opposition from those whose lungs must be well trained for this sport.

The Company commanders' conference took place at the Priory the morning after (the dinner). I am not allowed to disclose the proceedings of the committee, except to say that a vote of censure was passed on the late Government for discounting our annual training. May this, however, only be a temporary expedient!

It is with the greatest regret that we say goodbye to our adjutant, Captain G. W. Odell, whose tenure of office with us has expired. We will all miss him, and especially those of us owning wireless sets! We wish him the best of luck in the future, and hope he will often be able to come down and see us.

At the same time we extend to his successor, Captain J. R. Patten, a Signals welcome, and we hope that his stay in the west country and with us will be one of the milestones of his life.

A very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all ranks of the unit, to our C.S.O. and D.C.S.O., and to all members of the Corps at home and abroad.

Finally, our very grateful thanks to Old Spark for all his untiring work in connection with THE WIRE during the past ten years, and for your patience and forbearance with the new editor of our notes, who now signs himself YOUNG SPARK.

No. 1 (Exeter) Company.

Owing to the omission of our notes last month, all ranks of the Company send their rather belated congratulations and good wishes to Mr. Scorer, who was married at Exeter Cathedral on October 5th. The officers of the unit presented him with a silver cigarette box, and a silver cruette was given by the w.o.s and n.c.o.s mess. Mrs. Scorer is no stranger to the Company, and we shall hope to see them both at our social functions.

On Sunday, November 8th, a Garrison church parade was held at Exeter Cathedral. The Company turned out over seventy—the strongest unit on parade and an excellent muster, considering the dreadful weather conditions.

This month seems to be one of changes in our permanent staff. We say au revoir to our adjutant, Captain G. W. Odell, who has now left us, and we extend a welcome to his successor, Captain J. R. Patten. We hope his tour of duty with the unit will be a happy one.

Sergt F. A. Standley, who has been the permanent staff instructor of the Company for the past four years, has also left us. On Friday, November 13th, he was presented with a pair of bronze ornaments as a small token of our esteem and of our thanks for the work he has put in. Always a cheerful worker under any conditions, he takes with him our very best wishes for the future. We welcome his successor, Sergt Ivison, from the 3rd Divisional Signals.

Before the next month's notes appear, Christmas will have come and gone. A very happy Christmas and New Year to our commanding officer and Lady Basing, to Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, and last (but not least) to our parent unit, the 3rd Divl Signals.

ONE COY.

No. 2 (Southampton) Company.

This Company's notes looked very lonely in last month's WIRE, but we hope to see a full complement in the December issue.

It is with very great regret that we say goodbye to Captain Odell on his vacating the post of adjutant, but our loss is someone else's gain. We hope that he will not forget us.

To Captain J. R. Patten, our new adjutant, we offer a very hearty welcome, and we hope that his tour will be quite happy. It is the writer's sincere wish that his keenness and enthusiasm will succeed, for I am sure from past experience that he will be a great asset to the unit.

We have now formed a very useful committee to run social functions, etc. We wish them every success in a very difficult job, but it is up to all to pull their weight and help to make a success of all functions that are arranged.

The football fans are keeping the flag of the Company flying, and I am very glad to see them sticking so well together.

I am afraid that this is all for this month, except that we wish the new editor every success in his efforts to keep the unit notes going.

PIP.

44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Brighton) Company.

General.—Oh, yes! we are still in existence, although we did miss last month's notes. I must apologise for the omission. You know, there are two things which pass from us very quickly in this life: money and time. The former is very noticeable according to my pocket. Still, the fact remains that these notes are now due. Before I go any further, I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

There is, I'm afraid, very little to report this month. The chief business in hand in the Company at present is visual training. Preliminary instruction is being given, so that the men will be up to standard when they sit for the tests. We hope the results at the end of the year will be favourable both to the individuals and to the Company. Buzzer and linemen's classes are also in full swing.

On Tuesday, November 3rd, we had in our midst our late O.C., Major Molesworth. His visit was highly appreciated by all. He shook hands with most of the old boys present. It was indeed a pleasant surprise.

Armistice Parade.—This was held on November 8th. We had an excellent turn-out, no fewer than 75 per cent. of the Company turning out to pay homage,

Trade Tests.—We must congratulate the following on passing for higher rating as shown:—Sergt King, L/Sergt James and Corpl Tidey, C.ii.; Signalmen Mercer and Legg, C.iii.; Signalmen Beck and Walton W. signal assistant, Group E.

Extensions of Service.—The following have signed on for another term of imprisonment—sorry, I mean service:—C.S.M. Trower and Sergt Willett for four years; Corpl Somerfield for one year. A few more years shall roll!

Arrivals.—These have been coming in gradually since camp, and now that we are cut down to 93 per cent. of our former strength, we have had to give permanent leave of absence to several members. That leaves us up to strength.

Departures.—Sergt Scott, on expiration of his engagement; Sigmn Gaskin, who has left us to join the Regular Forces for service in the Blues.

Musketry.—Hooray! we are going to have a new rifle range. The Association says so—and a covered one, too. Now we can settle down to intensive training in preparation for the Lord Wakefield trophy. We did not do badly last year, seeing that we finished seventy-ninth out of 508 teams. We hope to do better this year!

Our live secretary, Sergeant James, has obtained some postal shoots with the 13th London Regiment and the London Scottish. Matches have also been arranged with the 229th Battery R.A. at Hove and the R.E. at Brighton. Now, what about you London Companies? We are aching to have a smack at you. Now, Josie, get some dynamite and set things going.

Social.—I have been constantly asked when we are going to have another concert. Well, one never knows, does one? I am seriously thinking of getting up a "ramsammie" myself. Surely, we can muster a few Carusos, Gracie Fields and Ernie Maynes, etc. What about you, Ernie? I have endeavoured to get a few artistes together. Here are some of the items.

C.S.M. Nash in "What the sergeant-major told the private."

C.S.M. Trower in "The bloke who broke the quarter-bloke."

Lieut. Freer-Ash: "Every time I look into her eyes, I know she's got me beaten."

Lieut. Watson: "Oh, why do the girls all fall for me?"

Of course, we must not forget to claim old Pete to render his famous ditty "She was lovely, she was grand, but how her breath did smell!" This ought to go down well with the boys.

Boxing.—This is going great guns. We are having a ring built for the lads to practise in. We are going to enter a team of eight to oppose other clubs. I must say that we have the stuff here, and if seeing is believing, I think they will go far in the boxing tournament next year. Anyway, keep it up, Sullis! You sure have got the material to work on.

Agony.—Ex-Sigmn Maggie Duffy wishes to be remembered to all the old football team of Maresfield days. He would like to hear from any of them. His address is R. Duffy, 10 Regent Hill, Brighton, Sussex.

Finale.—Well, that's that, so au revoir. NIMROD.

46th (North Midland) Divisional Signals.

Phœnix Street, Derby, Nov. 14th.

There are very few events to chronicle, from a training point of view. Musketry is finished, and bounties are all paid, so we now settle down to a period of indoor work, lectures, etc.

We have commenced our social activities. The w.o.s and sergeants held their annual dinner at the Albert Hotel, Nottingham. Colonel Worthington and officers of the unit, R.S.M. Eves and C.S.M. Evelyn (of 1st Divl Signals), C.S.M. Joynes and Sergt Bedford (of 49th Divl Signals) were among the guests who honoured us with their presence, and in welcoming them we hoped they would have a very pleasant evening amongst us. We believe this hope was fulfilled, for at the close of a jolly evening, it was universally agreed that it had been a great success.

After a wonderful dinner, presided over by our indefatigable R.S.M., we had an excellent programme of harmony, interspersed by the usual toasts, which were all honoured, and a most enjoyable evening came to a close all too soon.

It is with regret that we say au revoir (not goodbye) to our commanding officer, Colonel Worthington, T.D., after eleven years of service devoted to the 46th Divl Signals,

Colonel Worthington was our first commanding officer, and with Major Bray, O.B.E. (our popular adjutant) and our late R.S.M. Jack Hayburn, he took over the premises of a horse dealer. Here in a town strange to them all, Colonel Worthington began the almost impossible task of forming the unit. Now, on his leaving, there are three Companies—at Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield respectively—that rank second to none in the Territorial Army. Truly a great achievement! but it is symbolical of a great man.

In 1930 this unit suffered a tragic loss in the fatal accident to the late Lieut.-Colonel D. P. Forman, T.D., who had only taken over command of the unit from Colonel Worthington a few months previously. At a sacrifice to himself, Colonel Worthington again took over command and remained with us until this day.

We now welcome our new commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel G. J. Underwood. We are confident that the choice of the powers-that-be will prove to be a most popular one, for Lieut.-Colonel Underwood is universally esteemed in the unit, besides being most popular among the other units in this Division. A truly great horseman, among his many other achievements, Lieut.-Colonel Underwood is certain to bring the 46th further laurels. In welcoming him as our commanding officer, we promise him our fullest support in helping him to maintain the unit's present efficiency.

Our heartiest congratulations go to Lieut.-Colonel G. J. Underwood, Major S. Smith and Captain S. N. Turner on their recent well-deserved promotions.

In closing, we wish all our comrades, past and present, of the Royal Corps a merry Christmas and a bright and happy New Year. MERRIMUR.

50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

No. 2 (Middlesbrough) Company.

Headquarters, Lytton Street.

General.—We must apologise for not having sooner congratulated Mrs. Dent, the wife of our adjutant, on the birth of a daughter, but we take this opportunity of doing so now.

The Company is glad to hear that the services of C.S.M. Smith (No. 1 Company) have been retained for a further period of one year. We are sure that his cheery personality will be greatly missed by all when he does eventually leave us.

On Thursday, November 3rd, C.S.M. Gordon, of the 292nd Battery R.A., gave a lecture on "Artillery Codes" which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and everybody went home full of the knowledge of the workings of the Artillery.

Winter training is now in full swing, and we are assured of a good number of higher ratings before our next camp.

We take this opportunity of thanking all ranks for putting up such a good show at camp, as their efforts have once again gained for this Company the coveted signal trophy, the Bagnall cup.

Entertainment.—The dances, which we announced in our last issue had just started, are now going with a great bang. A dance club numbering about 250 has been formed, giving us quite a good attendance each night. About three weeks ago we had the pleasure of the company of one of our Regular comrades, and we sincerely hope that he had a good time and will spread the news amongst his pals.

We are also running a whist drive and dance on Wednesday evenings from 8 till 11.30, and although at present these are not going as well as expected, we think that time will work miracles.

Congratulations.—To Sigmn S. Jones on his promotion to the rank of L/Corporal.

51st (Highland) Divisional Signals.

Headquarters, Aberdeen.

General.—We are pleased to note that our twin stations have become separated once more, as WIRE notes have come through this month from Nos. 2 and 3 Companies. Keep it up, Nos. 2 and 3, and don't let Headquarters and No. 1 Company have the monopoly in WIRE notes every month.

Greetings.—As the festive season is now drawing near, we take the opportunity of wishing all ranks, at home and abroad, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Officers' Examination.—Seven officers of the unit attended the November examination for Certificate "A" (Part II.) with the Aberdeen and Edinburgh contingents of the Officers' Training Corps. We hope to be able to publish a 100 per cent pass when the results come through.

Congratulations.—Hearty congratulations to Sergt Hillman J. (P.S.I. No. 2 Company) on securing a double during the month of October: obtaining that most elusive Army first class certificate of education at the October examinations, and an extension of tour of duty with the unit.

Officers' Regimental Dinner.—The officers of the unit held their annual dinner at Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen, on November 7th, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Our hon. colonel (Colonel R. J. Nicol, O.B.E.) was present, and his short stories were very much appreciated. The regimental guests included Major R. D. Robertson, O.C. Depot, The Gordon Highlanders, and Major A. R. Mutch, T.D., who has just relinquished command of the North Scottish Heavy Brigade R.A. (T.). During the evening Pipe-Major Wilson gave a few selections on the bagpipes, including one of his own compositions.

Winter Training.—Despite a depleted training grant, all Companies are now running sixty-hour courses, and about sixty budding operator signals are attending in their spare time to absorb a thorough knowledge of the various items of the "Q" sheet.

Winter Entertainments.—As the Company notes will show, the entertainment committees are now going with a vengeance. If rumours are correct, we are in for a jolly good programme of entertainments during the coming festive season.

Representatives of the officers and other ranks from Headquarters and Nos. 1 and 2 Companies spent an enjoyable time at a whist drive and dance held by No. 3 Company at Kirkcaldy on October 30th. By the numbers present, the Signals seem to be one of the most popular units in Fifeshire. We hope the visit will be returned at some future date, so that they can hear *our* "Scotch music" in action.

Entertainments in Aberdeen still continue with a swing, as the sergeants' mess held a very successful dance at Fonthill Barracks on November 6th, and the junior n.c.o.s and men are holding their monthly dance at the time of going to press. YEA.

No. 1 (Aberdeen) Company.

To Signals all over the globe, greetings! (Scots wha hae! this is cheaper than Christmas cards.) We wish you a bright and prosperous New Year, and beg to state that we will be entirely in sympathy with you on the morning of January 1st.

"Isn't Science Wonderful!" (as the Aberdonian said when he heard of the scientist who raised twelve million microbes on a single penny-piece.) The sixty-hour course men continue to pursue the elusive electron weekly on Monday nights, and they appear to like it. The advanced students, usually instructed by our able Wireless Section sergeant, pow-wow behind a locked door in the W/T room. We suppose the locked door must be an essential to strength of signals; or is it merely part of an elaborate "screening system"? It undoubtedly does serve to cut down "wandering effects," eh, Smudger?

Sergeants' Mess.—The sergeants' dance held on Friday, 6th November, was a tremendous success. Lieut.-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E. (our C.O.), Captain J. M. Brown, M.M. (adjutant), Captain T. P. E. Murray (O.C. Company) and a good number of the officers of the Company were present. That they thoroughly enjoyed themselves with us we have no doubt, and we hope to see them again tripping the light fantastic at our next show. These dances prove to be very popular, especially with the ladies, and we believe they would really like to come along oftener than just once a month.

Coming Distractions.—Sergt Smith R. D. and his minstrel troupe rehearse once weekly in our signalmen's recreation room. Sometimes he sings, and sometimes they sing. There is apparently much friendly rivalry. Convinced that all this ado must be in aid of something, we await developments, and hope a date will soon be fixed for the minstrels to regale us in the big hall.

For further particulars, see Bill (if he's out, ask George Gardner).

Officers' Examination: Certificate "A."—We hope it was a cert.

Agony.—The highbrow would like to congratulate the following lowbrows on their promotion:—Binder Pack of Bulford, and Gump Lacey of Peshdist. May they meet again soon to celebrate. Does the mutty still cling to the knees of the Binder's blue patrol trews? LANKA MK.II.

No. 2 (Stirling) Company.

Training.—Winter training is now in full swing, and although the attendances are not large, present progress indicates success at the next Trade Board.

Armistice Parade.—A parade was held at Stirling War Memorial on Armistice Day. A strong muster of this Company represented the Signals. Regulars, ex-Service men, other Territorial units and V.A.D.s were also represented. As this is the first time such an organised parade has been arranged for some years, the attendance and turn-out were very creditable, and it is hoped that in future the Armistice parade will not be allowed to lapse, since it has been so successfully revived.

Entertainments.—Owing to the lack of accommodation (the same old tale!) there is nothing to report on the subject as far as this Company is concerned. Dame Rumour says that the building of the new drill hall and extensions on the present site is likely to commence at a very early date. Cheers! Let's hope so, and then something may be accomplished in this line.

Representatives from this Company paid a visit to No. 3 Company's whist drive and dance at Kirkcaldy on October 30th. Old friends from Aberdeen were also met, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

Some people appear to be luckier than others, for besides all this enjoyment, a certain sergeant from Aberdeen paid a hurried visit to St. Andrew's. Some say it was to enjoy the sea air there; others, other things. But, my! whatever it was, what a winning way he has (jealousy).

The music was at times varied to suit local taste. Gallant musicians, almost obliterated from view, were gathered together on a platform, and strains—yes, really strains, which some learned ones said were of Eastern origin—could be plainly heard far above all vocal opposition. My word, they could play! Talk about hustle! Anyway, bravo, the band. They won.

TWOCOY.

No. 3 (Fifeshire) Company.

"Get through" is our motto, and in this we are at last successful. After a lapse of several months, we hope that in future our notes will appear regularly. According to tradition, I should commence these notes with "I must apologise for the absence of notes," etc. Anyhow, here we are!

There is very little to record of the happenings of this Company during the past month.

On Friday, October 30th, we held our first social event of the season in the form of a whist drive and dance. The attendance numbered two hundred, and we were pleased to have in our midst Lieut.-Colonel E. G. McHutchon (C.O.), Captain J. H. Brown (adjutant), and Lieuts. Gray and Cochrane from No. 2 Company, Stirling.

We were also delighted to see present our R.S.M. from headquarters, the P.S.I. and C.S.M. from No. 1 Company, Aberdeen, and the P.S.I. and another representative from No. 2 Company, Stirling. The presence of officers and n.c.o.s from other Companies is much appreciated, and we trust that they all enjoyed themselves. We hope that we shall be able to send representatives from this Company to attend at least one of their dances during the season.

The duties of M.C., as usual, were ably carried out by our P.S.I., C.S.M. Fleming. Whist commenced at eight o'clock and finished at 9.45, when an excellent supper was served by Mr. Law, whom everyone will remember in connection with the canteen at annual camp. Dancing commenced at eleven o'clock, and during an interval the whist prizes were presented by Mrs. A. E. Fleming, wife of our permanent staff instructor.

In order to give the orchestra a rest, and for the benefit of the P.S.I. from No. 1 Company, the music (?) was supplied by Sergt Copland and three of our pipers from Dunfermline. We trust that the P.S.I. concerned will be grateful now that he has seen how a Scottish dance should be performed.

A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close at 2 a.m. with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God save the

King." Thanks are due to C.S.M. Fleming, C.Q.M.S. Bease and L/Corpl Beveridge for arranging such a pleasant evening.

Owing to national economy, our winter courses have been curtailed, but at present we have a class of fifteen men whom we hope to get trade-rated as operators by the training season.

When all our time-expired men have been discharged, we shall only require nine recruits to complete our strength, so we shall be able to select our men very carefully.

By the time these notes appear in print, the great festive season will be drawing near, and we take this opportunity of wishing all past and present members of the Corps, at home or abroad, a right happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

THREECOY.

52nd (Lowland) Divl. Signals and S.R. Units.

21 Jardine Street, Glasgow.

General.—The decision to cancel annual training in camp during the coming year has been received with regret by all ranks, but the need for economy is generally appreciated.

Various ideas as to how the Fair holiday could be utilised are forthcoming, and it appears that the formation of a local camp (without pay or allowances) would be very popular. Our "advanced thinker" suggests that a subscription list should be sent round to the contractors, etc., who are also regretting the "no camps" decision.

Winter Courses.—In spite of the times, we have managed to arrange three courses for operator signals and signal assistants which are being well attended.

Departure.—Before these notes appear we shall have said au revoir to Sergt V. Hoyland, who takes up a permanent seaside residence at Scarborough on November 15th (at least, he hopes it is a lengthy stay). For a period of five years he has soldiered with the Terriers, and all ranks of the Lowland Signals are sorry to bid him goodbye. The members of the w.o.s and sergeants' mess bade him farewell on Wednesday, November 11th, and gave vent to their feelings by presenting him with a gold watch, suitably inscribed. In making the presentation on behalf of the members of the mess, Major E. F. Smith, T.D., said everyone was very sorry to see him go, and that it was the conclusion of a long period of real service with the Lowland Signals.

The unit despatch riders, not to be outdone in recognising his popularity, gave a farewell dance for him at the Grand Hotel in Glasgow on Armistice Night, and the spirit of carnival was the password.

The stationmaster, it is rumoured, has arranged to cover the platform with sawdust on Saturday, in order to soak up the teardrops expected from the bevy of fair maidens of Glasgow who are to be present at a private send off.

Welcome.—To Sergt F. Atkinson, who has returned to the fold after an extended seaside holiday at Scarborough. We hope the coming five will pass as pleasantly as the previous period.

LOWSIGS.

54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals.

Stratford, London, E.15, November 9th.

No. 1 Company.

General.—During the past month, lectures have been given by Lieut. W. L. Nicholson. These have been well attended, but there is still room left for more members who would like to attend. The Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command (Colonel R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C.) visited headquarters on the 5th inst.

Major H. A. J. Parsons, M.C., late instructor at the School of Signals, paid the unit a visit, on the 3rd instant, in the capacity of D.A.A. and Q.M.G. East Anglian Area.

Annual Dance.—The annual dance, held at Stratford Town Hall on October 15th, was a great success. The Mayor of West Ham kindly presented the trophies. Many of these prizes came to the Company, and it is hoped that they will retain them next year.

Armistice Church Parade.—This was held on the 8th inst., the service being held at St. John's Church, Stratford Broadway. The attendance at this parade was very good indeed, even though the weather was bad. The commanding officer, Major W. E. Rayner, congratulated those present on their smart and soldierly bearing, which was very noticeable when on parade with other units in the district.

Who Knows?—Are there any tramway men in Bedford, or is it the Marines' uniform? ONECO.

No. 2 Company.

General.—On Sunday, November 8th, the unit paraded for the Armistice church parade. Although the day was a typical English summer one (wet and unpleasant) a large number of the unit turned out. As our C.O. said at the conclusion of the parade, this shows the right spirit.

The C.S.O. visited the unit on Thursday, November 5th, and appeared very pleased with all he saw. Some of our coming champions were seen in action with the gloves.

Entertainments.—No. 2 Company's annual dinner was first announced as being held on December 12th. It was found, however, that this date was impracticable, and the dinner will be held on December 5th. As the arrangements are in the capable hands of Mr. Palmer and C.S.M. Hooper, a good evening's enjoyment should be afforded to all who attend. Don't forget to roll up, lads, and show them that you appreciate their efforts.

Sport.—Nothing much has been done in this respect as yet, but the thud of boxing gloves can be heard most evenings.

Agony.—Does Bill of Bedford still remember the tale of the little corn in India? TWOCOY.

No. 3 (Southend) Company.

General.—We read with hunger that Nos. 1 and 2 Companies are holding their annual dinners in December. No! sorry we cannot come: it is too far.

C.S.M. Dowie, after wiping the tears from his eyes, said that No. 2 Company took advantage of E.A.A. Order No. 523 (Course of Signalling at Bedford from 7th to 19th of December) knowing he would be miles away, and No. 1 Company knew he would have "Southend" in his eyes on the 19th.

All ranks of this Company hope you all have a right royal time. Remember the toast is "Success to temperance and down with the drink!"

Boxing.—The Company is getting in trim for another show at Hockley, perhaps on the 25th November, when we hope to add another cup to our collection.

Shooting.—Yes, and again against D Company, 6th Battn. The Essex Regiment. They beat us on our own ground, but we only just lost. Anyway, better luck next time, on their ground.

Badminton.—We are getting ahead with this sport. The club having sanctioned the expenditure, we hope to become experts very shortly. What about it, Stratford? can you produce a team to give us a game?

Dance.—Our opening dance of the season will take place on Friday, November 13th, and we are expecting a good show. We are purchasing our own flags and bunting (brave fellows!) C.S.M. Cooley has been having very restless nights in preparation for the same, and we wish to congratulate him on his untiring efforts both for the Company and the club.

By the way, I have to be present at the Police Court at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, with 10/- (sorry, 5/-) in my hand for the extension of licensing hours (good dance, this!)

Billiards.—It is *hoped* that the present handicap will be finished before Christmas (who knows?) In order to get finished to time, we have decided to decorate the floor around the table with a fascinating design of leaded cocoanut matting (no, R.Q.M.S. there is no hole in it). Should this fail to attract, we will buy the table outright.

The club has decided to give a cue in case to the winner of each handicap.

Darts.—Club giving away again: this time, a half pint tankard, to be put up monthly for a knock-out competition. This, by the way, is going very strong. Up to date all the favourites have been knocked out; this happened by cutting out the double start and finish until the semi-final and final. The lucky fellow will have his name published in our next. Oh, an oversight! Sergt McMenamin is still in (moans).

(Continued at foot of page 532)

E Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Soccer.—"A" League: Finished third with 7½ points, two points behind the leaders. "B" League: Finished first with maximum points.

Hockey.—"A" League: Finished second with 8½ points, one point behind the leaders. "B" League: Finished second with 6½ points, 1½ points behind the leaders.

Company Colours.—The following have been awarded their Company colours for the season 1931/32:—

FOOTBALL—Sergt Jennison, Signalmen Parker, O'Connor, Purvis, Rowe, Gibbons, Richardson, Green, Morrison, Wood and Preston.

RUGBY—Sergeants Jennison, Sunderland, Spong and Squirrell, Corpl Dowie, L/Corporals Shepherd, Jenkins and Steele, Signalmen Cox, Cooper, Bucke, Leach, Thomas D., Yates and Parker.

HOCKEY—Capt. R. C. Woodbridge, Sergeants Jennison and Lockyer, Corporals Copp and Moore, L/Corporals Marsden and Shepherd, Signalmen Hayes, Gibbons, Mills and Thompson.

F Company, Training Battalion, Catterick.

Soccer.—Our first team played E Company last month, and after a hard struggle the latter managed to win. The seconds also played E seconds, and showed us that their form had greatly improved, although they were defeated.

Rugby.—The first fifteen have given two performances since last month's edition. In the former of these matches (versus E Company) we lost, although our team seemed the better of the two. The next (against the School of Signals) we won easily, our full back (who made his first debut in that position) having three kicks throughout the game. In their match against E Company, our seconds, showing their true form, won with ease.

Hockey.—The second team showed their superiority over D Company seconds last month. They are one of the few (?) spokes in D Company's wheel (says D Company).

Cross-Country.—The cross-country team is living up to its tradition and should continue to do so. We won the last run easily, having all our team in the first twenty-five. F Company stamina always heads the list in weather like that experienced in this run.

Shooting.—Our shooting team still preserves its steadiness. In the two competitions held to date, we have beaten both the Dismounted Wing and E Company. Versus Dismounted Wing, "A" team won by 6 points, and "B" team lost by 1 point. Versus E Company, "A" team won by 203 points, and "B" team won by 11 points.

A Corps Signals, Aldershot.

It is some time now since we have appeared in the Sports columns of our Journal. This is not due to any idleness on our part in the field of sport. On the contrary, throughout the past year we have had a thoroughly enjoyable and strenuous time out on the playing fields. If the Editor will be kind enough to grant me the space, I should like to review our efforts of the past winter and summer seasons.

Rugby.—Thanks to Sigmn Halliday, who faithfully recorded last season's games, I am able to review the efforts of the Group team, and to record with regret that their results were decidedly below standard. In the first round of the Command tournament, "B" Group met the 6th Field Brigade R.A. Neither team seemed to know much about their business, and the Gunners, being the more solid and determined of the two, won by 24—3 points. In the first round of the Army cup, the 2nd Battn King's Liverpool Regiment were our opponents. A very feeble game, to say the least of it, lost by 3—15 points.

The Royal Signals (Aldershot) inter-Company competition for the Hitchens challenge cup produced far more pleasant results. In the first round No. 3 Company met No. 2 Company 2nd Divl Signals, and, ably led by Captain Bailey, succeeded in winning a thrilling and keenly contested game by 8—0 points. The next round was against No. 2 Company 1st Divl Signals. Both teams played with determination and skill, and half-time arrived without any score. In the next half No. 3 Company took up the attack and eventually won by 6—3 points. The final game was against No. 1 Company 2nd Divisional Signals. The latter put up an extremely good fight, but No. 3 Company team was playing with confidence and won the tournament by 16—3 points.

This season the Group team is undoubtedly playing very much better. It was unlucky to lose by 3—6 points in the first round of the Army tournament, played against the 8th Hussars, as throughout the game the play was in the enemy half of the ground. Results of other games were:—v. R.A.O.C., Bramley, lost by 3—8; v. Aldershot "A" won by 25—3; v. R.A.S.C. won by 5—0; v. R.E. drew at 5—5.

Association Football.—Our Group team, last season, was not exactly a success, but it was a distinct improvement on the previous year. Owing to the reduced strength of the unit, a team was entered in the Command senior league only, and even then, owing to innumerable changes, it was most difficult to field a regular team. In spite of this the games were well contested, and the Group maintained its reputation for clean hard play—a spirit on which all who turned out are to be congratulated.

This year we have again entered for the senior league only, and the standard of play is considerably better. Up to date the team has played four games and won three and drawn one. The results were as follows:—v. 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, won by 6—2; v. 2nd Battn The Royal Scots, drew at 2—2; v. 3rd Brigade R.H.A., won by 5—0; v. The Welch Regiment, won by 5—0.

The Group team was also entered for the Army tournament, and in the first round met the 1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade R.A. The loss of this game was due entirely to the carelessness of the defence. The Group team had the best of the play throughout the game, and within a few minutes of time the score was 2—1 in our favour. A pass to the centre forward of the opposing team enabled him to quickly pass our backs (who were playing too square and were much too far forward) and score. In the replay which followed, this centre forward scored two more goals in exactly the same way. Except for these incidents, the team as a whole played a very good game and were unfortunate not to have scored more goals, as the ball hit the post on no less than three occasions.

The inter-Section tournament for the Fuge trophy was introduced last season, and was won by the Unit and Company H.Q. Section. This tournament produced keen competition, and the final game between A Cable Section and the winners produced a remarkably good standard of football.

A Royal Signals inter-Company tournament was commenced recently, and teams have been entered from both Companies of

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the unit. No. 3 Company defeated No. 3 Company 1st Divl Signals in the first round. No. 1 Company has not yet competed. Both Company teams are in good fettle and promise well.

Hockey.—The Group team, last season, made rapid strides towards improvement and had altogether a most satisfactory season. Out of 27 matches played, 19 were won, 5 lost and 3 drawn. In the Command tournament the team reached the semi-finals, but lost to the Loyal Regiment by 1—7 goals. In the first twenty minutes of this game the forwards bombarded the enemy goal, but simply could not score. Then the play deteriorated considerably, and the Loyals got through without difficulty. The best game of the season was against an R.M.C. eleven. The team played at the top of its form and held the clever and youthful Cadets well in check, winning by 6—3 goals.

Good material exists for this season, and there is no reason why the team should not do even better. The results of games to date are as follows:—v. No. 1 Section R.A.O.C. drew at 1—1; v. 2nd Battn Beds and Herts, lost by 1—2; v. Cameron Highlanders, won by 7—0; v. Godalming, won by 3—1; v. 7th Hussars, drew at 2—2; v. R.E. Aldershot, won by 3—1; v. R.M.C. Sandhurst, lost by 2—6; v. 3rd Brigade R.H.A. won by 2—1.

There is to be a Royal Signals (Aldershot) inter-Company tournament introduced this season, so that Company teams now have a chance of displaying their ability.

Cross-Country Running.—In the Royal Signals (Aldershot) inter-Company competition for the Rawson challenge shield, 1930-31, No. 1 Company fielded a team which won the shield with a total of 67 points, the Air Defence Brigade Signals team gaining second place with 64.

In the 1931-32 competition five runs have been completed, and at the moment No. 1 Company head the list with 24 points out of 25, while No. 3 Company is second with 13.

Willan Boxing Trophy.—In the competition for 1930, No. 1 Company lost to the holders by 10—11 points. No teams were entered for the 1931 competition, as the date of the competition unfortunately coincided with the departure of the first leave party.

Cricket.—Interest was centred mainly around the Royal Signals inter-Company tournament for the Rawson challenge shield. In the semi-final of the tournament, No. 1 Company was defeated by No. 3 Company 1st Divl Signals. In the final game the latter went on to win the trophy from our No. 3 Company.

Athletics.—The unit had a particularly successful season. In the Royal Signals individual championships the unit managed to collect the highest number of points for individual successes, and in the regimental sports also won the inter-unit team competition for the Prickett challenge cup.

Horse Show.—One pair from each Cable Section was entered for the pair of light draught class. The pair from B Cable Section took second place in the show. "Silvertail" was entered for the handy hunter competition and, ridden by Capt. Murphy, had a clear run but was defeated on time.

Powell Musketry Cup.—In the competition for 1930 No. 3 Company, the holders, obtained second place only, having to part with the cup with a loss of 28 points.

Sergeants' Mess, Aldershot.

The Mess fielded a very strong eleven to give combat to the Sergeants' Mess of the West Kent Regiment before a very large crowd of spectators, who unfortunately left before the game finished (both of 'em) leaving the team to battle on without their support. Anyhow, we won by 12—3 without them.

In this game there were only two outstanding players whom we need mention: F. Limb and C. Foot—who have both had Second Division experience in Wormwood Scrubs. One spectator called our Fred a dirty —— (?) but as we know that grass grows on dirty —— (?) he was not quite understood. Although our Fred was a little robust in his tackling, this was only due to his eagerness and "gracefulness," and we must congratulate him on his fine display (of leg). Our goalkeeper, C. Foot—a youngster with twenty-two years service and head of the local C.I.D.—played magnificently. This kid Foot—not Boot—only let three out of four shots reach our net in the course of the game—the fourth being accidentally kicked against him.

The description of the third goal is well worth giving. The opposing forwards, attacking strongly, swarmed round the Mess goal. The ball came to the feet of the inside right, who drove it hard and true to the right-hand corner of the net. What was our goalkeeper to do? Dive! You're right; he did—but in two motions. "One," on the hands down; "two," he placed his abdomen quietly on the ground, shot his arms outwards, and missed the ball by about five minutes. If I had not been handy to place a steadying hand on him (it has been said) Claude would have rocked himself to sleep, using the highest point of his abdomen as a pivoting point.

Taking the game all round it was most enjoyable, and we are all looking forward to a few more inter-mess games. I am not publishing the players' names, for obvious reasons. I am very anxious to keep the side together, as I know that 4th Divisional Signals are still in the "Cup."

1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 1 Company.

Boxing.—The entries for the Willan trophy were a little disappointing, and one or two of the old hands are thinking that it is the beginning of the end of "A" Group boxing team. Officers, w.o.s, n.c.o.s and men of "A" Group, remember that this has been our sport now for years, and one big spurt is urgently needed to bring back the King's shield to the Corps.

Congratulations to No. 3 Company 2nd Divl Signals on beating us in the final of the trophy by 5—2 fights; but the fighting was of a good standard, and some new blood was found to build up our Group team.

Colonel Willan gave us a really encouraging speech when he presented the trophy, and I hope that his words are taken to heart and that members of "A" Group will roll up and support the few who are now struggling along.

Hockey.—During October we played two matches only: one against our No. 3 Company, which resulted in a draw of 1—1, and one against No. 3 Company A Corps Signals, which we lost by 1—6. November brought us better luck with a win over D Cavalry Troop by 7—1 goals.

Our first match was for the purpose of team building, and some promising talent was unearthed. The second was played by our best team with about two exceptions, but we were beaten by a really good side. Our two backs, Tosh Allen and Jock Steele, really worked hard to stem the tide. Our goalie saved some very fine shots, but forwards can't see very much of the goal when Tubby Couperthwaite takes a deep breath. After this match Tubby simply walked into the Group team. Now, what about it, Sergeant Mackie?

Our third match was played against a weak eleven, who were also team building, but good goals were scored by Mansfield and L/Corpl Ginger Seeley.

We have one or two players who managed to get their place in the Group team, and with a bit more support and necessary inspiration we should be able to give any Company a good run.

Our Company sports store at present boasts of having a hockey stick for every man in the team eleven bus. Friends in Sarafand, things are not what they were.

Football.—Draft leave and other things have upset things somewhat and forced us to give D Troop best to the tune of 2—5 goals after a draw of 1—1 (end of our hopes). Aldershot and District Reserves have provided the opposition in two games, which ended with 1—0 in our favour and 4—3 in theirs. Our No. 2 Company beat us by 4—1, whilst our No. 3 Company collected the odd goal of three.

With the Company becoming more settled, we hope to improve matters and have our revenge in the Cobb trophy. Our great difficulty is discovering a Hughie Gallagher to lead the forwards.

Congratulations to "A" Group on entering the third round of the Army cup. May they meet 4th Divl Signals on Easter Monday!

2nd Divisional Signals, Aldershot.

No. 3 Company.

Novices Boxing Competition: Willan Trophy—

Semi-Final: v. No. 2 Company, 1st Divisional Signals.

Bantam weight—As there was no opponent for Sigmn Phillis, 1st Division received a walk over.

Catch weight: L/Corpl Lauder v. Sigmn Devine.—This was stopped in the second round in favour of Lauder after Devine, who had put up a plucky display, had been outclassed.

Feather weight: Sigmn Clegg v. Sigmn Green.—The first round was easily Green's, but Clegg livened up in the second, which was even, and after an excellent third round, in which both boxers mixed it freely, Green was awarded the decision on points.

Light weight: Sigmn Kitwood v. Driver Walton.—After an even first round, in which Kitwood received a cut eye, Walton boxed on defence all the time, and Kitwood, seizing every opportunity, piled up enough points to win comfortably.

Second welter weight: Sigmn Rice v. Sigmn Hardwicke.—Hardwicke was cautioned for hitting before he had shaken hands, and was afterwards put down three times before he was knocked out in the second round.

Middle weight: Sigmn Slater v. Sigmn Mycock.—This opened in lively fashion, as Mycock, rushing from his corner, tried for a quick knock-out, but Slater met him in the middle of the ring and hammered him on to the ropes, after which it was all Slater—and it was no surprise when Mycock was knocked out at the beginning of the second round.

First welter weight: Sigmn Rogers v. Sigmn Worby.—This was the best fight of the night. Rogers boxed cautiously in the first round, avoiding Worby's right hand, and in the second both boxers fought themselves to a standstill; but Rogers came up fresh for the final round and won it easily, to gain the decision.

Score: No. 3 Company, 11 points; No. 2 Company 1st Divl Signals, 9.

In the other semi-final, No. 1 Company 1st Divl Signals beat their No. 3 Company.

Final: v. No. 1 Company, 1st Divisional Signals.

Bantam weight: Sigmn Skidmore v. Sigmn Grant.—Grant was obviously the better boxer, but what Skidmore lacked in science he made up for in pluck, and after a good hard fight, in which both boxers went all out, Grant was awarded the decision.

Catch weight: L/Corpl Lauder v. Sigmn Chapman.—This was a ding-dong battle from the beginning, both boxers mixing it and trying for a knock-out, but Lauder seemed to delight in hard hitting and punished his opponent freely in the third round, to win easily.

Boxing Team, No. 3 Company, 2nd Divisional Signals—winners of Aldershot Signals Inter-Company Novices Competition.

Feather weight: Sigmn Clegg v. Lieut. Ellis.—Clegg was handicapped by a swollen eye, but fought well and won the first round. With the second round even, both fought all out in the final round and the officer won by a very narrow margin of points.

Light weight: Sigmn Allen v. Sigmn Burns.—Allen, who came in the place of Kitwood (injured) put up an excellent show against a far better boxer. He carried the fight to his opponent all the time, and won an exciting contest on points.

Second welter weight: Sigmn Rice v. Sigmn Hull.—This had hardly started before it was over, for Rice, seizing his opportunity, knocked Hull out with two successive rights to the jaw.

Middle weight: Sigmn Slater v. Sigmn Lunt.—Slater carried the fight to his opponent throughout and never gave him time to settle down. The second round was full of excitement with each man trying to knock the other out, but Slater was the fitter and easily won the third round and the decision.

First welter weight: Sigmn Rogers v. Sigmn Burgon.—Rogers again opened cautiously, but seized every opportunity to use his left, easily winning the first round. Shortly after the beginning of the second round Burgon was knocked out.

Result—No. 3 Company, 12 points; No. 1 Company 1st Divl Signals, 9. And so we added our name to yet another trophy.

And in conclusion, with the exception of one man, the whole of the Company novices boxing team were selected to represent "A" Group in the Command novices competition.

Cross-Country Running.—Up to the present, with a team weakened by furlough, we are occupying second place in the League.

Rugby.—In the Hitchens cup we were passed out by No. 3 Company 1st Divl Signals. As we know what they are like, we are expecting to see them go farther.

Football.—In weather more suitable for swimming, after each side had scored a goal, our match with No. 2 Company 1st Divl Signals had to be cancelled.

3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford.

Novices Boxing Competition.—This was held in the unit mess room on 13th November.

Light weights—Sigmn Angus beat Sigmn Harrison on points. Sigmn Luff beat Sigmn Treadwell on points. Semi-finals: Sigmn Birkett beat Sigmn Angus, the fight being stopped by the referee in the second round. Sigmn Austin beat Sigmn Luff, the fight being stopped by the referee half way through the second round.

Final—Round one: Birkett led from the bell, but was up against a rugged fighter who fought back hard and evened up the round at the end. Round two: Austen took one or two good punches and then went in to score heavily, the round finishing in his favour, both men being all in and having to spar for a breather. Round three: Austen went off at a great pace, fighting his way through Birkett's guard. The latter boxed well but could not quite keep on even terms, Austen being the winner of perhaps the best fight of the evening.

Welter weights—Driver Hughes beat Sigmn Barron on points. Sigmn Barry beat Sigmn Taylor on points. Sigmn Cameron beat Sigmn Bell on points. Sigmn Porter beat Sigmn Ravillious, the fight being stopped by the referee in the second round. Semi-finals: Dvr Hughes beat Sigmn Barry on points. Sigmn Porter beat Sigmn Cameron with a knock-out in the first round.

Final—Round one: Both men went hard at it from the bell, landing heavy blows in turn until Hughes was knocked out after about fifty seconds.

A special contest (four rounds) between Signalmen Snelson and Milligan produced some very good boxing indeed. Snelson did most of the leading, Milligan being content to defend. Both, however, landed good blows, Milligan scoring especially in the second round. A fairly even fight ended in a verdict on points for Snelson.

Middle weights—Sigmn Nightingale beat Sigmn Shields on points. Sigmn Atkins beat Sigmn Gammon on points. Sigmn Nightingale beat Sigmn Thompson on points.

Final—Round one: A good deal of swinging, mixed with a straight punch occasionally; neither did much damage in an even round. Round two: Atkins attacked, but ran on to Nightingale's outstretched left, which steadied him. The exchanges, although hard, were even for the rest of the round. Round three: Both went in to hit from the bell, slamming away and landing hard blows. However, they were all in at the end of the round, Atkins winning a very narrow victory on points.

During the proceedings, the referee had occasion to congratulate several of the losers on very good fights.

Hockey.—The following are the results of the latest games:—v. A.F.V. Signals, won by 4—2; v. 26th Field Brigade R.A. won by 5—1; v. Salisbury Free Church, won by 6—1; v. R.A.F. Upavon, lost by 0—3; v. 9th Field Brigade R.A. won by 6—1; v. 2nd Field Brigade R.A. won by 3—0; v. Experimental Station, Porton, won by 4—0; v. 5th Light Brigade R.A. drew at 3—3; v. 60th Rifles, won by 3—1; v. 5th Battn Tanks, won by 4—0; v. R.A.F. Old Sarum, won by 6—4.

4th Divisional Signals, Colchester.

Rugby.—The first round of the Army cup v. 17th Field Brigade R.A., at Colchester on November 2nd, ended thus:—4th Divl Signals, 25 points; 17th Field Brigade, 0.

For two years in succession the 17th Field Brigade have put us out of the Army cup competition, but this year our team made ample amends. Our team was superior in all departments and pressed the Gunners from start to finish. The game was extraordinarily keen and not a little fierce, and our team are to be congratulated on their fitness and the way they withstood the fierce onslaughts of the opposing side. It is difficult, indeed, to single out any particular member of the scrum, as they were all excellent and there was not one of them weaker than the rest or unfitted for his place.

L/Sergt Jones D., at scrum half, played a magnificent game and made many openings. The three-quarters ran hard and straight, and took their passes well. Their tackling was also good. Drivers Briggs and Brooks were outstanding. Brooks dropped a very fine goal—a beautiful effort from near the half way line; and tries were scored by Hurrell (2), Galbraith, Baker and Brooks, of whom Manson converted two and Jones one. Manson's place kicking was extremely good. Sigmn Snowball played brilliantly at back, fielding safely and kicking a magnificent length. L/Corpl Baker, as hooker, obtained the ball on most occasions, and it was well heeled. C.S.M. Herbert is to be congratulated on his captaincy and stout play in the forward line.

Team—Back, Sigmn Snowball; three-quarters, Sigmn Hurrell, Drivers Brooks and Briggs, and Sigmn Reid; halves, L/Sgt Jones and Sigmn Smee; forwards, C.S.M. Herbert (captain) Signalmen Manson, Galbraith, Taylor J. W. and Taylor B., L/Corporals Baker and Whitefield, L/Sergt Golder.

Lastly, the whole unit are to be congratulated on their keenness in attendance—practically every man turned out to support the team.

The present team (which, unfortunately, will suffer from the needs of the Officer i/c Records for drafting overseas) should go further in the Army cup. They are a fast virile side and, I think, one of the best sides produced in recent years.

In the second round of the Army rugby cup we have drawn 2nd Battalion The Black Watch, at home, to be played by 21st November.

So far our first fifteen have played six matches and have not yet been beaten—a fine record, which reflects credit on the team and the unit. No regimental team in the Garrison or outside it has yet lowered our colours at rugger or soccer, and so we may rightly call ourselves versatile.

On 29th October we were visited by the Corps selection committee on the occasion of our match v. the 2nd Battn The Black Watch, whom we defeated by 8—5 points. The following were selected to represent the Corps v. R.A. at Aldershot on November 6th: Sigmn Taylor J., L/Sergt Jones D. and Sigmn Galbraith J. Unfortunately, the first two named were unable to play owing to injuries and sickness, and Signalmen Larkin and Manson were substituted.

The following are results to date:—First fifteen: v. Colchester, won by 6—5; v. 17th Field Brigade R.A. won by 9—5; v. 17th Field Company R.E. won by 14—0; v. R.A.F. Felixstowe, won by 8—6; v. 2nd Battn The Black Watch, won by 9—5. Second fifteen: v. 7th Field Company R.E. lost by 8—11; v. Y.M.C.A. Ipswich, lost by 9—23.

Hockey.—This unit has been lucky in acquiring a large number of fresh players from India during the summer, with the result that, at the beginning of the season, it took quite a lot of work to sort out our talent.

To begin with, we did not combine well, but after a game or so, and also a few lectures, our forward line developed into quite a good combination.

We have entered for the Army cup, and play off the first round against the 2nd Medium Brigade R.A. (Shoeburyness) on Wednesday, November 18th.

The Inter-Section Hockey League is a fine means of unearthing talent in the unit, and also of raising the general standard of hockey. Each year, at the beginning of the season many players have never wielded a stick before, but by Christmas the Section hockey has reached quite a high standard—on the whole, I consider, a higher standard than Section football.

The following unit matches have been played to date:—v. Colchester, lost by 2—4; v. R.A.F. Felixstowe, lost by 3—4; v. Sudbury, won by 3—1 and 4—1; v. Marconi Athletic, won by 8—1; v. Braintree, won by 2—1.

Soccer.—Since the publication of the last notes, the following matches have been played:—

Lost to Gray's Athletic in the first qualifying round of the Amateur cup by 2—3.
Beat Guy's Hospital in a friendly game in London by 8—1.
Beat the 17th Field Brigade R.A. in the first round of the Essex senior cup by 3—2.
Beat the 2nd Medium Brigade R.A. in the first round of the Army cup by 7—2.
Lost to Brentwood and Warley in the first round of the East Anglian cup by 2—3.
Beat the 1st Battn K.S.L.I. in the semi-final of the Worthington Evans charity cup by 5—3.
Beat Shoeburyness Garrison in the second round of the Essex senior cup by 3—2.

We play the second round of the Army cup on Saturday, November 14th, and have as opponents the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch.

No. 1 Company.

Boxing.—Our novices boxing team met the 2nd Battn Black Watch in the first round of the Garrison team championship on Monday, October 26th, at the Colchester Garrison gymnasium. Our team put up a very plucky fight, but were beaten by 25—20 points.

The team was made up as follows:—Bantam, Sigmn Anderson P. Feather, L/Corpl Adamson J. and Sigmn Taylor J. R. Light, Signalmen Booth T. H., Russell H. and Nunnich A. Welter, Signalmen Walker W. and Hancock H., L/Corpl Milne J. and 2/Lieut. R. B. Gray. Middle, Signalmen Sedgewick C., Oades B. and Bell F. Light heavy, Sigmn Leslie P. Heavy, Driver Steen V.

Each man fought gamely and well, but special mention must be made of Sigmn Walker W., who, though he is really a light weight, fought as a welter. He fought so well, and polished off his opponent so quickly, that he has been chosen to represent the Army against the Danes, on November 26th, at Colchester.

Sigmn Sedgewick also made short work of his opponent. He hit hard and straight, and so rapidly that his adversary was very quickly floored and incapable of carrying on the fight.

No. 3 Company.

Sports.—We are very pleased to record that this Company, up to the present, is the champion Company at hockey and soccer. Results to date:—

Hockey.—J Section lost to A by 1—2, and beat F by 2—0 and L by 3—1. K Section drew with B Cable at 2—2 and with E Section at 4—4, and beat F by 2—0 and H by 3—2. L Section lost to H by 2—3.

Soccer.—J Section beat A by 3—1, H by 2—1, and E by 4—1. K Section beat B Cable by 1—0, G Section by 4—2, and L by 4—2. L Section beat B Cable by 3—2 and E Section by 7—1, and lost to F by 0—4 and to K by 2—4.

5th Divisional Signals, Scarborough.

Football.—Both the Saturday and Wednesday Leagues are in full swing. In addition, the Wednesday League has a reserve section in which we have entered a team, and two games have been played. We lost to the Co-operative by 2—3, but won our second game, against the Central Athletic, by 9—0.

Saturday League.—We are still fourth from the top. The team, however, are settling down, and some good football has been seen in recent matches. We defeated Snainton in the fourth round of the challenge bowl by 5—2 goals, and thus pass into the semi-final. We have to meet Oriel on the Scarborough Town ground, probably in the first week of December.

5th Divl Signals, winners of the Wednesday League Shield.

Cravens
L/Corpl Falkner (captain) Evanson
Ward A. Martin L/Corpl Barnicott Cooper A. D. Pte Brown (R.A.M.C.)
Whitehead Sergt Brandon Steele Hough Cranshaw

Wednesday League.—Played three games and won them; goals—for 17, against 3. This speaks for itself. Results up to date are as follows:—v. Alliance, 3—1; v. Westbourne Athletic, 2—1; v. Butchers, 12—1.

General.—A friendly game against the Wireless Station was played by our n.c.o.s on our ground during November. This resulted in a win for the n.c.o.s by 8—2. C.Q.M.S.s and C.S.M.s were in evidence. The game was fast and furious, new talent being discovered every minute. The game was talked of for many an evening in the place where "highballs" are kicked—sorry, I mean licked.

Rugby.—This is the season of draft leave, furlough and depopulated barracks, so that activities in the rugger line are mainly confined to practice games, run-abouts, etc. However, we are getting a team into shape, and it is shaping well. Lieutenants Wintle and Usher have been giving a series of blackboard lectures on the tactics of the game, which seem to have achieved some good results and demonstrated that there is more in the game than merely scragging one's opponents.

On October 17th, we played our first match of the season and defeated Scarborough "A" by 9—0 after a really fine game, in which the good effects of practice, lectures and training were clearly shown.

On November 14th we travelled to York and met our match in the Leeman Road R.U.F.C., who beat us by 3—0. They deserved their win because they played better as a team, though our men were better individually. Our big trouble is the one so common in the Services: that men will tackle round the neck instead of going low. When that fault is eradicated, we should have a good team.

Hockey.—In our November notes we congratulated ourselves on winning the first match, and saw in it a happy augury of a very successful season.

Our second match, against the Scarborough first eleven, did not confirm our hopes, as we lost rather badly by 0—7 goals.

In our match against Driffield, on October 31st, we lost by 1—2 after a very even game. The state of the ground was very bad and did not permit of good stick work. Although we lost, we had an excellent game.

On Armistice Day we met the Scarborough College team at home and won by a comfortable margin of 6—1 goals, while on November 14th we drew at 3—3 with Scarborough "A" team. At the interval we were leading by 2—1, and were rather unlucky not to win, Scarborough drawing level in the last few minutes.

Our team is now in hard training for the first round of the Army cup, in which we have been drawn against the 2nd East Surreys. The match is taking place at Catterick on November 23rd, and we are rather confident of getting into the second round. Our training consists mainly of road work in the early morning, alternating with knock-abouts on the sands, while in addition we are having practice matches every afternoon this week.

Rifle Club.—A shoot was held on October 18th to compete for the remainder of the S.M.R.C. awards. The winners were:—L/Cpl Collet, Bell medal; Sigmn Downs, *The Times* certificate; Sigmn Summers, *The Sunday Times* certificate.

We have been rather unfortunate in our local league matches, losing by 4 points to the G.P.O. and by 32 points to the Yorkshire Hussars; but after our sharpshooters have been refreshed by their annual furlough, we hope they will carry all before them.

A Corps Signals, Karachi.

Sind Point-to-Point Races.—As usual, A Corps Signals were very much to the fore in this annual event and, as will be seen later, brought off a brilliant double.

Our C.O., Lieut.-Colonel R. P. A. Helps, as clerk of the course, was responsible for its lay-out. All jumps, paddocks, etc., were built by Sergt Williams and his followers. The course consisted of eight jumps, river beds and numerous bunds, over four miles of the roughest country in Sind. It was undoubtedly a very stiff test for both rider and mount.

Owing to a lack of horses of class, our officers were unable to enter a team in the officers' team race.

In the Commissioner's cup, A Corps Signals were represented by Lieut. W. R. Smijth-Windham on "Jorrocks," who started joint favourite with "Dark Blue," a well known horse in Karachi racing circles. "Jorrocks," very confidently ridden by his owner, romped home an easy winner and completed the first leg of the Signals doubles.

The most popular event of the day was the Sind point-to-point race, colloquially known as the B.O.R.'s race. This is usually a battle between Royal Artillery (Hyderabad, Sind) and A Corps Signals (Karachi). This year proved no exception to the rule other than that the result was reversed. In past years the Gunners have had no difficulty in carrying off the trophy on account of the better class of animal they have available, which made our win all the more noteworthy.

The Signals team comprised R.S.M. G. Wray, M.M., C.Q.M.S. A. A. Taylor, L/Sergt J. Anderson and Corpl B. Curtis. Their mounts looked very fit when on view in the paddock prior to the race: a credit to R.S.M. Wray, who supervised the training, and to F/Corpl Hawthorne for his careful nursing.

The Gunners provided the favourite as of yore. This was "Nippy," last year's winner, and he led the field for nearly three miles, when he was passed by C.Q.M.S. Taylor on "Sultan" (No. 3) who went on to win easily by a distance. L/Sergt Anderson on "Brownie" (No. 2) fought out a desperate finish to get third place by a neck. Corpl Curtis on "Argus" (No. 7) finished sixth, and R.S.M. Wray on "Brutus" (No. 14) had the misfortune of having his mount collapse under him when jumping one of the bunds. This result was very popular, as "Sultan" was well backed, particularly by the I.O.R.s, and his rider realised his great ambition after previously being placed second three times out of seven attempts.

A Corps Signals thus add two very valuable and prized trophies to their already large collection. The accompanying photographs show (in the order mentioned):—

No. 1—B.O.R.s taking the first jump. Reading from left to right: (1) R.A., (2) R.A., (3) Corpl Curtis on "Argus," (4) C.Q.M.S. Taylor on "Sultan," (5) R.A., (6) R.S.M. Wray on "Brutus." (L/Sergt Anderson was left at the post.)

No. 2—"Sultan" (C.Q.M.S. Taylor up) taking the last obstacle, about eighty yards from the finishing post.

No. 3—Sind point-to-point cup, 1931. A Corps Signals team: R.S.M. G. Wray, M.M., C.Q.M.S. A. A. Taylor, L/Sergt J. Anderson and Corpl B. Curtis.

No. 4—Lieut. W. R. Smijth-Windham with "Jorrocks" and the Commissioner's cup.

No. 5—C.Q.M.S. A. A. Taylor with "Sultan" and the Sind point-to-point cup.

Inter-Section Cross-Country Championship, 1931.—This part of the inter-Section championships was held on October 20th. It was noteworthy in that the I.O.R.s turned out a team for the first time and gave a very good account of themselves. Teams consisted of eight runners, all to count. The course of about three and three-quarter miles was a fair combination of easy and difficult going, and included deep nullahs, hills, a quarry, and plenty of loose sand.

At the start the entire field of forty made a sprint for the deep nullah. From the nullah Sergt Shardlow led the field, closely followed by L/Corpl Green J. J. and Sigmn Howden C. who were running together. The half-way stage found the positions of the leaders unchanged, with the remainder well strung out.

Sergt Shardlow (No. 3 Section) went on to be first man home, winning by about 250 yards from L/Corpl Green and Sigmn Howden (both of No. 2 Section) who finished together to tie for second place. A further 150 yards separated them from Sigmn Harlow (No. 3 Section) who was fourth man in.

No. 2 Section furnished the winning team. They packed well, the method adopted being that of running in pairs. It certainly

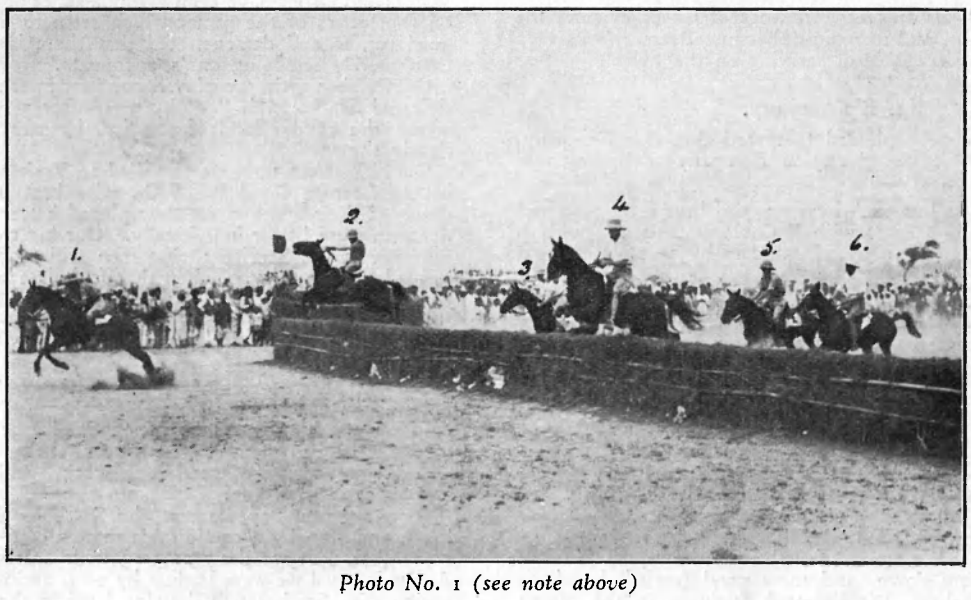

Photo No. 1 (see note above)

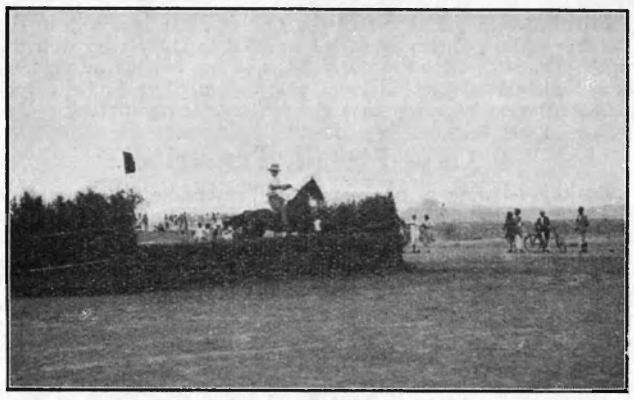

Photo No. 2 (see note opposite)

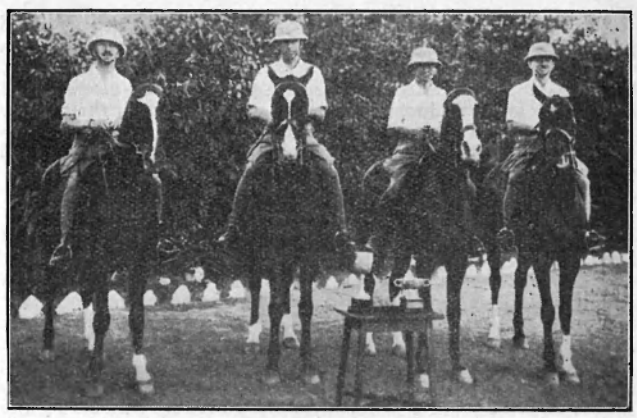

Photo No. 3 (see note opposite)

proved successful on this occasion, as their eight finished in the first seventeen.

The order of finishing was as follows:—1st, No. 2 Section: 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17—75. 2nd, No. 3 Section: 1, 4, 12, 16, 18, 21, 25, 26—123. 3rd, No. 4 Section: 6, 10, 19, 20, 22, 24, 27, 28—156. 4th, No. 1 Section: 5, 11, 13, 23, 29, 30, 31, 32—174.

The first man home for the I.O.R.s was Sigmn Sher Zaman, who finished about mid-way between Green—Howden and Harlow.

Football.—Garrison League, 1931-32. Results of October matches:—v. A.R.S., R.A.F., at home, won by 2—1; v. H.Q. and S.D.S., R.A.F., away, lost by 1—2; v. D Company, Royal Sussex, at home, lost by 0—3; v. B Company, Royal Sussex, away, lost by 0—1; v. A Company, Royal Sussex, away, lost by 1—3.

In our first game, against A.R.S., we did not have a strong opposition. The game was not a very exciting one for the fans, and a draw would have been a better result. However, some bright individualism counteracted the lack of team co-operation, and we walked off victors by the odd goal in three.

The second, v. H.Q. and S.D.S., provided us with worthier opponents. We were handicapped in that our team was weaker on account of injuries to first-string players. The reserves who filled their places proved triers and worked well as individuals, but as a team Signals were unable to settle down. Play in the first half was somewhat dull and patchy. Our opponents had the better combination, and the first goal came to them after twenty minutes play: following a neat bout of passing, their centre forward scored with a fine drive along the ground that gave the Signals goalie no chance whatever. Signals rallied and made several rushes, but they were only rushes and lacked that finish likely to produce goals. The interval arrived with the score unchanged: H.Q. and S.D.S. 1, Signals 0.

From the resumption Signals made a determined effort to wipe out their deficit, and play was confined to their opponents' half. Signals attacked repeatedly, but were guilty of shooting weakly when they had only the goalie to beat: it seemed as if they were hypnotised into tapping the ball gently into his hands. Then Steer S. brought off an excellent piece of dribbling. Making no mistake, he capped his brilliant effort with an equally brilliant shot which had the H.Q. and S.D.S. custodian beaten all the way, and Signals had equalised.

The Signals attack, led by Steer, now began to dominate the play, when an unfortunate accident robbed us of his services and he was forced to retire with a twisted knee. Signals never quite recovered after this and their opponents had everything their own way. Two minutes from time their centre forward put them in the lead again with a very fine header. The game finished with H.Q. and S.D.S. still attacking and well worth their victory.

No report of the third match is available, as the footer critic was on duty and could not accompany the team.

In the fourth game, against B Company Royal Sussex Regiment, Signals kicked off and pressed for some time. The B Company defence, however, was sound and repeatedly repulsed the Signals raids. The first half was marked by the superiority of defence over attack on both sides. Play see-sawed from one end to the other, and half-time arrived with no score.

Photo No. 4 (see note opposite)

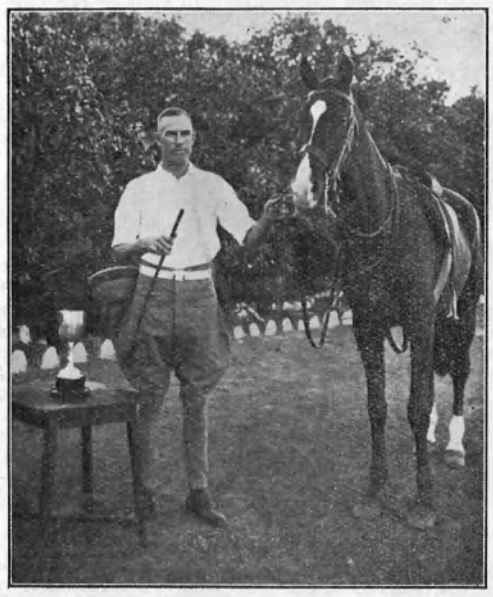

Photo No. 5 (see note opposite)

After the interval both sides attacked in turn, but neither could penetrate the opposing defence. Both goalies seemed to scorn the shots presented them and were inclined to play to the gallery. B Company next exerted considerable pressure and, after several shots were saved and many smart clearances effected, their inside left found the net with a brilliant left foot drive which the Signals goalie never looked like saving. I rather think that he had become so used to the tame ones that he never anticipated anything like the " snorter " that went past him almost before he was aware of it.

However, Signals were one down and they attacked hard and furiously in an endeavour to equalise. Play now became really exciting and of a better quality than that of the earlier stages. A splendid effort by Baird had the Signals supporters on their toes ready to shout " Goal!" but the B Company custodian made an even better effort. Although he held Baird's shot with difficulty, he *held* it, and Signals never again looked like drawing level. The final whistle found Signals still battling for the elusive equaliser, and B Company were deserving winners by the only goal scored.

The fifth and last match played in October found the footer critic once more on duty. Hence no report is forthcoming—which, perhaps, is just as well, because I don't know how he would explain our losing by 1—3.

Results of other friendly games were as follows:—First eleven: v. R.A.F., at home, won by 4—1 ; v. R.A.F., away, lost by 2—3. Second eleven v. R.A.F. second eleven, away, won by 2—0.

In inter-Company trials, Line beat Wireless by 2—1 and 3—2, but lost to them by 2—3 and 1—2, each side scoring a total of eight goals.

Ex-members of Akor will recall that we won the Garrison League last season. I feel sure that we would have repeated that feat if the spirit of last year's team had been maintained and encouraged this season. We have practically the same material, but we cannot produce the same results. There seems to be an undercurrent of discontent among the players which manifests itself on the field in the lack of co-operation, a sulky disinterestedness when a fellow-player fluffs what the initiator supposed was a perfect pass or, instead of spoon-feeding the ball to his toe, puts it just out of his reach, even though he for whom it was intended could have gained possession had he exerted himself a little more.

Again, a player on being robbed of the ball seems to labour under the obsession that he has temporarily finished until it once more sails to his feet. It does not occur to him to worry the fellow who robbed him into passing. No! he allows him to proceed untackled, leaving his team-mates to face an attack which outnumbers them by one.

Unless the present state of affairs is rectified, this season will prove a very poor one for Signals. In view of our past records in Karachi, it is hardly in keeping with Signals traditions. However, should the committee do all they have promised, it should be possible to report an outstanding improvement in next month's notes.

Hockey.—Unfortunately, owing to the loss of some half-dozen first class players who leave on the trooper next month, we have had to commence the building of another team out of the residue and such new blood as was available. Those recruited have proved themselves really hard triers and should, with training, become first class players. The veteran Bingie continues to cajole and trick the youngsters, and is ably supported by Fearnley, Webb, Thomas and Pickles—not forgetting the new secretary (I will not disclose his name, lest he should be inundated with correspondence). They are the nucleus of a future cup-winning combination, in whose hands the traditions of Akor will never be but added to in glory.

The results of the past month's matches are as follows:—First eleven: v. Sea Lions, home, lost by 0—2 ; v. Sea Horses, home, won by 5—4 ; v. Port Trust, away, lost by 0—1 ; v. Hindu Gymkhana, away, won by 2—0 ; v. 1/10th Baluchis, away, lost by 0—2 ; v. Y.M.Z.A., away, won by 4—2 ; v. Sind Police, away, won by 4—0 ; v. R.A.F. Depot, away, won by 2—1 ; v. N.W. Railway S.C., away, lost by 4—5 ; v. Jewish S.C., home, lost by 2—3 ; v. Grammar School, home, lost by 2—3. Second eleven: v. R.A.F., 2nd XI. away, won by 2—1 ; v. D Company Royal Sussex, away, lost by 1—2; v. B.M.H., home, won by 2—1. Company matches: Line Company beat A.R.S., R.A.F., away, by 2—1 ; W/T Company lost to M.T. and I.R.S., home, by 1—2.

Snooker.—In the report of the unit snooker handicap in the October edition of this Journal, I omitted to show who won the final. I apologise for the oversight, and the belated information is as follows:—Sigmn Chilvers beat Sigmn Steer S. (who conceded 14) very narrowly in a closely contested game.

B Corps Signals, Rawalpindi.

Hockey.—Owing to our ground still resembling the results of the recent earthquake in the land of Nippon, all the games during the month have been played either on the Army sports ground or on those of our opponents.

The results to date are as follows:—v. Border Regiment, won by 2—0, lost by 0—5 and 1—6, and drew at 3—3 ; v. I.H.C., lost by 0—3 and 3—4 ; v. M.E.S., lost by 4—6. No. 2 Company, v. No. 2 Company 1st Indian Divl Signals, lost by 1—3.

From the above it will be seen that we have not been too successful during the month. The experience gained against the Indian teams is, however, likely to stand us in good stead.

Football.—With the return of one or two of our wanderers, games have been played with the R.A. and the Border Regiment. The latter, incidentally, reached the final of the Durand tournament, only to lose to the Devon Regiment by 1—3.

Results:—v. Border Regiment, won by 2—1, 3—1 and 3—0 : v. R.A., lost by 0—1. In addition, two games have been played with our friends the enemy from across the road, with the following results:—Won by 3—0 and 4—1.

Cricket.—Only two outside games have been played, with results as shown:—v. Pindi Sports Club, lost by an innings and 42 runs ; v. R.A. and I.A.O.C., unfinished (R.A. and I.A.O.C. 227, Combined Signals to bat). Playing against the 1st Indian Divl Signals, we lost by one wicket.

Tennis.—This year, the club handicap tournament was played in two divisions, senior and junior. The senior was won by Corpl Smith (—60) who received a walk-over from Signalman Burchett (scratch). In the final of the junior division, Sigmn Nichols (scratch) got the better of L/Corpl Shillitto (scratch) by 9—7. Both of these players are to be congratulated on the excellent show they put up. A crowd of over sixty watched the final and two exhibition games. Tea was provided, and everybody did themselves full justice. (Correspondent's note: Especially one person—no names, no pack drill. What say you, Jack?)

Waziristan District Signals.

Headquarters Section, Dera Ismail Khan.

Hockey Results—Signals v. Afghan Club, lost by 0—2. B.O.R.s v. I.O.R.s W.D. Signals, drew at 1—1 (Whittle) ; v. Afghan Club, won by 2—1 (Galbraith, Ellison) ; v. I.O.R.s W.D. Signals, lost by 3—4 (Galbraith, Ellison, Barron) ; v. I.O.R.s W.D. Signals, lost by 0—4.

Football Results.—Signals v. Mission School, won by 4—1 (Eickhoff, Ellison, Lawrence, Dolan) ; v. Afghan Club, won by 6—1 (Lawrence 3, Galbraith, Ellison, Brown) ; v. City Gentlemen, won by 7—0 (Lawrence 3, Galbraith 2, Hammond, opponent own goal); v. C.M. High School, won by 7—0 (Eickhoff, Ellison, Hammond, Lawrence 2, Galbraith 2). B.O.R.s v. I.O.R.s, drew at 2—2 (Turner, Ellison).

Razmak Brigade Signals.

Football.—In the first round of the Garrison tournament, on October 12th, we were matched against the 12th Light Battery R.A., and after a keenly contested game, in which we were very unlucky not to score at least three goals, the Topes ran out winners by two goals to nil—scoring a goal in each half. As they have since reached the final, which is being played too late for the result to be given in these notes, it will be seen that with any luck in the draw we should have gone much further.

The following are results to date:—v. 2/4th Gurkha Rifles, drew at 1—1 and won by 3—1 ; v. Staff and Departments, lost by 1—2 ; v. C Company 1st Hants Regiment, lost by 0—2.

Hockey.—Now that we are knocked out of the football, we are endeavouring to build up our hockey team in the hope of getting further in the inter-Battalion and Company tournaments than we did last year.

Our only match played recently was against the 15th Field Company Sappers and Miners, who are about the strongest eleven in Razmak, and much to their surprise (and ours) we inflicted a 5—0 defeat on them. However, we await the result of a return match before we begin to crow.

Billiards.—Two matches have been played with the Gunners, who in both ran out winners by a comfortable margin.

Our next opponents are the Tanks, who will not, we hope, be such a tough proposition as the Gunners.

2nd Indian Divisional Signals, Quetta.

Owing to various reasons, sport has taken a back seat of late, but we hope to report greater activity in the next issue.

Tennis.—The lack of enthusiasm in this department is not understood. During the summer, when the heat was almost unbearable, the courts were always well patronised, but now the weather is more suitable for tennis, people stay away. Funny, but true.

The junior n.c.o.s played one game with the R.A.M.C. and trounced them good and plenty.

Football.—Our first game of the season, against the Royal Tank Corps, resulted in a win for the visitors.

Hockey.—The Royal Tank Corps also provided us with our only game of hockey, but in this case we won by the odd goal in three, Corpls Edwards and Webb being the goal scorers.

Shove-Halfpenny.—I am pleased to report that in this line things are kept moving. We have two boards, one tight and the other otherwise. Of course, the tight board is only for the experts—and then only early in the evening. Our 'Enery shows up to advantage on the tight board, but it is a matter of indifference to him whether he is knocking them up or back. Tich Cuz and Co. invariably play on the "otherwise," but I am not in a position to say whether they find the evenings get late early, or whether they are paying to learn and find the boys' board cheaper.

1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Detachment, Upper Topa.

Boxing Tournament.—On September 18th a successful boxing tournament was organised by Captain H. A. Spencer, M.C., and held in the Rink Cinema, Murree. It consisted of some special four-round contests between a team of boxers from the 1st Indian Divisional Signals and B Corps Signals and a team selected from the remainder of the units in the Murree hills; and as there are approximately a dozen stations in the Murree hills, the Corps did very well indeed to win three contests. Some excellent and clever boxing was witnessed, and all the contests were hard fought. The boxing tournament was followed by a dance, also held in the Rink.

Sigmn Collins (1st Indian Divl Signals) knocked out L/Corporal France (K.S.L.I.) in the first round.

Sigmn Delaney (B Corps Signals) beat Pte Lappin (Welch Regiment) on points after an excellent performance. Delaney gave away 2 st. in weight.

Sigmn Airey (1st Indian Divl Signals) lost to Pte Burridge (Welch Regiment) after a hard contest.

Corpl Yalden (1st Indian Divl Signals) beat Pte Dent (K.S.L.I.) on points.

Sigmn Newberry (B Corps Signals) lost to Corporal Kingshott (K.S.L.I.) on points. A good fight, with very little in it.

Sigmn Cleaver (1st Indian Divl Signals) lost to Private Coleman (K.S.L.I.) by a very narrow margin.

Sergt Tanner (B Corps Signals) lost to Corpl Littleboy (Welch Regiment) the referee stopping the fight in the second round.

Sigmn Wilson (1st Indian Divl Signals) lost to Pte Scrivens (Welch Regiment). He put up an excellent show.

Sigmn Duffy (1st Indian Divl Signals) lost to Pte Evans (Welch Regiment) after a very hard fight.

Egypt Signals, Cairo.

Football.—At present we are third in the league table. The leaders, the 12th Lancers, are unbeaten; and the King's Regiment, by beating us by 2—1 goals, are one point ahead of us for second place. Since the last notes were written, the following matches have been played.

Corps v. 14th/20th Hussars.—The newcomers had scarcely got used to local conditions, and we had little difficulty in beating them by 4—0 goals. Mr. Cole scored all four and was the outstanding player of the match.

Corps v. R.A. (2nd Brigade).—This match, played at Helmieh on a very windy day, was evenly contested. During the first half we were kicking against the wind, and our defence—particularly Clayton, the goalkeeper—had a busy time. The second half saw us attacking for the greater part of the time, Beard scoring the only goal of the match shortly before the finish.

Corps v. The King's Regiment.—This match was played at Polygon. We were unfortunate at the start, a defender placing the ball into the net in trying to head clear. Mr. Cole levelled things up with a good goal, but the King's went ahead again in the second half to win by 2—1 goals.

Corps v. R.A.S.C.—Good football was somewhat marred by a strong cross-wind, which seemed to upset the R.A.S.C. more than it did our men. In the first few minutes Yelloly cut in to score a good goal, but the R.A.S.C. promptly drew level. The Corps were markedly superior in attack, and Mr. Cole obtained three goals without further response from the R.A.S.C. This, coupled with some excellent work by the defence, enabled us to win by 4—1 goals.

Rugby.—We have been drawn against the R.T.C. in the first round of the Command cup. Our team has been weakened by the departure of some members to Cyprus, but we hope to win. At present we are playing practice matches.

Hookey.—Hockey fixtures have been too numerous to report fully. A summary of the results is as follows.

R.A.F. League—v. 2nd Light Brigade R.A., home, won by 2—1.

Corps League—v. Royal Engineers, away, lost by 4—7; v. 17th/21st Lancers, away, won by 3—1; v. 2nd Light Brigade R.A., away, won by 2—1; v. 17th/21st Lancers, home, won by 5—0; v. Grenadier Guards, away, won by 8—2.

First round, Command cup—v. South Staffs, away, lost by 4—7.

Tennis.—No. 3 Company has succeeded in winning the C. of E. cup, which has been in the hands of No. 1 Company for the past two years.

In the Ezbekieh Club tournament, the unit doubles cup was won for the unit by L/Corpl Mohrstadt and Sigmn Cordell.

Cross-Country Running.—One inter-Section cross-country run has been held over a three and a half miles course. The run was won by the Signal Troop. Individual placings were: 1st, Driver Hammond; 2nd, Corpl Collins; 3rd, Driver Taylor.

We are at present training hard for the Command run.

No. 2 W/T Company, Sarafand.

Boxing.—It is anticipated that in the near future an effort will be made to stage a novices competition, results of which will be published next month.

Cricket.—A review of the past season shows that out of a total of thirty-four matches played, our team has won eighteen and drawn four. The batting and bowling averages table are published herewith.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	Runs	Inn.	Not out	Highest	Aver.
Corpl Atkinson R. W.	1129	33	6	*133	41.81
L/Corpl Smith R. P. L.	277	24	7	45	16.30
Sigmn Hurley	265	21	1	70	13.25
Sigmn Samuel B.	363	29	0	38	12.51
L/Corpl Snow	309	29	0	52	10.66
Sigmn Locker	237	28	2	47	9.11
Sigmn Ferguson-Nicholson	110	13	0	26	8.45
Sigmn Musgrave	107	16	3	26	8.23
Sigmn Hill T.	68	17	7	16	6.80
L/Corpl Cooper W.	202	33	3	23	6.73
Sigmn Haggart	44	7	0	21	6.28
Sigmn Pritchard	131	23	1	*25	5.96
Corpl Luther C.	33	9	2	*11	4.71
L/Corpl Field	50	16	2	9	3.57

Also batted:—Corpl Cox, Signalmen Hammond, Wilson, Davis, Harvey, Garratt, Lightbody and Morgan.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets		Average
L/Corpl Smith R. P. L....	365.4	64	1256	152	...	8.26
L/Corpl Snow E.	204.1	21	671	71	...	9.48
Sigmn Pritchard	59	4	260	20	...	13.00
Sigmn Hurley	53	11	192	12	...	16.00
Sigmn Ferguson-Nicholson	132.4	24	444	24	...	18.50
Sigmn Hill	32.5	4	178	9	...	19.70

Also bowled:—Corpls Atkinson and Cox, L/Corpls Cooper and Carruthers, Signalmen Davis, Haggart and Locker.

Soccer.—Two trial games have been held, and an experimental game was played early in the month agamst the Palestine General Hospital eleven. The result proved that our team needed some slight revision.

On Saturday, October 24th, we paid a visit to Tel-Aviv to play the Hapoel side. Our team showed fine form throughout the first half, at its termination the score standing at 2—1 in our favour, both goals being scored by Corpl Atkinson at centre-forward. The final result of 7—2 against us is not a true record of the game, but the spectators were treated to some good football and a hard-fought game throughout. We hope to gather the honours in the return game.

Hockey.—Under the able guidance of our C.O. as captain, the team have played three games, winning two and drawing the odd one. The standard of play is much higher than we expected it would be after the loss of our cracks at the end of last trooper, and we look forward to a successful season.

Rugger.—All rugger enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting the rainy season. Work on the ground has been commenced, and *on paper* we are able to turn out a moderately good side.

Gibraltar Signal Section.

Sports.—The Emergency trophy has again been the subject of competition. Our team, after doing well in practice, failed to produce their true form on the day of the race. Bad luck seemed to greet them at every turn. Although we failed in our attempt to retain the trophy which we have held for five consecutive years, we congratulate the team on their gallant show and trust they will have better luck next year. We cannot really moan; others need the trophy in *their* canteen.

Out of a possible 90 points, the first three placings were:—1, Royal Artillery, 80; 2, Royal Engineers, 73; 3, R.Signals, 60. Also ran: R.A.M.C. and 2nd Battn North Staffs Regiment.

Football.—Up to the time of going to press, no official games have been played. At the recent Garrison football meeting, it was suggested that a junior S. and D. team be formed—which will, if carried out, enable the small units (as one) to hold their own.

We have since played an unofficial trial match, and from my own point of view and from information received, we shall be well represented. The result of this match was a draw of 1—1. Sigmn G. Taylor (blue) and Sergt Hoare, R.A.P.C. (red) netted the ball for their respective sides in a hard and even game.

TERRITORIAL NOTES—*(continued from page 522)*

54th (H.C.) DIVL. SIGNALS—*continued.*

Congratulations.—C.S.M. Dowie would like to congratulate Sergt C. H. Patrick, at the War Office, on his A.F.B. 2528. Well done, O.M.! I thought of you when pasting it up. By the way, Pat, I have lost your private address; what about a line?

In conclusion, we wish all ranks at home and abroad a very happy Christmas. S'END.

Bedford Detachment.

General.—There is nothing much to report, owing to the slack season being upon us. We are looking forward to the season of Trade Boards, when we hope to startle the unit.

Retirements.—We read with regret of the retirement of Capt. A. E. F. Wingfield, late commanding officer of this Detachment. Captain Wingfield was with us for a very long period, and was very popular with the unit. Best of luck, sir, from the Detachment. We hope to see you pop in and give us a look up when you are in Bedford.

Bouquets.—Well done, lads! Runners-up in the Edwards Section trophy. Next year we will have it, so roll up and get interested in the Trade Board period—and we will make sure next year.

Armistice Sunday.—On Sunday, November 8th we attended church parade at St. Paul's. We paraded with the Royal Engineers and marched from the drill hall, Ashburnham Road, via Midland Road to St. Paul's Church. After the service we marched along the Embankment to the War Memorial and laid a wreath thereon. We then marched back to the drill hall and were dismissed. The numbers could have been better, but I suppose, owing to the very inclement weather, most of the absent lads preferred their comfortable beds to the untasty atmosphere of the Bedford streets on a wet Sunday morning.

55th (West Lancs.) Divisional Signals.

Drill Hall, 38 Mason Street, Liverpool.

During the latter half of October, there was a series of lectures at the headquarters of the Liverpool University O.T.C., dealing mainly with general tactics and organisation. The lectures, fifteen in all, were excellent, and their value to all who attended will doubtless be reflected in the results of the forthcoming Certificate "A" examination.

At the end of October drills ceased, and the special winter classes for officers, w.o.s and n.c.o.s commenced.

The annual Armistice Sunday church parade took place on November 8th. Unfortunately, the day was dull and rain fell throughout the afternoon, necessitating the wearing of mackintoshes and greatcoats. In spite of this, however, the turn out on parade was excellent. After the march past on the southern side of St. George's Hall, where Major-General H. W. Higginson, C.B., D.S.O. (commanding 55th (W.L.) Division) took the salute, we proceeded to the Cathedral.

On Armistice Day the unit was represented by two officers and twenty-one other ranks, who, with other representatives of the Forces, joined in a short but most impressive service and afterwards marched past the Cenotaph.

The first social event of the season was a carnival dance in the drill hall at Prescot on Friday, October 23rd. The Prescot dances are always well attended and invariably very successful. We feel sure that all who were fortunate enough to be present thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to another dance in the near future.

The unit hot pot, to which reference was made last month, is to be held on December 11th. Each member of the unit will be given an admission ticket and two free tickets for drink. As this hot pot is free, and as each member may invite a guest, it should be a great success.

It is hoped to be able to level the floor of the Liverpool drill hall and lay out a court for badminton. If this can be managed, it should prove an added attraction to the unit.

There is reported from the northern front a rumour of a challenge to the officers from the sergeants of Prescot. The officers are fixing the date, as the weapons and place have already been settled. We hope this duel will be as successful and provide as much amusement as the last.

Seeing the huge amount of interest that is now taken in horse racing as the result of the enormous Irish Sweepstake, it is, perhaps, only fitting that England should lead the field by forming at last a " stable government " which is something in the nature of a " Grand National."

It is definitely stated that the plans for the alterations to the men's mess are passed, and work will soon be begun. There are no signs of the miniature range, but doubtless the excavations at the main entrance will have to be completed before other schemes can be commenced.

Examinations.—The two candidates examined in practical subjects (a) at Chester last month were successful. We congratulate them both.

Last Tuesday was a day of trial for no less than ten subalterns, who entered for Certificate "A." We extend to them all our sympathy, and hope that sound strategy, combined with good luck, has ensured another 100 per cent victory for the unit. The next Certificate "A" examination is to be held in April.

FIVE-FIVE.